

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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FOR

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NRC STAFF PROPOSES \$50,000 FINE AGAINST FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION
FOR VIOLATIONS OF SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AT CRYSTAL RIVER**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has proposed a \$50,000 civil penalty against Florida Power Corporation for alleged violations of NRC security requirements at the Crystal River nuclear power plant, located near Crystal River, Florida.

The violations involve multiple failures to implement requirements of the plant's physical security plan, identified as the result of an NRC inspection at the plant from December 2 through December 19 of last year. NRC officials said the violations included failure to have adequate implementing procedures for operation of a newly installed security computer in two alarm stations or for taking compensatory measures for the degradation of vital area doors; failure to properly respond to a protected area alarm; failure to employ the capability to assess more than one protected area alarm at a time; failure to maintain a physical barrier in one protected area location for a period in excess of 12 hours; failure to appropriately control and safeguard weapons stored in the plant armory; and failure to submit physical security plan changes to the NRC in a timely manner.

The administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, Luis A. Reyes, said in a letter to the company that, "although the overall security program has been functioning adequately and the working level performance of the security force has been generally good...the violations are of significant regulatory concern because they are indicative of a lack of management attention to the program and a fundamental lack of understanding of regulatory requirements related to the security program."

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

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