

CATEGORY 1

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 HOVEY, R.J. Florida Power & Light Co.
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SUBJECT: Forwards response to NRC Bulleting 96-01, "CR Insertion Problems."

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 TITLE: NRC Bulletin 96-01 - Control Rod Insertion Problems

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OCT 23 1996

L-96-268
10 CFR §50.54(f)


U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Re: Turkey Point Unit 3
Docket No. 50-250
NRC Bulletin 96-01
CONTROL ROD INSERTION PROBLEMS (TAC NO. M95012)

NRC Bulletin 96-01, "CONTROL ROD INSERTION PROBLEMS", issued March 8, 1996, requested licensees take specific actions and provide information to the NRC. In accordance with NRC Bulletin 96-01, Florida Power and Light Company provides the attached response relative to the Turkey Point Plant Unit 3 Cycle 15 Mid-Cycle Outage.

Should there be any questions, please contact us.

Very truly yours,


R. J. Hovey
Vice President
Turkey Point Plant

JAH

Attachment

cc: S. D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator, Region II, USNRC
T. P. Johnson, Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC,
Turkey Point Plant

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On March 8, 1996, the NRC issued Bulletin 96-01, CONTROL ROD INSERTION PROBLEMS. This bulletin was intended to alert licensees to problems encountered at South Texas and Wolf Creek, during which control rods failed to completely insert upon a scram signal.

The bulletin requested licensees to perform four actions to ensure that the required shutdown margin is maintained during a reactor trip. Action (3) of Bulletin 96-01 requested licensees to measure and evaluate at each outage of sufficient duration during calendar year 1996 (end of cycle, maintenance, etc.), the control rod drop times and rod recoil data for all control rods.

The bulletin requires that within 30 days after completing Requested Action (3) for each outage, a report that summarizes the data and documents the results obtained be submitted to the NRC.

On September 24, 1996, a manual shutdown of Turkey Point Unit 3 was performed as a result of two control rods (F-12 and K-4 in Control Bank C), dropping into the core. The cause of the dropped rods was a control circuit failure. Both affected Rod Cluster Control Assemblies fully inserted with no observable binding. During the subsequent manual shutdown via rod stepping into the core, all rod bottom lights energized as expected at approximately 20 steps withdrawn and all control rods fully inserted as expected. Cycle burnup at the time of the shutdown was 10,055 MWD/MTU.

FPL determined that the rod drop testing requested per Action (3) of NRC Bulletin 96-01 would not significantly impact the Unit 3 outage critical path and therefore was of "sufficient duration" to perform control rod drop time testing and obtain rod recoil data.

On September 26, 1996 Hot Rod Drop Timing Tests were completed on Unit 3. Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 Technical Specification 3.1.3.4 requires that the individual full length (shutdown and control) rod drop times be less than or equal to 2.4 seconds. All RCCAs demonstrated acceptable control rod drop times.

In addition to the drop times, FPL reviewed the rod recoil data for all of the control rods. All 45 RCCAs indicated some recoil.

In conclusion, the results of the Unit 3 Mid-Cycle 15 Hot Rod Drop Test revealed no indications of the control rod anomalies described in NRC Bulletin 96-01 CONTROL ROD INSERTION PROBLEMS. All Unit 3 RCCAs demonstrated acceptable performance and continue to be operable.

STATE OF FLORIDA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF DADE)

R. J. Hovey being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That he is Vice President, Turkey Point Plant, of Florida Power and Light Company, the Licensee herein;

That he has executed the foregoing document; that the statements made in this document are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, and that he is authorized to execute the document on behalf of said Licensee.

RJH
R. J. Hovey

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
23rd day of October, 1996.

Cheryl A. Stevenson

Name of Notary Public (Type or Print)

NOTARY PUBLIC, in and for the County of
Dade, State of Florida

My Commission expires _____
Commission No. _____

R. J. Hovey is personally known to me.



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