

JUN 23 1981

The Honorable ~~Barth~~ R. Fascell  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

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SECY (81-0722)

Dear Congressman Fascell:

This is in response to the letter from your constituent Ms. Joette Lorion, dated May 14, 1981, in which she expressed concern regarding the electrical incident that occurred April 25, 1981 at Florida Power and Light Company's (FPL) Turkey Point Unit 3 facility and questioned the recent request by FPL to operate Unit 4 for an additional four months past the scheduled June steam generator inspection. Actually this inspection, which is dictated by operating hours, is now scheduled for about July 15, 1981.

Ms. Lorion also made reference to the hearing which was scheduled to begin on June 2, 1981. As you know, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, in its Memorandum and Order, dated May 28, 1981, has granted the Staff's motions for summary disposition on all Intervenor's admitted contentions and dismissed them with prejudice. The hearing was, therefore, found to be unnecessary and was cancelled. The Board did retain jurisdiction concerning the radioactive solid wastes and requested all parties to file information on that subject and state their position as to whether the Board can or should take any action regarding solid waste by June 15, 1981.

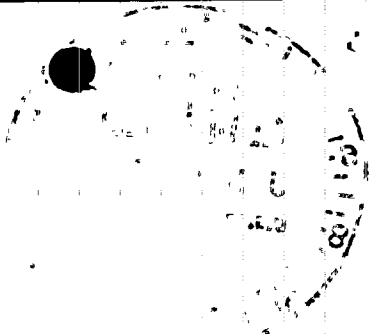
The electrical incident of April 25, 1981, occurred when restarting Unit 3 following a refueling and inspection shutdown. An electrical short occurred in the electrical generator that will require extensive repair or replacement. It is apparently going to be expensive in terms of loss of operating time. However, the electric generator is part of the non-nuclear section of the plant and in this instance its failure does not directly or indirectly affect the nuclear safety of the plant. Nevertheless, such incidents are, of course, of interest to and monitored by the NRC as to whether they might indicate some overall operational or procedural or management weaknesses that could reflect on the safe operation of the nuclear plant. We do not believe the electrical short in the electrical generator is indicative of such weakness on the part of FPL, but rather an event that can occur in the operation of a large power plant.

On the other hand, for components affecting the nuclear safety of the plant, inspections are prescribed by the Technical Specifications which are part of the license.

With respect to Ms. Lorion's concern regarding the request of FPL to operate Turkey Point Unit 4 for four additional months past the scheduled July steam generator inspection and to delay the inspection until that time, the following comments are offered.

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OFFICE							
SURNAME							
DATE							



In general, plant technical specifications require routine inservice inspections of steam generators (a nuclear system component) to be performed every 12 to 24 months. However, the NRC has imposed license conditions on plants which have experienced some steam generator tube degradation. These conditions, among other things, increase the required frequency of inspection. Safe operation is assured by the imposition of strict conditions, including the plugging of affected tubes and restricting the allowable leak rate during operation. Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 are such facilities with special license conditions increasing the steam generator inspection frequency.

At the time of the previous inspection of Unit 4 in December 1980, FPL plugged not only those tubes that, by using approved NRC conservative plugging criteria and corrosion rates, might experience degradation at the end of the next 6 months power operation but also plugged those additional tubes that the criteria indicated might experience degradation at the end of 10 months of power operation.

Revised accident analyses taking into account the total number of tubes plugged gave adequate assurance for continued protection of public health and safety. However, while not objecting to FPL plugging additional tubes for 10 months operation, as a matter of conservative policy the NRC approved operation for only 6 months of power operation.

Extensions of from 1 to 4 months beyond the 6 months inspection interval have been granted by the NRC. In each case, the extensions were granted only after the careful review of the operating experience of the specific generators involved, the rate of leakage and leakage history of the past 6 months, and an assessment of that information with overall experience to date of steam generator tube degradation.

The staff has not yet completed the review of the May 27, 1981 request of FPL for an extension of 4 months to the inspection interval for Unit 4. Whether such an extension is approved, disapproved or shortened in duration will only be determined after a careful review of all the factors involved, without allowing any compromise to the protection of the public health safety.

