

March 05, 1997
EN 97-018

OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF SIGNIFICANT ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Licensee: Florida Power Corporation (EAs 96-365, 96-465 and 96-527)
Crystal River Unit 3
Docket Nos. 50-302

Subject: NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND EXERCISE OF ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION

This is to inform the Commission that a Notice of Violation and Exercise of Enforcement Discretion will be issued on or about March 12, 1997, to Florida Power Corporation (FPC). The violations identified indicate a broad spectrum of problems exist in FPC's Engineering program at Crystal River Unit 3. The action includes: (1) a Severity Level II problem for failure to meet the requirements of 10 CFR 50.59 in six cases; (2) a Severity Level III violation for failure to ensure that regulatory and plant design basis requirements are met; and, (3) a Severity Level III violation for untimely and inadequate corrective actions resulting in the failure to identify significant unreviewed safety questions and containment integrity issues.

In accordance with Section VII.B.6 of the Enforcement Policy, the NRC staff proposes to exercise enforcement discretion and refrain from issuing a civil penalty in this case. Discretion is appropriate in that: (1) NRC issued a \$500,000 civil penalty on July 10, 1996 (EA 95-126) which included sanctions for engineering violations; (2) following NRC identification of the current issues, FPC voluntarily extended the shut down of the Crystal River facility and developed a comprehensive program for problem identification and correction; (3) FPC has demonstrated that remedial action will be taken to ensure reestablishment of design margins for plant systems prior to plant restart; and, (4) FPC's decision to restart the Crystal River facility requires NRC concurrence in accordance with a Confirmatory Action Letter issued on March 4, 1997.

It should be noted that the licensee has not been specifically informed of the enforcement action. The schedule for issuance and notification is:

Mailing of Notice	March 12, 1997
Telephone Notification of Licensee	March 12, 1997

The State of Florida will be notified.

The licensee has thirty days from the date of the Notice in which to respond.

Contacts: B. Uryc, RII, 404-331-5505 J. Lieberman, OE, 301-415-2741

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION - NOT FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE UNTIL
VERIFICATION THAT LICENSEE HAS RECEIVED ACTION