

October 17, 2000

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

SUBJECT: ST. LUCIE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 - COMPLETION OF LICENSING ACTION FOR GENERIC LETTER 99-02, "LABORATORY TESTING OF NUCLEAR-GRADE ACTIVATED CHARCOAL" - (TAC NOS. MA5848 AND MA5849)

Dear Mr. Plunkett:

On June 3, 1999, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Generic Letter (GL) 99-02, "Laboratory Testing of Nuclear-grade Activated Charcoal," to all holders of operating licenses for nuclear power reactors, except those who have permanently ceased operations and have certified that fuel has been permanently removed from the reactor vessel.

The purpose of the GL was to:

- (1) Alert addressees that the NRC has determined that testing nuclear-grade activated charcoal to standards other than American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D3803-1989, "Standard Test Method for Nuclear-Grade Activated Carbon," does not provide assurance for complying with the current licensing basis as it relates to the dose limits of General Design Criterion (GDC) 19 of Appendix A to Part 50 of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) and Subpart A of 10 CFR Part 100.
- (2) Request that all addressees determine whether their Technical Specifications (TS) reference ASTM D3803-1989 for charcoal filter laboratory testing. Addressees whose TS do not reference ASTM D3803-1989 should either amend their TS to reference ASTM D3803-1989 or propose an alternative test protocol and provide the information discussed in the requested actions.
- (3) Alert addressees to the staff's intent to exercise enforcement discretion under certain conditions.
- (4) Request that all addressees send the NRC written responses on the implementation of the actions requested in this GL.

In GL 99-02, the NRC staff established the following four groups of plants:

- (1) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (2) plants in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989
- (3) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989
- (4) plants not in compliance with their TS that test in accordance with a test protocol other than ASTM D3803-1989

In response to GL 99-02, by letter dated November 16, 1999, you provided information for its closeout for St. Lucie Units 1 and 2; and by letter dated November 17, 1999, you requested approval of proposed TS amendments for both units. The TS change for St. Lucie Unit 2 was issued on February 17, 2000. Subsequently, by letter dated July 19, 2000, you submitted a complete replacement of the proposed Unit 1 TS amendment submitted on November 17, 1999. Your July 19, 2000, submittal stated that this revised amendment request increases the TS required removal efficiency for three Unit 1 ventilation systems, and it aligns the TS acceptance criteria with the Unit 1 accident analysis assumptions and GL 99-02. Consequently, by letter dated August 1, 2000, you revised the information for St. Lucie Unit 1 GL closeout to be consistent with the guidance of NRC GL 99-02 and the July 19, 2000, TS submittal. The NRC staff has reviewed your submittals of November 16 and 17, 1999, and the July 19 and August 1, 2000, and has concluded that you have provided the requested information for the closeout of the GL for St. Lucie Units 1 and 2. In addition, you have committed to test in accordance with ASTM D3803-1989 until your TS amendment is issued for Unit 1. Therefore, we consider GL 99-02 to be closed for your St. Lucie Units 1 and 2. The TS for Unit 1 will be reviewed as a separate, plant-specific action under TAC No. MA9572. We thank you for your prompt and complete response.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (301) 415-1496.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Kahtan N. Jabbour, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389

cc: See next page

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