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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

RELATED TO THE LEVY NUCLEAR PLANT

COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

+ + + + +

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

1:00 P.M.

Florida National Guard Armory

8551 West Venable Street

Crystal River, Florida 33426

I N D E X

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

MR. CAMERON: Good afternoon, everybody. If you could all take a seat we'll get started with today's meeting.

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Chip Cameron and I work for the Executive Director for Operations at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

And we are going to try not to use any acronyms today that we don't explain, but we will be using NRC for Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

And it is my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for today's meeting. And in that role I'll try to help all of you to have a productive meeting this afternoon.

Now, our subject for today is the environmental review process that the NRC is going to conduct as one part of its evaluation of the license application we received from Progress Energy Florida to build and construct two new nuclear power plants in the site in Levy County.

And what I would like to do is just spend a few minutes on some meeting process issues so you know what to expect this afternoon. And I would like to tell you about the format for today's meeting,

some simple ground rules that will allow us to have a good meeting, a fair and productive meeting, and also to introduce the NRC speakers who are going to be talking to you this afternoon.

In terms of the format for the meeting, it is a two-part format. The first part is to allow us to give all of you some information about what the NRC looks at when it evaluates a license application such as the one we received from Progress Energy Florida to decide whether to grant that license application or not. So we want to tell you about that process and how you can participate in that process.

And to do that, we are going to have some brief NRC presentations that will tell you about the overall process. But I want to emphasize that our focus today is on the environmental review part of that process, but we will go over the complete process so that you know what it is all about.

The second part of the meeting gives us an opportunity to listen to all of you, your advice, your recommendations, your concerns about the environmental review of this license application, and the Environmental Impact Statement that the NRC is

going to prepare as it's environmental review covers a broad range of issues, so you may hear a lot of different topics raised by people in the audience when we go to the time for comments.

The NRC staff is also going to tell you that we're taking written comments on these issues and they will tell you the date that those comments have to be submitted. But we wanted to be here with you in person today and to listen to your comments. And any comments that are submitted or that are made during this meeting will carry the same weight as a written comment.

And you may hear some comments today, you may hear some information today that will prompt you to submit a written comment. And there is certainly nothing wrong with speaking today and also submitting a written comment to us.

We will have time for a few questions between the NRC presentations and when we go to comment for you. But it will be limited because we do want to get to listening to you.

And the NRC staff will be here after the formal close of today's meeting to talk to you about any issues that you might have.

In terms of ground rules, first of all, please let the NRC staff finish their complete presentations before we have any questions for them and that way we will be able to get all of the information out to you at one time.

When we go to questions, if you have a question just signal me and I will bring you this microphone at least to the limit of the cord that it is attached to. Usually we have a cordless mike but I'll try to get out to you so you don't have to come up here. And we'll try to answer your questions. And I would just ask you to introduce yourself to all of us.

And that relates to another ground rule which is I would ask that only one person speak at a time for two reasons. One, so that we can give our full attention to whomever has the microphone at the moment. And secondly, so that we can get a clean transcript.

We are taking a transcript of this meeting. We have Peggy Huffman here who is our Court Reporter. That transcript will be publically available and you will be able to see what was said at this meeting and that will be our record of the

meeting.

And when we go to the comment period, we've asked everybody to fill out one of those yellow cards if you want to talk today. And I will just call your name and ask you to come up here, if you could, so that you can address everybody. And I am going to ask that you limit your -- this is a guideline. I am going to ask that you limit your comments to five minutes. And I appreciate the fact that many of you have spent time preparing your comments. And I apologize in advance if five minutes is not enough time to complete your comments, but usually five minutes is enough time for someone to summarize what their concerns are.

If you have a prepared statement we will attach that to the transcript and it will also be counted as a formal comment to us. So I would just ask you to follow the five-minute rule.

What you say is going to be important not only for the NRC staff, but also for people in the audience who may hear a concern, or a point, an issue that they haven't thought of before. So we will try to keep that to five minutes.

You are not going to hear the NRC staff

commenting on anything that you say today. We are going to listen carefully. We are going to take that back to Washington, D.C., Rockville, Maryland, where our headquarters are, to carefully consider those comments.

And finally, just please extend courtesy to everyone here today. You may hear opinions today that you don't share, that you disagree with. And I would just ask you to please extend courtesy and respect the speaker who is giving that comment even though you might disagree with it.

Let me introduce the NRC staff, first of all, the speakers today. This is Gregory Hatchett right here. And Greg is the Branch Chief of the Environmental Projects Branch, and the people who work for him are responsible for doing the environmental review of these new reactor license applications. And he is going to give you a welcome and an overview of the NRC and the NRC responsibilities.

Then we're going to get to the heart of the NRC review process and we have Mr. Douglas Bruner with us. He is the Project Manager for the environmental review of the Progress Energy Florida

application. And he will tell you about the environmental review but he is also going to cover aspects of the entire NRC review process.

