

APRIL 11, 1997

EA 97-024 -

Florida Power Corporation
Crystal River Energy Complex
Mr. Roy A. Anderson (SA2C)
Sr. VP, Nuclear Operations
ATTN: Mgr., Nuclear Licensing
15760 West Power Line Street
Crystal River, FL 34428-6708

SUBJECT: NRC SPECIAL INSPECTION REPORT NO. 50-302/97-04

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This refers to the inspection conducted on January 27 through March 21, 1997, at the Crystal River facility. The purpose of the inspection was to follow up on failures to report outside design basis and other conditions to the NRC as required. The enclosed report presents the results of this inspection.

Based on the results of this inspection, three apparent Violations were identified and are being considered for escalated enforcement action in accordance with the "General Statement of Policy and Procedure for NRC Enforcement Actions" (Enforcement Policy), NUREG-1600. One apparent Violation involves two examples: (1) failure to report to the NRC the outside design basis condition, involving insufficient emergency feedwater pump net positive suction head, that was identified in April 1996; and (2) failure to report to the NRC in a timely manner the outside design basis condition, involving a non-safety-related transfer switch installed in safety-related emergency safeguards status indicating light circuitry, that was identified in December 1995. This apparent Violation is of concern because example (1) involved a condition that resulted in escalated enforcement in 1997 and your failure to report the condition contributed to a lack of timely NRC awareness and review of the condition. As a result, the NRC missed an opportunity to ensure that appropriate corrective actions were taken to address an outside design basis condition. This apparent Violation is also of concern because it is a repeat of previous Violations 50-302/94-27-02, 50-302/94-27-03, and 50-302/96-06-06, which involved failures to report outside design basis conditions to the NRC as required by 10 CFR 50.72 and 50.73. Another concern, related to example (2) of this apparent Violation, was because it had an incorrect date for the discovery of the nonconforming condition and the LER failed to address or include corrective action for the untimely engineering review of the nonconforming condition. The other apparent Violations involved recent problems with reporting conditions to the NRC; including failure to make an emergency phone report within the time requirements of 10 CFR 73.71 and failure to hand carry a suspected reportable issue to the Shift Manager for a reportability review, as required by the licensee's procedures.

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The circumstances surrounding these apparent Violations, the significance of the issues, and the need for lasting and effective corrective action were discussed with members of your staff at the inspection exit meetings on January 31, February 27, and March 21, 1997. As a result, it may not be necessary to conduct a predecisional enforcement conference in order to enable the NRC to make an enforcement decision. However, a Notice of Violation is not presently being issued for these inspection findings. Before the NRC makes its enforcement decision, we are providing you an opportunity to either (1) respond to the apparent violations addressed in this inspection report within 30 days of the date of this letter or (2) request a predecisional enforcement conference. Please contact Mr. Harold Christensen at (404) 331-4700 within seven days of the date of this letter to notify the NRC of your intended response.

Your response should be clearly marked as a "Response to Apparent Violations in Inspection Report No. 50-302/97-04 and should include for each apparent Violation: (1) the reason for the apparent Violation, or, if contested, the basis for disputing the apparent Violation, (2) the corrective steps that have been taken and the results achieved, (3) the corrective steps that will be taken to avoid further violations, and (4) the date when full compliance will be achieved. Your response should be submitted under oath or affirmation and may reference or include previously docketed correspondence, if the correspondence adequately addresses the required response. If an adequate response is not received within the time specified or an extension of time has not been granted by the NRC, the NRC will either proceed with its enforcement decision or schedule a predecisional enforcement conference.

In addition, please be advised that the number and characterization of apparent Violations described in the enclosed inspection report may change as a result of further NRC review. You will be advised by separate correspondence of the results of our deliberations on this matter.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room.

Sincerely,
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY
JOHNS JAUDON

Johns P. Jaudon, Director
Division of Reactor Safety

Docket No. 50-302
License No. DPR-72

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-302/97-04

cc w/encl: See page 3

cc w/encl:

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cc w/encl cont'd: See page 4

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





cc w/encl cont'd:
 Chairman
 Board of County Commissioners
 Citrus County
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 Inverness, FL 34450-4245

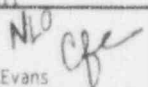
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