

July 13, 1987

Docket No. 50-389

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Docket File

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Mr. C. O. Woody
Group Vice President
Nuclear Energy
Florida Power and Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, Florida 33408

Dear Mr. Woody:

Subject: Use of Gadolinia in Combustion Engineering Fuel/Application to
St. Lucie, Unit 2 (TAC No. 65567)

By letter dated April 22, 1987, Combustion Engineering (CE) submitted topical report CENPD-275 entitled "C-E Methodology for Core Designs Containing Gadolinia - Urania Burnable Absorbers." CE stated that it intends to apply this methodology to support a reload fuel application for St. Lucie Unit 2. CE requested that review and approval be completed prior to January 1988, to allow sufficient time to support a May 1989 Cycle 5 startup.

By letter dated June 24, 1987, Florida Power and Light Company (FP&L), reiterated its need to have approval to use CENPD-275 by January 1988 for St. Lucie, Unit 2, and requested that the staff contact FP&L to discuss FP&L's application of the C-E methodology or to establish a meeting on this topic.

The staff has scheduled an expedited review of CENPD-275 with a safety evaluation date of January 30, 1988. Since the staff has not started the review, this schedule assumes that the topical report is completed, no major technical issues are involved, and any requests for additional information can be responded to in a timely manner.

The staff would like to advise FP&L that the Committee to Review Generic Requirements (CRGR) will be reviewing future topical reports and associated staff safety evaluations. The staff estimates that the CRGR review will require approximately 4 months. Thus, the staff estimates that the CRGR approved safety evaluation will be issued by May 31, 1988.

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Mr. C. O. Woody

- 2 -

The staff plans to start the review of the topical report sometime this summer, and is not in a position at this time to discuss FP&L's application of the C-E methodology or to establish a meeting on this topic. The staff will contact FP&L at a future date in this regard.

Sincerely,

/s/

E. G. Tourigny, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate II-2
Division of Reactor Projects-I/II

cc: See next page

LA:PD22
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Mr. C. O. Woody
Florida Power & Light Company

St. Lucie Plant

cc:

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