

June 12, 1989

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-89-45

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of POSSIBLE safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by the Region II staff on this date.

FACILITY: Weedon Island Facility  
Florida Power Corporation  
(A Coal Fired Generating Unit)  
St. Petersburg, Florida

Licensee Emergency Classification:  
☐ Notification of Unusual Event  
☐ Alert  
☐ Site Area Emergency  
☐ General Emergency  
☒ Not Applicable

SUBJECT: INADVERTENT EXPOSURE OF NONRADIATION WORKERS

Officials of the State of Florida advised Region II that sometime during the period of May 18, 1989, and June 9, 1989, thirteen Florida Power Corporation (FPC) employees inadvertently received an estimated whole body exposure of 300 mRem each. The FPC Weedon Island facility is a coal fired generating plant and these employees were not equipped with radiation monitoring devices since they do not routinely receive occupational radiation exposures.

The exposure occurred during the time frame noted above while the workers were cleaning a precipitator containing a generally licensed gauge consisting of twelve 100 millicurie Cesium-137 sources. On June 9, 1989, FPC representatives realized that this exposure occurred when it was noted that the gauge shielding mechanism apparently failed and four of the sources were totally unshielded while two others were only partially shielded.

Representatives of the FPC Corporate Health Physics staff conducted the initial investigation of this matter and calculated the estimated exposures based on interviews with the employees and consideration of their stay times.

Representatives of both FPC and the State are continuing to investigate the circumstances of this incident.

The NRC received initial notification of this event by telephone from the State of Florida at 3:30 p.m. (EDT) on June 9, 1989.

This information is current as of 2:15 p.m. (EDT) on June 12, 1989.

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PDR I&E  
PNO-II-89-045 PNU

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5520: 6/12/89 @ 2:15 p.m. TO REGIONS AND HQ

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