

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY
ST. LUCIE NO. 1
REPORTABLE OCCURRENCE NO. 335-D-79-05

Title: Ocean Discharge Area - Recording Thermographs

A. Description, Analysis & Evaluation

On December 10, 1979 during routine checks of the St. Lucie Temperature Recording Thermographs, Florida Power & Light Company's contractor for biological monitoring and evaluation services found that the St. Lucie Ocean Discharge Area Recording Thermograph flotation buoy assembly was missing.

Subsequent inspection of the anchoring system by divers revealed that the concrete anchor was in place, but the array-to-anchor cable, the array, and the thermographs were also missing. As of this report none of the missing apparatus has been recovered.

Section 3.1.A.5 of the Environmental Technical Specifications (ETS) for St. Lucie Unit No. 1 requires that the maximum temperature rise in the zone of mixing be measured using recording thermographs. Because of the loss of the discharge area thermographs, this measurement is not possible

and therefore is reportable under ETS 5.6.2.a.2.

B. Cause of Occurrence

Inspection of the concrete anchoring system and associated hardware indicated that the stainless steel cable holding the array to the anchor was disconnected due to cable failure either from rough weather conditions or vandalism. The exact reason cannot be determined without inspection of the missing cable.

C. Corrective Action

The discharge array and associated hardware were replaced on December 14, 1979. The recording thermographs were replaced on December 20, 1979. Replacement materials are kept on hand for occurrences of this type.

Florida Power & Light has taken reasonable precautions to prevent loss of the temperature monitoring equipment. However, their location in the open ocean near commercial fishing and recreational boating lanes makes them highly susceptible to damage and/or loss.

Deletion of the St. Lucie ocean thermal monitoring program was requested on April 12, 1979. When granted, the deletion will alleviate the continual problems experienced with vandalism as well as natural damage which occurs in the hostile ocean environment.