

November 9, 1976

Docket No.: 50-261

Carolina Power & Light Company
ATTN: Mr. J. A. Jones
Senior Vice President
336 Fayetteville Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Gentlemen:

By letter dated September 2, 1976, you submitted at our request information concerning the scheduled refueling of H. B. Robinson Unit No. 2 in November 1976. Exxon Nuclear Company (ENC) Report XN-76-39 was enclosed as a part of this submittal.

In your letter you stated that on the basis of your evaluation there were no unreviewed safety questions associated with the reload nor were there any requirements for changes in the existing Robinson Technical Specifications. Accordingly, you stated your belief that the reload constitutes a plant modification allowed under 10 CFR 50.59.

On the basis of the portion of the staff's review of ENC Report XN-76-39 completed to date the staff is unable to conclude at this time that the reload will not result in an unreviewed safety question. While other bases may be identified upon further review, one basis for the above interim conclusion is that one of the previously approved calculational methods has been modified (see footnote page 7, XN-76-39). Accordingly, until review of the revised calculational method has been completed, we cannot determine the validity of the conclusions drawn from its use. This problem was discussed with Mr. M. Page of your staff on October 6, 1976.

To address this problem ENC, by letter dated October 11, 1976, submitted for staff review Report XN-75-27, Supplement 1 which describes the revised calculational methods. We are presently reviewing this report and hope to complete our review of XN-75-27, Supplement 1 and XN-76-39 in the near future. However, until these reviews are completed we cannot agree with your conclusion that the reload does not involve an unreviewed safety question and does not require a change in technical specifications.

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Topical Report XN-75-27, Supplement 1 is actively under review by the NRC. However, because of the short time available before your planned restart date, rapid response will be required from your fuel vendor on any questions arising from our review. Accordingly, you should exert all possible efforts to assure that the review of XN-75-27, Supplement 1 is completed prior to your planned restart date.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Reid, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #4
Division of Operating Reactors

cc: See next page

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Carolina Power & Light Company

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