And then we will go out to you for a few questions after both Greg and Doug have talked. I also want to introduce a few other people and we have Brian Anderson. Brian is the Project Manager for the safety aspect of the review, safety aspect; Doug Bruner, environmental review. And Brian is with us in case we have questions on the safety aspects or in case anybody wants to talk to Brian about the safety aspects after the meeting closes.

Our Senior Manager today is Drew Persinko, Andrew Persinko right here. And he is the Deputy Division Director of the Site and Environmental Review Division.

All of the people I introduced to you are in our Office of New Reactors. Doug, Greg, Drew, environmental side; and Brian is on the safety side.

And with that I think I'm going to turn it over to Greg to say a few words to you and we will get on with the substance of the meeting. And thank you very much for being here to help the NRC with this important decision. Gregory?

Mr. HATCHETT: Like Chip said, I want to welcome everybody here to the scoping meeting for the Levy Project for NRC'S portion of the review of the combined license. And I appreciate everyone coming out and taking time out of their busy schedule to be a part of this process. Let me have the next slide.

But as he said, real quickly, my name is Greg Hatchett. I'm the Branch Chief of the Environmental Review Branch and I want to touch quickly on the purpose of the meeting.

And as it indicates here up on the slide, in general the purpose of the meeting is to focus on the scoping portion of NRC's NEPA review for the license application.

Having said that, I want to step back for a moment and remind folks of the outreach meeting that was held back in June where we talked about NRC's review process in general, and the likelihood of an application being provided to the NRC by Progress Energy Florida.

The company having provided that application in the late June time frame, NRC began its review process of that application to do an acceptance review and then to subsequently docket

that application, and following the docketing process to then begin a detailed review of the application to determine its adequacy, its efficiency for licensing.

That process has begun in earnest and now we're here today to talk to you about or to discuss with you environmental concerns so the Commission can develop its Environmental Impact Statement. And this is what we call the scoping process. Let me have the next slide.

Again, in June we talked generically about the licensing process. Today Doug Bruner, when he gets up here, is going to provide a little bit more detail or overview again of that licensing process where he is going to discuss both safety and environmental.

But we're primarily here for the environmental review which we have, we've kicked it off. We're into the detail process which includes gathering environmental information that we would not otherwise have specifically about the site and its environment from you all, which is a very important process. And then he's going to talk a little bit about hearings and he is going to talk in more detail about public involvement. Let me have the next

slide, please.

This is the part about the NRC process that gets me a bit excited. And it gets me excited because I believe our process works best when we have a very diverse and broad group of stakeholders providing input into our process. It helps us make a better decision.

And so what we're hoping for, what I'm hoping for out of this meeting is that we get very constructive and meaningful feedback from everyone here so that we can go forward and complete our Environmental Impact Statement. Because without it we can't really do a good job.

So again, I appreciate everyone being here. I'm very excited about folks being a part of this process. And at this point in time I'm going to turn it over to Doug.

MR. BRUNER: Thank you, Greg. Again, my name is Doug Bruner. I am the NRC Project Manager for the environmental portion of this evaluation.

And what I am going to do initially is describe why the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission exists; then I'm going to briefly describe the NEPA process or introduce you to NEPA. And then I'm going

to discuss how NEPA is incorporated into the NRC review process.

In any event, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is a federal regulatory agency. We exist to regulate the civilian, commercial, industrial, academic and medical uses of nuclear materials in order to protect the public health, public's health and safety, as well as the environment.

Now, NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act, it was signed into law on January 1, 1970. The Act establishes national environmental policy for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment and provides a means for carrying out that goal, which is the Environmental Impact Statement. And I'll be getting into more detail later on in this presentation. Next slide, please.

As you heard from Greg, Progress Energy is seeking a combined license for two new reactors. This combined license is a combined construction permit and operating license with conditions and it is issued by the NRC. It is an NRC decision that authorizes an applicant to construct and operate a nuclear plant at a specific site in accordance with

federal law and regulations.

Progress Energy Florida submitted the combined license application on July 30, 2008 for two AP1000 reactors, Units 1 and 2, to be built at the Levy County site. Next slide, please.

This is also an introductory slide and I will go into more detail further into the presentation. But this slide shows the major portions of the staff's review. NRC's regulations allow COL applications to reference what are called certified designs, or designs that were docketed but not yet approved.

The AP1000 reactor design, is revision fifteen. It was certified by the NRC through a rulemaking. The rulemaking process includes a specific opportunity for public comment. The AP1000 reactor design is being modified by Westinghouse and it is being reviewed by the NRC staff. This design, if acceptable, would again be certified by rulemaking.

Progress Energy is interested in using this revised AP1000 design and their COL application references this design. Additionally, the staff conducts site-specific safety review of the design as

would be located at the Levy County site.

