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May 17, 1978

William D. Paton, Esq.
Counsel for NRC Regulatory Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555

Re: In the Matter of Florida Power and
Light Company (St. Lucie Nuclear Power
Plant, Unit 2) - Docket No. 50-389

Dear Mr. Paton:

This is with further reference to my telephone call to you yesterday morning, May 16, 1978. I then advised you that, on Sunday morning, May 14, 1978, off-site power to the St. Lucie nuclear power plant was interrupted and that the appropriate reports to the Commission would be made. I also told you that I would obtain from Florida Power & Light Company additional information concerning the outage and supply them promptly. I have now received such further information and am supplying it in the enclosure to this letter.

Sincerely,



Harold F. Reis

HFR/jm

Enclosure

cc (w/enc.): See attached service list

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION


Before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board

In the Matter of)
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY)
(St. Lucie Nuclear Power)
Plant, Unit No. 2))
_____)

Docket No. 50-389

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the attached letter to William D. Paton, Esq., dated May 17, 1978, together with the enclosure to that letter have been mailed the 17th day of May, 1978, to the persons shown on the attached service list by deposit in the United States mail, properly stamped and addressed.



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Date: May 17, 1978

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board

In the Matter of)
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY) Docket No. 50-389
(St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant)
Unit 2)
_____)

SERVICE LIST

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ENCLOSURE

On Sunday morning, May 14, 1978, at approximately 7:45 a.m., offsite power to St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant was interrupted due to a combination of two factors: a switching error at the Pratt & Whitney Substation and a wiring error on the transformer at the Midway Station. Approximately 100 MW's out of a total load of approximately 3500 MW's were lost for 8 minutes.

Midway Substation is fed from the south by two major high voltage lines coming from Ranch Substation. One of these lines goes through the Pratt & Whitney Substation where the switching for maintenance purposes was taking place. Midway Substation also has two lines coming into it from the north from Malabar Substation, as well as three other lower voltage (one 69KV, two 138KV) lines. When the switching error occurred at the Pratt & Whitney Substation, a flashover occurred and both lines from Ranch to Midway were interrupted. Because of the wiring error (reversal of polarity in current transformers) in the Midway Substation, the protective relay system interpreted this incident as a fault on the Malabar lines and interrupted those lines. The three lower voltage lines opened on the power surges and the result was a complete loss of power to the Midway Substation, thereby interrupting the power supply to St. Lucie Unit 1, which was down for refueling. The diesel generators at St. Lucie 1 immediately started, thereby providing emergency power to the unit. This interruption did not in any way jeopardize plant system or safety.

Power was restored to Midway Substation in approximately 8 minutes and complete power was restored to all lines in approximately 15 minutes. The wiring error has been corrected and the cause of the switching error has been determined and resolved.