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NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 CIVIL PENALTY AGAINST FLORIDA
POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY'S ST. LUCIE NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Staff has proposed a \$50,000 civil penalty against Florida Power and Light Company for three alleged violations of NRC requirements at its St. Lucie nuclear power plant near Jensen Beach, Florida.

NRC officials said the first violation involves both Unit 1 power-operated relief valves being rendered inoperable at low pressure after guides were installed upside down during routine maintenance. The other two violations involve the alleged failure of plant employees to conduct the required tests on the two valves. The valves are on pipes coming from the pressurizer and going into a tank, providing protection against higher than normal pressures.

Although the plant's past performance and the corrective actions relating to this incident were considered, the NRC staff proposed the \$50,000 civil penalty to reflect the significance of the alleged violations.

The company has 30 days in which to either pay the civil penalty or to protest its imposition.

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