



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

**My Turn Soon...**

Practicing for his first day at school, Bobby Harris, age 4, of Shallotte escorted his sister Aleasha to her first-grade classroom at Supply Elementary School Wednesday morning.

**Stress Crack Delays Reactor Restart**

BY SUSAN USHER

Start-up of the Unit 1 reactor at Carolina Power & Light Co.'s Brunswick Nuclear Plant near Southport will be delayed at least three to four weeks while the utility examines a crack in a cylinder inside the reactor vessel.

CP&L had planned to begin bringing the reactor back into service around the end of the month, after completing service and repairs and refueling.

"Now we've got to inspect and analyze the crack before we can consider reloading fuel. We don't know how serious it is," said CP&L spokesman Mac Harris. "At the same time we are looking at the possible requirements for a fix, what we may need to do to repair it."

The crack is in the shroud, a stainless steel cylinder that surrounds the fuel bunched in the core. The two-inch-thick plate separates the downward flow and upward flow of feedwater that recirculates through the vessel when the unit is in operation. Water comes into the vessel, flows downward, then is forced upward through the fuel bundles and converted to steam. Energy is used from the steam, which is then condensed into water and recirculated through the vessel.

The crack is on the inside of the shroud at the weld line where it is secured to a top plate, Harris said. "It looks like it goes all the way around the circumference."

CP&L began checking for a possible crack in the 14-foot diameter shroud after workers at a General Electric (GE) nuclear plant in Switzerland found a crack in a shroud. GE asked that other plants using the same type of boiling water reactor check their equipment for signs of similar cracking as a result of intergranular stress corrosion.

This type of stress can occur in stainless steel exposed to a high-temperature, high-moisture environment with free oxygen, the setting found in a reactor vessel. The shroud isn't the first piece of equipment in the unit to experience this type of corrosion, said Harris.

Through ultrasonic testing, CP&L is satisfied that the crack exists, but further tests are required to determine how it might affect the structural integrity of the shroud. The shroud is designed to be solid, fixed in place. Depending on the nature of the crack, repairs may be needed to assure its structural integrity.

"We don't want to have anything moving that shouldn't be moving," said Harris. "It could cause damage to the fuel."

Both units of the Brunswick plant were shut down in April 1992. Unit 2 was restarted without incident this spring after numerous repairs were made. After repairs and refueling, Unit 1 was scheduled to be returned to service this month.

**Price Leaves Public Housing Directorship After 12 Years**

BY SUSAN USHER

Friday, Sept. 3, was the last day on the job here for Perita B. Price, Brunswick County's public housing director since 1981.

Price is moving to Durham to join her husband, Anthony, who is teaching and coaching football at Durham High School for the third year this fall. She has accepted a middle-management position with the City of Raleigh Housing Authority starting Sept. 13.

"Basically I'm going to be doing what I do now, only more of it," she said Friday.

As director of leased housing, she will supervise a staff of 24 people. Her responsibilities will include handling 1,500 leased units plus managing 300 privately-owned units, and supervising applications for all types of public housing.

"It's going to be a challenge," she said of the mid-career change. "I'm kind of ready for it."

When the Supply native began work as director of Brunswick County Public Housing in July 1981, there were 180 units leased, one other full-time employee, Vonnie Fulwood, now Section 8 coordinator, and a part-time temporary employee.

Today the department handles 487 Section 8 housing units for low-income, disabled or elderly residents, has six full-time employees and a budget of \$1.7 million. It has added the HOME program, a Housing and Urban Development project which provides assisted housing for 30 local units, and a weatherization program that allows minor repairs to be made to homes to make them more energy-conserving.

The department also worked with the Town of Navassa on a recent Community Block Grant that allowed energy rehabilitation of five homes that should make them "good for another 30 years".

Thurman Everett, weatherization coordinator and inspector, will serve as acting director of the department until a new administrator is hired.

"As I told Mr. Yelton (Brunswick County Manager Wyman Yelton), he won't have to worry about this department," said Price. "Everybody is loyal and dedicated. They're a wonderful group of people."

A 1972 graduate of Shallotte High School, Price graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 1976 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and social studies, with teaching certification.

She taught in the Extended Day program at West Brunswick High

School for one year, then was an interim social studies and English teacher for one semester before enrolling at UNC Wilmington to take courses in accounting, real estate and business. Price worked for three years as a cost analyst with Edward Weck & Co. of Research Triangle Park before taking the local public housing post.

She is taking this week off before starting her new job in order to pack, spend some time with their two children and get settled in a new location.

"The children are excited and I'm excited about the opportunities," she said. "You have to go out and take advantage of what's available to you."

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