



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 5, 1996

Mr. John Taylor
Office of the Executive Director
for Operations
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Enclosed is a letter from Senator Graham to Secretary O'Leary requesting a review of information contained in a letter from Ms. Betty Napier of Port St. Lucie, Florida, concerning the safety of the St. Lucie nuclear power plant. My staff has discussed Senator Graham's request with your staff and has concluded that the best course of action is to transfer this action to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

My response to Senator Graham indicating that the request for information has been transferred to the NRC is also enclosed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sterling Franks. Mr. Franks' telephone number is 301-903-3456.

Sincerely,

Terry R. Lash, Director
Office of Nuclear Energy,
Science and Technology

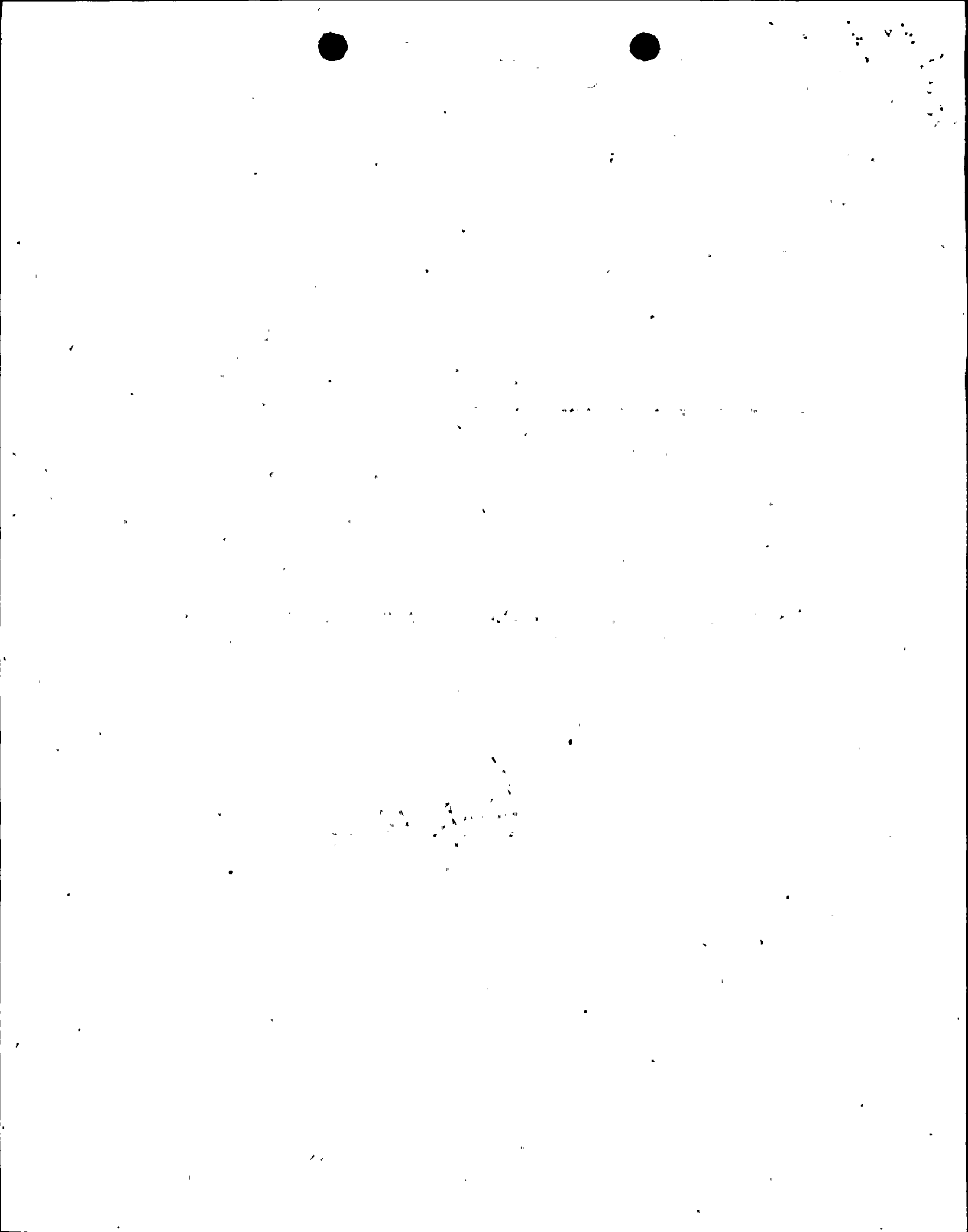
2 Enclosures

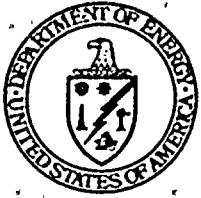
9603120389 960205
PDR ADOCK 05000335
G PDR



