

Brunswick Nuclear Plant Working On Reported Weaknesses

Brunswick Nuclear Plant officials say they already are working to correct weaknesses pointed out in a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) annual review released this week.

The overall performance of the Southport plant was good, and security at the facility was superior, according to the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report.

However, the NRC pointed out that preliminary improvements seen in the areas of engineering and technical support were overshadowed by problems encountered during the replacement of recirculation piping and problems with the licensed operator requalification training program.

"Overall, Brunswick has been operated in a safe man-

ner during the assessment period," the SALP report states.

But the report says there was a decline in the area of engineering and technical support during the period.

The NRC said problems in the areas of plant operations, engineering and technical support and safety assessment and quality verification were indicative of inadequate management support and involvement at both the site and corporate levels.

The federal agency told the company that increased management attention is warranted to bring about the desired improvements in these areas without neglecting improvement efforts under way or planned in other areas.

Al Watson, senior vice president of nuclear genera-

tion at the Carolina Power & Light Co. facility, said the plant's performance has improved in many areas this year. He said officials have started working to correct weak areas.

"We have already given significantly more attention to the area of engineering and technical support and are seeing preliminary results of those efforts, particularly in the area of operator training," Watson said.

In the SALP report, the plant was rated in seven areas on a scale of 1 to 3. A rating of 1 is the best available, and 3 is the minimum acceptable achievement level.

The NRC gave the plant a 1 rating for security, which is the same rating it received the last time the report was done. This year's report was based on performance from Sept. 1, 1989, through Sept. 30, 1990.

The Brunswick Nuclear Plant received its only 3 rating in the area of engineering and technical support. The rating last time in that area was 2.

The plant received 2 ratings in the five other areas: plant operations; radiological controls; maintenance and surveillance; emergency preparedness; and safety assessment and quality verification.

NRC officials gave the same ratings in those areas during the last rating period, but the SALP report noted improvement in the area of maintenance and surveillance.

The SALP report is a formal assessment which supplements the normal regulatory processes of the NRC. Reports of this kind are issued routinely on all commercial nuclear power plants in the United States.

Regulators Won't Fine CP&L For Shutdown

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For example, the senior operator on duty at the time of the Aug. 19 incident should have been aware of plant status with regard to the test being conducted, the NRC noted. Signaling devices indicated that one channel was in a "trip" position while testing was under way on another, which "should have alerted the operator to stop the testing," wrote Ebnerger.

His communication with the technicians regarding the status was imprecise and informal.

The NRC also cited the operations manager's delay in declaring an unusual event at the plant. While regulations don't require this type of incident to be reported as an unusual event, plant regulations did require it. Since the incident, plant emergency action levels have been revised so that such an incident is no longer considered an unusual

event. The operations manager at that time is no longer in this position.

Also to correct the problems identified by the NRC, the utility has:

- Begun conducting pre- and post-job briefings for the instrumentation and control technicians who perform the tests;
 - Improved training of workers on modifications in procedures;
 - Modified some procedures and added operational aids to make the procedures easier to follow;
 - Started a formal communication training program for all related work groups; and
 - Updated simulators to more closely follow actual operation of the plant, with related training provided.
- Ms. Bean stressed that the incident was unique, resulting from individual error by two trained and experienced employees, and "not a consistent type of problem" at the plant.



BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S Detective Lindsey Walton with part of the \$11,000 in property the department recovered Friday from area break-ins. Two teenagers have been charged with three larcenies.

News, Advertising Deadlines Earlier During The Holidays

Because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, there will be earlier news and advertising deadlines for *The Brunswick Beacon's* issues of Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

Routine news items should be submitted no later than Friday, Dec. 21 for the Dec. 27 edition, and no later than Friday, Dec. 28, for the Jan. 3 edition.

Real estate advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 for the Dec. 27 edition, and 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 for the issue of Jan. 3.

Classified and display advertising must be in by noon Monday, Dec. 24 for the Dec. 27 edition and by noon Monday, Dec. 31 for the Jan. 3 issue.

Both issues will be mailed on regular schedule and mail subscribers should receive their copies on the usual delivery day.

The *Beacon* office will be closed Dec. 25 and 26, and Jan. 1 for the holidays.

Two Teenagers Charged With Recent Break-Ins

BY TERRY POPE

Two Longwood teenagers have been charged with the larceny of more than \$11,000 in property from three area businesses. Most of the property was recovered last Friday afternoon by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

A tip given to sheriff's detectives led to the arrest of James David Whaley, 16, and Grant A. Canfield IV, 18, for the alleged breaking and entering and larceny of three businesses, said Det. Lindsey Walton.

"We received information on a location where stolen property was hidden in the Nakina area," Walton said. "We recovered \$11,000 worth of property from a wooded area there."

Included in the property were boat motors taken during a Nov. 24 break-in at Mike's Marine on N.C.

130 west of Shallotte. Another \$100 in property taken during a break-in at Reed's Country Store in Longwood was recovered from a location in Ash.

"There are additional arrests in this case pending further investigation," Walton said.

Both suspects have been charged with three counts of breaking and entering and larceny. They are also accused of breaking into Brunswick Farm Supply in Ash.

