

February 1, 2001

Terrie Bates
Environmental Resource Regulation
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
P.O. Box 24680
West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4680

SUBJECT: U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION REVIEW OF THE TURKEY
POINT UNITS 3 AND 4 LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Bates:

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 and 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. A copy of the meeting handouts are enclosed for your information. Because the Turkey Point plants are in close proximity to lands associated with the South Florida Water Management District, the NRC would like the South Florida Water Management District to identify any issues associated with its activities and the renewal of the operating licenses for Turkey Point Units 3 and 4. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to our regulations at 10 CFR 51.28(b), the NRC invites the South Florida Water Management District 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.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for a period of 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 and 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 South Florida Water Management District may have to offer on issues to be considered in the environmental review within 30 days of the date of this letter. 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.

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: CCarpenter

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

Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/o encl: See next page

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OFFICE	RGEb	RGEb	RGEb:SC	RGEb:BC
NAME	KLeigh	JWilson	BZalcman	CCarpenter
DATE	2/01/01	2/01/01	2/01/01	2/01/01

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Mr. S. Ross, Attorney
Florida Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, Florida 33408-0420

Mr. Robert J. Hovey, Site
Vice President
Turkey Point Nuclear Plant
Florida Power and Light Company
9760 SW. 344th Street
Florida City, Florida 33035

Senior Resident Inspector
Turkey Point Nuclear Plant
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
9762 SW. 344th Street
Florida City, Florida 33035

Mr. Donald Jernigan
Plant Manager
Turkey Point Nuclear Plant
Florida Power and Light Company
9760 SW. 344th Street
Florida City, Florida 33035

Mr. Steve Franzone
Licensing Manager
Turkey Point Nuclear Plant
Florida Power & Light Company
9760 SW. 344th Street
Florida City, Florida 33035

Mr. J.A. Stall
Vice President - Nuclear Engineering
Florida Power & Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, Florida 33408-0420

Mr. Stephen T. Hale
Turkey Point Nuclear Point
Florida Power & Light Company
9760 SW. 344th Street
Florida City, Florida 33035

Ms. E.A. Thompson
Project Manager for License Renewal
Turkey Point Nuclear Plant
Florida Power and Light Company
9760 SW 344th Street
Florida City, Florida 33035

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

Mr. Gary E. Hollinger
Licensing Manager
Turkey Point Nuclear Plant
9760 SW, 344th Street
Florida City, FL 33035

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

Mr. Rajiv S. Kundalkar, Vice President
Nuclear Engineering Florida Power
& Light Company
P.O. Box 14000
Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420