And we also perform an analysis of the environmental impact of using that design at the site, which is what I am going to go into today. But what I do need to mention is that the environmental review is completely independent of the safety review.

Now, it is also important to mention at this point that as part of the COL application, the applicant has requested a limited work authorization. It is also known as an LWA. If approved, the LWA would allow the applicant to perform certain activities associated with the construction of foundations. The LWA is components of both the safety and the environmental reviews. It is important to state that the activities assumed by the applicant under the LWA do not guarantee approval of the COL. Next slide, please.

This slide provides an overview of the application review process. And an applicant will submit an application to the NRC and it undergoes both a safety review and an environmental review. These two reviews run in parallel. The objective of the safety review is, or the product of the safety

review is, the final safety evaluation report. And the product of the environmental review is the Environmental Impact Statement, which is what I'm here to discuss today.

The safety review complies with regulations in order to protect the public health and safety, and the environmental review focuses on the plant's impact on the environment. Both the safety review and the environmental review are subject to hearing, and the Environmental Impact Statement as well as the final Safety Evaluation Report are used in the hearing process for, by the Commission. It is actually used as the main body of evidence in the hearing for the Commission to make a decision on whether or not to approve the license.

Again, the primary purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the environmental review of the Levy -- of the review, or the environmental portion of the review. However, before I do that I think it is important to introduce some areas covered by the safety review. Can I get the next slide please.

The design of the facility. Progress Energy plans to use the amended AP1000 reactor design, as I previously mentioned. In terms of site

suitability, the safety report describes how environmental factors affect the plant design. We look at geologic, and seismic, and hydrologic concerns. We also look at flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes. We incorporate quality assuredness into the safety review. We look at adequate physical security, and we conduct this review in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security. We look at emergency preparedness, and we conduct this review in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. We also look at operator training. This ensures that the operators for the potential new plant or new units are properly trained to operate the units in a safe manner.

And, as mentioned earlier, Brian Anderson is with us here today. He is the Lead Safety Project Manager for this project. Next slide, please.

The environmental review, which is the subject of today's meeting, is guided by the National Environmental Policy Act. It is also known as NEPA. NEPA requires federal agencies to use a systematic approach and to consider the environmental impacts associated with the major federal actions that have the potential to significantly affect the human

environment. It is a disclosure tool which involves input from the public and by law requires the development of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The NRC has determined that issuing a combined license for a nuclear facility is a major federal action. As such, the staff develops an Environmental Impact Statement before the Commission takes action, or takes final action on the license application. Next slide, please.

As part of the NRC's environmental review, we plan to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the construction and operation of two new AP1000 units at the Levy County site. NRC's regulations for implementing NEPA are at, in 10 CFR 51. And the NRC has established a systematic decision-making process to be applied during the environmental review which is our Environmental Standard Review Plan. It's also known as NUREG 1555. The regulations and guidance documents can be found on NRC's website at www.nrc.gov.

During the environmental review we provide opportunities for public involvement during the scoping period, which we're currently in right

now. And the results of our review will be docketed in the draft and final Environmental Impact Statement of the Levy County project, and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Throughout the entire review process the NRC maintains an open and transparent review process. Next slide, please.

This slide provides an overview of our environmental review process. And an applicant will submit an application to the NRC and it will undergo an acceptance review. We look at the application to see if it complies with our regulations and is sufficiently complete to warrant a further review. If it does, then we docket the application and we submit a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and to conduct scoping.

For the Levy County application, it was submitted on July 30th to the NRC. It was docketed on October 6th and the Notice of Intent was submitted in the Federal Register on October 24, 2008. Now, what this does is open up a sixty-day window for public comment, and which is why we are right here in this area.

Now, in terms of the information gathering stage, that's why we're in your community today. And we, throughout the week we've been meeting with the Applicant. We visited the site as well as the surrounding area, and we've been discussing the environmental report with the Applicant. We're asking questions and we're trying to obtain more information.

As part of the information gathering stage, we're also here to meet with you tonight for this scoping period. We're interested in your comments. You are familiar with the community and we would like to know about your community and what your concerns are.

In the later half of next year you should see the draft Environmental Impact Statement issued. Again, there will be a notice in the Federal Register notifying you. And what that's going to do is open up another seventy-five-day period for you to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In this first process it gives sixty days and down here it will be seventy-five days. And we will incorporate your comments into the Environmental Impact Statement, and then we will issue the final

Environmental Impact Statement in 2010. And the final Environmental Impact Statement will be used as the primary body of evidence in the hearing, environmental evidence in the hearing, and as well the safety review. And it will be used to assist the Commission in making a decision on whether or not to approve the license. Next slide, please.

