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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

Hondas & St. Lucie Nuclear Power

My 1986 Honda Accord was the most reliable automobile I have ever owned. Solid design and conscientious maintenance paid off—for 10 years and 120,000 miles, it was trouble-free. For an additional 5 years, extra maintenance was required, but it remained completely reliable. When at 15 years and 180,000 miles it left me stranded on I-95, I was not pleased, but found no fault with the car, recognizing that no machine lasts forever.

Nuclear power plants are like Hondas—they don't last forever.

Nuclear power plants are different from Hondas—when they fail, the victims are not just inconvenienced travelers.

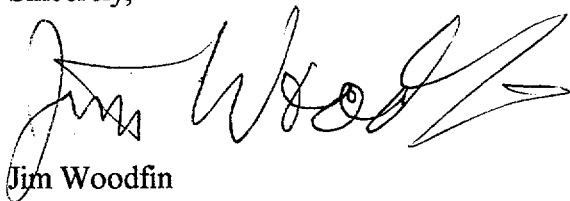
Recent events at many nuclear power plants suggest that they have already entered a period of higher maintenance and failure risks. When you consider extending the St. Lucie nuclear facility's license, I hope you will insist on a thorough accounting of the potential costs of safely maintaining this aging facility for 20 more years.

The cost impact analysis should include:

- Risks of accidental radiation release from a nuclear energy facility
- Risks of accidental radiation release from fuel transport and storage
- Additional age-related risks due to materials corrosion, fatigue, and embrittlement
- The potential of deliberate radiation release as a result of terrorist acts

Thank you for performing the extremely valuable service of keeping our energy sources safe.

Sincerely,



Jim Woodfin

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