



NRC NEWS

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NRC ISSUES CONFIRMATORY ORDER TO FPL FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a Confirmatory Order to Florida Power & Light as part of a settlement agreement with the company involving the conduct of two contract workers at the St. Lucie nuclear plant who over-tightened a valve and documented that they used the correct torque wrench but later admitted using a different wrench. FPL management removed the workers from the site, but an NRC investigation found that the company failed to have site security assess the trustworthiness and reliability of the workers after they admitted falsifying the work order.

FPL requested the alternative dispute resolution process to resolve differences with the NRC concerning the apparent violations and to discuss corrective actions. The ADR process uses a neutral mediator with no decision-making authority to assist the NRC and its licensees in coming to an agreement.

Under the terms of the agreement and Confirmatory Order, FPL has agreed to a number of corrective actions and enhancements to its Corrective Action Program, procedural revisions, training initiatives and changes at other FPL-owned nuclear plants. As a result of these commitments, the NRC will not issue any violation or take other enforcement actions for these issues. However, the NRC staff will evaluate the FPL commitments during future inspections.

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