



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

SAFETY EVALUATION BY THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY, ET AL.
ST. LUCIE PLANT, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-335 AND 50-389
INSERVICE INSPECTION PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

By letters dated April 5, 1985 and November 13, 1985, Florida Power and Light Company requested approval to update the requirements for system pressure tests to the 1980 Edition through Winter 1981 Addenda of Section XI of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, and to extend the 10-year inspection interval for the St. Lucie Plant, Unit No. 1, because of a continuous outage of over 1 year for repair of the core support barrel.

EVALUATION

The St. Lucie Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 are now being examined in accordance with the requirements of 1974 Edition through Summer 1975 addenda of Section XI of the ASME Code. The Regulations, 10 CFR 50.55a(g)(4)(iv), allow the use of requirements in later editions and addenda of Section XI that have been approved by the Commission and incorporated in paragraph (b) of 10 CFR 50.55a. Portions of editions and addenda may be used provided that all related requirements of the respective editions or addenda are met. Paragraph (b) presently cites the 1980 Edition through Winter 1981 Addenda as the latest approved edition and addenda.

Section XI of the ASME Code, IWA-2400(c) allows the extension of the inspection interval for power units that are out of service continuously for 6 months or more. The inspection interval during which the outage occurs may be extended for a period equivalent to the outage. Because of extensive core barrel repairs, the St. Lucie Unit 1 was continuously out of service from February 26, 1983 to April 16, 1984. The current inspection interval will end on December 21, 1986. The licensee has requested approval of an extension of the 10-year inspection interval completion to February 11, 1988.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above evaluation, the request for the update of pressure test requirements to the later edition of the Code is within the provisions of the Regulations, and therefore, is approved. Further, the staff has also concluded that the request for extending the completion date for the first 10-year inspection interval for Unit 1 is within the requirements of the Regulations and, therefore, is approved. Approval of the update of the pressure test requirements and the extension of the 10-year inspection interval is authorized by law, and will not endanger life or property, or the common defense and security, and is otherwise in the public interest.

Principal Contributors:
B. Turovlin
D. Sells

Date: November 20, 1985

85-120-4038a 2 pp.

DISTRIBUTION:

↳ DOCKET FILE

NRC PDR w/cy of incoming

Local PDR w/cy of incoming

EDO # 001268

EDO Rdg

H. Denton/D. Eisenhut

PBD#8 Rdg (W/cy of incoming)

OELD

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SECY (X) 85-1072

W. Dirks

PPAS (EDO# 001268) w/cy of incoming

A. Thadani/E. Fantom

D. Sellsw/cy of incoming

PMKreutzer

PBD#8 Green Ticket File

JNGrace

VStello

Docket Nos. 50-335
and 50-389

D. Marshall Barry, Ph.D.
74 Eliot Avenue
West Newton, Massachusetts 02165

Dear Dr. Barry:

Your letters of December 5 and 9, 1985 to Chairman Palladino have been referred to my office for response. In your December 5, 1985 letter, you address three concerns. The first deals with a statement concerning "...refurbished after ten years of on-line service.", the second addresses "During partial repairs, a 45 ton slab dangled dangerously above the nuclear fuel because of an accident."; and the third concerns "...that the NRC waived the safety requirement for a ten year refurbishing for FP&L in 1986." You also asked "if any other nuclear units have or will have such a waiver by NRS [sic], I need the names, locations, and operating utilities for each safety waiver."

In your December 9, 1985 letter, you refer to your letter of December 5, 1985 and an article that appeared in the Boston Globe on Saturday, December 7, 1985. This letter requested copies of the NRC staff memoranda mentioned in the Globe article, namely a memorandum from William J. Dircks of July 22, 1985 (Incorrectly dated July 11, 1985) concerning Arkansas Power and Light Company and a subsequent memorandum by Mr. Dircks dealing with state regulations. Copies of these two memoranda are enclosed.

