

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, N.W.
Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30323

No: II-97-27

Contact: Ken Clark (404) 331-5503
Roger Hannah (404) 331-7878

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(Tuesday, March 25, 1997)

**NRC STAFF ISSUES ORDER TO INDIVIDUAL PROHIBITING
INVOLVEMENT IN NRC-LICENSED ACTIVITIES**

Action Involves Security Contractor Employee At Crystal River

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued an Order to a former contract security officer at the Crystal River nuclear power plant which prohibits him from involvement in NRC-licensed activities for a period of one year for deliberately conspiring to cover up the loss of control of a security badge at the site.

The Order also requires the former employee, Darryl D. McNeil, to notify the NRC of his first involvement in NRC-licensed activities for a period of one year following the prohibition period, which began March 24 of this year.

McNeil was employed as a security lieutenant at the Crystal River nuclear power plant by SBI, a contract security company. The plant's security plan requires that a numbered picture badge identification system be used for all individuals authorized access to protected areas without escort. Lost or missing badges or key cards are required to be immediately removed from the security computer as soon as a supervisor is made aware of the loss.

On February 9, 1996, an employee left the site wearing his security badge. Mr. McNeil acknowledged to NRC investigators that he was aware of the requirements, but, instead of taking the required action, allowed security officers to retrieve the individual's badge when he returned to the site later that day, to card the badge out as if it had been processed properly upon the employee's exit from the plant, and to return the badge to the badge rack.

NRC officials said the Order was directed to the individual involved in this case and not against Florida Power Corporation, which holds an NRC license to operate the nuclear power plant.

The individual has 20 days from receipt of notification of the Order to respond and may request a hearing. Upon demonstration of good cause, the director of the NRC's Office of Enforcement may relax or rescind any of the Order's conditions.

#