



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

NRC PDR

September 7, 1979

Docket No. 50-302

POOR  
ORIGINAL

Ms. Estelle Lambuth, Director  
Citrus County Civic Association  
Rt. 1, Box 267-Y  
Homosassa, Florida 32646

Dear Ms. Lambuth:

This is in response to your letter of August 2, 1979 in which you expressed concerns regarding the operation of the Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 3 (CR-3).

CR-3 is currently shutdown to replace reactor coolant pump seals and to investigate the cause of reactor trips due to feedwater oscillations. Florida Power Corporation, which operates CR-3, agreed to this shutdown and corrective action without an order by the NRC.

Following the accident that occurred at the Three Mile Island, Unit No. 2 (TMI-2) plant on March 28, 1979, the NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement transmitted bulletins to operators of similarly designed Babcock & Wilcox (B&W) plants, such as CR-3, on April 1, 5 and 21, 1979. These bulletins required certain changes in plant equipment, operating procedures and operator training to which Florida Power Corporation, which operates CR-3, responded satisfactorily. These changes were specifically intended to preclude a TMI-2 type of accident from occurring again. After continued review, the NRC staff concluded that additional changes to B&W plants were necessary to further enhance reactor plant safety, and a shutdown of CR-3 was ordered by the NRC on May 16, 1979.

The enclosed document highlights the timely actions taken by Florida Power Corporation to correct conditions that may have potentially led to adverse effects involving the public's health and safety and describes design and procedural changes that were required prior to authorization to resume operation. These immediate actions were completed and subsequently found acceptable. The plant was authorized to resume operation on July 6, 1979. Long term modifications continue to be required and implemented to improve the reliability of the facility.

In your letter, reference was made to the economic aspects of electrical power generation utilizing nuclear fission. The Commission is primarily concerned with the safe operation of commercial nuclear power plants. The Commission may

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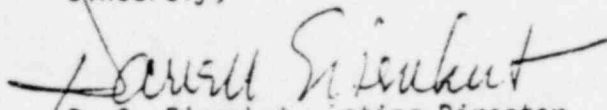
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require modifications of operating nuclear facilities to improve the safety margins as additional operating experience is acquired and analyzed. The Commission is not involved in the establishment of rates for utility services. This is a function of the respective states' public service commissions.

I trust that the information presented is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. G. Eisenhut". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

D. G. Eisenhut, Acting Director  
Division of Operating Reactors  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
NRC ltr. to FPC dtd.  
7/6/79

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