

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389]

Florida Power & Light Company, Inc., et al., St. Lucie Plant, Units 1 and 2; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of amendments to Facility Operating License Nos. DPR-67 and NPF-16, issued to Florida Power and Light Company (the licensee), for operation of the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 located in St. Lucie County, Florida.

Environmental Assessment*Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed amendments would revise the St. Lucie Plant, Units 1 and 2, Technical Specifications, Appendix B, "Environmental Protection Plan (Non-Radiological)" (EPP), to incorporate the terms and conditions of the Incidental Take Statement in the Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on February 7, 1997, and subsequently modified on May 8, 1998. The proposed amendments will replace Section 4, "Environmental Conditions," of the EPPs for both Units 1 and 2, and add Section 5, "Administrative Procedures," to the Unit 1 EPP and revise the current EPP Section 5 for Unit 2.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application for amendment dated December 1, 1997, as supplemented in a letter dated August 26, 1998.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed action would incorporate the terms and conditions of the Incidental Take Statement of the Biological Opinion issued by NMFS into St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 operating licenses as well as provide consistency between the Unit 1 and Unit 2 Environmental Protection Plans.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The Commission has completed its evaluation of the proposed action and concludes that implementation of the Incidental Take Statement in St. Lucie's Environmental Protection Plan for Units 1 and 2 would support the National Marine Fisheries Service conclusion that the continued operation of the circulating water system at St. Lucie Plant is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or

endangered sea turtle species under NMFS jurisdiction. The Incidental Take Statement identifies actions that have been or will be taken by St. Lucie to ensure the takes of endangered sea turtles are limited. These actions include the use of two different mesh barrier nets across the intake canal, a capture and release program for endangered sea turtles found in the intake canal, a program to monitor for endangered sea turtles at the cooling water intakes on a regular basis, and a study to elucidate the effect of various factors on turtle entrapment.

The proposed action will not increase the probability or consequences of accidents, no changes are being made in the types of any effluents that may be released off site, and there is no significant increase in occupational or public radiation exposure. Therefore, there are no significant radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

With regard to potential non-radiological impacts, the proposed action does not involve any historic sites. It does not affect non-radiological plant effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, there are no significant non-radiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there are no significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

As an alternative to the proposed action, the staff considered denial of the proposed action (i.e., the "no-action" alternative). Denial of the application would result in St. Lucie not implementing the Incidental Take Statement which would lead to takes of endangered sea turtles outside the NMFS Biological Opinion. The environmental impacts of the proposed action are less than the alternative action.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of any resources not previously considered in the Final Environmental Statement for the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

On June 9, 1999, the staff consulted with William Passetti, Chief, Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control, for the state of Florida, regarding the environmental impact of the proposed action. The state official had no comments.

Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed action.

For further details with respect to the proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated December 1, 1997, as supplemented in a letter dated August 26, 1998, which are available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, The Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC, and at the local public document room located at the Indian River Community College Library, 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce, Florida 34981-5596.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 23rd day of June, 1999.

William C. Gleaves,

Project Manager, Section 2, and Project Directorate II, Division of Licensing Project Management, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**Sunshine Act Meeting**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

DATES: Weeks of June 28, July 5, 12, and 19, 1999.

PLACE: Commissioners' Conference Room, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland.

STATUS: Public and Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

Week of June 28

Tuesday, June 29

9:00 a.m. Affirmation Session
(Public Meeting) (If needed)

Week of July 5—Tentative

There are no meetings scheduled for the Week of July 5.

Week of July 12—Tentative

Tuesday, July 13

9:30 a.m. Briefing on Treatment of Existing Programs for License Renewal (Public Meeting)

Thursday, July 15

10:00 a.m. Briefing on Existing Event Response Procedures (Including Federal Response Plan and Coordination of Federal Agencies in Response to Terrorist