

REPLY TO: RICHARD STONE
Suite 200-B
2639 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

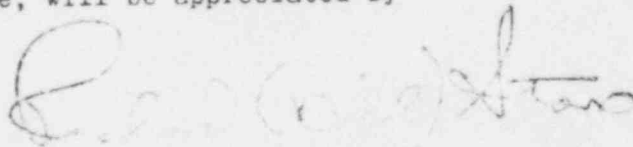
United States Senate

4/9/76

Respectfully referred to:

William Anders, Chairman
Nuclear regulatory Comm.
Washington, D. C. 20555

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by



U.S.S.

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Form #2

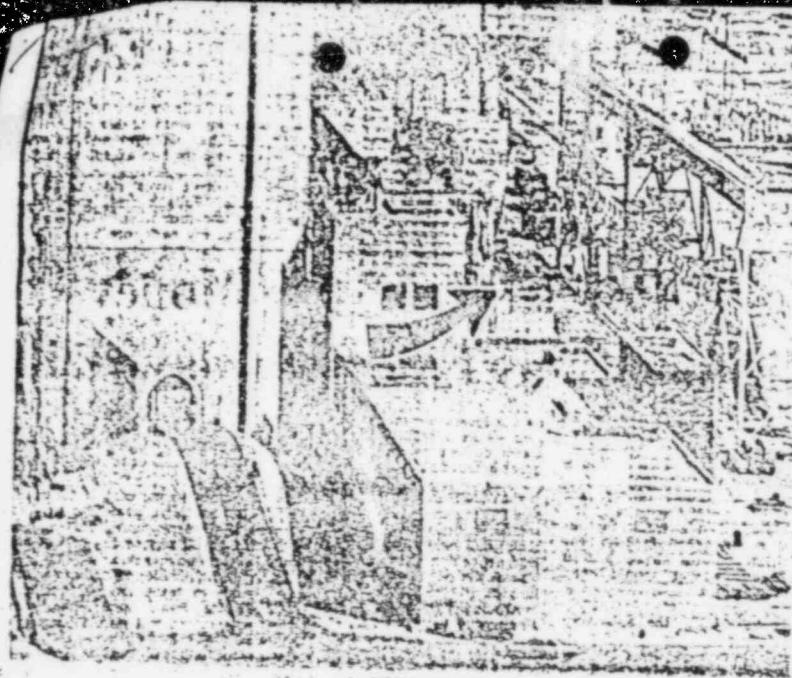
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March 24, 1976

We are witnessing a trend of extreme carelessness in the operation of nuclear power plants. Nuclear power is a new and an extremely dangerous source of energy, of which little is known of its long term effects. Therefore every security precaution should be abided by without exception or the power plant should not be allowed to operate. Time is running out and we want the leaks at Turkey Point fixed. Will you help?

Edward, Nicki & Caryn Truppmann
1975 N.E. 117th Road
North Miami, Florida 33181

Nicki & Caryn Truppmann



—BATTLE VAUGHAN / Miami Herald Staff

Arrow Points to General Area of Seepage at FPL Turkey Point Plant
... utility plans continued and expanded use of used fuel storage pits

Minor Leaks Discovered In FPL Nuclear Fuel Pits

By MIKE TONER
Herald Environment Writer

Highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel has been stored in leaking pits at the Turkey Point power plant near Miami for more than two years — with the full knowledge of both Florida Power and Light Co. and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Some radioactivity already has escaped from the plant as a result of the leak. FPL officials say that the releases of radiation have been small and pose no threat to the public or to plant workers.

But the company admits that ra-

dioactive water has been leaking at irregular rates from both of the plant's spent fuel pits — heavily shielded structures of concrete and stainless steel designed for the temporary storage of "hot" used fuel after it is removed from the plant's two reactors.

ALTHOUGH THE water now is being collected and filtered to remove radioactive contamination, attempts to plug the leaks have been unsuccessful so far.

Repair efforts have been hampered by the intense radioactivity inside the pits, which makes it im-

possible for people to work inside them.

The pits are multi-story, bunker-like structures adjoining the main reactor buildings at the power plant, located on the shores of Biscayne Bay 25 miles south of Miami.

Each year, a portion of the plant's fuel — no longer useful for producing electricity, but still at lethal radioactive levels — is unloaded from the reactors.