I would like to use this slide to refocus on why we are here today. We have come to your community with the hope that you will share with us those environmental issues and values that you believe are important for us to consider as we conduct our review. Since we do not live in the community, you may be aware of environmental issues that should be considered before the NRC completes its assessment.

In addition to providing comments and information here today, you have the opportunity to continue to share your comments or provide additional information to us through December 23rd. That's the end of the sixty-day scoping period.

In a later slide it will list how you can send comments to us after today's record is closed, and all comments received during the scoping process

will be included in the scoping summary report. And the scoping summary report should be issued sometime in April or May and it will be identified on our website to notify you.

As mentioned earlier, comments applicable to the NRC's environmental review will be considered in NRC's development of the draft Environmental Impact Statement. Next slide, please.

This slide shows the various sources that we use to obtain information. And the key point that I want to make is that the Staff's EIS is an independent evaluation of the effects of the plant, of the proposed plant, on the environment and local community. Although we're starting with the Applicant's environmental report, we are investigating information from many other sources. Next slide, please.

To conduct our review we've assembled a team, an interdisciplinary team, of NRC staff with backgrounds in the scientific and technical disciplines. The NRC has contracted with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. They are a Department of Energy laboratory, and the Information Systems Laboratory to assist us with preparation of the

Environmental Impact Statement.

The NRC team is comprised of experts with wide-ranging topics related to environmental issues as well as nuclear power plants. Next slide, please.

Again, you can submit your written comments for the scoping process through December 23. We do have copies of the Federal Register of Notice of Intent on the tables there in the back of the room. And this notice, the notice itself will describe how you, the public, can submit your scoping comments. And this slide also shares, or the next slide will show that information.

Once the staff completes the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the NRC will make it publically available to allow the public to provide comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. As I mentioned earlier, this opens up a seventy-five day window for your comments. Additionally, in 2009 we will have another public meeting here in your community, not necessarily at this facility, but in the community, to share the results of our review and to receive your comments.

Your comments will be evaluated and addressed in the final Environmental Impact

Statement, and the Agency expects to issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement in 2010.

An integrated schedule for the Levy County project has not been finalized and the milestone dates are estimated. And the NRC's website, and specifically the project website, project webpage, will provide that information when it becomes available. And the link to the Levy County web page is listed on this next slide. Next slide, please.

Comments on today's meeting can be provided by mail, e-mail, or in person at these following addresses, and I will be providing this slide at the end of the presentation for your information. Next slide, please.

I am now going to go into the hearing process. The hearing process offers another opportunity to have public involvement, and the public has sixty days from the publishing of the hearing to petition to -- from the publishing of the hearing notice to petition to intervene in the hearing. Anyone who wishes to file a petition to intervene should give the hearing notice close attention. It provides important information related

to intervention. And it is important to note that that should be published within the next few days in the Federal Register.

In order to file a Petition to Intervene, you must obtain digital certificate approval in advance or seek a waiver from the digital certificate requirement. And information regarding the process will be provided in the hearing notice and on the website on this slide.

It is also important not to wait until the last week of the notice period because it can take up to ten days to receive your digital certificate. Next slide, please.

Once more, the environmental review process is beginning and the public comment period for scoping ends on December 23. You can participate in the scoping process here today and the meeting on the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The NRC web page for the Levy County project can help you stay informed of related topics such as scheduling and access to the draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement.

To petition for leave to intervene in the hearing process, again you must receive digital

certificate approval before you can file a petition, and then the hearing covers both the safety and the environmental reviews. And to obtain more information you can go to the web page at the -- or connect on the link at the bottom of this slide. Next slide, please.

Again, my name is Doug Bruner. I am the Environmental Project Manager for this project. Brian Anderson is the Safety, the lead Safety Project Manager. And our contact information is listed here.

In addition, as I previously mentioned, our documents can be reviewed on NRC's website at the link provided here. We've also been fortunate that the local libraries have provided shelf space to us and we have the environmental report at the Citrus County Coastal Regional Library, as well as the Bronson Public Library, and the Dunnellon Branch Library. They are here for your convenience.

If you wish to be on our mailing list, make sure your name and address are provided to one of our NRC staff at the registration desk. This is one way of ensuring that you will be notified of upcoming meetings and ensuring that you will get copies of the draft and final Environmental Impact

Statement.

And this concludes my presentation. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Doug. Thanks Greg and Doug for that. That is an overview of a lot of information about the NRC review process. And we know that you might have questions about that process and we have some time before we go to the speakers. And we do have a lot of speakers today but let's see if you -- if anybody has a question that we can answer about the presentation that you just heard.

Yes, ma'am? And could you just please introduce yourself to us?

MS. CANNON: I'll be happy to. My name is Renate Cannon. I'm a U.S. Citizen and resident of Levy County.

Mr. Bruner stated, said the environmental review as well as the safety review are running parallel. Has the safety review already been completed and when was that meeting?

