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NRC STAFF ISSUES REPORT ASSESSING PERFORMANCE
AT ST. LUCIE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN FLORIDA

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for Florida Power & Light Company's St. Lucie nuclear power plant near Ft. Pierce, Florida which rates performance as superior in two areas and good with improving trends in two others.

The NRC SALP process assesses performance at commercial nuclear power plants on a periodic basis in four functional areas. The latest report raises the agency's assessment of performance at St. Lucie in the areas of Maintenance and Engineering from a previous assessment of good to a current evaluation of superior. Performance in two other areas assessed, Plant Operations and Plant Support, remained good with comment from the NRC staff that an improving trend in performance continued in both areas.

In a letter to FP&L attached to the report, the NRC's Region II administrator in Atlanta, Luis A. Reyes, said the "mainstays" of St. Lucie's continuing performance improvement involved "safety conscious and conservative plant operations" with a strong focus on implementation of corrective actions and emphasis on problem identification and resolution.

NRC officials evaluated performance at St. Lucie during a period from March 30, 1997 through June 27, 1998. Results of the evaluation are contained in a report available to the public and will be discussed with FP&L officials during a public meeting scheduled to be held at the St. Lucie site at 10:00 a.m. on August 27.

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EDITORS: A copy of the full SALP report is available from this office or from the NRC internet web site at www.nrc.gov/OPA or by automatic e-mail subscription as they are issued. For e-mail subscription, go to: lstproc@nrc.gov with the following message: subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.