

FEB 18 1981

Docket No. 50-250
License No. DPR-31
EA 81-22

Florida Power and Light Company
ATTN: J. J. Hudiburg, President
P. O. Box 529100
Miami, FL 33152

Gentlemen:

On January 29, 1981, the NRC Resident Inspector entered the Turkey Point control room at about 11:45 a.m. and found Unit 3 operating at full power without an operator present at the controls. Unit 4 was also operating at full power under the direct observation of a licensed reactor operator in the two-unit shared control room. The licensed operator assigned to Unit 3 was in a room behind the Unit 4 instrument panels, a location which precludes visually monitoring reactor conditions on either unit. The safety significance of this matter was discussed by telephone with C. O. Woody of your staff on January 29 by James P. O'Reilly, Director of the NRC Region II office. Your initial corrective actions were confirmed in a letter dated January 30, 1981, from the Region II Director to E. A. Adomat, FP&L Executive Vice President.

The fact that nuclear reactor operators are licensed by NRC is indicative of their significant role in assuring the safety of plant operations. A fully attentive operator present at the controls at each operating unit to monitor safety status and manually correct abnormal conditions is fundamental to the safe operation of a nuclear facility. Operator absence, distractions, or inattentiveness while assigned to the reactor controls will not be tolerated by the NRC.

This event indicates that Florida Power and Light Company had not assured the continuing presence of a licensed operator for each operating reactor. Accordingly, we propose the imposition of a \$40,000 civil penalty under the authority of the June 30, 1980 amendment to the Atomic Energy Act (P.L. 96-295) for the violation set forth in Appendix A to this letter. The proposed civil penalty was assessed in accordance with the Interim Enforcement Policy, 45 FR 66754 (October 7, 1980), with the expectation that you will improve your management control systems to assure that a licensed operator is continuously present at the controls of each operating reactor. I cannot overemphasize the importance of licensed operators meeting the highest performance standards.

You are required to respond to this letter and should follow the instructions in Appendix A when preparing your response. Your reply to this letter and the results of future inspections will be considered in determining whether further enforcement action may be appropriate.

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

8106260351

~~8102232160~~

~~PAR~~

A copy of this letter and the enclosure will be placed in the Public Document Room in accordance with 10 CFR 2.790.

Sincerely,

Victor Stello, Jr.
Director
Office of Inspection and
Enforcement

Enclosure:
Appendix A, Notice of Violation and
Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty

cc w/encl:
E. A. Adomat, Executive Vice President
R. E. Uhrig, Vice President
H. E. Yaeger, Site Manager

Distribution

PDR
NSIC
LPDR
EDO Reading File
ACRS
SECY
CA
CON
VStello, IE
RCDeYoung, IE
FIngram, PA
JMurray
JLieberman, ELD
JCrooks, MPA
DThompson, IE
JRiesland, IE
Enforcement Coordinators,
RI, RII, RIII, RIV, RV
JCummings, OIA
IE Files
Central Files
CP Book
EI Reading File

SVarga, NRR:ORB-1
MGrotenhuis, NRR:ORB-1

Dept. of Legal Affairs
ATTN: Hon. Jim Smith
Attorney General
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Public Service Commission
ATTN: William T. Mayo
Chairman
101 E. Gaines St.
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Department of Health and
Rehabilitative Services
ATTN: Uray Clark, Administrator
Radiological Health Program
1317 Winewood Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

ng
D: VStello
2/1/81