

November 22, 1996

EA 96-442

Carolina Power & Light Company
ATTN: Mr. W. R. Campbell
Vice President
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
P. O. Box 10429
Southport, NC 28461

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED INSPECTION REPORT NOS. 50-325/96-15 50-324/96-15
NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Dear Mr. Campbell:

On October 26, 1996, the NRC completed an inspection at your Brunswick reactor facility. The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

During the six weeks covered by this inspection period, our inspectors found that your staff generally took a safety conscious approach to the activities conducted at the Brunswick Plant with the exception of the vessel disassembly performed while secondary containment was not fully operable. We are concerned, however, about three violations and one apparent violation of NRC requirements that were identified. The first violation was for failure to correct the cause of chlorine detectors failures that have occurred over several years. This was considered a repeat of a previous violation. We are concerned because proper response of this equipment is essential to protect plant operators from a chlorine gas leak. The second violation was for failure to follow procedure when area radiation monitor readings were found outside the normal range. We are concerned because failure to conduct an assessment could lead to undetected radiation level increases or equipment problems. The third violation was for procedure errors concerning modification of seismic supports on electrical cabinets. We are concerned because procedures must be adequate and followed to insure correct installation of modifications.

These violations are cited in the enclosed Notice of Violation and the circumstances surrounding the violations are described in detail in the enclosed report. Please note that you are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions specified in the enclosed Notice when preparing your response. The NRC will use your response, in part, to determine whether further enforcement action is necessary to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

Repetitive violations are addressed in the NRC's "Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions," (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600, Section IV.B. The Enforcement Policy allows the severity level of a violation to be increased if the violation can be considered repetitive. For example, a

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Severity Level IV violation could be increased to Severity Level III with the attending escalated enforcement action. However, in this case, we have decided not to increase the severity level of this violation based on your reporting of these problems in three separate licensee event reports and your overall satisfactory performance in this area.

Based on the results of this inspection, one apparent violation was identified and is being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. The violation concerns exceeding the maximum thermal power authorized by the license and a technical specification thermal limit. Accordingly, no Notice of Violation is presently being issued for these inspection findings. In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review.

A predecisional enforcement conference to discuss this apparent violation has been scheduled for December 9, 1996. The decision to hold a predecisional enforcement conference does not mean that the NRC has determined that a violation has occurred or that enforcement action will be taken. This conference is being held to obtain information to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision, such as a common understanding of the facts, root causes, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violation sooner, corrective actions, significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action. In particular, we expect you to address adequacy of the plant process computer and recurring engineering problems. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to point out any errors in our inspection report and for you to provide any information concerning your perspectives on 1) the severity of the violation, 2) the application of the factors that the NRC considers when it determines the amount of a civil penalty that may be assessed in accordance with Section VI.B.2 of the Enforcement Policy, and 3) any other application of the Enforcement Policy to this case, including the exercise of discretion in accordance with Section VII.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR).

Sincerely,

(Original signed by M. Shymlock)

Milton B. Shymlock, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 4
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-325 and 50-324
License Nos. DPR-71 and DPR-62

Enclosures: (See page 3)

Enclosures: 1. Notice of Violation
2. NRC Inspection Report

cc w/encls:
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COPY?	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO	YES NO

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