

Saturday, July 28, 1984

Louisiana utility denies charges on N-plant

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana Power & Light Co. has denied a public research group's claims that the company cannot be trusted to make sure its Waterford 3 nuclear power plant is safe and that an independent review is needed.

"We are going to put this unit in commercial operation and we're going to do it safely and we're going to do it within the strict requirements of the NRC," said LP&L spokesman Jim Fort.

The Government Accountability Project, a non-profit organization based in Washington that often in-

tervenes in nuclear plant licensing proceedings, charged Thursday that LP&L's plan to answer Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerns about the Taft plant is "totally inadequate and defiant of NRC directives."

"LP&L has a history of putting its schedule for completion of Waterford ahead of concern for ensuring that construction of the plant is adequate to protect the public's health and safety," attorney Lynne Bernabei of GAP said in a letter to the NRC.

The NRC told LP&L last month to put together a plan to correct prob-

lems which a commission review team found at the plant.

Ms. Bernabei said LP&L's plan, set out in a June 28 letter to the NRC, "demonstrates that history is repeating itself."

The utility's response disputes the NRC staff evaluation of problems at Waterford 3, she told a news conference in New Orleans.

Ms. Bernabei and Greg Groesch of the Louisiana-based Citizens for Safe Energy released copies of their letter, which she said was hand-delivered Wednesday to Darrell G. Eisenhut, head of NRC's division of licensing.

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