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**NRC OFFICIAL TO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE NEAR
ST. LUCIE NUCLEAR PLANT**

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's top official in the Southeast will hold a news conference in Jensen Beach near Florida Power & Light's St. Lucie nuclear power plant on Tuesday, March 17. Luis Reyes, Regional Administrator of the agency's southeastern office in Atlanta, will brief reporters and answer questions at 1:30 p.m. in the Pelican Room at the Courtyard by Marriott, 10978 South Ocean Drive in Jensen Beach.

He will provide comments on current issues and performance at the St. Lucie plant, NRC participation in a St. Lucie plant emergency exercise March 18, cooperation with the State of Florida, and the NRC's inspection program at other NRC-licensed facilities in the state.

Florida has five NRC-licensed commercial nuclear power reactors at three locations. Florida Power & Light operates the two reactors at the St. Lucie plant as well as two reactors at the Turkey Point plant near Homestead south of Miami. Florida Power Corporation operates one reactor at the Crystal River plant near Crystal River on the west coast of Florida. In addition, the University of Florida operates a small, licensed non-power research and training reactor on its Gainesville campus.

Licenses to possess and use other radioactive materials in Florida, such as those issued to hospitals, research facilities and construction companies, are issued by the state under an agreement with the NRC under which the State of Florida has agreed to require and inspect against safety requirements compatible with those imposed by the NRC on such users in non-agreement states.

The news conference is being held as part of an NRC program to make senior officials available to meet with news media representatives on a periodic basis to provide briefings on subjects of current interest and answer questions from reporters who attend.

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