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

EDO -- GT96019





Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 5, 1996

The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senator
P.O. Box 3050
Tallahassee, Florida 32315

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for your letter of December 27, 1995, requesting a review of information contained in a letter from Ms. Betty Napier of Port St. Lucie, Florida, on the safety of the St. Lucie nuclear power plant. Since the St. Lucie nuclear power plant owned by Florida Power and Light is a commercial operating reactor licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I have requested that NRC respond directly to your office on this matter. NRC has day-to-day contact with Florida Power and Light and, hence, would have more up to date information.

The letter from Ms. Napier and your letter have been forwarded to the NRC, and a response should be forthcoming soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry R. Lash".

Terry R. Lash, Director
Office of Nuclear Energy,
Science and Technology

cc: The Honorable Bob Graham
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510





Bob Graham
Florida



United States Senate

Washington, D.C.

Date 12/27/95

Mrs. Hazel O'Leary, Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, Southwest
Washington, D.C. 20585

Enclosed is a letter from one of my constituents who has concerns which come under the jurisdiction of your agency.

I would appreciate your reviewing the information that has been presented and providing me with a written response. Please send your reply to the attention of:

Ms. Pat Grisé
Office of Senator Bob Graham
P.O. Box 3050
Tallahassee, FL 32315

904-422-6100

Your cooperation and assistance are appreciated.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Graham".

United States Senator

Constituent's Name:

Betty Napier



December 15, 1995

Ken Pruitt, Eighty-First District
State House of Representatives
212 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Fl 32399-1300

Re: St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant Malfunctions

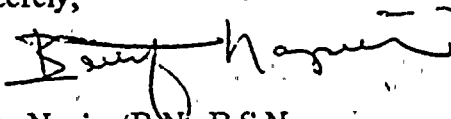
Dear Representative Pruitt:

I am writing to express my concern about the continuing problems at the St. Lucie nuclear power plant. Unless someone intervenes, we will have our own "Three Mile Island". I am concerned about the impact on land value and tourism to the state should an "accident" occur, but most of all I am concerned about public health and safety.

Florida Power & Light continued to cut back on personnel including experienced personnel during these problems. Each time Florida Power & Light referred to leaking radio activity into water as "slightly radioactive". That is like being "slightly pregnant". Incompetent employees installed safety valves backwards on several occasions. At one point the reactor was within 3-7 pounds of a meltdown according to the Press. At this point we can not believe any of the predictable "PR" information coming from Florida Power & Light.

I am requesting an immediate evaluation from an outside agency. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

