

## NRC NEW

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## NRC Proposes \$232,000 Civil Penalty for Florida Power & Light, Bans Former Executive for Discrimination at St. Lucie Nuclear Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has proposed a \$232,000 fine against Florida Power & Light and has barred a former FP&L executive from NRC-licensed activities for five years, for retaliating against a contract employee who raised a safety concern while working at the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant near Fort Pierce, Fla.

The NRC concluded FP&L and its contractor, Framatome, cancelled the employee's work assignment after the individual filed a concern in St. Lucie's corrective action program during a refueling outage in 2017. The NRC concluded Framatome played a minor role in the retaliation; given the company's corrective actions, the NRC has issued Framatome a Notice of Violation.

The NRC concluded the former executive deliberately submitted incomplete and inaccurate information while the agency investigated the cancelled work assignment. The executive voluntarily left FP&L during the investigation. In addition to the five-year ban, the former executive must also notify the NRC of the first NRC-licensed company he works for after the ban expires.

The NRC held separate pre-decisional enforcement conferences with FP&L and Framatome in early February 2019, and with the former executive in February and July 2019, to discuss the violations. FP&L and Framatome have the option to deny the violations and to seek mediation under the NRC's alternative dispute resolution program. The companies and the executive must provide written responses to NRC's notices of violation.