

C 03/07/78

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REC: DAVIS D K ORG: UHRIG R E DOCDATE: 02/27/78
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SUBJECT: LTR 3 ENCL 0
FURNISHING INFO CONCERNING RESULTS OF RECENT INSPEC AND EVALUATION
OF REACOTR OPERATION WITH GUIDE TUBE WEAR.

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FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

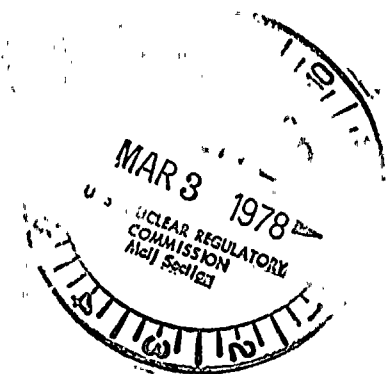
February 27, 1978

L-78-68

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Mr. Don K. Davis, Acting Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #2
Division of Operating Reactors
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Davis:

Re: St. Lucie Unit 1
Docket No. 50-335
Reactor Operation With Guide
Tube Wear (Report CEN-79-P)



The results of recent inspections and evaluations of worn guide tubes by Combustion Engineering indicate that more severe wear than reported in the referenced report has been observed in a very limited number of fuel bundles. As reported in a meeting between Baltimore Gas & Electric Company and the NRC staff on February 21, 1978, preliminary results of the Combustion Engineering analyses of the more severely worn assemblies identified to date indicate that the stress criteria established in CEN-79-P may be exceeded in some guide tubes during the limiting seismic excitation (SSE). The results of the Combustion Engineering test program to date, however, demonstrate that limiting wear configurations will still allow the CEAs to insert following an SSE. We believe that these test results continue to support the conclusion that guide tube wear will not prevent CEAs from inserting following an SSE.

Combustion Engineering has informed us that they are continuing their evaluation of the inspection results and we will inform the NRC staff when final analytical and test results are available. It should be emphasized that the results referred to in this letter are preliminary and are provided to ensure that the NRC staff is informed of the most current results.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. Uhrig
Vice President

REU/MAS/bab

cc: Mr. James P. O'Reilly, Region II
Harold F. Reis, Esquire

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