



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

Mr. Harold Christensen, Acting Chief
Operator Licensing, Human Performance
and Plant Support Branch
Division of Inspection Program Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

50-400

JAN 19 2000

Dear Mr. Christensen:

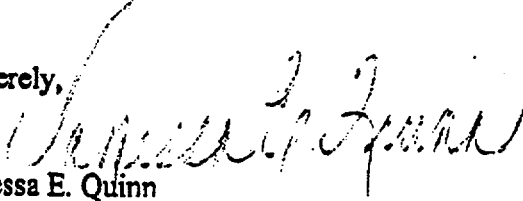
This is in reference to a December 24, 1999, letter from Roger L. Pedersen, Acting Chief, Emergency Preparedness and Health Physics Section, Operator Licensing, Human Performance and Plant Support Branch, Division of Inspection Program Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mr. Pedersen's letter referenced a request from Mr. James Scarola, Vice President, Harris Nuclear Plant, Carolina Power and Light Company, requesting an exemption by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to the requirements 10 CFR 50, Appendix E. Section IV, F.3. Approval of Mr. Scarola's request would result in the rescheduling of the Shearon Harris Power Plant offsite biennial exercise previously scheduled for September 21, 1999 to be conducted on June 27, 2000. The request also indicated that if the exemption is granted by the NRC, State and local governments will require relief by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from the requirements of Title 44 CFR, Part 350.9(c) (1) and (3) for the Shearon Harris Power Plant offsite biennial exercise.

This request for an exemption was based on the imminent impact of Hurricane Floyd and the subsequent flooding problems. Mr. Scarola has discussed this request with the State of North Carolina and the impacted local governments and they have not raised any objections to the request.

We believe the request is justified based on the fact that such a schedule change would have no adverse public health and safety implications. Therefore, FEMA supports the granting of a schedule change as requested by Mr. Scarola of the Carolina Power and Light Company. FEMA also intends to grant a one-time exemption to the requirements of 44 CFR 350.9(c) (1) and (3) for the Shearon Harris Power Plant offsite biennial exercise for the State and local governments. Thus, the scheduled joint exercise for the Shearon Harris site will be held on June 27, 2000.

Should have any questions or require further clarification concerning the issue, please call me at (202) 646-3664.

Sincerely,


Vanessa E. Quinn
Acting Chief
Radiological Emergency Preparedness Branch