



Carolina Power & Light Company
PO Box 1551
Raleigh NC 27602-1551

C.S. Hinnant
Senior Vice President and
Chief Nuclear Officer

January 12, 2000

50-400

Mr. Bill Holman, Secretary
North Carolina Department of
Environment and Natural Resources
1601 Mail Services Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Dear Secretary Holman:

Thank you for providing me a copy of your letter to Dr. William D. Travers dated December 17, 1999, (postmarked January 7, 2000) requesting an NRC public meeting to be held in Raleigh to discuss used fuel storage plans at the Harris Plant. My purpose in responding to your letter is to ensure that you are aware of all the facts related to CP&L's application to the NRC referred to in your letter and the lengths that CP&L has gone to in ensuring that the public is kept informed.

We understand that the NRC plans to hold another public meeting on this matter, and CP&L certainly looks forward to the opportunity to participate at whatever level the Nuclear Regulatory Commission deems appropriate. The record is clear that we have openly communicated our plan and the need for it to the NRC and to the public on numerous occasions. Specifically:

1. All applications and safety analyses that have been filed are public record. CP&L sent a special copy of our original application directly to activists and citizen groups for its use once we were informed that a challenge to our application was likely.
2. Your letter requesting the meeting implies that our storage plans are focused on transporting material from "out-of-state" facilities. Let me clarify that CP&L's plans are to utilize existing and licensed CP&L storage pools to safely and efficiently store fuel from CP&L's three plants (2 located in North Carolina and 1 in South Carolina) that generate electricity for the customers of our service territory. That territory includes the two states. Since our customers benefit directly from each of our nuclear plants, this should not be treated as an in-state or out-of-state issue.
3. CP&L scheduled and invited the public to an open house at our New Hill visitors center. This provided an opportunity to observe models of our facilities, to review our shipping and storage plans, and to question our engineers and managers concerning our plans. Through local media, we advertised to approximately 1 million residents identifying this communications opportunity.

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I personally attended the open house and talked with many of the news reporters and approximately 100 people that attended, including Mel Fry of your department. Members of the Orange County commission also attended.

4. CP&L has held several tours of the Harris facilities for local elected officials so that they could see first-hand the facilities in question.

We also recently attended four public meetings held by the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in Raleigh and Chapel Hill as part of their concurrent review of our plan. Those meetings provided a forum for numerous public statements – both for and against our plan – by anyone who cared to attend and speak.

In addition, as referenced in your letter, there is a legal intervention by Orange County that has resulted in the county's hiring consultants and attorneys to review and challenge our application. We have responded in depositions and legal submittals to questions asked, and we will respond to Orange County's opposition in a public hearing and oral arguments before the licensing board later this month.

CP&L has undertaken considerable efforts to provide to the public in various forums the information that you referred to in your letter to Dr. Travers. And we will continue to support the NRC's open, public process. I also hope you know that we are always available to respond to questions from your department about our plant activities.

Sincerely,



cc: Dr. William Travers
Luis Reyes
✓ Richard Laufer
R. Michael Jones