



CP&L restart began Tuesday night

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Start-up of Brunswick nuclear plant's Unit 2 -- idle for over a year -- began Tuesday night, shortly after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave the go-ahead to Carolina Power and Light Co. officials at the site.

The NRC green light came a day after a formal meeting in which Roy Anderson, vice-president in charge of the Brunswick plant, told NRC representatives, "I do believe the plant and our people are ready to operate safely and reliably, with continued improvements."

Though no objection to restart was raised Monday by NRC representatives, it was not until 5:50 p.m. Tuesday that they concurred with the restart plan.

Tuesday evening the process of repowering the nuclear facility began. "Rod-pull," which will lead to neutron activity and nuclear fission in the unit, is expected to commence today.

Restart of the plant will be by unit, with Unit 2 going first in a "power ascension" designed to last from 20 to 40 days. At the end of that process electricity will again be flowing out of the Brunswick plant.

Powering up of Unit 1, which has also been shut down over a year, is expected in the fall after refueling is completed.

The lengthy down-time at Brunswick led Anderson to plan a conservative powering up in order to observe mechanisms and equipment -- as well as plant personnel -- which have not been operating together since April, 1992.

While many systems in the plant have been tested by CP&L workers for over a month, some of those associated with steam have not been hot, wet or under pressure for over 12 months.

Carolina Power and Light Co. shut down the Brunswick plant on April 21, 1992, initially to repair walls in the emergency diesel generator building which were found to be not earthquake-proof, as designed.

Work on the walls came at the insistence of NRC inspectors, who pointed out that the deficiency had been known to CP&L for five years. In February the NRC fined CP&L \$225,000 for that neglect.

Discovery that the generator building walls had been constructed with some fake bolts led to general inspection of walls in the plant, and while no other fakes were found widespread corrosion was discovered, and put on an ever-lengthening list for repairs.

While repair of the generator building walls has long been completed, repair and refurbishing of the plant and reduction of the maintenance backlog stretched the down-time to over a year.

Carolina Power and Light Co. in the interim pledged \$200 million to \$225 million for renewal of the plant over the next five years, pledged to bring it up to "world class" standards, embarked on long-term improvement plans both at Brunswick and throughout the company and changed the chain of Brunswick command from chief operating officer down to plant manager.

Power ascension at Brunswick will commence with the slow removal of control rods which will expose nuclear fuel bundles and ultimately lead to a buildup of heat, then steam pressure to turn electricity-generating turbines.

Both Anderson and William Cavanaugh III, CP&L president and chief operating officer, have promised a "real good startup," tacitly acknowledging the major problems of a flawed restart.

And on Monday Steven A. Varga, from the NRC division of reactor projects in Washington, D. C., cautioned CP&L officials, "Recently there have been startups of plants that have experienced difficulty, and if we

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In a matter of minutes last week a wrecking crew reduced the former headquarters of Oak Island Coast Guard station -- a large, white, imposing structure -- to rubble. The old building was supplanted last year by a modern one, seen in the right background.

Plant VP emphasizes 'we' in restart project

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Not surprisingly Roy Anderson said Monday, "I think we're ready to start up. I just signed a letter to the NRC saying that. I do believe the plant and our people are ready to operate safely and reliably, and with continued improvement."

Carolina Power and Light Co.'s Brunswick nuclear plant did not resume operation just then, of course. Though Nuclear Regulatory Commission team members said things at Brunswick were looking good, they did not say "go."

But Roy Anderson had done one of the things he came here to do as vice-president in early January, saying the lines he was going to say, all but putting them in the mouths of the NRC team who, almost certainly, would speak on their own by mid-week.

It's time to get the Brunswick show on the road again and both CP&L and the NRC know that.

After a year of idleness, of being probed, painted, picked at and repaired Brunswick's nuclear power Unit 2 is almost certainly going to resume generating electricity in three to six weeks -- Anderson, with conservatism born of experience with another long-idled nuclear plant, has built-in a couple of 11-day cushions for fixes.

Then there's the other thing Roy Anderson came for: With far less ado he must also restart Unit 1 and keep both units going, for while "world class" Brunswick performance is a proclaimed goal of CP&L, simply running, generating electricity and making money and not headlines is the point of the operation.

In Monday's meeting with the NRC, Anderson stood alone; virtually the

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A profile



Anderson

Clerk's job in jeopardy?

By Terry Pope
County Editor

The Brunswick County clerk to the board of commissioners' job may be in jeopardy.

