



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

ROY ANDERSON, vice president of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant at Southport, briefs reporters on CP&L's plans to return Unit 2 to service in the near future. Once the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency gives the go-ahead, the utility plans to take between 20 and 40 days to slowly bring the unit to full generating power.

Reactor, Out A Year, To Go Back On Line

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have a combined generating capacity of 1,580,000 kilowatts when operating at 100 percent. During the outage, General Electric technicians have checked out and rebuilt the turbines, with the goal of getting the plant to 100 percent capacity. Meanwhile CP&L has been buying electricity from other sources.

Anderson said that "well before" the shutdown the plant could only run at about 80 percent of capacity because of linkage problems.

"The plant runs best at 100 percent," he said. "It's tuned to run at that power, that temperature, that pressure."

While both units were out of service, CP&L embarked on a major maintenance and upgrading program of the physical plant, increased staff training, and made a series of changes in management of both the plant and the utility's entire nuclear division. Also it also committed to a three-year plan of continued improvement in both plant and operations beyond the level outlined in its regular plan of operation.

In both routine assessments and special reviews, the NRC had cited management at the Brunswick Plant

as the "root cause" of many of its problems over the past 10 years relating to safety, maintenance and operations.

Ebner told reporters Monday he thinks CP&L's management restructuring has addressed that problem. Since last April CP&L has hired William Cavanaugh III as president and chief operating officer, Roy Anderson as vice president of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant, Clay C. Warren as Unit 2 plant general manager, and C.S. "Scotty" Hinnant as director of site operations, among others.

Hinnant is the only veteran CP&L employee. The others, as Ebner noted, "are all from outside corporations and have extensive nuclear experience. Many of them come from plants which have gone through similar problems."

Anderson, for instance, was at Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth, Mass., until he became the Brunswick plant's third top executive in a year's time. Plymouth was at one time on the NRC's watch list of worst-run nuclear reactors in the country, as Brunswick Plant's two reactors are now.

While the Brunswick plant's been

idle, workers have made approximately 1,700 repairs and improvements, some of which had been awaiting attention for up to three years. Anderson said that backlog has been pared to 1,400 items, or 70 days of work. Of those items only 61 are safety-related, and he said none needs immediate attention or poses a personnel or nuclear safety threat.

Steve Varga of the NRC's Washington, D.C., office cautioned CP&L officials to move with deliberation, citing recent problems with plant start-ups elsewhere and their impact on NRC staff credibility.

"If we experience more at Brunswick I don't know who will suffer more, the Brunswick Plant or (NRC) staff," he said. "If Brunswick runs into significant problems with start-up it could serious impact on Brunswick's status and there is the question of whether we (the NRC) should have been aware of those problems."

Replied Hinnant, "We realize, and have briefed our staff, that this needs to be the cleanest, smoothest start-up Brunswick has experienced. We realize we are in a glass fish bowl."

Storm Aid Coming From Feds

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tails of this and see what else might be included," he said.

Logan said he had expected a declaration sooner and had been confident the county would receive some measure of federal aid. "The assessment people who came down told us that if anybody got it, we would, because we had sustained the most damage of any county along the coast."

The federal government has not ruled on the state's request for a major disaster declaration, which would provide assistance to individuals and businesses.

Logan said he personally believes Brunswick County will qualify for some type of assistance for businesses through the Small Business Administration, but that he is less optimistic about assistance for pri-

vate individuals.

"We really didn't sustain that much damage to private residences," said Logan, noting that most beach cottages are rentals, not permanent homes, and qualify as businesses.

According to the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, debris removal is defined as clearing downed trees and other wreckage caused by the storm.

Emergency protective measures include such actions as calling in additional police, fire or emergency personnel to cope with the storm and its aftermath.

The state is also waiting to hear from the U.S. Department of Commerce whether it will be allowed to use unspent federal money from North Carolina's Hurricane Hugo disaster relief effort.

Now that a declaration is in effect

here, officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency will publicize the relief available. Eligible groups, which include municipal and county governments, private non-profit agencies that provide government services, and rural electrification concerns such as Brunswick Electric Membership Corp., will then file an application or a "notice of interest".

Damage survey teams will then inspect financial records and write a "damage survey report." Once the report is signed, the federal government will reimburse 75 percent of eligible disaster-related expenses.

Other eastern counties to qualify under Tuesday's declaration included Columbus, New Hanover, Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Lenoir and Pamlico.



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

ARSON was blamed for two fires that destroyed this mobile home and damaged another on Riverview Road in Calabash April 14. A third suspicious fire leveled another nearby trailer last Wednesday night (April 21).

Hearing Speakers Like Sewer Plan

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engineers used to reach their conclusion that septic tanks are polluting waters around the island. She also asked for assurance that the stormwater management component would be part of the plan.

Hunt, reporting to the SBTA earlier this month, accused the engineers of presenting "inaccurate and incomplete" preliminary data regarding water pollution. The engineers, in their final environmental report, countered that "many of the town's property owners...have been ex-

posed to a considerable amount of innuendo and half-truths by those who had previously formed anti-sewer opinions...."

Some SBTA leaders—including President Clete Waldmiller, Hunt and John Watts, who serves on the town's Citizens Advisory Committee on Wastewater—have suggested that the area's pollution problems are the result of stormwater runoff and not septic tank overload.

They have cautioned against implementing a \$25 to \$30 million sewer system without first trying a less expensive stormwater runoff management plan. They also cite academic studies which conclude that septic tanks are functioning effectively along the North Carolina coast.

