

United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs
Region II
101 Marietta Street, Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30323

No.: II-96-77

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Ken Clark 404-331-5503 (Friday, September 13, 1996)
Roger Hannah 404-331-7878

NRC SCHEDULES SPECIAL INSPECTION EXIT MEETING AT ST. LUCIE PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled a public exit meeting at Florida Power & Light's St. Lucie nuclear power plant to discuss the results of an NRC maintenance rule inspection at the plant. That meeting will be Friday, September 20 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 123 of the plant's Training Building.

The maintenance rule inspection will begin Monday, September 16 and will conclude with the exit meeting on Friday, September 20. The inspection will be led by NRC Region II Inspector Bill Holland and will include four other regional inspectors with additional staff support from NRC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

The maintenance rule, which all plants were required to implement by July 10, 1996, requires plants to monitor the performance or condition of plant structures, systems or components against established goals to provide assurance they are capable of performing their intended function, or to perform preventive maintenance to keep them capable of performing their function.

The maintenance rule includes not only safety-related structures, systems or components but nonsafety-related parts of the plant that may be needed in an accident or emergency situation, or whose failure may affect safety equipment, or whose failure may cause the plant to automatically shut down or to activate a safety-related system.

The inspection team is looking at whether FPL has established the appropriate goals and risks related to maintenance, and whether the plant staff has the appropriate balance between reliability and availability of equipment and systems.

The first maintenance rule inspection was performed in July at the Palo Verde plant in Arizona, and the NRC will conduct a similar inspection at every commercial nuclear power plant in the country. The maintenance rule inspection at St. Lucie is the first in the southeast (NRC Region II).

####