Hill maintains that during his work at Waterford in 1982-83 claims irregularities he uncovered in safety-critical construction documents were ignored.

George Hill was coordinator for a team of records reviewers when he quit EBASCO Services - Waterford's architect, engineer and prime contractor - July 29 and abandoned a seven-year career in "too big a compromise." Hill maintains that during his work at Waterford he and his predecessor, J.M. Davis, discovered a broad range of deficiencies in three areas associated with the foundation of the plant.

Hill said Davis was transferred in January to "less sensitive duties" six weeks after recommending a comprehensive review of all structural documentation. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations require LP&L to maintain documents designed to ensure the quality and workmanship of a nuclear power plant. But Clyde E. Wisner, an NRC Region IV spokesman in Arlington, Texas, said non-conformance reports such as those compiled by Hill are not necessarily reported to the regulatory government agency.

"It would be up to the supervisor to report it," Wisner said. "And he would base it on the substance of the report." Hill contends his pleas to EBASCO and LP&L executives for a review of quality controls of the foundation construction were ignored during the 21/2 months before he left his job, frustrated by the apparent futility of his warnings.

Tom Gerrets, LP&L Quality Assurance Manager, insists he was not informed of records or construction problems concerning the foundation. But Gerrets' immediate superior and LP&L vice president in charge of nuclear operations, R.S. Leddick, said the allegations would be reviewed thoroughly to determine whether safety problems exist.

Leddick held a similar position at the now-defunct Washington Public Power Services plant before arriving at Waterford July 25, four days before Hill left his job.

"We are not going to gloss over problems where safety is an issue," he said. An NRC staff report investigating six-year-old allegations of cracks in the Waterford III foundation Nov. 28 concluded the foundation's design and construction are sound and present no threat to the public.

Hill claims he and his team submitted a 200-page non-conformance report concerning quality assurance documents on the foundation. The lengthy report addressed the method of laying the foot-thick layer of crushed shells that form the foundation bed.

Secondly, Hill's reviewers in May scrutinized records of radio-welding, the process of joining together steel reinforcing bars in the foundation. That report totaled 60 pages. At both areas the reports cited a high percentage of missing records, records allegedly manufactured after the work was completed and unsealed and failed workers conducting quality control inspections.

"Non-conformance reports can range from anything very minor to something very serious," Wisner said. "We are looking at some allegations concerning Waterford III now, but we are not aware of any blatant problems or anything about construction irregularities."

In June, Hill's staff had completed reviews of 70 of 1,200 packages detailing construction of the foundation when they were ordered by Peggy Burgard, head of EBASCO's Quality Assurance Installations Review Group, to halt their work.

Hill said when he received no response to his reported exists of the order to halt the concrete packages review, he met July 7 with Gerrets and outlined his concerns about the documentation for radio-welding, soils and concrete pouring.

In a meeting four days later, Gerrets and five key personnel of EBASCO and LP&L agreed to follow Hill's complaints. Hill said he helped plan a review of the remaining concrete records of Waterford subcontractor J.A. Jones, but he said the study was not conducted.

Hill worked in a similar capacity at the William H. Zimmer plant 27 miles from Cincinnati, which was closed by the NRC for construction and record irregularities. Hill said he "is out of the industry forever."

"I was so upset, why didn't he come to the NRC?" Wisner said. "We encourage quality assurance people to talk to us when they aren't getting anywhere with their higher ups, and we guarantee anonymity." The $2.65 billion Waterford III plant was scheduled for completion in 1982, and current plans call for production to be underway by Fall 1984.