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Contact: Ken Clark or Roger Hannah   (Wednesday, June 10, 1998)

NRC STAFF ISSUES REPORT ON PERFORMANCE
AT CRYSTAL RIVER NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Performance Is Good With Improvements In All Areas Assessed

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has issued a Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report on Florida Power Corporation's commercial nuclear power plant at Crystal River, Florida which notes good performance and improvements in all areas assessed.

Performance at Crystal River Unit 3 was evaluated in four functional areas for a period from October 6, 1996 through May 9, 1998. The original SALP period was scheduled to end on October 6, 1997 but was extended so that it would include this past January's plant restart and several months of operation following an extended outage

The areas of Plant Operations and Engineering improved from Category 3 (adequate) to Category 2 (good). Performance in the areas of Maintenance and Plant Support remained in Category 2 from the last SALP rating, but the report noted indications of performance improvement in elements of each area.

In a letter to Florida Power Corporation, Luis A. Reyes, administrator of the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, said performance improvement at Crystal River resulted in large part from the ability the plant demonstrated over the last half of the assessment period to identify problems and to take "appropriate and effective corrective actions."

NRC officials will discuss the report with FPC management in a public meeting to be held at the plant training center in Crystal River at 11:00 a.m. on July 2. The meeting will be open to observation by interested members of the public and the news media. NRC officials will hold a short news conference at its conclusion to answer questions from observers who attend.

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