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Date: 4/29/02 8:52PM
Subject: "Public Comment" Re. Environmental Scoping - St. Lucie, Units 1 & 2

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NRC and Director's
Office

"Public Comment": Re: Environmental Scoping - St Lucie, Units 1 & 2

The following written comments are submitted for inclusion in the record and consideration as "Environmental Scoping Issues" by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning St Lucie Nuclear Power Plant Units 1 & 2.

A diligent study of the record regarding the operation of Nuclear Power Plants in the United States, results in a troubling conclusion as to the diligence of NRC oversight. Restrained NRC reports can show that at older Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) nuclear power plants, the equipment is prone to corrosion, "embrittlement", and the leaking of radioactive coolants. Worn-out equipment has caused more than 50 fires, radiation or steam leaks and the shutdown of the nuclear reactor due to other serious hazards.

In 1979 Three Mile Island, a PWR plant, had a partial meltdown. Where was the NRC?

Indian Point PWR 2 years ago burst a steam generator tube, spilling radioactive coolant that sent radioactive steam into the atmosphere. Two months ago radioactive coolant was leaking from a steam generator. Where is effective NRC inspection?

Oconee 1 PWR in South Carolina, after recently receiving a 20 year license extension from the NRC, was shut down when 19 cracks were found in the reactor where control rods pass through to the nuclear core. Who were the NRC inspectors who approved license renewal?

In February 2001, NRC re-licensed Arkansas 1 PWR for 20 years. It had to be shut down because of extensive cracking on the control rod drives and thermocouple nozzles entering the nuclear reactor. Where was serious NRC inspection before approval of license extension?

Currently, the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant (PWR) in Ohio is shut down, narrowly avoiding a potential Chernobyl-like disaster. Five cracked control rod nozzles permitted acid to seep into the coolant bath. At one nozzle the acid ate through the 6-inch vessel head, fortunately stopped by a 3/8 inch stainless steel cap on the vessel head. This condition was discovered by chance during a routine refueling of the reactor.

All the above plants are older PWR facilities built about 25 years ago. St. Lucie and Turkey Point are PWR nuclear plants in the same age group. An unrecognized or overlooked problem at any nuclear power plant, at any given moment, can mean fatalities, latent cancers, and genetic defects to tens of

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thousands of innocent citizens and their progeny. This is no joke ! The possibilities are real. The break-down record surrounding plants similar in style and age to St Lucie and Turkey Point should lead to a prudent decision that a 20 year license extension is not worth the gamble. Playing Chernobyl Russian Roulette with the Florida public as chips is not an acceptable game to be played with NRC rules.

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