

Small Hole in Pipe at Nuclear Plant

A disgruntled employee would this ... but how, The pipe could not have been pressurized.

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Officials inspecting a nuclear reactor at the Turkey Point plant here found a small hole drilled into a pipe that helps maintain pressure, and investigators were trying to determine why it was there, Florida Power and Light, the plant's operator, said Saturday.

The one-eighth-inch hole was discovered late Thursday during a series of inspections and tests performed before bringing the reactor back online, the utility said.

A spokeswoman for the utility, Rachel Scott, said the plant was not in danger. The reactor, one of two at the plant, in Miami-Dade County, had been shut down for a routine refueling, Ms. Scott said.

The utility repaired the damaged piping and, though the company's investigation continues, plans to bring the unit back into service in about a week, she said.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are also investigating.