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SUBJECT: Provides status of evaluation of condition involving movement of SF shipping cask at facility. Submittal of request for NRC review & approval of unreviewed safety question by 970529.

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APR 25 1997

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Attn: Document Control Desk
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H. B. ROBINSON STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-261/LICENSE NO. DPR-23
STATUS OF EVALUATION OF MOVEMENT
OF THE SPENT FUEL SHIPPING CASK

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the status of the evaluation of a condition involving the movement of the spent fuel shipping cask at the H. B. Robinson Steam Electric Plant (HBRSEP), Unit No. 2. This condition was discovered while developing the response to the NRC's request for additional information dated December 24, 1996. Specifically, Carolina Power & Light (CP&L) Company noted that the loaded IF-300 spent fuel shipping cask is moved from the cask decontamination area to the rail car with the cask valve covers removed. This activity is performed with a crane that does not meet "single failure proof" criteria. As a result, a mishandling event or drop of the cask with the valve covers removed could result in a loss of cask integrity.

The evaluation has concluded that this condition represents an unreviewed safety question, since the NRC has not previously reviewed this condition. Pending resolution of this unreviewed safety question, the procedure that governs handling of the spent fuel shipping cask, Spent Fuel Shipping (SFS) - 001, "IF-300 Shipping Cask Operations," has been placed on administrative hold under the provisions of Administrative Procedure (AP) - 022, "Document Change Procedure." This action prevents use of the spent fuel shipping cask in the subject condition.

CP&L anticipates submitting a request for NRC review and approval of this unreviewed safety question by May 29, 1997.

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If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me or Mr. H. K. Chernoff of my staff at (803) 857-1437.

Very truly yours,



T. M. Wilkerson
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