I would like to address the concerns expressed in your December 5, 1985 letter as follows:

Your first and third concerns mentioned above are directly related and are considered together. The NRC requires by regulation that a licensee to operate a nuclear power plant perform inservice inspection of safety equipment in compliance with ASME Codes. These inspections are mandated by code to occur over 10-year intervals. Such inspections do not imply that refurbishing of a plant is required every 10 years, nor does it imply that extensive outages are required to conduct the required inspections. Accordingly, there is no list of plants for which NRC has waived a "refurbishing" requirement.

The 10-year inspection programs are reviewed by the NRC and individual inspection activities required by the code are scheduled by the licensees to accomplish full compliance with the regulations and ASME code during the 10-year interval. These inspections are normally performed during scheduled refueling outages since many of the components cannot be reached for inspection



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except during these outages that usually last on the order of 2 months. The ASME code further permits that the expiration date of any given 10-year interval may be extended if the nuclear facility is shutdown for a period of time exceeding 6 months. In the case of St. Lucie Plant, Unit No. 1, the licensee experienced a shutdown in excess of 1 year due to the repair of the core support barrel. As a result of this long shutdown, the licensee requested that the expiration date of the first 10-year inspection interval be extended. This request was approved and documented in the NRC's letter to FP&L dated November 20, 1985, a copy of which is enclosed.

I would like to turn now to your concern about the recent incident at St. Lucie 1 that resulted in a heavy load being suspended above the fuel during the recent refueling outage. This incident generated considerable interest on the part of the Commission staff because it relates directly to the Commission review of the adequacy of licensees' procedures to control heavy loads at nuclear power plants. Headquarters NRC, both the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation and Inspection and Enforcement, and the NRC's Region II Office monitored this event closely. At no time during the sequence of events did the staff become concerned that the suspended load posed a threat to the health and safety of the public. This entire event will be the subject of a forthcoming Information Notice and it will also be discussed at an ACRS meeting in Washington. That meeting is scheduled for January 7, 1985. Although the Information Notice is currently not available, it will be placed in the Public Document Room at 1717 H Street, Washington, DC 20555 when it is issued.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/enclosures:
See next page

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JScinto
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HDenton
/ /85



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With regard to your request for a listing of plants where waivers have previously been granted, there are none that I am aware of at this time, in terms of a required 10-year refurbishing. As indicated earlier in this response, extensions to the expiration date of the 10-year inspection interval are allowed under the Code and would be granted on a case-by-case basis if requested and sufficient justification is provided.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

