

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

July 15, 1974



Mr. John F. O'Leary, Director
Directorate of Licensing
Office of Regulation
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

Dear Mr. O'Leary:

UNUSUAL EVENT NOS. 250-74-3 AND 251-74-3
TURKEY POINT PLANT UNITS 3 AND 4
UTILIZATION OF IMPROPER CAPACITORS
IN THE ROD CONTROL CIRCUITRY

In accordance with Technical Specification 6.6.2b, the following unusual event is reported:

Capacitor failures in the rod control power supply filter assemblies have caused control rod drops which have initiated turbine runbacks. These capacitors are used in the movable and stationary gripper coils of the control rod drive mechanism. They are manufactured by the Midwec Company and use mylar as the dielectric material. The capacitors failed because they were unable to withstand the voltage spikes inherent in the stationary gripper thyristor circuits.

The problem has been taken up with the reactor vendor who is investigating a suitable replacement capacitor. Until a replacement has been found, the reactor vendor recommended that the capacitors be disconnected from the circuit, as this would not prevent the rod control circuitry from performing its intended safety function. This recommendation was implemented as a special test to be conducted until the arrangement either proves unsatisfactory or a replacement is available. The capacitors were disconnected from Units 3 and 4 on June 12, and 17, 1974, respectively.

Sincerely yours,

A. B. Schmidt
A. B. Schmidt
Director of Power Resources

DWR/kmw

cc: Mr. Norman C. Moseley
Jack R. Newman, Esquire

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