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FROM: DUE: 12/02/02 EDO CONTROL: G20020636
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FINAL REPLY:

Senator Bob Graham

TO:

Rathbun, OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF : ** GRN ** CRC NO: 02-0722

Travers, EDO

DESC:

St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant (Betty Lou Wells)

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr
Zimmerman, NSIR
Reyes, RII

DATE: 11/07/02

ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:

NRR Collins

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EDO --G20020636

BOB GRAHAM
FLORIDA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0903

October 31, 2002

Mr. Dennis K. Rathbun
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Rathbun:

Enclosed is a letter from Ms. Betty Lou Wells.

I would appreciate your reviewing the information that has been presented and providing me with your comments. Please address your reply to my state office:

United States Senator Bob Graham
2252 Killearn Center Boulevard, Suite 300
Tallahassee, Florida 32309-3573
Attention: Karen Bunton

Telephone: (850) 907-1100
Facsimile: (850) 894-3222

Your cooperation and assistance are greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

United States Senator

BG/kmb

Enclosure

10-17-02

Dear Senator Graham:

Enclosed are two articles about problems at St. Lucie nuclear site.

More dangerous is the classifying of all nuclear sites as likely terrorist targets.

FP&L has applied to extend their operating license for an additional 20 years.

I realize licensing is an NRC responsibility but want to express my feeling to you that this is an extreme endangerment of land and population in a 50 mile radius of the site.

Betty Lou Wells
1124 Jasmine Ave. Ft Pierce, Fla

Fort Pierce Tribune 10/15/02

NRC probes local radiation exposure

FPL employees

32 St. Lucie Nuclear Plant workers inhaled radioactive particles earlier this month

By Eve Modzelewski
staff writer

SOUTH HUTCHINSON ISLAND — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is continuing to examine an Oct. 6 incident that exposed 32 St. Lucie Nuclear Plant workers to low levels of radiation.

"At this point in time, it does not appear that anyone was exposed beyond the allowable limits, but the NRC is still looking into it," said Ken Clark, a spokesman in the NRC's Atlanta office, Monday.

A resident NRC inspector stationed at the plant should have more information about the incident within 30 days, Clark said.

and several contract workers inhaled radioactive particles sent airborne during maintenance work on one of the plant's reactor vessels, the company reported. FPL, which owns and operates the plant, was preparing the vessel for an NRC inspection when the exposure occurred.

In August, following the discovery of cracks and corrosion on the reactor vessel head at a plant in Ohio, the NRC recommended inspections of 69 of the nation's 103 nuclear reactors, including the two at the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant.

Two workers had been pressure cleaning rust and other debris from the Unit One vessel head when particles were detected near employees on a platform 62 feet above them. The work was intended to prevent radiation exposure during the NRC inspection, said Rachel Scott, FPL spokeswoman.

See NRC PROBE, B2

NRC PROBE

FROM B1

It was the only time FPL had cleaned that part of Unit One since it opened in 1976.

"That's a bit of an unusual job. The NRC doesn't approve or disapprove specific measures to perform that kind of a task," Clark said. "But the NRC requires that however you do it, you don't expose workers."

The NRC mandates exposure to radiation be kept as low as reasonably possible.

"This is the first time that we've done this type of work on the reactor vessel head," Scott said. "We have identified some additional precautionary measures we need to take when we do this work in the future."

The workers absorbed "minimal" levels of radiation ranging from 1 to 2 millirems, which is not enough to cause any health problems, Scott said. The NRC limits annual radiation exposure to 5,000 millirems.

The two workers cleaning the vessel were wearing protective gear, including respiratory equipment, but those on the upper level were not, Scott said.

"We knew there would be some airborne contamination created," she said. But it wasn't expected that the particles would reach the upper level.

"The good news is that we have completed the inspection of the reactor vessel head and have found it to be in very good condition," Scott said. The inspection was held this past week.

The incident posed no risk whatsoever to the general public, Clark said.

The St. Lucie Nuclear Plant is in the process of extending its two NRC operating licenses for an additional 20 years.

A public meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m., Oct. 25 at the FPL Energy Encounter adjacent to the plant.

Caller on Oct. 6

Mr. Valicenti has a plan as mayor, and he is a whistle-blower. I'd like to know how come he became a whistle-blower after his son was arrested and he left the police department? Answer that question and maybe I'll vote for you.

E-mail received on Oct. 7 10/11/02

Like many others, I enjoy receiving the *Hometown News* and echo other readers' approval of the format, content and continuity and for being the "people's paper." But the Oct. 4 issue contained a story that alarmed me so much I had to show it to my friends and family to substantiate what was printed. On Page A5 the headline read, *"Tips on Auto burglars, Lear jet pilot sought."* The two ideas must have appeared to be similar, hence sharing a headline. It states that the FBI is looking for a green and white Lear jet that flew over the nuclear power plant on 9/11, not once, not twice, but three times! The report states the first two passes were flown at 500-600 feet over the power plant, while the third and last pass was at "tree top level!"
Excuse me? Does this concern anyone else besides me that a Lear jet got close enough to a *n-u-c-l-e-a-r* power plant *three* times, on the anniversary of the worst attack on American civilians in our history, and the FBI is asking if you have any information to contact Crime Stoppers? Crime Stoppers? Please! As a native of Stuart, I have seen many changes around the Treasure Coast over the past 59 years, some good, some not. But one thing I would have "bet the ranch on" is never seeing the day when the dinner conversation with my husband would be about the cavalier manner in which a reporter prints a story stating a Lear Jet entered air space over our nuclear power plant. I am not "shooting" the messenger, but why aren't more people alarmed about this story? This is the same nuclear power plant the "authorities" assured us was in a no-fly zone; but *if* a plane should crash into it, it wouldn't do much damage. Boy, knowing how thorough. knowledgeable and efficient our "authorities" are, I feel much better now. Thanks.

Betty Lou Wells
1124 Jasmine Ave.
Ft. Pierce, Fla. 34982