



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

September 11, 2000

Mr. John P. Cowan, Vice President
Nuclear Operations
Florida Power Corporation
ATTN: Manager Nuclear Licensing (SA2A)
Crystal River Energy Complex
15760 West Power Line Street
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT FOLLOWUP - CRYSTAL RIVER 3 NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Mr. Cowan:

Our review of the Crystal River 3 Nuclear Plant identified that you will cross the threshold for the Reactor Coolant System (RCS) leakage performance indicator for the 3rd Quarter. Therefore, we plan to conduct a supplemental inspection to better understand the factors that contributed to this decline in performance.

The issue of increased RCS leakage was discussed with NRC Region II management at a meeting in the Region II office on August 1, 2000. Additionally, in an onsite meeting with your staff on August 30, 2000, I was informed of your plans to address this issue. It is our understanding that within the next several weeks, you plan to complete maintenance activities which should return the RCS leakage performance indicator to a level requiring no additional NRC oversight.

A supplemental inspection will be conducted at your facility during the month of October 2000 and will include a review of your evaluations and corrective actions related to the RCS leakage. It is our understanding that additional information regarding the cause of the RCV-8 leakage should be available by this time. Additionally, the resident inspectors are currently conducting baseline inspection activities that address operation with the increased RCS leakrate.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

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Please contact me at 404-562-4540 with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard D. Wert, Chief
Reactor Projects Branch 3
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket No. 50-302
License No. DPR-72

cc: (See page 3)

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