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NRC STAFF RELEASES EVALUATION OF OPERATIONS AT ROBINSON

Plant Improves Assessment In Two Functional Areas

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for Carolina Power & Light Company's Robinson nuclear power plant, located near Hartsville, South Carolina, which indicates Category 1 (superior) performance in the functional areas of Plant Operations and Plant Support and sustains previous Category 2 (good) ratings in Maintenance and Engineering.

The assessment covered a period of operations from June 18, 1995 through February 8, 1997.

NRC officials said improvements in performance were observed in all areas, with superior performance in Plant Operations characterized by good management oversight and continued emphasis on high standards. Safety performance in radiological controls and emergency planning contributed to a "superior" assessment in the area of Plant Support.

The NRC's regional administrator in Atlanta, Luis A. Reyes, said there were significant improvements site-wide in safety assessment and quality verification, with a strong commitment to effective self-assessments in all functional areas evaluated.

NRC officials will meet with company management at the Robinson site on March 25 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss details of the evaluation. The meeting is open to observation by the public and the press. NRC officials will be available at its conclusion to answer questions from interested observers.

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