



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
REGION II
SAM NUNN ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET, SW, SUITE 23T85
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8931

March 13, 2000

Florida Power and Light Company
ATTN: Mr. T. F. Plunkett
President - Nuclear Division
P. O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420

SUBJECT: FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY EMPLOYEE CONCERNS
PROGRAM (ARB-1999-010)

Dear Mr. Plunkett:

This letter refers to concerns received by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding activities at Florida Power and Light Company's (FPL) St. Lucie and Turkey Point Nuclear Plants. As you are likely aware, published NRC statistical information regarding allegations received from all plants indicates that for calendar year (CY) 1999, the agency received 38 allegations related to activities at your St. Lucie Plant and 14 allegations related to activities at your Turkey Point Plant. Regarding the St. Lucie Plant, the 38 allegations received in CY 1999 and 29 allegations received in CY 1998 represent an overall downward trend from the 68 allegations received in CY 1997; however, for CY 1999 St. Lucie had the highest number of allegations received of any nuclear power plant.

Because licensees are primarily responsible for safe plant operations and for creating an environment where employees feel free to raise safety concerns, the agency's policy is to refer as many allegations as possible to licensees. However, this is not always possible or prudent due to issues related to alleged identity protection, potential wrongdoing, and various other considerations. In this regard, over the last year or so, alleged identifying concerns to us have indicated that some employees have negative perceptions or a distrust of the FPL Employee Concerns Program (ECP) at both FPL plants. In many cases, the comments we received regarding the FPL ECP were not specific in nature and appeared to involve individual perceptions and the experience of third parties. The comments primarily relate to inability of the ECP to maintain confidentiality and the adequacy of concern resolution. It appears that the manner in which identified issues are assigned to other programs and personnel for resolution may have contributed to some of these concerns.

Although the majority of allegations received were of low safety significance and not substantiated, employee perceptions about the ECP have been a recurring theme. In addition, the NRC continues to receive allegations which have not been first raised with FPL management, or within the FPL corrective action and/or concern resolution processes.

These observations are being provided to you for your information and action as you deem appropriate. Although NRC is not requesting that you respond to this information at this time, through various discussions with you and members of your staff, we are aware that FPL has undertaken a review of the ECP. Upon completion of this effort, we request that you notify the NRC and make the report available for our review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Anne T. Boland at 404-562-4421 or Len Wert, Chief Reactor Project Branch 3 at 404-562-4540.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Loren R. Plisco, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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