I believe this letter has been responsive to Ms. Lorion's concerns. Please contact us again should you have further questions.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T. A. Rehm

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

*WJ Dircks*  
6/18

*HR Denton*  
6/18/81

*ORB 1*  
6/14/81

*per comment for circuit*

OFFICE	ORB 1	ORB 1	AD:OP	OELD	D:DO	EDO	OOA
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DATE	6/8/81	6/8/81	6/9/81	6/10/81	6/17/81	6/19/81	6/22/81

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

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fascell:

This is in response to the letter from your constituent Ms. Joette Lorion, dated May 14, 1981, in which she expressed concern regarding the electrical incident that occurred April 25, 1981 at Florida Power and Light Company's (FPL) Turkey Point Unit 3 facility and questioned the recent request by FPL to operate Unit 4 for an additional four months past the scheduled June steam generator inspection. Actually this inspection, which is dictated by operating hours, is now scheduled for about July 15, 1981.

Ms. Lorion also made reference to the hearing which was scheduled to begin on June 2, 1981. As you know, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, in its Memorandum and Order, dated May 28, 1981, has granted the Staff's motions for summary disposition on all Intervenor's admitted contentions and dismissed them with prejudice. The hearing was, therefore, found to be unnecessary and was cancelled. The Board did retain jurisdiction concerning the radioactive solid wastes and requested all parties to file information on that subject and state their position as to whether the Board can or should take any action regarding solid waste by June 15, 1981.

*in this instance*

The electrical incident of April 25, 1981, occurred when restarting Unit 3 following a refueling and inspection shutdown. An electrical short occurred in the electrical generator that will require extensive repair or replacement. It is apparently going to be expensive in terms of loss of operating time. However, the electric generator is part of the non-nuclear section of the plant and ~~unless its failure directly or indirectly affects the nuclear safety of the plant, which in this instance it does not, the NRC has no jurisdiction in mandating remedial measures.~~ Nevertheless, such incidents are, of course, of interest to and monitored by the NRC as to whether they might indicate some overall operational or procedural or management weaknesses that could reflect on the safe operation of the nuclear plant. We do not believe the electrical short in the electrical generator is indicative of such weakness on the part of FPL, but rather an event that can occur ~~in spite of the best efforts of utility management~~ *in the operation of a large power plant.*

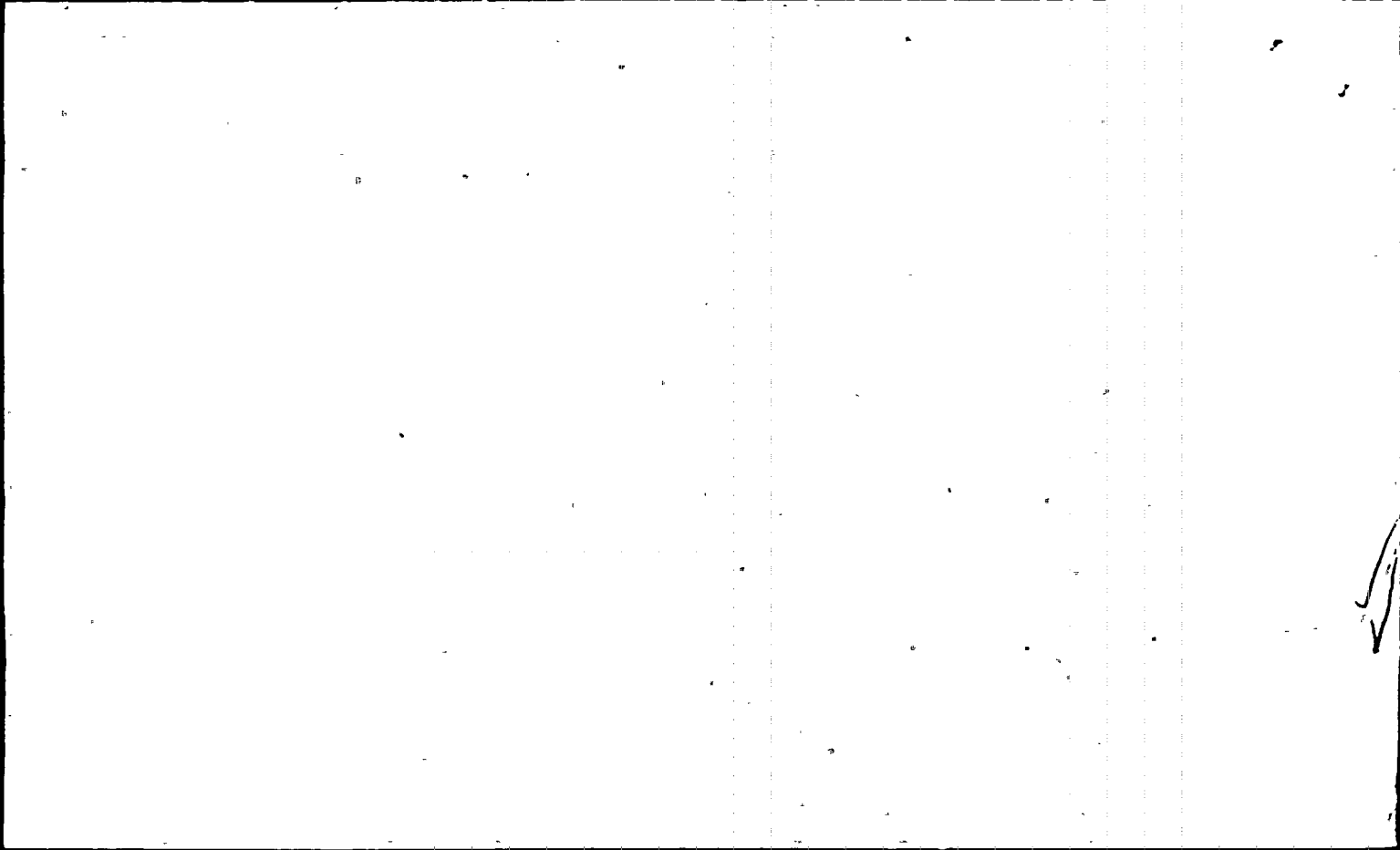
On the other hand, for components affecting the nuclear safety of the plant, ~~the NRC has jurisdiction, and inspections are prescribed by the Technical Specifications (which are part of the license), and NRC resident inspectors verify compliance.~~ *(only on reactor)*

