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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, INDUSTRY TEAM TO ASSESS IMPACT
OF HURRICANE ANDREW ON TURKEY POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) have assembled a joint eight-member team that will go to the Turkey Point nuclear power plant Tuesday, November 3, to compile experience from and to report on the damage resulting from Hurricane Andrew which struck South Florida where Turkey Point is located on August 24.

Plant safety was adequately assured both during and after the hurricane; however, the NRC staff, INPO and Florida Power and Light Company (FP&L), which owns and operates the Turkey Point and St. Lucie nuclear power plants, believe that a compilation of the lessons learned from the storm and its aftermath could be of benefit to nuclear utilities subject to hurricanes and to the NRC's oversight of hurricane response. Florida Power and Light Company already has compiled much of this information during cleanup efforts to return the Turkey Point units to service. The joint team's study will be separate and independent from normal NRC staff regulatory activities.

Unit 4 was returned to service on October 24 after verification of offsite emergency preparedness and Unit 3 is in a planned refueling outage. The restart activities were reviewed separately through the NRC's normal inspection process.

The study will cover the period beginning with Florida Power and Light's prior planning and preparations for the hurricane up to the time that offsite power was restored to the site on August 30. It will focus on lessons learned related to the following:

-- facility operating and human resource decisions as a result of weather predictions and existing procedures and plans;

-- emergency preparedness and emergency response as it related to utility internal actions;

-- the impact on safety equipment from damage to nonsafety-related equipment;

-- damage to systems such as fire protection and plant lighting resulting from the hurricane and the respective compensatory measures taken; and

-- human performance and needs related to shift staffing and coping including issues associated with food and potable water supplies and site access.

Management oversight of the team will be provided by the Director of the NRC's Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data and INPO's Vice President and Director of the Analysis Division. The team is expected to be at Turkey Point for about a week and will take approximately 45 days more to prepare its report, which will be made public.

Co-team leaders are Frederick Hebdon, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, NRC, and Michael Haydin, INPO. Other members are: Henry Bailey, Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, NRC; Roger Kenneally, Office of Research, NRC; Richard Crlenjak, Region II (Atlanta) Office, NRC; George Northcutt, INPO; David Powell, Florida Power and Light and Harvey Wyckoff, Electric Power Research Institute.

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