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much, ma'am. Let's talk about the safety review, and the timing, and the sequence. We will go to Brian to

talk about that. Did you hear the question?

MR. ANDERSON: The safety review has already begun. That review officially began on October 6th of this year. And that is an ongoing review. The NRC is still in the process of developing a complete schedule that will outline the entire review, sequence of events that will take place.

That schedule, once it is completed, will be made publically available; it will be posted on our website; and that will provide a time line for the overall sequence of events that takes place during the safety review.

So the safety review has begun but it is a review process that will take two-and-a-half to three years. When a detailed safety schedule is made available that will provide you a more detailed breakdown of the contents of that review and the dates by which we expect to accomplish certain tasks.

MR. CAMERON: Just another question that I think gets to her concern is the safety and environmental reviews are conducted in parallel, but the environmental review will be completed earlier than the safety review or about the same, same time?

MR. ANDERSON: Generally the environmental review portion is completed before the safety review portion. But the overall decision on whether or not to issue a COL license will only take place after both the safety and the environmental reviews have been completed.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you for that question and thank you, Brian. Do we have another question about the process that we can answer?

Yes, sir? I'm not sure I'm going to get all the way there with this so you may have to come out here. All right.

MR. FETROW: My name is Robert Fetrow and I live in Inglis, Florida. What is the scheduling of issuing the limit work authorization and what kind of scope of work they can do under that permit as per se?

MR. CAMERON: Great. Thank you. Thank you for that question. And Brian, are we going to go to you or to Doug for that one?

MR. ANDERSON: I can do it.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. If you could just explain to people again -- I think Doug mentioned it -- what the limited work authorization is. Do we

have a request for one, et cetera, et cetera.

MR. ANDERSON: A limited work authorization, and you might hear us sometimes refer to that as a LWA, is very much what the name implies. It would be the authorization to perform a limited amount of work.

Progress Energy, for their Levy County application, has requested a limited work authorization. The review for the limited work authorization, there are parts of that review that take place on both the environmental and on the safety side.

So to answer your question as to whether or not the LWA review has begun, the answer is yes. The safety reviews and the environmental reviews for the LWA are in progress.

The schedule that will describe the LWA review activities is part of the overall review schedule that is still being developed. And once that review schedule is complete it will be made publically available.

A limited work authorization typically deals with work activities related to the preparation of the site and preparation of the foundation of

certain structures that are part of the new nuclear power plant.

In the case of Progress Energy, some of the activities that they've requested under their LWA include the placement of reinforcing bar, re-bar as you might be familiar with that term, for concrete that will be part of certain foundation structures. It also includes the installation of a diaphragm wall which will help with keeping water out of the excavation process once site construction begins.

And there are other activities that are included as part of their LWA request and a very detailed list of requirements that are part of that LWA request. And part of our review in determining whether or not the LWA request will be approved is to ensure that all of the activities requested for LWA satisfy the legal requirements of that.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Robert, I hope that answers your question.

MR. FETROW: Just give me preliminary idea. Will it be the middle of next year?

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let me make sure we get this on the record.

MR. FETROW: Just give me a preliminary

idea. Will they be able to start work on the site like the middle of next year once the state issues the permit to do auxiliary buildings, roads and stuff like that to the site, or will it be a longer process than that?

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's answer that. And, of course, that's dependent on whether we grant the LWA. But can you provide us any information on that last part?

MR. ANDERSON: The activities that have been requested under the limited work authorization cannot be started until an LWA is issued. So until our LWA review is complete, and if the LWA request is approved, only then can those limited work activities begin. And, like I said, we're still developing the complete review schedule. And once that review schedule is completed that will be made publically available.

Just to give you a ballpark time frame, we expect that somewhere on the order of two years will be required to complete our entire review process for the limited work authorization. And that's a ballpark time frame. The detailed review schedule activities will be made publically available

once we've completed the development of our schedule.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. We have Andy Kugler from the NRC staff that is going to add a little footnote.

MR. KUGLER: Okay. Thank you, Chip. One thing I wanted to make clear because there is some confusion about this, I think. There are some activities that the Applicant may want to take on site to prepare the site that don't require NRC authorization. So, for instance, you mentioned putting roads in. That activity does not require an NRC authorization. It has nothing to do, no relationship to reactor safety. So there are some things they can undertake before we have issued a limited work authorization or a combined license.

Now, there are still permits and licenses they may require from other agencies, either federal, or state, or local and they still have to get those authorizations. And we don't have control over that or over the timing of that. But what Brian was talking about is the authorization to start undertaking some limited activities that we have to authorize that are related to safety.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. That's an

extremely important caveat or footnote on that. Thank you very much, Andy. I think we have a question right back here. Yes, sir. If you could just introduce yourself to us.

