

CP&L Aims For Better Performance Of Both Brunswick Plant, People

Carolina Power & Light Co. has proposed a three-year plan aimed at improving the capabilities and performance of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant and its workforce to near world-class level.

An improvement plan submitted Dec. 15 to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atlanta office outlines steps CP&L expects will take the Southport facility from the ranks of the nation's worst-run nuclear facilities to one of the top 25 percent.

The plan outlines broad goals and assigns management accountability in five areas: communication, work processes, human performance, system reliability and material condition, and planning, scheduling and commitment achievement.

Top priorities for 1993 will be improving the material condition of the plant, enhancing employees' capabilities and developing a 'can-do' spirit. The initial focus will be to improve process efficiency, increase productivity, reduce workload and improve the ability of employees to identify the root causes of equipment problems, according to CP&L spokesman Wade Pridgen.

In 1994, the plant is expected to be making measurable improvement in performance over 1993, with employees in agreement that the quality of life at the plant has improved, and by the end of 1995, the goal is for the plant team to be recognized by industry experts as approaching world-class performance.

CP&L defines world-class as performing in the top

quartile of U.S. nuclear plants in the areas of nuclear safety, production and cost, while sustaining significant improvement in employee satisfaction and achievement of schedules and commitments.

CP&L closed the Brunswick Plant in April after learning that walls in the emergency generator building were not built to withstand an earthquake as required by regulations. In the shutdown, employees and contract workers have made more than 11,000 improvements with nearly 5,000 more pending before the two units are brought back on line next year. In June the plant was placed on the NRC's watch list of the country's worst-run nuclear power facilities.

CP&L plans to restart Unit 2 in late March, and Unit 1 later in the year.

The NRC, at a progress meeting earlier this month at the plant, said the goal was ambitious, but achievable. However, the federal regulators said the utility needs to be more specific in its work plan and needs to ensure not only that the plant is ready to return to service, but that its workforce can operate it.

The plan is the second of three documents being submitted to the NRC by the utility. The first was a three-year corporate plan for improving its overall nuclear operations, plus a general start-up schedule for Unit 1; while the final document will give a start-up schedule for Unit 1.

Happy Holidays And To All A Good Night

BY BILL DEARMAN, EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT
South Brunswick Islands Chamber Of Commerce

By now, except for the true last minute, panic-stricken, one-more-trip-to-the-store shopper, most of you are ready for this most joyous season. That's right, I am one of those. I do not know what it is about that last-minute rush, but I love it. That last rush of adrenaline, the people hurrying here and there, and that search for the perfect gift make it Christmas for those of us who wait until the last minute.

But that is not what this season is all about. The meaning of this special time is love, family and caring for our fellow man. Love is in the air. People you have not heard from in a year call or write with caring messages and information that keep long-time acquaintances friends long after you have gone your separate ways.

It is funny how a word, a sentence, or a letter can bring back old memories. Memories of a time short or long past, and somehow always of pleasant fun times when life seemed simpler. When the pressures of the day did not seem so pressing. But the past is that way, yes it is.

Families always seem closer during this time of celebration. Even when miles separate us, a call, or opening that special gift from a loved one brings us closer, at least for a moment. We all have those special memories of past festivities that are forever with us. We carry them just beneath the surface, and they flood our minds with pleasant thoughts of bygone days when we see that special ornament, receive that special call, or letter, or hear one or more of our favorite holiday songs.

At this time of the year more so than any other, we seem to care more about our fellow man. Maybe it is because this is a traditional season of giving, maybe it is because we are coming to the end of a year, or maybe it is the simple joy of the season that makes us so willing to give. No matter what your reason, the giving makes this time special.

During this special time of the year let me wish each of you a joyous yuletide season, one filled with love, with family and close friends, and with that special feeling that comes from giving.

So peace I wish you and yours, "and to all a good night."



DEARMAN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

BOB EDWARDS, agronomist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture, and Kenneth Grissett of Grissettown gather soil samples to be analyzed for nutrient levels.

Agronomist Gives Good Advice To Local Farmer

While most advice is taken with a grain of salt, farmers who have come to know agronomist Bob Edwards actually seek out his expertise.

That's because his advice has made them hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions of dollars.

Edwards, an agronomist with the N.C. Department of Agriculture since 1986, covers a ten-county area of southeastern North Carolina, including Brunswick, advising farmers on soil conditions and evaluating crop problems. He has been known to spot fields of ailing crops and stop to offer his help.

Kenneth Grissett of Grissettown is among the many who lay out the welcome mat for Edwards.

Excessive rainfall for the past three years meant constant soil and leaf sampling on Grissett's 400-acre farm to make sure crops got the correct nutrients.

"Even though the prices have gone up, our fertilizer expenses have gone down because of soil sampling," Grissett said. "We saved about \$100 an acre on the sweet potato crop, and that adds up with hundreds of acres."

