50-250/251
50-335/389

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

July 21, 1997

Mr. Thomas F. Plunkett
President, Nuclear Division
Florida Power and Light Company
Post Office Box 14000
Juno Beach, Florida 33408-0420

SUBJECT: CHANGE TO FITNESS FOR DUTY PROGRAM FOR TURKEY POINT UNITS 3 AND 4 AND ST. LUCIE UNITS 1 AND 2 (TAC NOS. M99031/M99032/M99029/M99030)

Dear Mr. Plunkett:

By letter dated June 3, 1997, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) requested U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) review and concurrence with a proposed modification in the FPL Fitness for Duty (FFD) program. In response to NRC comments, FPL revised and resubmitted the request by letter dated July 1, 1997. FPL proposed to eliminate the mandatory 15-minute observation period for the breath alcohol concentration (BAC) test for all donors.

10 CFR Part 26, Appendix A, Section 2.4(g)(18) requires that "Alcohol breath tests shall be delayed at least 15 minutes if any source of mouth alcohol (e.g., breath fresheners) or any other substances are ingested (e.g., eating, smoking, regurgitation of stomach contents from vomiting or burping)." FPL currently implements this requirement by requiring a 15-minute observation period for all personnel before administering a BAC test.

Based on technical expertise from the manufacturer of the BAC testing device, FPL concluded that the 15-minute waiting period assures that residual alcohol from products such as breath mints, breath fresheners, and mentholated cigarettes has dissipated below detectable levels and that the 15-minute observation period is relevant only for positive alcohol tests. Based on this conclusion, FPL proposed to modify the BAC testing aspect of the FFD program as described in the July 1, 1997, submittal.

Based on the description of the program modification in the July 1, 1997, submittal, the NRC staff concurs that this modification to the FFD program does not constitute a deviation from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 26, Appendix A, in that it only changes FPL's method for meeting one of the

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requirements. Therefore, the FPL program is acceptable in that it will continue to comply with 10 CFR Part 26, Appendix A, Section 2.4(g)(18) and require a 15-minute waiting period where there is a potential source of mouth alcohol.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Frederick J. Hebdon, Director
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50-335 and 50-389

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