With respect to Ms. Lorion's concern regarding the request of FPL to operate Turkey Point Unit 4 for four additional months past the scheduled July steam generator inspection and to delay the inspection until that time, the following comments are offered.



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FROM:		ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO.	
Rep. Dante R. Foscell		COMPL DEADLINE		6/10/81		10511	
TO:		ACKNOWLEDGMENT		DATE OF DOCUMENT		5/20/81	
Kawzerer		INTERIM REPLY		PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:		<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER: _____	
DESCRIPTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		FINAL REPLY		FILE LOCATION		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS	
Encl ltr to Ms. Joette Lorton, Executive Director, Floridians United for Safe Energy, Inc. concerning Turkey Point Nuclear Plant Unit #3 recent breakdown & excessive use of FPIL #1		S/1/81		for 100 pgs. 1/20/81		CLASSIFIED DATA DOCUMENT/COPY NO. _____ CLASSIFICATION _____ NUMBER OF PAGES _____ CATEGORY _____ POSTAL REGISTRY NO. _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD SECY-81-0722 LEGAL REVIEW <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY ASSIGNED TO: _____ DATE _____ NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY: <input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR _____ EXT. _____ COMMENTS, NOTIFY: _____ EXT. _____ JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
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Hisenhut		5/29/81		6. Snyder			
		Linda Underwood					
		Case					
		Denton 3. Mattson					
		1. PPAS					
		4. Murley					
		2. Kawzerer					





81-0722

No. ~~80-2523~~

Logging Date 5/22/81

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- Policy Evaluation

Incoming: Rep Dante Fascell, Const Ref  
From: Joette Lorion

To: OCA Date 5/20/81

Subject: concerned about the recent breakdown of Turkey Pt #3 and ~~FRKX#4X~~ the excessive use of FP&I #4

- Prepare reply for signature of:
- Chairman
  - Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_
  - EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY, IA, PE
  - Signature block omitted
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - Return original of incoming with response

For direct reply\* **Suspense: June 15**

- For appropriate action
- For information

Remarks: OCA to Ack

For the Commission: billie

\*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Correspondence and Records Branch

NRC-62

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Date: 5-27-81  
Time: 9:15

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