

**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION****[Docket Nos. 50–335 and 389]****Florida Power and Light Company, et al., St. Lucie Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2; Notice of Issuance of Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–67 and NPF–16 for an Additional 20-Year Period**

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) has issued Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–67 and NPF–16 to Florida Power and Light Company (the licensee), the operator of the St. Lucie Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2 (St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2). Renewed Facility Operating License No. DPR–67 authorizes operation of St. Lucie, Unit 1, by the licensee at reactor core power levels not in excess of 2700 megawatts thermal in accordance with the provisions of the St. Lucie, Unit 1, renewed license and its Technical Specifications. Renewed Facility Operating License No. NPF–16 authorizes operation of St. Lucie, Unit 2, by the licensee at reactor core power levels not in excess of 2700 megawatts thermal in accordance with the provisions of the St. Lucie, Unit 2, renewed license and its Technical Specifications.

St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2, are pressurized, light water moderated and cooled, nuclear reactors located on Hutchinson Island in St. Lucie County, Florida.

The applications for the renewed licenses complied with the standards and requirements of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the Act), and the Commission's regulations. As required by the Act and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR chapter I, the Commission has made appropriate findings, which are set forth in each license. Prior public notice of the action involving the proposed issuance of these renewed licenses and of an opportunity for a hearing regarding the proposed issuance of these renewed licenses was published in the **Federal Register** on December 27, 2001 (66 FR 66946).

For further details with respect to this action, see (1) the Florida Power and Light Company's renewal application for St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2, dated November 29, 2001, as supplemented by letters dated January 8, June 25, August 26, September 26 (four letters), October 3, October 10, November 27, December 23, 2002, and January 9, February 4, March 27 (two letters), March 28, April 25, May 30, June 10, and June 23, 2003; (2) the Commission's safety evaluation

report, September 2003 (NUREG–1779); (3) the licensee's updated final safety analysis report; and (4) the Commission's final environmental impact statements (NUREG–1437), Supplement 11, for St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2, dated May 19, 2003. These documents are available at the NRC's Public Document Room, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, first floor, Rockville, Maryland 20852, and can be viewed from the NRC Public Electronic Reading Room at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>.

Copies of Renewed Facility Operating License Nos. DPR–67 and NPF–16 may be obtained by writing to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555–0001, Attention: Director, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs. Copies of the safety evaluation report (NUREG–1779), and the final environmental impact statements (NUREG–1437), Supplement 11, for St. Lucie, Units 1 and 2 may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161–0002 (<http://www.ntis.gov>), 1–800–553–6847, or the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, requestor's Government Printing Office deposit account number or VISA or MasterCard number and expiration date.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 2 day of October, 2003.

For The Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**Pao-Tsin Kuo,**

*Program Director, License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program, Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.*

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**NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION****[Docket No. 50–423]****Dominion Nuclear Connecticut, Inc., Millstone Power Station, Unit No. 3; Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is considering issuance of exemptions from Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46, and appendix K, for Facility Operating License No. NPF–49, issued to Dominion Nuclear Connecticut (the licensee), for operation of the Millstone Power Station, Unit No. 3 (MP3), located in Waterford, Connecticut. Therefore, pursuant to 10 CFR 51.21, the NRC is issuing this environmental

assessment and finding of no significant impact.

**Environmental Assessment***Identification of the Proposed Action*

The proposed action would exempt MP3 from the requirements of 10 CFR part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46 and appendix K, to allow the use of up to eight Lead Test Assemblies (LTAs) fabricated with Optimized ZIRLO, a cladding material that contains a nominally lower tin content than previously approved cladding materials.

The proposed action is in accordance with the licensee's application dated July 1, 2003.

*The Need for the Proposed Action*

As the nuclear industry pursues longer operating cycles with increased fuel discharge burnups and more aggressive fuel management, the corrosion performance specifications for the nuclear fuel cladding become more demanding. Industry data indicates that corrosion resistance improves for cladding with a lower tin content. The optimum tin level provides a reduced corrosion rate while maintaining the benefits of mechanical strengthening and resistance to accelerated corrosion from abnormal chemistry conditions. In addition, fuel rod internal pressures (resulting from the increased fuel duty, use of integral fuel burnable absorbers and corrosion/temperature feedback effects) have become more limiting with respect to fuel rod design criteria. By reducing the associated corrosion buildup, and thus, minimizing temperature feedback effects, additional margin to fuel rod internal pressure design criteria is obtained.

As part of a program to address these issues, the Westinghouse Electric Company has developed an LTA program, in cooperation with the licensee, that includes a fuel cladding with a tin content lower than the currently licensed range for ZIRLO. The NRC's regulations in 10 CFR part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46, and appendix K, make no provision for use of fuel rods clad in a material other than Zircalloy or ZIRLO. The licensee has requested the use of up to eight LTAs with a tin composition that is less than that specified in the licensing basis for ZIRLO, as defined in Westinghouse design specifications. Therefore, use of the LTAs calls for exemptions from 10 CFR part 50, section 50.44, section 50.46, and appendix k.

*Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action*

The NRC staff has completed its environmental evaluation of the