Florida Power
CORPORATION

January 12, 1983
3F-0183-07

Mr. Harold R. Denton, Director
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Subject: Crystal River Unit 3
Docket No. 50-302
Operating License No. DPR-72
Technical Specification Change Request No. 102
Station Battery Electrolyte Specific Gravity

Dear Mr. Denton:

Florida Power Corporation hereby submits three (3) original and forty (40) copies of Technical Specification Change Request No. 102, requesting amendment to Appendix A of Operating License No. DPR-72. The Crystal River Unit 3 Technical Specifications presently require that the plant be shut down within two (2) hours if the specific gravity of the electrolyte on a station battery has decreased by more than 0.01 since the previous quarterly test. Florida Power believes that factors such as temperature and electrolyte stratification can influence the test results enough to show an apparent decrease of 0.01 when no true battery degradation has taken place. The proposed amendment would allow 72 hours to determine whether actual battery degradation had taken place or if the indication is the result of outside factors influencing the test.

Proposed replacement pages to the Technical Specifications and a copy of the Certificate of Service to the Chief Executive Office of Citrus County are enclosed.

Florida Power has determined that the requested action is a Class III amendment per 10 CFR 170.22 in that it involves a single safety issue. Accordingly, a check in the amount of four thousand dollars ($4,000) is enclosed.

A001
w/check:
$4000.00

Sincerely,

G. R. Westafer
Manager
Nuclear Licensing and Fuel Management

EFW/mm

Enclosure

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF PINELLAS

G. R. Westafer states that he is the Manager, Nuclear Licensing and Fuel Management, of Florida Power Corporation; that he is authorized on the part of said company to sign and file with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission the information attached hereto; and that all such statements made and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

G. R. Westafer

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County above named, this 12th day of January, 1983.

Notary Public

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large,
My Commission Expires: November 19, 1986

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES NOV 17 1986
BONDED THRU GENERAL INSURANCE UND

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF)
) DOCKET NO. 50-302
FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

G. R. Westafer deposes and says that the following has been served on the Chief Executive of Citrus County, Florida, by deposit in the United States mail, addressed as follows:

Chairman,
Board of County Commissioners
of Citrus County
Citrus County Courthouse
Inverness, FL 32650

One (1) copy of Technical Specification Change Request No. 102 requesting amendment to Appendix A of Operating License No. DPR-72.

FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

G R Westafer

G. R. Westafer
Manager
Nuclear Licensing and Fuel Management

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 12th DAY OF JANUARY 1983.

Deborah Leonard

Notary Public

Notary Public, State of Florida at Large
My Commission Expires: November 19, 1986

(NOTARIAL SEAL)

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF FLORIDA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES NOV 17 1986
BONDED THRU GENERAL INSURANCE UND

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST NO. 102

Replace pages 3/4 8-10 and B 3/4 8-1 of Appendix A with proposed pages 3/4 8-10 and B 3/4 8-1 enclosed.

PROPOSED CHANGE

1) Revise ACTION "b" of Specification 3.8.2.3 to read as follows:

   b. With one 250/125 volt D.C. battery and/or a charger inoperable for reasons other than a decrease in battery cell electrolyte specific gravity greater than 0.01 from the value observed in the previous quarterly test, restore .....

2) Add a new ACTION "c" to Specification 3.8.2.3 which reads as follows:

   c. With one or more battery cells which show a decrease in electrolyte specific gravity greater than 0.01 from the value observed in the previous quarterly test, within 72 hours, perform an Engineering Evaluation to determine the reason(s) for the decrease, and perform appropriate corrective measures, if any, to restore the inoperable battery(ies) to OPERABLE status within the next 2 hours or be in at least HOT STANDBY within the next 6 hours and in COLD SHUTDOWN within the following 30 hours.

3) Add a new section to the second paragraph of page B 3/4 8-1 which reads as follows:

   The operating restrictions placed upon the batteries also recognize that basing the judgement of a cell's condition upon the measurement of electrolyte specific gravity may not be entirely appropriate. The specification allows time to determine whether true degradation or an artifact of measurement technique is the cause of a decrease in specific gravity and allows appropriate corrective measures to be taken following this determination.

REASON FOR PROPOSED CHANGE

The present Technical Specifications require that the plant be shut down if an inoperable station battery cannot be restored to OPERABLE status within 2 hours. One of the SURVEILLANCE REQUIREMENTS used to demonstrate operability of the batteries requires that the specific gravity of an individual cell not be lower than 0.01 below the value observed in the previous quarterly test.

Specific gravity of the electrolyte in a battery cell is influenced by many factors (e.g., state-of-charge, stratification, temperature) and its determination is subject to these influences as well as measurement errors. While a true decrease in specific gravity of a cell's electrolyte is cause for concern, an observed decrease may be due to one or more of the influencing factors above. The proposed revision to the ACTION of Specification 3.8.2.3 will allow time to evaluate the cause of a decrease in specific gravity and help avoid needless plant shutdown.

SAFETY EVALUATION OF PROPOSED CHANGE

Plant safety will not be compromised. This change allows time to evaluate whether an observed decrease in specific gravity of battery electrolyte is actually degradation of the battery or an artifact of other influencing factors. The extra time introduced by this change is insignificant since the requirement that specific gravity is maintained above the manufacturers recommended minimum value remains unchanged; this assures that the batteries will be capable of performing as required. A change in the electrolyte specific gravity is considered to be an indication that there may be battery degradation taking place, but is not cause for immediate plant shutdown in itself.