LOUISIANA POWER & LIGHT / 142 DELARONDE STREET
P. O. BOX 6008 • NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70174 • (504) 366-2345
MIDDLE SOUTH UTILITIES SYSTEM

L. V. MAURIN
Vice President Nuclear Operations

February 2, 1983 W3P83-0114
3-A39

Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. G. W. Knighton, Chief
Licensing Branch No. 3
Division of Licensing
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

SUBJECT: Waterford Steam Electric Station - Unit No. 3
Docket Number 50-382
Meteorological Monitoring System

Dear Mr. Knighton:

Louisiana Power & Light Company's (LP & L) response to the NRC's FSAR question number 372.22 committed LP & L to having the entire Meteorological Monitoring System (MMS) operational six months prior to fuel load (scheduled for May, 1983). Although the instrumentation on both the primary and back-up towers is operational, there are a few items associated with data recovery and system reliability which are not complete at this time. This was discussed during a telephone conversation on 1 December 1982 between J. H. Wilson, NRC Project Manager for Waterford 3, and R. W. Prados and C. D. Groome of LP & L's Licensing Subgroup. During that conversation, it was agreed that LP & L would prepare a schedule for demonstrating system operability and present it along with written notification that this commitment date could not be met. Another telephone call was placed on 6 January 1983 to E. H. Markee, NRC Meteorologist for the Waterford 3 Project to discuss the schedule, which is also presented in this letter.

Although the system is still in a testing phase, the meteorological monitoring instrumentation is operational. Initial calibration at field installation, preoperational testing records, and a sampling of strip chart data for all essential diffusion calculation parameters are available to demonstrate this. Raw data inputs to the Waterford 3 plant computer can be displayed in the Control Room.

Approximately 45 days prior to fuel load, we will be able to demonstrate these additional features:

1. Computerized reduction of meteorological data and storage on magnetic tape

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2. Computer terminals in the Technical Support Center and Emergency Operations Facility to access meteorological data for emergency functions

Although the proposed schedule does not provide the six months of demonstration prior to fuel load originally committed to, LP&L feels that this schedule provides a sufficient length of time to demonstrate system operability. Of primary importance is the reliable collection of meteorological data; the system currently does that. However, because the plant is still under construction and systems are being tested, power and computer outages which interrupt data collection occur at a greater frequency than will happen after the plant becomes operational. The features of the MMS, which are not now available, do not affect that ability of the system to perform its function, but rather provide the system with enhanced capabilities. CEPADAS, LP&L's computerized emergency response dose calculation model, will provide the computer software necessary to complete the MMS. CEPADAS will be available 45 days prior to fuel load. Although 15 minute averaged meteorological data will not be routinely available until fuel load, meteorological data can be displayed through the emergency mode of the initial CEPADAS package. Display of both the raw data inputs to the computer and CEPADAS-assimilated data in the emergency mode will demonstrate that the loop is complete, and that meteorological data can be accessed via the computer whenever necessary.

Responses to two other FSAR questions (numbers 810.8-10 and 810.9-3) made related commitments which also have not been met. LP&L's response to question number 810.8-10 states that the MMS, which was described in the FSAR at that time (April, 1981) would be upgraded to meet the criteria of Appendix 2 to NUREG 0654 six months prior to fuel load. The design of the system has been upgraded to meet these criteria (see Section 7.4.5 of the Waterford 3 Emergency Plan); however, the discussion in this letter regarding the operation of the MMS, and the schedule to complete the computer-related features applies to this commitment as well.

The response to question number 810.9-3 indicated that CEPADAS would be loaded by the end of April, 1981 and fully operational by fuel load, then scheduled for October, 1981. CEPADAS is not yet loaded on the Waterford 3 plant computer, but is scheduled to be fully operational by fuel load.

In summary, LP&L has an operational Meteorological Monitoring System that will meet the required criteria prior to fuel load. LP&L feels that the approximately 45 days prior to fuel load available to demonstrate the reliability of the bulk of the outstanding features is a sufficient amount of time for this demonstration, particularly in light of the fact that the MMS will have been collecting data for several months prior to that time.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms. C. D. Groome at (504)363-8956.

Very truly yours,

L. V. Maurin

LVM/CDG/sm

cc: W. M. Stevenson, E. L. Blake, J. H. Wilson (NRC)