Search warrants were obtained Friday to search the homes of the two teenagers in the Longwood area. Detectives recovered a small amount of property believed to have been taken from break-ins at Reed's Country Store and Brunswick Farm Supply at the homes.

While investigating this case, Walton and Lt. Donnell Marlowe al-

so recovered about \$1,200 in property taken during a recent break-in at Carter's Trading Post on U.S. 17 in Shallotte.

That property was also recovered in the Ash area, Walton said.

"There are additional arrests pending from that case," Walton said. "That was evidence that we stumbled upon."

As many as nine people may be arrested before this theft ring is solved, he indicated.

Whaley was arrested on warrants Friday afternoon and was still being held in the Brunswick County Jail Monday under \$25,000 bond. Warrants were issued for Canfield, who turned himself in to authorities at the sheriff's department Monday and was released later that day on \$5,000 bond.

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FBI Closes Investigation Of Hugo Shelter Incident

The FBI has closed its investigation of an incident that occurred more than a year ago in Shallotte, with no action taken by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The investigation involved four Shallotte area blacks who were arrested at the Shallotte Middle School evacuation center Sept. 21, 1989, as Hurricane Hugo moved toward the Brunswick County coast.

John R. Dunne, assistant attorney general in the civil rights division of the Department of Justice, wrote in a Dec. 3 letter to Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause that the investigation has been closed.

The letter said the civil rights division recently completed its review of the FBI's investigative report concerning allegations that Shallotte Police officers were involved in a criminal violation of federal civil rights. The alleged incident involved three officers, all of whom were white, and four blacks who had sought shelter from the hurricane at a local shelter.

"After a careful review of that report we concluded that this matter should be closed," Dunne wrote.

"Accordingly, based upon the information currently available to us, this department has no intention of taking any further action."

The incident that was investigated occurred just hours before Hurricane Hugo made landfall at Charleston, S.C., causing damage as far north as Bald Head Island in Brunswick County. An estimated 500 people were registered at the Shallotte Middle School shelter.

Individuals involved in the civil rights complaint against the Shallotte Police Department were Sandy Bland, and her husband, William Linwood Bland, as well as relatives Ray Bland and David Bland, all of Route 2, Shallotte.

Shallotte Police arrested the four on charges including disorderly conduct in an emergency shelter, delaying and obstructing an officer, drunk and disruptive, assault on an officer and resisting arrest.

The incident apparently stemmed from a disagreement over where evacuees were allowed to smoke. Three Shallotte Police officers were injured in the scuffle, as well as two of the men who were arrested.

Highs In Mid-60's Expected

Above-average temperatures and near-average rainfall are in the forecast for the Shallotte area.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the area can expect temperatures to range from the mid-40's at night into the mid-60's during the daytime, with about one-half inch of rainfall.

For the period Dec. 4-10, Canady recorded a maximum high of 70 de-

grees on Dec. 4. The minimum low of 27 degrees occurred on Dec. 6.

An average high of 60 degrees combined with an average low of 39 degrees for a daily average temperature of 49 degrees, which Canady said was "pretty close to normal."

He recorded 1.09 inches of rainfall. "This was exactly what we needed," said Canady. "We just need more of it."

Dog Dispute

(Continued From Page 1-A)

fied that no one had ever seen Roscoe actually kill a duck. Under questioning by Ms. Hayes, she admitted that the civil action suit filed against Bachelor last month was dismissed because of a lack of evidence, that no feathers were ever found in Roscoe's mouth.

Bill Hood, president of the Sea Trail Property Owners Association, said he was "disturbed that we were having a conflict in our community" over the shooting. He said the community is still having dog control problems.

Jim Ballou, Wilkerson's neighbor, also testified Tuesday that he has been threatened in his own yard by a dog that appeared to be part pit bull. Ballou said calling the animal control shelter to help control strays doesn't work.

Ms. Babson said a trap to catch strays was requested by a lady in Seaside Station II neighborhood, but when the animal control workers delivered it to her home she refused to accept it. She said her office received a complaint on Sept. 25 regarding a female dog and four puppies running around the neighborhood.

Wilkerson said Tuesday he will appeal his case to Brunswick County Superior Court.

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TRAVEL TREK

by
Elsa Jardine



One of the hardest things about relocation to a new area after many years of living in the same place is finding new doctors, dentists, accountants, lawyers, etc. Many people also have used the same travel agent for years, and the task of finding a new one in the new hometown can be of considerable importance.

Brunswick Travel has recently opened at Eastgate Square on Holden Beach Road in Shallotte. We offer a full range of travel services for both domestic and international travel. Our staff consists of Elsa Jardine and Eike Grabowski who, between them, have over 20 years experience in the travel business. Elsa has been a travel agent for the past 16 years, the last ten of those years, as owner of an agency in Danbury, Ct. Eike worked for Holland America Cruise Line, Sabena Belgian Airlines and for the last eight years as a travel consultant.

If you have been reluctant to use a travel agent because of a possible fee charge, remember, at Brunswick Travel there is no fee for our services. In fact, we can probably save you money on airfares, cruises and tours because we are constantly aware of the bargains available in travel.

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