United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Public Affairs, Region II
61 Forsyth Street, Suite 23T85, Atlanta, GA 30303
Tel. 404-562-4416 or 4417 Fax 404-562-4980
Internet: kmc2@nrc.gov or rdh1@nrc.gov

No: II-99-14 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Ken Clark or Roger Hannah (Thursday, April 1, 1999)

NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE' AT ST. LUCIE IN LATEST REVIEW

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable in the NRC's latest plant performance review at the St. Lucie nuclear power plant, operated by Florida Power & Light Company near Jensen Beach, Florida.

In a letter to FPL, NRC official Leonard Wert said overall performance was acceptable and "plant staff continued to make progress in enhancing overall station performance." However, Wert noted that "implementation of corrective actions for identified problems was not always complete."

The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region II Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are being used as an interim measure to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of License Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at eight sites beginning in June and will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at:
http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm.

#