July 17, 1998

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Mr. John Paul Cowan, Vice President Nuclear Operations (NA2E) Florida Power Corporation Crystal River Energy Complex 15760 W. Power Line Street Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PREPARATION OF BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 (TAC NO. MA1706)

Dear Mr. Cowan:

On May 13, 1998, members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Florida Power Corporation (FPC) met to discuss recent experiences with endangered sea turtles at the Crystal River (CR) site. During the meeting, FPC outlined the plant layout, the recent influx of endangered sea turtles into the CR canal system, and the actions FPC has taken in response to the increased influx of sea turtles into the CR site. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act and 50 CFR Part 402, Interagency Cooperation - Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, it was determined that the consultation process should be initiated. As allowed by Section 402.08, the NRC designates FPC, as a non-Federal representative, to conduct consultation activities, including preparation of a biological assessment (BA). The BA should be provided to the NRC through the normal submittal processes to the Document Control Desk by October 1, 1998.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at (301) 415-1495 . or Ms. Claudia M. Craig at (301) 415-1053.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Leonard A. Wiens, Senior Project Manager Project Directorate II-3 Division of Reactor Projects I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Docket No. 50-302

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CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3

Mr. John Paul Cowan Florida Power Corporation

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Mr. Roy A. Anderson, Senior Vice President Energy Supply Florida Power Corporation ATTN: Manager, Nuclear Licensing Crystal River Energy Complex (SA2A) 15760 W. Power Line Street Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

Mr. R. Alexander Glenn Corporate Counsel Florida Power Corporation MAC-A5A P.O. Box 14042 St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-4042

Mr. Charles G. Pardee, Director Nuclear Plant Operations (NA2C) Florida Power Corporation Crystal River Energy Complex 15760 W. Power Line Street Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

Mr. Robert B. Borsum Framatome Technologies Inc. 1700 Rockville Pike, Suite 525 Rockville, Maryland 20852

Mr. Bill Passetti Office of Radiation Control Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services 1317 Winewood Bivd. Taliahassee, Florida 32399-0700

Attorney General Department of Legal Affairs The Capitol Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Mr. Joe Myers, Director Division of Emergency Preparedness Department of Community Affairs 2740 Centerview Drive Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100 Chairman Board of County Commissioners Citrus County 110 North Apopka Avenue Inverness, Florida 34450-4245

Mr. Robert E. Grazio, Director Nuclear Regulatory Affairs (SA2A) Florida Power Corporation Crystal River Energy Complex 15760 W. Power Line Street Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

Senior Resident Inspector Crystal River Unit 3 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 6745 N. Tallahassee Road Crystal River, Florida 34428

Mr. Gregory H. Halnon Acting Director, Quality Programs (SA2B) Florida Power Corporation Crystal River Energy Complex 15760 W. Power Line Street Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

Regional Administrator, Region II U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Suite 23T85 Atlanta, GA 30303-3415

Mr. Robert P. Schin U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Suite 23T85 Atlanta, GA 30303-3415 CC:

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Ms. Colleen Coogan Section 7 Coordinator National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Region Protected Species Division 9721 Executive Center Drive North St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Mr. Alan Foley Florida Marine Research Institute 100 Eighth Ave., S.E. St. Petersburg, FL 33701