10/07/01 66 FR 66946

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

JACK T. SOUTHARD DIRECTOR

March 26, 2002

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Chief Rules and Directives Branch Division of Administrative Services Office of Administration, Mailstop T-6 D 59 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: St. Lucie Plant Operating License Renewal

We are requesting that this letter be entered on record in support of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant's operating license renewal.

There are many reasons why the plant should continue operating, from its importance to the community, being a good neighbor and a good environmental record, just to name a few. But all these reasons would disappear if the plant didn't prove itself each and every day in the most important area of safety.

This office receives reports on a quarterly basis that indicate that each and every day, St. Lucie Plant meets performance standards set at the highest quality levels.

Safety is not just a slogan at St. Lucie Plant, it is a way of life. For example, this office receives timely briefings and correspondence regarding in place procedures and checks by an independent quality assurance organization, that ensures timely preventative maintenance is done. These reports show that St. Lucie Plant is committed to the safety of residents surrounding the plant. Most important, is their proactive involvement in on site as well as off sight emergency planning. Regular scheduled exercises ensure that coordination between on and off site agencies, should the need arise, can occur almost as a matter of routine. This training and exercising has resulted in this agency's receiving flawless Federal Emergency Management Agency evaluations ensuring the safety of citizens should an emergency occur.

The state of Florida's Department of Health, Bureau of Radiation Control independently monitors and tests radiation levels at locations surrounding St. Lucie Plant. Monitoring and testing includes sampling of air, water, shoreline sediment, fish, crustacea, broad leaf vegetation and milk. These levels have consistently been comparable to those measured throughout the state for the last 25 years.

JOHN D. BRUHN, District No. 1 • DOUG COWARD, District No. 2 • PAULA A. LEWIS, District No. 3 • FRANNIE HUTCHINSON, District No. 4 • CLIFF BARNES, District No. 5 County Administrator - Douglas M. Anderson

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E-REDS = ADM-03 and = M. Masnik (MTH2)

Templole = ADM-013

It is clearly evident that the employees of St. Lucie Plant are dedicated to making sure the plant is safe for, not only themselves, but for their families, friends and neighbors.

St. Lucie Plant has a proven safety record that the employees can continue building on in the years to come. This agency supports the license renewal of St. Lucie Plant.

Respectfully,

Jack T. Southard Public Safety Director

1

Charles T. Christopher Radiological Coordinator