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**NRC ESTABLISHES RESTART PANEL FOR CRYSTAL RIVER PLANT,
SCHEDULES CORRECTIVE ACTION MEETING IN ATLANTA**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has established a special group to review issues surrounding Florida Power Corporation's (FPC) Crystal River plant before the plant is allowed to restart. That restart panel is composed of NRC technical staff members from the NRC Region II office in Atlanta and from the agency's headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, and is chaired by Region II Division of Reactor Safety Deputy Director Johns Jaudon.

The Crystal River plant was voluntarily shut down in early September by FPC, who identified several potential unreviewed safety questions. In addition, the NRC staff has observed significant performance concerns at the plant during the past two years. The staff will also be reviewing a Corrective Action Program initiated by FPC to assess its effectiveness in reversing the declining performance trend.

The restart panel is established under NRC Manual Chapter 0350 (Staff Guidelines for Restart Approval) and is responsible for providing oversight of the Crystal River restart project and making recommendations to the Region II Administrator and the Director of the NRC's Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in the agency's headquarters. The restart panel will meet periodically to review the status of the current shutdown, FPC's progress on restart issues and related NRC inspection and assessment activities.

A meeting to discuss the status of FPC's Corrective Action Program at the Crystal River plant is scheduled to be held in the NRC's Region II office at 101 Marietta Street in Atlanta Thursday, November 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. That meeting is open to the public for observation.

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