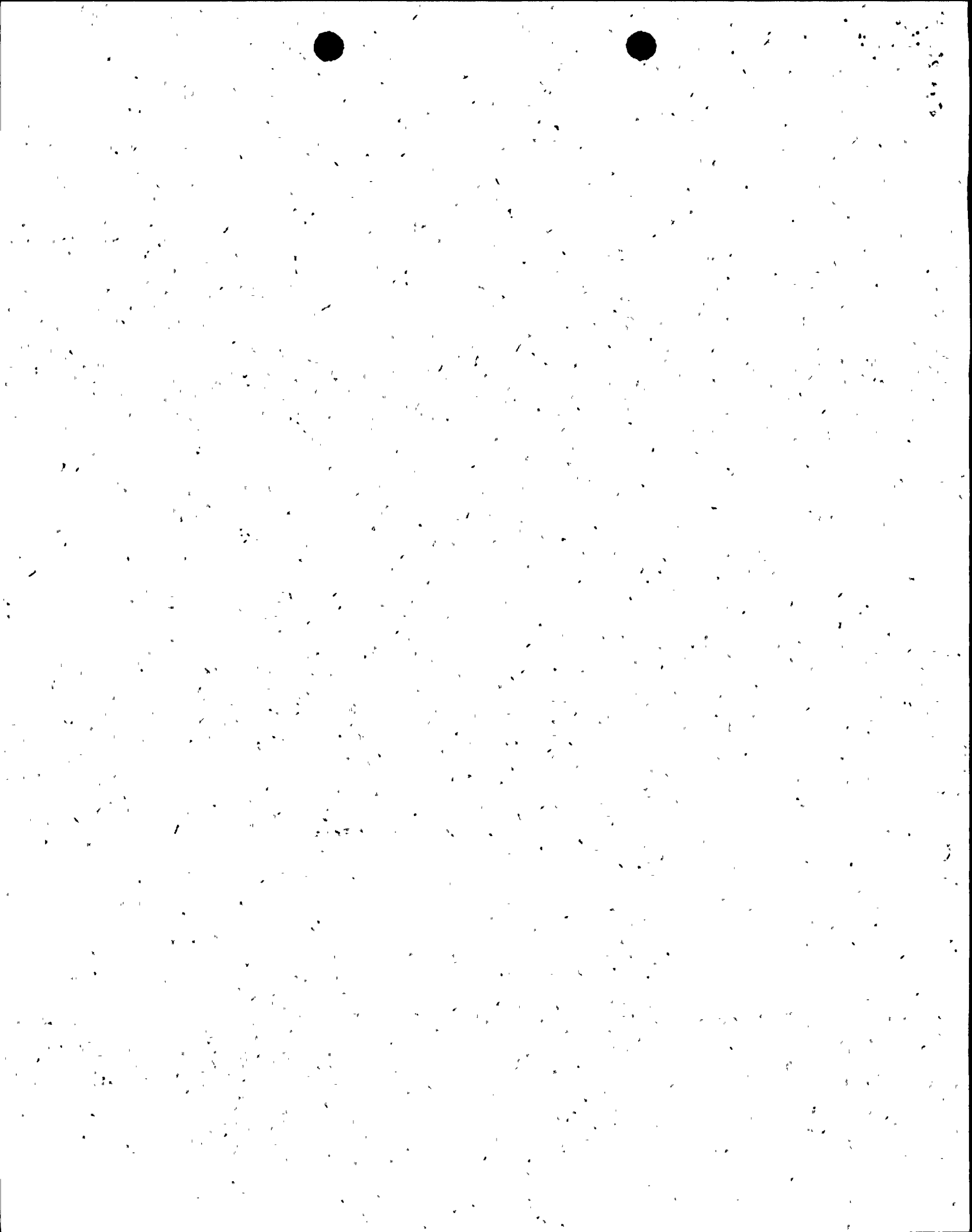
Sincerely,



COPY

Betty Napier, R.N., B.S.N.
156 SW Voltair Terrace
Port St. Lucie, Fl 34984
(407) 871-9774

CC: Connie Mack (R), U.S. Senate
Bob Graham (D), U.S. Senate
Mark Foley, U.S. House of Rep
Doc. Myers, State Senate



BRIEFS

2 leaky seals found on nuclear reactor

HUTCHINSON ISLAND -- Florida Power & Light Co. said Thursday that it will be about two weeks before the Unit 2 nuclear reactor at its St. Lucie Power Plant is back on line.

The reactor, which was down for refueling, was being brought up to full power when the crew noticed two seals were leaking -- the O ring on the reactor head and a pump seal on the reactor coolant pump, said FPL spokeswoman Stacey Shaw.

"Those leaks are internal and not external. They leak into themselves, and the water is collected internally. There's no danger to the public," Shaw said.

The reactor is being "cooled down" so the crew can replace the two faulty seals, Shaw said. It should take about two weeks for the reactor to be cooled down, repairs made and the reactor brought back on line, she said.

Unit 1 is on line and should be able to handle the demand for power, which has been low because of the recent mild weather, Shaw said.

Unit 2 has been down about two months for routine maintenance and refueling. FPL had hoped to bring the reactor back up last weekend before the leaky seals were found.

The company had a string of problems with Unit 1 during the summer. That reactor was shut down for 73 days because of faulty valves and the accidental release of 10,000 gallons of slightly radioactive water into its containment