Kelly Barefoot deferred comments Tuesday on reports that she has been asked to resign or would be fired at Monday's board meeting.

"I have no comment at this time," she said.

Rumors circulated around the government center at Bolivia Tuesday that Democrats on the board, who hold a 3-2 majority, want her to resign.

"That's what I hear, too," said commissioner Donald Shaw, a Republican.

Reports indicate the action stems from a reprimand placed in Mrs. Barefoot's personnel file by board chairman Don Warren.

In a letter dated April 23, Mrs. Barefoot asks that the reprimand be removed and denies that the board had talked with her in December about a "corrective action" plan regarding

her job performance.

Shaw, who shared contents of the letter, said it also indicates commissioners had talked with her around March 25 about what her "first priorities should be" and to put her "duties as clerk above any other duties."

Warren said Tuesday he could not comment on the personnel matter or if action would take place Monday.

"I'd rather not discuss it," he added, "until whatever happens in a public meeting."

Rumors have surfaced that the clerk's job has been in jeopardy since three Democrats joined the board in December. At that time, the chairman of the Brunswick County Democratic

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To address drugs, weapons

Schools armed with new rules

By Marybeth Bianchi
Feature Editor

A new student code of conduct is on its way to becoming policy in Brunswick County schools.

School law attorney Richard Schwartz of Raleigh on Thursday presented a draft he developed incorporating recommendations made by board members and school administrators. The board gave its vote of approval on the first reading of the new policy, with a few recommended changes, and is expected to approve the student code of conduct at its next regular meeting Monday, May 10. It would become effective July 1 and be in force at the beginning of the 1993-94 school year in August.

Superintendent Ralph Johnston was pleased with the new student code of conduct.

"It's fair, consistent and achieves what the law allows. What we need to do now is ... invite parents in and walk through it," he said after the meeting.

"When policies are well-defined and everyone understands them, then you can get on with the business of schools."

Board chairman Donna Baxter agreed.

"The board was looking for a strong

policy to let people know we're here to educate their children," she said.

"We want people to know we are tired of dealing with these issues when the reason why we were put on this board is to get on with the curriculum."

The 44-page student code of con-

duct incorporates tougher standards for handling weapons on campus as reviewed by the board in February. It also addresses ten other lesser offenses, or as Schwartz noted "thou shall nots", including disruption of school, misconduct on buses, trespassing, assault, threatening acts, theft, vandalism, as well as the use of tobacco products, narcotics, alcohol and other drugs. It spells out who has the authority to discipline students and the types of discipline which can be used. Due process and the grievance procedure available to students are explained as well as investigative procedures such as searches, seizures and interrogations. Criminal prosecution for weapons violations is also detailed.

Once approved, copies of the new student code of conduct will be made available to every Brunswick County student.

The policy directly bans students

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Symphony cancels

The North Carolina Symphony has canceled its May 10 Brunswick County concert because of a lack of local funding.

The Brunswick County Chapter of the North Carolina Symphony Society has not been able to raise funds through ticket sales and donations necessary for the symphony's appearance.

The symphony will honor its commitment to present a Friday, April 30, children's educational concert.

In a last-minute "Save the Symphony" attempt to raise the funds necessary, less than half the money owed was collected.

The \$20,000 debt included a \$9,000 shortfall from the 1992 season. Because of an appeal to the Brunswick County Board of

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OUTSIDE



Forecast

The extended forecast calls for partly cloudy skies Thursday and Friday, with clearing skies on Saturday. Highs are expected to be in the 70s and nighttime lows in the 50s throughout the period.

Tide table

HIGH	THURSDAY, APRIL 29	LOW
1:54 a.m.		8:23 a.m.
2:35 p.m.		8:48 p.m.
	FRIDAY, APRIL 30	
2:57 a.m.		9:26 a.m.
3:41 p.m.		9:56 p.m.
	SATURDAY, MAY 1	
4:01 a.m.		10:26 a.m.
4:47 p.m.		11:03 p.m.
	SUNDAY, MAY 2	
5:03 a.m.		11:24 a.m.
5:48 p.m.		----- p.m.
	MONDAY, MAY 3	
6:04 a.m.		12:04 a.m.
6:45 p.m.		12:20 p.m.
	TUESDAY, MAY 4	
7:00 a.m.		1:00 a.m.
7:40 p.m.		1:12 p.m.
	WEDNESDAY, MAY 5	
7:55 a.m.		1:54 a.m.
8:32 p.m.		2:02 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high +10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.