THE SPENT fuel, pellets of uranium and other radioactive materials encased in bundles of long, slender rods, then is placed inside the pits and flooded with water to help control the release of heat and radioactivity.

But the water itself also becomes radioactive — and it is that water which is now leaking from the fuel pits.

A company spokesman says that the pits are "unbelievably secure" and constructed to the same standards as the main reactor buildings.

But leaks first were detected in the steel liners of one of the pits in 1972 — before the nuclear plant went into service and before any radioactive fuel was stored in the pits.

The company didn't repair the leaks then because it considered them to be "minor."

TODAY, THE rate of leakage is 90 gallons an hour — approximately 45 times what it was when it was first detected.

Leaks in the other pit were first discovered in late 1975. The rate of leakage there has been slower — at times only a seep — but radioactive water there has breached not only the pit's steel liner, but a four-foot concrete wall.

Permanent repairs now may have

"The leaks are undesirable, and we would like to get rid of them, but they are no safety hazard. The pits are not going to collapse, and they are not going to fall apart."

—FPL's A. D. Schmidt

FPL, U.S. Agency Aware of Turkey Point Leaks

(Front PAGE 1)

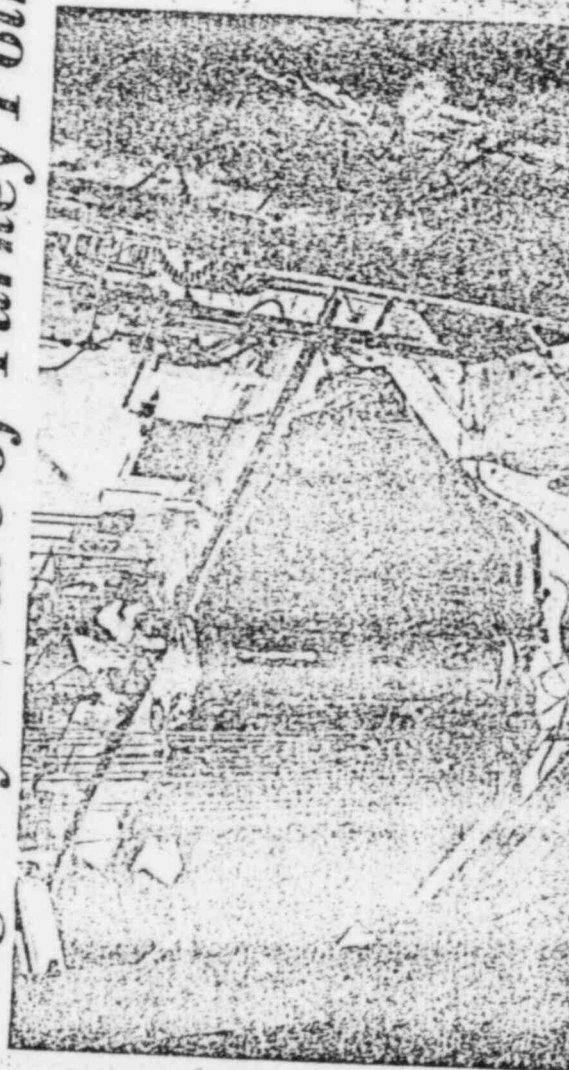
wait until all of the fuel can be loaded and the pits drained — something that may not be possible several years.

In the meantime, FPL actually has to expand the storage capacity of the leaking pits — even though they may not be able to repair the pits themselves.

ORDINARILY, the used fuel would be stored in the pits for only a few months before being trucked away to one of the nation's three commercial reprocessing facilities.

"In terms of the imminent threat to the public, the risk of these leaks is rather small. At the long-term risks are much greater. These leaks are not a potential problem, they are happening right now."

