

February 13, 1978
L-78-51

Mr. Edson G. Case, Acting Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555



Dear Mr. Case:

Re: St. Lucie Plant Circulating Water
System - Docket Nos. 50-335 50-389

As was first reported in my letter of May 7, 1976 (L-76-183) to Mr. John G. Davis, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, during the course of operation of St. Lucie Unit No. 1, we have experienced higher than predicted discharge canal levels due to higher than anticipated ocean tidal levels combined with marine fouling of the subaqueous discharge pipeline. Information related to this matter has also been transmitted in my letters of September 2, 1976 (L-76-324) to Mr. Dennis L. Ziemann, Division of Operating Reactors, discussing the St. Lucie Unit No. 1 Power Ascension Program, and of June 3, 1977 (L-77-167) to Mr. Norman C. Moseley, Office of Inspection and Enforcement, submitted in response to IE Report 50-335/77-4.

On a number of occasions during 1976 and 1977, we have throttled the circulating water pumps for St. Lucie Unit No. 1 in order to prevent overflow of the discharge canal as a result of the higher water levels. This results in some reduction in the power output of the plant in order to comply with environmental technical specifications.

Florida Power & Light Company has been evaluating several alternative means of remedying the problem to eliminate the resulting periodic need to restrict plant operation. In connection with the presently scheduled refueling outage for St. Lucie Plant Unit No. 1, commencing in late March 1978, FPL plans to perform scheduled maintenance to the discharge canal dikes to repair erosion which has occurred since initial construction. FPL plans to perform this maintenance so as to permit subsequent raising

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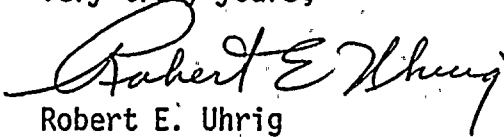
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of the discharge canal dikes and construction of a new spillway to provide additional capability to accommodate marine fouling, if that should be determined to be necessary. FPL is also pursuing analysis of possible modifications of other systems, in order to reduce marine fouling, as well as to increase the flow and thermal efficiency of the condensers.

We will keep you advised with respect to this matter.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. Uhrig
Vice President

REU:MV:s1

cc: J. P. O'Reilly, Region II
Harold F. Reis, Esquire
Martin H. Hodder, Esquire

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