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SUBJECT: Informs of plans to implement control rod group exchange technique at facility after next refueling currently scheduled for Apr-May 1986 time frame. Change in methodology reduces time to measure ref group.

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FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

APR 8 1986

L-86-148

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Ashok C. Thadani, Director
PWR Project Directorate #8
Division of PWR Licensing - B
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Thadani:

Re: St. Lucie Unit 2
Docket No. 50-389
Control Rod Group Exchange Technique (Cycle 3)

Reference Document: CEN-319, "Control Rod Group Exchange Technique," submitted to NRC by letter from R. W. Wells (CE Owners Group) to F. J. Miraglia (NRC) on November 22, 1985.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Florida Power & Light Company plans to implement the Control Rod Group Exchange Technique at St. Lucie Unit 2. Implementation will begin after the next refueling, which is currently scheduled for the April-May 1986 time frame.

The Control Rod Exchange Technique will replace the traditional dilution/boration method of measuring control rod worths. In the exchange technique, a Reference Group will be measured using the dilution/boration method, while the remaining control rod groups will be measured using the alternative approach as described in the Reference Document cited above (page 4, paragraph 3). Here, the Reference Group will be held at the Measured Critical Position (MCP), while a Test Group is exchanged directly with the next Test Group. The exchange is completed by moving the Reference Group to the new MCP. This alternative approach substantially reduces the time to perform the measurement and, consequently, will most likely yield more accurate results.

The change in methodology is based on the arguments presented in Appendix A of the Reference Document, which we understand has been approved by the NRC staff. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

C. O. Woody
Group Vice President
Nuclear Energy

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