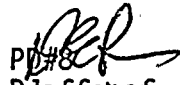
Sincerely,


Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/enclosures:
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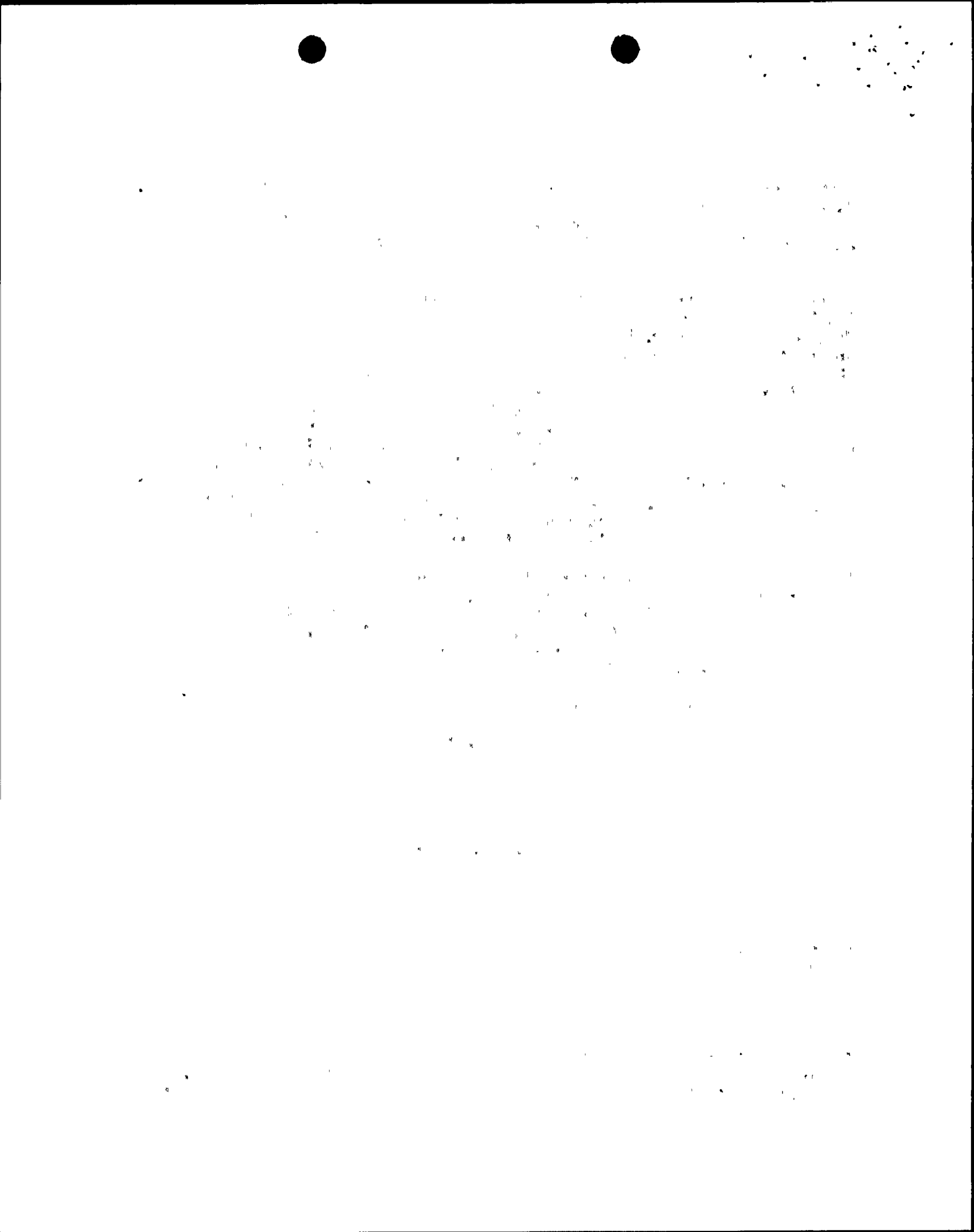

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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM: D. MARSHALL BARRY
WEST NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DUE: 01/03/86

EDO CONTROL: 001268
DOC DT: 12/09/85 &
FINAL REPLY: 12/05/85

TO: CHAIRMAN PALLADINO

FOR SIGNATURE OF: DENTON

** GREEN **

SFCY NO: 851072 &
851071

DESC: REQUEST INFOR RE FP&L SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

ROUTING: GRACE
GCUNNINGHAM

DATE: 12/17/85
ASSIGNED TO: NRR CONTACT: DENTON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

NRR RECEIVED: 12/19/85
ACTION: DPL-B: MIRAGLIA *

NRR ROUTING: DENTON/EISENHUT
PPAS
MOSSBURG

Thadani
R

* GET INPUT FROM DPL-A

CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

D. Marshall Barry

SECY NUMBER: 85-1072

LOGGING DATE 12/13/85

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ACTION OFFICE: EDO

AUTHOR: D. Marshall Barry

AFFILIATION: West Newton, Mass

LETTER DATE: 12/9/85

FILE CODE _____

ADDRESSEE: Palladino

SUBJECT: Encloses newsarticle relative to FP&L safety requirement

ACTION: Direct Reply...Suspense: Dec 24

DISTRIBUTION:

SPECIAL HANDLING: None

SIGNATURE DATE:

FOR THE COMMISSION Champ

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date.....12-17-85
Time.....12 N

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