

April 14, 2010
EN 10-019

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Florida Power & Light Company
St. Lucie Nuclear Plant Unit 1
Docket No. 50-335

EA-09-321

Subject: ISSUANCE OF FINAL SIGNIFICANCE DETERMINATION AND NOTICE OF VIOLATION

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation associated with a Yellow Significance Determination Process (SDP) finding will be issued on or about April 19, 2010, to Florida Power & Light Company, as a result of inspections at the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant. This finding, an issue with substantial safety significance, which will require additional NRC inspections, is associated with the Initiating Events Cornerstone and was determined to have a cross-cutting aspect in the area of Human Performance, Decision Making. In October 2008, St. Lucie Unit 1 experienced an air intrusion event to the closed cooling water (CCW) system and failed to identify and correct the source of air in-leakage, which contributed to a similar event in November 2009.

At the request of the licensee a Regulatory Conference was held February 19, 2010, to discuss the risk significance of the finding. After reviewing the information developed during the inspection and the supplemental information provided by the licensee during the conference, the staff concluded that the inspection finding is appropriately characterized as Yellow. Corrective actions are currently in place and include: (1) plant modifications, (2) a CCW gas intrusion monitoring program, (3) updated operating procedures, and (4) additional training for operators on gas intrusion into the CCW system.

A Notice of Violation is included based on a violation of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix B, Criterion XVI, "Corrective Action," which states, in part, that measures shall be established to assure that conditions adverse to quality, such as deficiencies, deviations, and non-conformances are promptly identified and corrected. In the case of significant conditions adverse to quality, the measures shall assure that the cause of the condition is determined and corrective action taken to preclude repetition. In October 2008, air intrusion from the containment instrument air system to the CCW system occurred which affected both redundant trains of the CCW system. The troubleshooting and subsequent corrective actions that were implemented by the licensee failed to identify the source of the air in-leakage and ensure that the CCW system remained capable of delivering adequate cooling to essential equipment used to mitigate design bases accidents, which contributed to a similar air intrusion event into the CCW system in November 2009.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule of issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Final Significance Determination
Telephone Notification of Licensee

April 19, 2010
April 19, 2010

The State of Florida will be notified.

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