

From: Siva Lingam
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2009 11:12 AM
To: 'Frehafer, Ken'
Cc: Tom Boyce (NRR); Matthew Mitchell; Terence Chan; Thomas McLellan; Keith Hoffman; Jason Paige
Subject: St. Lucie, Unit 1 Relief Request - Inspection of Reactor Welds (RR 31) and Inspection of Class 1 & 2 Piping and Vessels (RR 32) (TAC No. ME0662)

By letter dated February 6, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML090430304), Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) submitted relief requests (RRs) for St. Lucie, Unit 1. RR 31 pertains to the impracticality to meet the code required volume coverage of some welds in the reactor vessel as required by the ASME Code, and RR 32 pertains to the impracticality to meet the code required volume coverage of some piping and vessel welds as required by the ASME Code. The purpose of this letter is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of these RRs. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant.

Pursuant to Sections 50.55a(a)(3)(i) and 50.55a(a)(3)(ii) of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR), the applicant shall demonstrate that the proposed alternatives would provide an acceptable level of quality and safety, or that compliance with the specified requirements of Section 50.55a would result in hardship or unusual difficulty without a compensating increase in the level of quality or safety.

The NRC staff has reviewed your application and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the staff to proceed with its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed RRs in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. If additional information is needed for the staff to complete its technical review, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-415-1564.

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Subject: St. Lucie, Unit 1 Relief Request - Inspection of Reactor Welds (RR 31) and
Inspection of Class 1 & 2 Piping and Vessels (RR 32) (TAC No. ME0662)
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Priority: oImportanceNormal
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Recipients received: