



[Need an old article?](#)
Search the archives
back to 1989

- NEW ONLINE
- NASCAR
 - Entertainment
 - Read Together PBC Marketplace
 - E-Catalog
 - Dining Guide

- TODAY'S PAPER
- Main News
 - Central/North PBC
 - Martin/St. Lucie
 - South PBC
 - Obituaries
 - Business
 - Sports
 - Opinion/Letters
 - Accent
 - Movie Listings
 - Classifieds
 - Cars
 - Homes
 - Jobs
 - Photo of the Day
 - Don Wright Cartoon
 - Quick Headlines

- WEEKLY
- A&E
 - Food & Dining
 - Good Life
 - Neighborhood Post
 - Notables
 - TGIF
 - Travel
 - Travel Deals
 - Real Estate Wknd
 - Locator Directory

- SERVICES
- Place a Classified
 - Search Archives
 - Subscribe
 - Advertise
 - Announcements
 - Internships
 - Purchase a Photo
 - Conduct Research
 - Plan your Vacation
 - Events Calendar
 - Contests
 - Page Reproductions
 - Order Shady Palms

SEARCH FOR NEWS

Enter Keyword:

Go!

Thursday, February 21
[Accent](#) | [Business](#) | [Local News](#) | [Martin/St.Lucie](#) | [News](#) | [Opinion](#) | [South PB County](#) | [Sports](#)

Nuclear commission to issue formal rules for power plant security

By Deborah Circelli, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, February 20, 2002

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is preparing to issue formal orders requiring tighter security at the nation's nuclear plants.

NRC spokesman Victor Dricks said the federal agency, citing security reasons, cannot disclose the details of the orders, but did say some of the demands are new. Generally speaking, the orders cover access to the plant, stricter training for guards, a greater distance between the plant and vehicle search areas and increased coordination on the part of local, state and federal agencies, he said.

"The high-level threat environment has persisted longer than expected," Dricks said Tuesday, explaining the NRC's move.

The orders will be issued in the coming weeks to the nation's 103 reactors, which include Florida Power & Light Co.'s four reactors in St. Lucie and Miami-Dade counties. No specific date was given.

FPL officials said Tuesday the company believes it has had many of the new requirements in place since the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington.

"FPL has already incorporated many of these security measures into our program," spokeswoman Rachel Scott said.

Meanwhile, a nuclear advocacy group said the NRC orders would amount only to formalizing the recommendations it has made over the past five months.

"It's not good enough, in our opinion," said Ed Lyman, scientific director of the Washington, D.C.-based Nuclear Control Institute, which supports having military forces stand watch at nuclear plants. "It's just tinkering around the edges. It's not dealing with the fundamental, systemic problems with reactor security that exists today."

The NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will evaluate FPL's disaster response today during the company's annual drill at the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant on Hutchinson Island. The drill, which measures how the plant would respond in case of an event such as a leak of radioactive steam, involves hundreds of employees as well as state and county law enforcement agencies.

But Lyman said the NRC needs to go back to having attack drills at nuclear sites, which were suspended after Sept. 11. The attack drills used simulated events such as an armed invasion to test plant security. Roger Hannah, an Atlanta-based NRC spokesman, said the NRC will return to the attack drills sometime in the future.

"It's more important than ever to make sure the measures they are proposing are adequate," Lyman said.

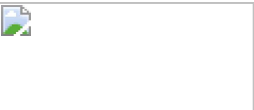
deborah_circelli@pbpost.com

Thursday, February 21

News Updates

- [Thursday Gold Coin Prices](#)
- [Northwest Settles Disabled Suit](#)
- [New York Exchange Prices S-Z](#)
- [New York Exchange Prices O-S](#)
- [American Exchange Issues](#)
- [New York Exchange Prices K-O](#)

Get the latest news on your favorite team.
[Local Sports here](#)



Free local weekend planner emailed to you
[Sign up now!](#)

Our Partner

[Click Here for](#)

- [ArtiGras, Buffett Pics](#)
- [Spring Training Guide](#)
- [Free Tax Advice](#)
- [Lottery Numbers](#)

Special Sections

- [Wedding Planner](#)
- [Out & About](#)
- [Palm Beach Life](#)
- [Senior Assisted Living](#)

[Email this page to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2002, The Palm Beach Post. All rights reserved.
By using PalmBeachPost.com, you accept the terms of our visitor agreement. [Please read it.](#)
[Contact PalmBeachPost.com](#) | [Advertise with The Post](#)