Edwards may recommend changing fertilizers or reducing the amount, using various production

methods such as trickle irrigation or changing plowing times. Grissett said he's not afraid to argue with Edwards.

"I still have to make the final decision, but I respect Bob enough to know he's going to recommend what's right while keeping in consideration the cost factor, too," Grissett said.

Edwards, one of eight regional agronomists covering the state for the NCDA Agronomics Division, says it is gratifying to see fields of healthy crops and farmers making money thanks to changes in practices and procedures.

As Kenneth Grissett said, "Farming has gotten so complicated. If you get more rain next week, then what? It's a guessing game, and Bob has helped us right much."

Travel Package Receives \$3,500

The Brunswick County Travel Package has been awarded \$3,500 in tourism matching funds from the N.C. Department of Economic and Community Development.

Brunswick County Travel Package is a committee organized to promote travel to North Carolina's Brunswick Islands. The committee is composed of five representatives from the Southport-Oak Island and South Brunswick Islands chambers of commerce.

The grant will be used to print 30,000 copies of the "Official Brunswick Islands Vacation Planner." The planners will be used to respond to inquiries received from ads placed in Woman's Day, Southern Living, USA Today and other magazines and publications.

Pat Fox Named Realtor Of Year

Pat Fox of Alan Holden Realty was presented the Realtor of the Year award by the Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors at the group's Dec. 14 meeting and dinner dance at Island House Restaurant at Ocean Isle Beach.



FOX

Fox was recognized for her outstanding service to the board as its president during 1992, said Peggy Stanley, secretary-treasurer.

Also at the meeting, Region 2 Vice President Jim Sandy inducted new officers for 1993: Jimmy Sanderford, McClure Realty, president; Bill Robertson, McClure Realty, president-elect; Allan Dameron, Alan Holden Realty, vice presi-

dent; and Peggy Stanley, Sloane Realty, secretary-treasurer.

Installed as new members of the board of directors were Randall Morrison, Century 21 Sunset Beach; Betty Williamson, Betty Williamson Realty; and Maurice Brush, Century 21 Carolina Shores Realty. Serving as state directors are Alan Holden and Frank Williamson Jr.

Hugh Munday, membership committee chairman, swore in new members who had completed their indoctrination course, as follows: Ned Scott, Century 21 Carolina Shores; John Lengyel, Joey Bonvisuto and Tim Huggins, Sloane Realty; Kim Hewett, Century 21 Island Realty; and Brenda D. Cecil and Carol Church, Brunswickland Realty.

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Register Of Deeds Reports \$48,883 In Month Of Nov.

A total of \$48,883 in fees and taxes were collected by the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office during November, according to a monthly report released last week.

Recordings and fees include: 459 deeds, \$3,866; 389 deeds of trust, \$5,194; 42 plats, \$839; 93 financing statements, \$744; 363 deed of trust cancellations, \$1,858; 344 miscellaneous recordings, \$3,077; 15 marriage licenses, \$600.

A total of \$30,563 in excise tax was collected. There was \$2,142 collected for other services.

As required by law, half of the county's excise tax (minus 2 percent collection costs), or \$14,976, was sent to the N.C. Department of Re-

venue.

Half the marriage license collections, or \$300, were remitted to the N.C. Department of Administration for the Domestic Violence Center fund, which helps support the Hope Harbor Home in Brunswick County. Another \$75 of those collections was sent to the state treasurer for the abused children's fund.

Among the expenditures reported during the month were: supplemental retirement, \$898; maintenance and repairs to equipment, \$120; departmental supplies, \$1,445; contracted services, \$119; and service maintenance contracts, \$350.

Wages are not included in the report.

Help Available To Farmers Interested In Water Quality

The North Carolina agriculture cost-share program offers help to farmers with standing water on low-lying lands, stormwater run-off or other water quality related problems on their land.

Bill Norris, Cost-Share technician with the Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District, said the program has assisted 20 to 25 farmers this past year in improving and maintaining water quality.

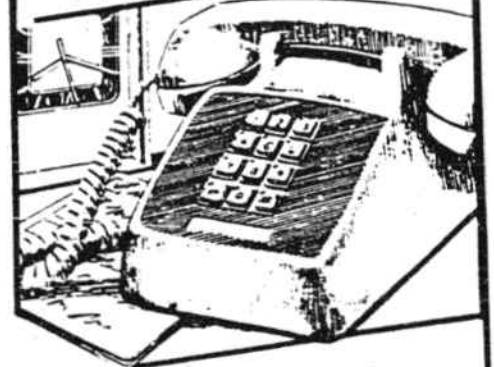
Typically, the conservation staff provides technical assistance in

putting in place "best management practices." These include such things as field borders and grassed waterways to control run-off, diversions, critical area planting, conversion of cropland into grass or trees or improving an old animal waste system.

Also, incentive plans are available to farmers in three areas: conservation tillage, animal waste application and sod-based rotation.

For more information call the district office at 253-4458.

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