

February 27, 2002

Mr. Jay Slack, Field Supervisor
US Fish and Wildlife Service
South Florida Ecological Service Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER
EVALUATION FOR THE ST. LUCIE PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is evaluating an application submitted by Florida Power and Light Company for the renewal of the operating licenses for its St. Lucie Plant, Units 1 and 2. The NRC is preparing a supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (NUREG-1437) for this proposed license renewal, for which we are required to evaluate potential impacts to threatened and endangered species. A member of my staff, Dr. Michael T. Masnik, visited your Vero Beach, Florida office on December 17, 2001, and had preliminary discussions related to the FPL application for license renewal with Mr. Charles Kelso of your staff.

The proposed action would include use and continued maintenance of existing facilities and transmission lines and would not result in new construction or disturbance. The St. Lucie Plant and the associated transmission corridor that is under review as part of the license renewal application is located in St. Lucie County, Florida. The transmission corridor is approximately 11 miles long and varies from 660 to 813 feet in width. The plant uses once-through cooling water from the Atlantic Ocean to remove waste heat from the facility. Ocean water is drawn through three offshore intake structures into an intake canal that leads to the plant. The heated water is discharged back to the Atlantic Ocean through offshore diffusers. The Atlantic Ocean in the vicinity of the plant is considered part of the aquatic environment of interest.

To support the environmental impact statement preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the St. Lucie Plant and its associated transmission lines.

Also, we would like confirmation that the South Florida Ecological Service Office will serve as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's point of contact for Endangered Species Act compliance, including any Section 7 consultation that may be needed, for the St. Lucie Plant.

J. Slack

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If you have any comments or questions, please contact Dr. Michael T. Masnik, Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1191 or MTM2@NRC.GOV.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By: CIGrimes

Christopher I. Grimes, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389

cc: See next page

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US Fish and Wildlife Service

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If you have any comments or questions, please contact Dr. Michael T. Masnik, Senior Project Manager, at (301) 415-1191 or MTM2@NRC.GOV.

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*See previous concurrence

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