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Rules and Directives
Branch
USNRC

COREY D. GOLD
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Chief, Rules and Directives Branch
Division of Administrative Services
Office of Administration
Mailstop T-6D 59
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

July 17, 2001

RE: Florida Power & Light's Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant License Renewal

Dear Sirs:

My name is Corey Gold and I am an Assistant Vice President at Homestead Hospital in Homestead, Florida. I also serve as Chair Elect for the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce and President Elect for the Homestead/South Dade Kiwanis Club.

My reason for writing today is to support Turkey Point's license renewal request. I attended a recent public forum at the YMCA in Homestead in order to voice my opinion, but had to leave before having an opportunity to speak. Please accept this letter as my opinion for the record.

With the ever-growing community in Homestead, Florida City and throughout Miami-Dade County, we certainly rely on the power provided by Turkey Point. Obviously, every resident of Miami-Dade County prefers power that is safe, clean and affordable. In my opinion, I feel that Nuclear Power is both safe for the environment as well as the population. With respect to use, we often hear about areas where power is lacking and this may especially be true in the hot summer months. I'm sure you are aware that in South Florida, the temperatures remain high making air conditioning a necessity rather than a luxury. Residents are also concerned about the cost of electricity and Turkey Point provides electricity at the lowest cost, keeping our electric bills as low as possible.

Turkey Point is the largest private employer in south Miami-Dade County with more than 800 full-time employees. I understand that during special projects such as refueling outages and the like, 400-500 additional workers are scheduled. With an average wage of \$62,000 per year, Turkey Point has an enormous economic impact on this community through every day purchases by employees and their families, property taxes from the plant and homes, etc. Should we lose this facility, the effects to South Dade County could be catastrophic. Let's not forget the outstanding efforts provided by FPL's Turkey Point employees during Hurricane Andrew in 1992 when hundreds of laborers worked around the clock to assure restoration of power to the thousands of homes affected by the storm.

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Addr = E. HYLTON (E.L.H.)

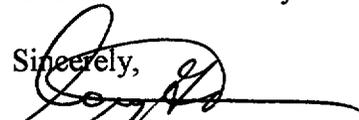
Homestead Hospital is the largest employer in the city of Homestead (more than 500 full-time staff). Turkey Point employees and their families have come to rely on the healthcare services we provide. Of course, we rely on them as well. From the hospital's perspective, should the Turkey Point facility close, the effects would be devastating to the hospital and consequently to the community.

As Chair-Elect for the Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce, I know of the community support provided by FPL at Turkey Point. Through agencies such as United Way, Turkey Point has contributed more than \$150,000 to our community. Turkey Point employees have donated more than 200 pints of much needed blood to our facilities for people in need. Turkey Point continuously contributes time to local charities, community groups, youth organizations, church programs, etc. In cooperation with Miami-Dade Community College, a \$200,000 scholarship has been established for minority students in the Industrial Maintenance and Operations program, and partners with Florida International University (FIU) and University of Miami (UM) Engineering schools. In addition, Turkey Point is an integral part of the Chamber of Commerce, with one of its management employees on our Board of Directors. Her express involvement in community affairs has been invaluable and very much appreciated.

I have had the opportunity to personally tour the Turkey Point facility and observe the precautions taken to assure everyone's safety. I personally observed the safety precautions that are taken and have heard through various sources that the facility has maintained superior ratings from the NRC, having one of the best safety records of all the nuclear power plants in the country.

I've been a resident of Miami-Dade County for 22 years and what brought me to Miami is the beautiful environment that South Florida has to offer. Obviously, I am concerned about preserving the environment and would prefer that environmentally-unfriendly businesses go elsewhere. Turkey Point however, has shown a strong commitment to protecting the environment. Note the most recent award they've received, "Environment Business Practices Award," indicating their strong desire to protect and preserve our environment. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw crocodiles living in the cooling canals at the plant. My tour guide explained that the crocodiles live peacefully and thrive in those canals. He also noted that FPL has set aside land to preserve the natural habitat, helping to restore and maintain south Florida's ecosystem.

In conclusion, I believe that Nuclear Power is one of the safest forms of power available and I am comfortable with the safety procedures followed. I completely support the renewal of the Turkey Point license for the next 20 years.

Sincerely,

Corey D. Gold