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POWER & LIGHT**

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March 12, 1984

W3P84-0615
3-A1.01.04
3-B1

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 SES Unit 3
Docket No. 50-382
Containment Pressure Setpoint

REFERENCE: W3P84-0602 dated March 5, 1984

Dear Sir:

Item II.E.4.2 of NUREG 0737 requires the development of a containment pressure setpoint at which containment isolation is initiated. This setpoint had been reviewed during the Technical Specification development effort for Waterford 3, and found acceptable. However, the Staff reviewer requested a docketed submittal of the setpoint which we provided in the referenced letter. In response to a further question from your reviewer to docket the setpoint calculation methodology, please find the following.

Waterford 3 will employ a 17.1 psia setpoint as reflected in the current draft Technical Specifications. This containment pressure has been derived using the explicit setpoint methodology. This methodology applies a statistical combination of the individual uncertainty components (instrument loop error, setpoint variance, instrument drift, etc.) to establish total instrument channel uncertainty. This methodology yielded an instrument channel uncertainty of ± 1.7 psia. The maximum anticipated pressure within containment during normal operation is +0.7 psia; based on a +0.2 psi normal containment pressure Tech Spec limit and a postulated pressure spike within containment of +0.5 psia. The sum of the normal atmospheric pressure (14.7 psia) plus the instrument channel error (+1.7 psia) plus the maximum expected containment pressure (+0.7 psia) yielded a minimum containment setpoint pressure of 17.1 psia. LP&L believes that this containment setpoint pressure has been reduced to the minimum compatible with normal operating conditions.

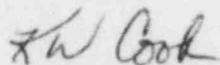
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We request that this item be closed in the next Supplement to the Waterford SER. Should you have any questions or comments on this matter please contact Mike Meisner at (504) 363-8938.

Yours very truly,



K. W. Cook
Nuclear Support & Licensing Manager

KWC/MJM/ch

cc: W.M. Stevenson, E.L. Blake, J. Wilson, J. Huang, D. Hoffman,
G.L. Constable