

NRC REGION II
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April 18, 1983
L-83-244

Mr. James P. O'Reilly
Regional Administrator, Region II
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
101 Marietta Street, Suite 2900
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

RE: St. Lucie Plant - Unit #2
Docket No. 50-389/ 50.55(e) - 83-005
Diesel Generator Start Relay Deficiency

On March 18, 1983, Florida Power & Light Company notified NRC, Region II of a potential 10 CFR 50.55(e) condition at the site involving the Diesel Generator Start Relay.

The potential problem was identified during scheduled testing as a 10 second delay in the energization of the start relays when the diesel generator was in a cooldown cycle. Upon an ESFAS signal a 10 second delay occurred before the engine began its 8 second acceleration from 450 rpm to 900 rpm. This made the total time for reaching full speed 18 seconds.

This 10 second delay was attributed to the recent modification of a time delay relay, which Power Systems, Division of Morrison Knudsen, modified to allow a 10 minute cooldown cycle when the Master Control Switch (MCS) was put in the "stop" position. A contact in this relay was preventing start relays from energizing for 10 seconds, delaying acceleration to 900 rpm from 450 rpm.

In order to correct this problem, normal stop relays will be modified and indicators will be added in the control room to inform the operators that the diesel is on test.

We have determined that this delay would not adversely affect plant operation since this incident occurred only during a cooldown cycle, while testing the diesel generator. The safety-related function of the second diesel generator has not been compromised since these diesel generators are still capable of accelerating from 0 rpm to 900 rpm within the specified 10 seconds in accordance with Tech Spec 4.8.1.1.2. Therefore, we deem this item to be non-reportable under 10 CFR 50.55(e).

All pertinent documentation regarding this concern will be maintained at the site and will be available for your inspection.

Very truly yours,

Robert E. Uhrig
Robert E. Uhrig
Vice President
Advanced Systems and Technology

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