

CMW/PSL
Ltr. Bk. 0403

P.O. BOX 128, FT. PIERCE, FL 33404

ATTENTION TED WEBSTER



February 7, 1979

Encl. 2/DA

Copies to: CMW, JHB, CAW, GMV, RRJ

Offsite: ADS, JRB, COW, MAS, REU, KNH


To: Mr. J. P. O'Reilly, Director, Region II
Office of Inspection and Enforcement
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

From: Mr. C. M. Wethy, Plant Manager
St. Lucia Plant - DPR 67
Florida Power & Light Company
Miami, Florida

Subject: MEMO FOR FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO CONFIRM PROMPT REPORTABLE
OCCURRENCE 335-79-3, TWO SAFETY INJECTION TANKS OUT OF SPECIFICATION
BORON CONCENTRATION.

This is to confirm our telephone notification on the subject event to Mr. E. H. Webster of your office at 3:25 p.m., February 6, 1979.

At noon, February 6, 1979, the Chemistry Department reported that routine monthly samples of Safety Injection tank (all 4 tanks) boron concentration revealed that two tanks (of 4 total) were at 1645 ppm boron which is 75 ppm below the Specification 3.5.1.c limit of ≥ 1720 ppm. ACTION was immediately taken and the turbine and reactor were shut down by 12:50 p.m. (The plant was tripped from about 30 MW due to steam generator level oscillations.) The exact cause of the low boron concentration is not yet known. However, the tanks were filled at the end of our last maintenance outage and it is possible that the sample lines were not flushed properly when the tanks were sampled. We will investigate and include our findings in the Licensee Event Report. The 2 tanks have been returned to proper concentration and the unit returned to operation. No potential public hazard existed as 1645 ppm is more than sufficient for reactivity control in the remote event of the tanks being used. (1720 ppm will maintain the reactor shutdown in a cold, all rods out, configuration.) We plan to investigate the possibility of requesting a change in Specification 3.5.1 regarding time limits for correcting boron concentration. This is a prompt report as the Specifications only discuss 1 safety injection tank having a parameter, such as boron concentration out of tolerance.


C. M. Wethy
Plant Manager
St. Lucia Plant

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