

June 14, 1999

EA 99-026

Carolina Power and Light Company
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant
ATTN: Mr. J. S. Keenan
Vice President
P.O. Box 10429
Southport, NC 28461

SUBJECT: NRC OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT NO. 2-1998-014

Thank you for your response of April 1, 1999, to our letter issued on March 2, 1999, concerning the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Office of Investigations' (OI) investigation to determine whether a former Manager at the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant threatened to fire individuals who brought safety concerns to the NRC, and if these actions caused a chilling effect and a hostile working environment within that work group.

Although the Agency concluded that no violation of 10 CFR 50.7 occurred in this case, we requested that you evaluate whether employees in the former Manager's group currently felt free to raise safety concerns. In your response, you stated that a chilled environment does not currently exist with the affected work group and that actions were taken and are continuing to ensure that a chilled environment does not exist. Based on your response and our observations during recent inspections we plan no further Agency action with regard to this matter. However, we will continue to review the activities of the affected work group during future inspections.

In accordance with Section 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," Part 2, Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, a copy of this letter will be placed in the Public Document Room.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Anne T. Boland, Enforcement Officer, at 404-562-4421.

Sincerely,

(ORIGINAL SIGNED BY B. S. MALLETT)

Bruce S. Mallett, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket Nos. 50-325, 50-324
License Nos. DPR-71, DPR-062

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NRC Resident Inspector
 U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
 8470 River Road, SE
 Southport, NC 28461

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