

PUBLIC NOTICE

NRC STAFF PROPOSES TO AMEND THE
ST. LUCIE PLANT, UNIT NO.1, RENEWED FACILITY OPERATING LICENSE

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission) has received an application dated July 19, 2019, from Florida Power & Light Company (the licensee) for an exigent amendment to the St. Lucie Plant, Unit No. 1, Renewed Facility Operating License. The facility is located in Jensen Beach, Florida.

The exigent amendment would modify Technical Specification (TS) 3/4.8.1, "A.C. [Alternating Current] Sources," Action b, to allow for a one-time extension of the allowed outage time for an emergency diesel generator (EDG) from 14 days to 30 days.

The licensee requested that the proposed amendment be processed on an exigent basis in accordance with the provisions in Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Section 50.91(a)(6). Under 10 CFR 50.91(a)(6)(i), where the Commission finds that exigent circumstances exist in that a licensee and the Commission must act quickly and that time does not permit the Commission to publish a *Federal Register* notice allowing 30 days for prior public comment, and it also determines that the amendment involves no significant hazards considerations, the Commission may use local media to provide reasonable notice to the public in the area surrounding a licensee's facility of the licensee's amendment and of its proposed determination that no significant hazards consideration is involved, consulting with the licensee on the proposed media release and on the geographical area of its coverage.

The licensee provided the following information to support its need for this exigent license amendment request. On July 15, 2019, at 0736 hours, the 1B EDG was declared out of service to support its monthly testing. At 0919 hours, while performing the testing, the 1B EDG unexpectedly tripped on high water temperature. Subsequent troubleshooting revealed that the 1B2 engine radiator fan was not rotating because the coupling between the crank shaft and stub

shaft that drives the radiator fan failed from a fatigue mechanism. Furthermore, the licensee determined that the EDG repairs require an extensive disassembly and refurbishment of the 1B2 EDG engine and will challenge the current allowed outage time of 14 days and provide little margin for contingencies.

The licensee stated that the current estimate returns the EDG to service within the 14-day allowed outage time, but does not allow for any additional discovery. Further, the licensee stated that a forced outage to repair the 1B2 EDG engine would result in an unnecessary transient to the unit.

As required by 10 CFR 50.91(a), the licensee has provided its analysis of the issue of no significant hazards consideration using the standards in 10 CFR 50.92. The licensee and the NRC staff have evaluated this proposed change regarding the determination of whether or not a significant hazards consideration is involved. Operation of St. Lucie Plant, Unit No. 1, in accordance with the proposed amendment will not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated. The proposed license amendment provides a one-time 30-day allowed outage time allowance in TS 3/4.8.1, Action b, for one EDG. This change will have no effect on accident probabilities since the EDGs are not considered accident initiators. The proposed extension does not require any physical plant modifications. Since no individual precursors of an accident are affected, the proposed amendment does not increase the probability of a previously analyzed event. The consequences of an evaluated accident are determined by the operability of plant systems designed to mitigate those consequences. The EDGs are backup power to components that mitigate the consequences of accidents. The current TSs normally permit a single EDG to be inoperable for up to 14 days.

The proposed license amendment extends the current allowed outage time for the 1B EDG on a one-time basis, to no more than a total of 30 days. The proposed change does not

affect any of the assumptions used in deterministic safety analysis. Granting the proposed change will not adversely affect the consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

Therefore, the proposed amendment does not involve a significant increase in the probability or consequences of an accident previously evaluated.

The proposed amendment will not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any previously analyzed. Creation of the possibility of a new or different kind of accident requires creating one or more new accident precursors. New accident precursors may be created by modifications of plant configuration, including changes in allowable modes of operation. The proposed amendment provides a one-time allowance of a 30-day allowed outage time for TS 3/4.8.1, Action b. This change does not involve a modification of the physical configuration of the plant (i.e., no new equipment will be installed), create any new failure modes for existing equipment, or create any new limiting single failures. The plant equipment considered available when evaluating the existing allowed outage time remains unchanged. The extended allowed outage time will permit completion of repair activities without incurring transient risks associated with performing a unit shutdown with the EDG unavailable. Therefore, the proposed amendment does not create the possibility of a new or different kind of accident from any accident previously evaluated.

The proposed amendment will not involve a significant reduction in a margin of safety. The proposed license amendment provides a risk-informed, one-time allowance of a 30-day allowed outage time for TS 3/4.8.1, Action b. A deterministic evaluation of the proposed allowed outage time demonstrates there is sufficient margin to safety during the extended EDG allowed outage time period. During the extended allowed outage time, sufficient compensatory measures will be established to maintain the defense-in-depth design philosophy to ensure the electrical power system meets its design safety function. Therefore, the proposed amendment does not result in a significant reduction in the margin of safety.

Following an initial review of this application, the requested amendment has been evaluated against the standards in 10 CFR 50.92, and the NRC staff has made a proposed (preliminary) determination that the requested amendment involves no significant hazards considerations. The changes do not significantly increase the probability or consequences of any accident previously considered, nor create the possibility of an accident of a different kind, nor significantly decrease any margin of safety.

If the proposed determination that the requested license amendment involves no significant hazards consideration becomes final, the staff will issue the amendment without first offering an opportunity for a public hearing. An opportunity for a hearing will be published in the *Federal Register* at a later date, and any hearing request will not delay the effective date of the amendment.

If the staff decides in its final determination that the amendment does involve a significant hazards consideration, a notice of opportunity for a prior hearing will be published in the *Federal Register* and, if a hearing is granted, it will be held before the amendment is issued. Comments on the proposed determination of no significant hazards consideration may be (1) telephoned to Undine Shoop, Chief, Licensing Projects Branch II-2, by toll-free telephone number 1-800-368-5642 or by facsimile to 301-415-2102, (2) e-mailed to Undine.Shoop@nrc.gov, or (3) submitted in writing to Melissa Ralph, Office of Administration, Mail Stop: OWFN-2-A13, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001. All comments received by 4:15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on July 25, 2019, will be considered in reaching a final determination. A copy of the application may be examined electronically through the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) in the NRC Library at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> by using Accession No. ML19200A283 and at the Commission's Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, Public File Area O1 F21, 11555 Rockville Pike (first floor), Rockville,

Maryland. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS should contact the NRC PDR Reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail to pdr.resource@nrc.gov.