December 21, 2000

Mr. Billy Cypress
Chairman
Miccosukee Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 440021
Miami, FL 33144

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE TURKEY POINT NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Cypress:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) to renew its operating licenses for Turkey Point Units 3 & 4, located on the shore of Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County, Florida, approximately 25 miles south of Miami. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public participation in the environmental review. The NRC recently held two publicly-noticed meetings on December 6, 2000, in the site vicinity. The Turkey Point plants are in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Miccosukee Tribe. We wanted to ensure that you were aware of our efforts and, pursuant to our regulations at 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites the Miccosukee Tribe to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. The application and the environmental review process are described below, and a copy of the meeting handouts are enclosed.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years if NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for Turkey Point will expire in 2012 for Unit 3 and 2013 for Unit 4. FPL submitted its application for license renewal in September of this year and, as part of its application, FPL submitted an environmental report. The application can be found on the Internet at www.nrc.gov/NRC/REACTOR/LR/TURKEYPOINT/index.html. The NRC also made arrangements with the Homestead Branch Library, 700 N. Homestead Blvd., Homestead, Florida, to have this report and other related documents available for public review; in addition, these can be viewed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR) in the Washington, DC, area. Another document, NRC's "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Power Plants" (GEIS) (NUREG-1437), assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site; a copy of this document can also be found in NRC PDR and in the Library.

The NRC is gathering information for the document that will be a Turkey Point plant-specific supplement to the GEIS. The supplement will contain the result of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the Turkey Point Units 3 & 4 that are related to the terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action.

Please submit any written comments the Miccosukee Tribe may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by February 1, 2001. Comments should be submitted either by mail

to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6-D-59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001, or by Internet to **TurkeyPointEIS@nrc.gov.**

At the conclusion of the information-gathering process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the conclusions reached and significant issues identified and will send a copy to you. The summary will also be available for public review in the NRC PDR and at the Library in Homestead, Florida.

The NRC will prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) supplement for public comment and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft EIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final EIS supplement. The issuance of a final environmental statement for Turkey Point is planned for January 2002. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact James H. Wilson, Senior Project Manager, at (301)415-1108.

Sincerely,

/RA/ Signed by C. Carpenter

Cynthia A. Carpenter, Chief
Generic Issues, Environmental, Financial, and
Rulemaking Branch
Division of Regulatory Improvements Program
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251

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B. Zalcman

*See previous concurrence
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