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SUBJECT: Responds to 970505 ltr transmitting SALP rept 97-99 for St
 Lucie Units 1 & 2 for period 960107-970329.

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 TITLE: Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) Report

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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Re: St. Lucie Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389
Inspection Report No. 97-99
Response to Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance

By letter dated May 5, 1997, the NRC forwarded to Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) the NRC's Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for St. Lucie Units 1 and 2. The report addresses the period from January 7, 1996, to March 29, 1997.

FPL has reviewed the SALP report and agrees with the NRC's assessment. While we appreciate the recognition that St. Lucie has improved in various areas previously cited as challenges, we recognize that we have important continuing challenges remaining in procedure development and adherence, configuration control, and employee overtime. We are continuing our attention and focus in these areas and are closely monitoring progress via performance indicators.

The real proof of our ability to return St. Lucie Plant to excellence will be the attainment of sustained high levels of operational performance. In this regard, we have challenged the plant's support organizations to make process improvements as we continue our emphasis on quality support to plant operations. We have taken steps to strengthen assigned personnel and their performance in critical areas in order to attain the operational and regulatory excellence that FPL and the NRC demand.

As you are aware, I closely monitor St. Lucie's performance, both by my periodic presence on site and through reviews of the plant's indicator set in monthly plant status meetings, to ensure continued improvement as we move toward our goal of excellence. We will continue to provide you with copies of status reports from our monthly plant status meeting.

We appreciate the NRC's efforts in providing us important feedback on St. Lucie's performance.

Very truly yours,

T.F. Plunkett
President
Nuclear Division

TFP/JAS/HNP/EJW

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cc: Regional Administrator, USNRC, Region II
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, St. Lucie Plant



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