MR. RUSSELL: John Russell. My question is, has anyone calculated the future cost of decommissioning of the reactor site and disposal of the -- you know, the materials that involve the structure at some future date in present day dollars. And, you know, including the storage. I presume that some of that is going to be hazardous material down the road relative to the activities that will take place in the event this is built.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. There's two main parts to that question that I think will be useful for people in the audience to hear. And I'm not sure who from the NRC wants to handle it.

But when we get an application -- first of all, when we get an application for a new reactor, what do we require from a license applicant in terms of making sure that funds are available to decommission this reactor if, indeed, we do grant the license. That's one part of the question.

And the second part is to try to give

this gentleman and the audience an idea, what happens to the spent fuel, for example, that is on the site, both in a interim time period -- in other words, while this reactor may be operating, and finally, in the long term? Can someone talk about the decommissioning funding requirements? Jody, do you want to just say something simply about that? This is Jody Martin. He's with our Office of General Counsel.

And so that's the first part and then we'll go to the spent fuel part.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you. As far as decommissioning funding, that is part of our review. We do review the decommissioning funding. They must show -- they must give us, as part of the application, their plan for decommissioning funding; they must show us how they plan to fund the decommissioning. And as per our review we can't comment on what they've done thus far, but we do have a set of decommissioning requirements that we do review throughout the course of this. They also pay into -- we usually set up some sort of fund and they will have some sort of investment strategy that they will use for decommissioning that we will review.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. And the main point here is that the NRC is not going to grant a license for a reactor unless we are assured that there is going to be money available to decommission and decontaminate that site. Is that correct?

MR. MARTIN: That's correct.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

MR. RUSSELL: Do we know an approximation of the cost? You know --

MR. CAMERON: Okay, sir, we have to get you on the record. Okay? Unfortunately we -- I'll put that on the record for you.

Do we have an idea of what the total cost is in terms of decommissioning one of these new reactors? I don't know if we do or not. Andy?

MR. KUGLER: I don't think I have an actual number. And each plant may have a somewhat different number, but they do estimate it. It's in the application. I just don't remember what it is offhand. I'm thinking it's in the hundreds of millions of dollars at the time of decommissioning. Of course, you know, if you talk present value the number would be smaller because you're backing it up. You're putting money into that fund over --

MR. RUSSELL: Are future numbers going to be --

MR. CAMERON: Okay. You're not --

MR. KUGLER: I'm sorry. You can't --

MR. RUSSELL: As long as we've got some kind of accounting.

MR. KUGLER: Right. There is accounting for it and there is a requirement for them to set up the fund to pay for it so that the money is there when the time comes to decommission.

MR. RUSSELL: Fair enough.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's go to the second part of the question because this is a question that everybody is interested in. What happens to the spent fuel? Are you going to do this, the spent fuel?

MR. EMCH: Sure.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. This is Richard Emch who is going to talk about how our review of the license application takes into account spent fuel issues. And what is the ultimate goal of the disposal of spent fuel. Richard Emch from the NRC staff.

MR. EMCH: My name is Richard Emch. I'm a

Senior Health Physicist with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

My understanding, sir, what you really wanted to know is what is going to happen to the spent fuel once the plant has been decommissioned. That's where I'm going to go here. Okay. And then I'll fill in with a little bit more information.

At all the power plants in the United States, fuel -- and this would be true for Levy as well -- fuel can be stored in a spent fuel pool, which is part of the safety design of the plant. Fuel can also be stored in what we call an IFSI, an Independent Fuel Storage Installation. Thank you for the help, gentlemen, okay. Which is dry cask storage, okay, is what it amounts to.

Now, there are no plans to do that at Levy right now. Right now Levy is designed simply as a spent fuel pool on it. But basically the Commission's position is that fuel can be safely stored in the pool or in these dry cask storage for long periods of time -- thirty years is the number I think I remember hearing -- beyond the point or at the point -- you know, beyond the point when the plant is decommissioned.

And ultimately the fuel, the spent fuel would be moved to some sort of a final resting place, if you will, a federally licensed storage or disposal facility. And, of course, we all read the newspapers. Right now the one that is being discussed is the Yucca Mountain. And the NRC has received an application for the Yucca Mountain project.

Now, just to go just a shade further, we do do some looking -- in the environmental report we will do some looking at the overall fuel cycle, and we will also talk a little bit about how much spent fuel is going to be obtained or how much is going to come out of the plant, how it is going to be stored, where it is going -- you know, know how it is going to be handled and what the environmental impacts of that are. That will be -- most of it is related to what we call Table S-3 and Table S-4 in the regulations.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Rich, and you're going to see -- you're going to be able to see all that information about spent fuel in the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

We're going to take one more question and

then we're going to go to comments.

Yes, sir. Could you please introduce yourself to us?

MR. EPPES: Yes. My name is Thomas Eppes. And just a follow-up on the last question. As I understand it the spent fuel is going to be stored on site in water. Is that correct?