"We started out with a sewer study" commissioned by the town boards of Sunset Beach and Calabash, engineer Jim Billups told the gathering. "We discovered stormwater problems greater than we antici-

pated." The Brunswick County Board of Health has endorsed the engineers' proposed "regional environmental management program"—a combined regional sewer and stormwater management system which would be a first on the North Carolina coast. The health board's report to the county commissioners said they did so after considering information from both the engineers and the SBTA.

The county commissioners, while not agreeing to serve as lead agency for a regional project, have agreed to write Gov. Jim Hunt asking for demonstration funds. Similar letters have been written by Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber, Calabash Mayor Doug Simmons and Ocean Isle Beach Betty Williamson.

Town boards in Shallotte and Holden Beach declined to authorize their mayors to send letters of support, though both will be approached again, Billups said.

Calabash Asks Attorney For Action Over Sign

BY ERIC CARLSON

Calabash has asked its town attorney to take legal action for alleged sign violations against another lawyer, who claims he has been harassed and threatened by the town's building inspector.

At the request of Building Inspector Edward Schaack, the Calabash Board of Commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday night to direct their attorney, Michael Ramos, to take action against Benedict Del Re, a local lawyer and property owner who Schaack claims has failed to properly repair a sign damaged in the March 13 storm.

In the same vote, Ramos was also told to take similar steps against the owners of Mama Brava's Pizza restaurant for installing what Schaack called "a temporary sign" in a commercial complex owned by Del Re.

During a lengthy presentation at

the board's April 13 meeting, Del Re complained that Schaack had ordered workers off his property, made unreasonable demands for improvements at the complex and threatened to sue Del Re for not complying with his demands.

"I'm being picked on," Del Re said. "I have encountered hostility from Mr. Schaack on a daily basis. He has overstepped the bounds of what he was hired to do."

Del Re also accused Schaack of a conflict of interest for allegedly offering his services as a professional engineer to rectify deficiencies in Del Re's buildings that Schaack allegedly discovered while acting as building inspector.

Schaack generally denied Del Re's allegations, but chose not to defend himself in public at the April 13 meeting. He asked instead to explain his position to the board in a

closed session.

He said Del Re had failed to comply with the building code's requirement that he first provide "a design and stress diagram" for approval before repairing his damaged sign to ensure that the completed structure will comply with the ordinance.

Instead of submitting the required plan, Del Re used bags of concrete to make makeshift repairs on the damaged sign, Schaack said.

The commissioners took no action on Del Re's complaint and directed him to request a variance from the zoning board of adjustment. Mama Brava's owner Debora Mawji also was asked to take her appeal for a larger sign to the adjustment board.

At Tuesday night's meeting, Schaack told the board that neither of the two sign owners had filed a request for an adjustment hearing. He asked for the board's guidance in how to proceed.

"Turn it over to Mike (Ramos)," said Commissioner George Anderson. A quick vote was taken in which all members voted to approve Anderson's suggestion.

In other business the board:

■Voted unanimously to approve a requested zoning change for property at the corner of Country Club Road and U.S. 17 owned by James

J. Stoffel. Portions of the tract originally zoned residential were re-designated for highway commercial use and planned unit development. The town planning board twice voted to recommend the changes, which were the subject of two public hearings.

■Accepted a bid from American Refuse Systems of Murrell's Inlet, S.C., to install and service "Igloo" recycling bins the town's recycling center. Based on passed usage, the company estimated that the service would cost the town about \$780 per month. Approval of the ARS bid was recommended in a study by Jerry Dale, who set up the town's original recycling program.

■Discussed the need for a thorough engineering study of the town's drainage system. Commissioner Ray Card said both districts of the town "are looking at a major revamping of drainage ditches." He noted that steady development has increased stormwater runoff and deteriorated existing ditches. No action was taken.

■Heard an announcement from Planning Board Chairman Al Smith that the board has cut back on its meeting schedule for the summer months. Between May and September, the planning board will meet once monthly on the second Monday of the month.

Fired Employee Threatens Suit

On the same day that Interim County Manager John Harvey announced that he had created a new county position and hired a fired employee for the job, another fired employee filed civil papers announcing his intent to file a lawsuit if he is not reinstated with back pay.

An attorney for Rudy B. Benton, who was fired in 1989 from his position as building and grounds maintenance technician, filed an application with the clerk of court April 19 for an extension of time to file a complaint against the county.

The extension was granted, allowing Benton's lawyer until May 10 to file a complaint "for reinstatement to former position of employee dismissed without cause and without following county personnel policy; for money damages for back wages and for violation of constitutional rights...."

Leland lawyer R. Glenn Peterson, who is representing Benton, said Tuesday that the action was "a preliminary step toward filing suit against the county for reinstatement to his position."

Noting that the county now has a new attorney, Peterson said the notice was given in hopes that "things might get worked out" before a suit is filed. But he would offer no details regarding his client's grievances.

"The county attorney and I are discussing the case," Peterson said. "Until such time as our discussions are no longer fruitful, it would be

premature to discuss it."

Most details of a county employee's personnel file are required to be kept confidential by state law. Hiring and firing dates, position classification and salary are matters of public record.

According to Brunswick County Personnel Officer Stacie Grissett, Benton was hired March 16, 1987, for a position in the building inspection department, which was then a division of the planning department. He was later transferred to the building and grounds department and terminated Dec. 11, 1989 at a salary of \$14,734.

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