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AUTH. NAME AUTHOR AFFILIATION
 STARKEY, R.B. Carolina Power & Light Co.
 ROBINSON, H.B. Carolina Power & Light Co.
 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
 O'PEILLY, J.P. Region 2, Atlanta, Office of the Director

SUBJECT: Reports determination taken on 790625 that Tech Specs could lead reactor to operate in less conservative manner than assumed in safety analyses. Determination taken per review of Westinghouse info provided to util.

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Carolina Power & Light Company

H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT
Post Office Box 790
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

June 26, 1979

160 MAIL

T. P. O'REILLY
C. M. UPRIGHT
P. D. CHENDELL
W. B. KENNA
F. J. LONG
C. E. MURPHY
J. T. SUTHERLAND
K. M. CLARK

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Robinson File No: 2-0-4-a-3

SERIAL: RSEP/79-654

Mr. James P. O'Reilly
Directorate of Regulatory Operations
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region II - Suite 3100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

As required by Technical Specification 6.9.2.a.8, the following event is reported:

On June 25, 1979, as a result of review of information provided to Carolina Power & Light Company by Westinghouse Electric Corporation (NSSS Supplier), it was determined that the Plant Technical Specifications could have permitted reactor operation in a manner less conservative than assumed in the safety analyses. Specifically, recent analyses have revealed that a high energy break (feedwater line rupture) inside the reactor containment could result in a non-conservative bias to steam generator low level actuation of reactor protection due to ambient heating of the instrument's reference leg. This effect, it was determined, could cause as much as a 10% (of level span) error resulting in a delay of the Lo-Lo level reactor trip and auxiliary feedwater initiation. Technical Specifications currently include only a 5% margin to the safety analyses assumption for the level at which these actions occur. The Plant Operating Manual (POM), however, requires that this setpoint be at 15% of level span. Therefore, due to POM controls, no unsafe condition exists.

This event was reported to Mr. H. R. Banks, Manager of Nuclear Generation and to Mr. P. J. Kellogg of the NRC Atlanta Office on June 25, 1979.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Starkey, Jr.

R. B. Starkey, Jr., Manager
H. B. Robinson SEG Plant

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