MR. CAMERON: I think that's what we just heard, yes.

MR. EPPES: All right. Then doesn't the water become radioactive and what do we do with radioactive water?

MR. CAMERON: Can we have a brief explanation of the safety aspects of the storage of spent fuel in the pool? Are you going to do that also?

MR. EMCH: I'll start and Brian can finish up.

MR. CAMERON: All right. Richard Emch.

MR. EMCH: All right. The spent fuel pool is full of water. It is quite deep, like twenty-three feet, twenty-something feet above the active fuel. So it is a very deep pool.

But there are safety systems designed to

help clean up whatever radioactive material gets into that water, and to also keep that water cool because that's really the -- that is the main reason for all that water, is to shield the high level, the highly radioactive fuel that has come out of the reactor and to clean up and to keep it cool so that it can't melt. Okay. And then, of course, that same system, cooling system, and it is a safety system, will clean up the water because -- I mean, they need to be able to access the fuel building, they need to things in there. So it needs to be kept clean enough so they can get inside the building to do the things they need to do.

MR. CAMERON: Okay.

MR. EMCH: Brian, do you want to add anything?

MR. CAMERON: Let's put a finer point on this perhaps and then we will go on to the speakers. Brian Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: I would just want to add that the spent fuel cooling pool is part of our safety review and we will review both the design and the operation of that spent fuel pool. And that will be part of the overall safety evaluation that we make

as part of the decision as to whether or not to issue the COL.

MR. EPPES: You haven't answered the question. What do you do with the water?

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's take this final part. What happens to the water in the spent fuel pool? Richard.

MR. EMCH: It stays right there, sir. We clean it up. They clean it. They use a -- they have a system to clean it up and then the water stays there. If they have any need to release any of it then that would go through the rad waste system and then be released within regulations. But it stays there in the pool.

MR. CAMERON: So it is all very carefully regulated by the NRC.

MR. EMCH: You look puzzled still.

MR. CAMERON: We have to really go on to speakers, sir. And if you could just talk with either Rich or Brian about the other points of that. Thank you very much, Rich.

We're going to go to speakers now. And I apologize for the question period being short. But we really do want to hear from you. All of these NRC

staffers and our expert consultants are here with white name tags on. So if you do have some questions afterwards make sure you collar them on those.

And we're going to start with Jeff Edison and then we're going to go to Martha Barnwell and then to Professor James Tulenko. Okay? So let's go to Jeff Edison at this point. Jeff? And could you please go to the podium. Thank you very much.

MR. JEFF EDISON: I am Jeff Edison. I'm Assistant Superintendent for Levy County Schools.

First off I want to give you a little bit of history about me because I think I am a little bit unique. I'm forty-five years old and all of my forty-five years I've been about fifteen miles down the road. I currently live in Chiefland right now. So I've been in this area my whole life. I remember these discussions going on thirty-some-odd years ago about -- when the new -- when the Progress Energy's other two reactors were coming on board.

So I have a lot of friends that have benefitted from the business that has been provided by these opportunities. Needless to say Levy County is excited about these opportunities for our kids. I am interested in the -- mostly interested in our

human environment because that's what I deal with all the time in our schools.

Progress Energy has been wonderful business partners with our schools well before these talks began. They sit on our education foundation and many of the employees that work here in Crystal River are families in Levy County. And they are our Little League coaches, they are our school advisory council members, and we greatly look forward to working with Progress Energy in the opportunities that we have in the field of nuclear and technical education. We are currently having discussions with them now.

But this plant offers a lot of economic and job opportunities for the kids and the families of Levy County, both directly working here at the facilities here now and in the future, and the spin-off businesses that are going to result from the nuclear power plants.

So we are excited about these opportunities and I look forward to our continued relationship with Progress.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much, sir.

Next we're going to go to Martha Barnwell. And Martha is the Vice President of the North Coastal Region for Progress Energy Florida.

MS. MARTHA BARNWELL: Thank you, Chip. I am Martha Barnwell. I am an officer and Vice President for Progress Energy Florida. And today I want to provide to you a brief summary of why we are applying for a license to build two advanced state of the art nuclear plants at our Levy site in Levy County, Florida.

I also want to thank the NRC for being here and for providing this opportunity to the members of the public to speak and to share your comments, and questions, and concerns with the NRC. And we thank each one of you for being here.

Despite the current economic downturn that we are seeing not only in this state but across the United States, Florida is, indeed, the fourth largest state in the United States. And we are ranked third nationally in per capita energy consumption.

Over the last three decades homes in the state have grown by an average of over fifty percent and usage is up in those homes by over thirty

percent. And, quite frankly, over the next decade we anticipate that usage will increase by over twenty-five percent.

At Progress Energy we have a responsibility to serve the electrical needs of our customers but we also recognize that there is no one single solution to meeting the energy needs of our customers. Our solution is a three-fold solution, a balanced solution.

