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NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE' AT BRUNSWICK IN LATEST REVIEW

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable with a decline in operation performance in the NRC's latest plant performance review at the Brunswick nuclear power plant, operated by Carolina Power & Light Company near Southport, North Carolina.

In a letter to CP&L, NRC official Brian Bonser said while overall performance was acceptable, "a decline in routine operation performance was noted." Bonser mentioned recent problems in "procedure usage, adherence, quality, technical content and plant configuration control."

The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region II Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are being used as an interim measure to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of License Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at eight sites beginning in June and will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm>.

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