

April 10, 2014

The Honorable Kathy Castor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Castor:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of February 27, 2014. You expressed concern regarding deterioration of steam generator tubes at St. Lucie Plant, Unit 2, and enclosed an article from the Tampa Bay Times that discusses the issue in the context of recent problems at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California.

At the time of your letter St. Lucie Unit 2 was in a planned refueling outage. On March 10, 2014, The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) filed a hearing request and a motion to stay. SACE requested that the Commission suspend restart of St. Lucie Unit 2 and consider its hearing request on an expedited basis. On April 1, 2014, the Commission denied SACE's stay motion (CLI-14-4). In this order, the Commission also set a schedule for further briefing with respect to SACE's hearing request; that request remains pending before the Commission. These filings and the Commission's order are attached for your convenience.

SACE's hearing request and motion to stay arise from the replacement of the steam generators at St. Lucie Unit 2 in 2007, and raise issues associated with the new steam generators. Given the pendency of SACE's hearing request, the Commission cannot at this time discuss or comment on issues involved in this matter. Under NRC regulations, the Commission has an adjudicatory role in the case, and all members of the Commission must remain impartial while the case is pending.

A copy of your letter and this response will be served on the participants in the St. Lucie adjudicatory matter.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Annette L. Vietti-Cook

Enclosures:
As stated