Robert Pollard,
Union of Concerned



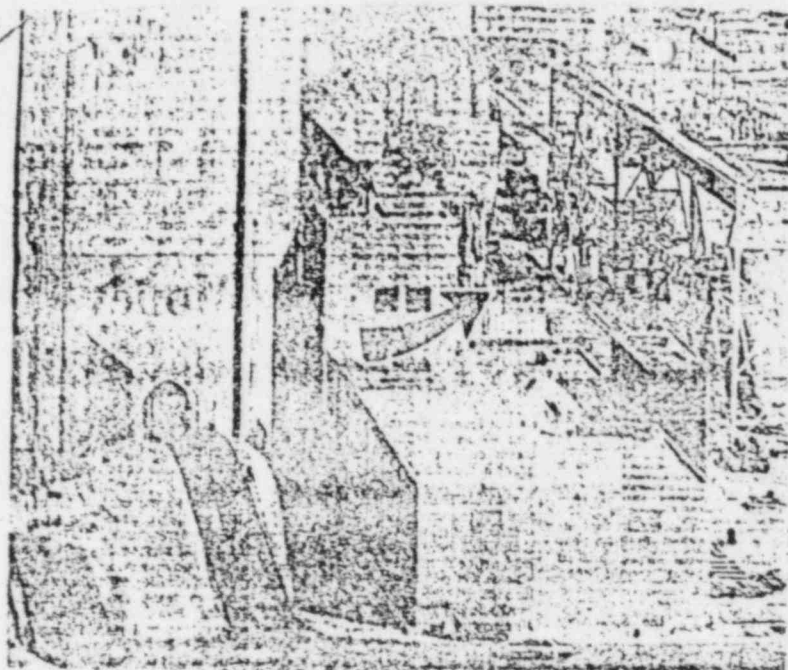
Pool-Like Area Inside Turkey Point Plant Contains Nuclear Fuel. ... spent nuclear material goes into separate pits.

THE AMOUNT of radioactive cobalt released, however, was approximately 15 times the amount released from the plant in all of the first six months of 1975.

To prevent a repeat of the mishap, FPL decided to label the drains in the floor of the plant, and it ordered workers to "request guidance from knowledgeable personnel whenever any uncertainty arises over the handling of radioactive materials."

Schmidt says the employees responsible for the accident were "disciplined," but not fired. And he says that in spite of the

"The company is caught in the equivalent of a Catch 22. They didn't fix the leaks when they had the chance, and now that the leaks are apparently getting worse, they have so much fuel on hand that they can't fix them. If it weren't



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FROM: Sen. Richard (Dick) Stone		ACTION CONTROL		DATES		CONTROL NO.	
		COMPL DEADLINE		4/28/76		00231	
		ACKNOWLEDGMENT				DATE OF DOCUMENT	
		INTERIM REPLY				4/9/76	
TO: Chairman Anders		FINAL REPLY				PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:	
		FILE LOCATION				<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OTHER: Omitted	
DESCRIPTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS					
Encl ltr fm Edward, Nicki & Caryn Truppmann concerning leaks at Turkey Point		Return enclosure w/reply					
Encls: Clippings		LPDR?					
CLASSIFIED DATA							
DOCUMENT/COPY NO.		CLASSIFICATION					
NUMBER / PAGES		CATEGORY		SECY 76-1584			
POSTAL REGISTRY NO.		<input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD					
ASSIGNED TO:		DATE		INFORMATION ROUTING		LEGAL REVIEW	
Rusche		4/16/76		Case		<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY	
				Docket Files) 50-250		NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:	
				PDR 50-251		<input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR EXT.	
				Thornburg ✓		COMMENTS, NOTIFY:	
						EXT.	
JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO							

NRG FORM 232
(11-75)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

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PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

No. **76-1584**Logging Date **4/13/76**

NRC SECRETARIAT

TO: ☐ Commissioner _____ Date _____
☒ Exec. Dir./Oper. _____ ☐ Gen. Counsel _____
☐ Cong. Liaison _____ ☐ Solicitor _____
☒ Public Affairs _____ ☐ Secretary _____
☐ _____

Incoming: Richard (Dick) Stone, U.S.S.

From: _____

To: Chairman Anders Date 4/9/76Subject: Referring constituents Edward, Nicki
& Caryn Trupmann fear of nuclear energy as
a power source for consideration.☒ Prepare reply for signature of:☐ Chairman☐ Commissioner _____☒ EDO, GC, CL, SOL, PA, SECY

SUSPENSE: April 28

☐ Signature block omitted☐ _____☐ Return original of incoming with response☐ For direct reply*☐ For appropriate action☐ For information☐ For recommendation

Rec'd Off. Dir.
Date 4/15/76
Time 2:20

Remarks: Cy of incoming to Chairman, PE, OGC, EDO,
PE, OCA. OCA to acknowledge.

RF

For the Commission: 

*Send three (3) copies of reply to Secy Mail Facility