



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION

February 16, 1999

Mr. John Paul Cowan  
Vice President, Nuclear Operations  
Florida Power Corporation  
Attn: Manager, Nuclear Licensing (SA2A)  
Crystal River Energy Complex  
15760 W. Power Line Street  
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS RESPONSE EVALUATION  
(INSPECTION NO. 50-302/98-201)

Dear Mr. Cowan:

On May 4-6, 1998, NRC personnel evaluated Crystal River's physical protection program. This evaluation was a result of questions raised during a Region II inspection in August 1997, as noted in NRC Inspection Report 50-302/97-10 of August 27, 1997. The primary objective of the Operational Safeguards Response Evaluation (OSRE) program is to evaluate the readiness of a licensee's onsite security forces to respond to an external threat. That threat is defined in 10 CFR 73.1 as the NRC design basis threat. The overall criterion was Crystal River's ability to protect public health and safety.

The NRC personnel were briefed on Crystal River's modified protection strategy, toured the plant to observe paths to key equipment and responder deployment positions, conducted three table-top, time-line armed response contingency drills, and observed a Crystal River armed response force team conduct three force-on-force exercises on site. The four specific sub-criteria used were: (1) did the response force provide a sufficient number of responders; (2) were they appropriately armed and equipped; (3) were they in protected positions; and (4) were they in time to interdict the mock adversary force.

These sub-criteria were not fully met in the August 1997 exercises on site. In the May 1998 evaluation, it appeared that the protection strategy was adequate to protect against the design basis threat. However, some problems were observed in the execution of the strategy by the shift response team. These problems appeared to be the result of lack of practice by shift personnel in executing the strategy on site.

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Mr. J. Cowan

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The briefings, observations, drills, and exercises indicated that the modified protection strategy was generally sound and that Crystal River has the capability to respond to an external threat and protect public health and safety. Details are in the enclosure.

The enclosure to this letter contains safeguards information of a type specified in 10 CFR 73.21. It will not be placed in the Public Document Room, and must be protected against unauthorized disclosure.

No response to this letter is required. If you have questions concerning this evaluation, we will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
 Theodore R. Quay, Chief  
 Safeguards Branch  
 Division of Reactor Program Management  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

cc w/enclosure:  
 Stephen J. Cahill  
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