



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

5250

MAR 18 1988

The Honorable Bob Graham  
United States Senator  
Post Office Box 3050  
Tallahassee, Florida 32315

Dear Senator Graham:

I am pleased to respond to your February 12, 1988 letter to Mr. Carlton C. Kammerer of our Office of Governmental and Public Affairs, forwarding a letter you received from a constituent, Mr. Jeffrey Flaxman. Mr. Flaxman has expressed concerns regarding operations at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant. You requested that we review Mr. Flaxman's concerns and provide our comments to you.

Mr. Flaxman references a recent Miami Herald article that mentioned that the Florida Power and Light Company (FPL - the licensee) had once again been fined for negligence at the plant. Mr. Flaxman notes that despite extensive fines since 1983, problems apparently continue at the plant and that he is concerned about a potential accident in south Florida. He asks that you help ensure FPL's compliance with "the NRC 14 page order requiring changes in management and supervision and training at the plant." Mr. Flaxman did not provide specific references or dates of the newspaper article or the NRC 14-page order. Although I do not have the specific newspaper article to which Mr. Flaxman refers, I believe it references the NRC's Order and Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (EA 87-85) dated October 19, 1987. I have enclosed a copy of this Order, which gives considerable detail on the background and nature of the problems (Enclosure 1).

I assure you that the Commission shares Mr. Flaxman's concern about the continuing problems at the Turkey Point plant, as expressed in the subject Order. I would like to emphasize that although the events leading to these cited violations, as well as several previous ones, are significant, none of them resulted in a situation which jeopardized public health and safety. The Commission's principal concern is the fact that these types of events have happened too often, indicating a need for substantial improvement in operations.

The Order takes cognizance of the licensee's corrective actions and initiatives relating to management, supervision, and training that are under way. As noted therein, we believe that if vigorously pursued, they should result in significant improvements in the performance of the Turkey Point plant and site personnel.

I also have enclosed three letters from FPL dated October 7 and 19 and November 18, 1987 (Enclosures 2, 3 and 4, respectively). These letters provide

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details of both the short- and long-term corrective measures under way and completed, the Management-On-Shift Program, and FPL's response to the October 19, 1987 Order and Notice of Violation (EA 87-85).

Both our headquarters and regional staffs have been carefully monitoring FPL's corrective programs, including the Independent Management Appraisal Program specified in the Order. In addition to our onsite presence and frequent progress reports, we meet at least monthly with FPL's top management personnel at the Turkey Point site to review the status of the corrective action programs as well as current operational experience. We are satisfied that FPL is being responsive to our concerns, and that its efforts are showing significant progress and should result in the desired high level of plant and personnel performance. We are continuing our close monitoring of the licensee.

For your further information, I will briefly describe the actions the Commission takes to meet its statutory responsibilities of ensuring that all operating facilities, including the Turkey Point plant, achieve and maintain adequate levels of protection of the health and safety of the public. The NRC has an extensive inspection and enforcement program to ensure that construction, operation and safety standards are met at all nuclear power plant sites. In the past year, about 8 person-years of inspection effort were expended at Turkey Point, about two times the effort at a typical site. The Turkey Point plant has three full-time resident inspectors on site. In addition, frequent announced and unannounced inspections are performed by specialists from NRC headquarters and the region to augment the resident inspection activities. Forty such inspections were conducted at Turkey Point during the past year.

In summary, FPL has several major initiatives in place, including its Performance Enhancement Program, Quality Improvement Program, Management-On-Shift Program, and Independent Management Appraisal Program. It has been and is continuing to devote considerable site and corporate resources to these and other programs and physical plant improvements for enhancing overall safe operation of the Turkey Point plant, and the NRC is closely monitoring this effort. Clearly, the NRC is vitally interested in the performance at Turkey Point and, if further deterioration is noted, strong consideration will be given to suspending operations. However, we do not believe that point has been reached at the present time.

I hope that the information I have provided is responsive both to Mr. Flaxman's and your concerns and provides confidence that the NRC is taking prompt and vigorous action to ensure that FPL achieves the necessary attention to detail, is complying with the Order, and will meet the high standards set by the Commission for continued operation.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
Original signed by  
Victor Stello

Victor Stello, Jr.  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosures:

- 1. NRC Order dated 10/19/87
- 2. FPL Letter dated 10/7/87
- 3. FPL Letter dated 10/19/87
- 4. FPL Letter dated 11/18/87

DISTRIBUTION

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PD22 (w/cy of incoming)	FGillespie
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GLainas	JGrace, RII
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\*See previous concurrences

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FJMiraglia  
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Tech Ed ADR2  
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**ACTION**

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL  
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**FROM:**  
SEN. BOB GRAHAM

**DUE:** 03/14/88

**EDO CONTROL:** 003532  
**DOC DT:** 02/12/88  
**FINAL REPLY:**

**TO:**  
OCA

**FOR SIGNATURE OF:**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**\*\* GREEN \*\***

**SECY NO:** 88-152

**DESC:**  
ENCLOSES LETTER FROM JEFF FLAXMAN CONCERNING  
TURKEY POINT

**ROUTING:**  
GRACE

**DATE:** 02/29/88  
**ASSIGNED TO:** NRR      **CONTACT:** MURLEY

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:**

REPLY TO TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA OFFICE.  
MARK ENVELOPE ATTN: BECKY LINER.

NRR RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 29, 1988  
ACTION: DRPR: VARGA

NRR ROUTING: MURLEY/SNIEZEK  
MIRAGLIA  
MARTIN  
GILLESPIE  
MOSSBURG