It is a combination of energy efficiency, alternatives and renewables, as well as investing in state of the art plants. Even with our significant commitment to alternatives, renewables, and to energy efficiency, we will need additional generation to meet the growth of our state.

Nuclear power presents the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible alternative to meet Florida's growing needs. It also provides long-term costability as it is the lowest production cost of any major source of electricity, including natural gas and coal. And as we invest in more carbon-free nuclear, we decrease our reliance on fossil fuels and we help to stabilize rates and reduce fuel volatility that we've been experiencing

over the past several months.

Because of the time and expense required to build a plant we must begin years in advance, and hence we are here today. If our plans continue to move forward and are approved by our state and federal regulators, the two new advanced technology reactors could begin operating in 2016 and 2017 respectively. And once those plants begin operating we will save our customers over $1 billion annually in fuel costs.

So we have chosen Levy County as our preferred site. It provides a sufficient supply of cooling water which is one of the major requirements and important factors in the sustainability of any plant site.

Our preferred site was chosen because it has ample water to meet the needs without adversely affecting other water usage and requirements in the area. Cooling water for the plant will be supplied through an intake from the Gulf of Mexico. This site also works well because it can connect easily to our transmission grid with our transmission plans that we have associated with the plant, allowing the energy generated here to serve in our thirty-five counties.

And the economic benefits for Levy County will provide a great tax base, job growth, local services, and there are many other benefits that Levy County will also experience. Quite frankly we will have about 800 jobs at our two combined units which will generate about 1,000 to 2,000 indirect jobs as well as 3,000 jobs during construction.

But the investment in the plant is only part of our investment. The other part is in our community because we strive to be an excellent neighbor in Levy County, and we strive to continue the strong partnership that we have.

Progress Energy brings great experience to this initiative. We have a proven track record for excellence in nuclear operations as we have been in the business for over thirty-six years. We operate over five reactors at four different sites, including our site here at Crystal River, which has been in operation since the seventies.

This is a big decision ahead of us, all of us, and it requires all of us to be a part of that decision.

We believe it is essential to keep nuclear power as part of the energy mix for Florida,

and we know that the review process is going to take several years. Also construction will take several years. So it is critical that we apply now for our application to support nuclear as an option for us in the future.

We're confident that these reviews will conclude with the favorable licensing, that it is sound and that we will be able to provide the need that energy -- we will be able to meet the energy needs of our citizens here in the state of Florida.

Thank you for this opportunity to be here today and we appreciate the public's participation.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much, Martha. We're going to go next to Professor Tulenko. Professor, do you want to sit while you're presenting?

PROFESSOR TULENKO: No, that's fine.

MR. CAMERON: You're fine. And I have to tell the audience that there is a slide that we're not going to be able to put up that goes with the professors' presentation but it will be attached to the transcript if you're interested in seeing it. And I'm sure that if you talked to him he would make that available to you. Professor Tulenko.

PROFESSOR TULENKO: Thank you. Good day. My name is James Tulenko and I am an Emeritus Professor from the Nuclear and Radiologic Engineering Department at the University of Florida. And I would like to speak in support of Progress Energy's application to build an AP1000 reactor from Westinghouse at the Levy County site to serve the energy needs of the citizens of North Central Florida.

Nuclear energy today provides about eighteen percent of the world's electricity supply and twenty percent of the U.S. electricity supply according to the Energy Information Agency.

In France, nuclear energy provides approximately eighty percent of their electrical needs. France has fifty-nine operating nuclear reactors. In fact, France generates so much low-cost power from nuclear that it exports electricity to its neighbors, earning a considerable amount of money each year.

Nuclear power is cleaner than coal, has demonstrated an excellent safety record, and relies on a fuel found right here in North America.

With regard to the waste question, the

fissioning of a uranium atom releases 200 million electron volts. The burning of one coal atom releases four electron volts. In other words, on an atom-for-atom basis, nuclear creates 50 million times less waste.

The final volume of nuclear waste from the French recycled fuel needed to power the home of a French family of four for twenty years is only slightly larger than a lipstick case. This is something most people don't understand.

I have stood on top of all the nuclear waste stored in France and it is contained in one building. The picture below -- and this was a picture that will be carried on -- is all the nuclear fuel waste stored at the Maine Yankee plant that operated for twenty-five years from 1972 to 1976, generating 900 megawatts of electric for the Maine citizens.

One can enter into this area and safely touch each of these containers. And the picture shows how small of an area all the waste from twenty-five years of operation of the Maine Yankee plant is.

A major advantage of a nuclear power plant is that once built, electricity costs will

remain stable for the next sixty to eighty years because the major costs are the capital costs of building the plant. Once built the fuel costs are a minor part of the total costs, unlike natural gas.

In Florida we have five nuclear plants. Florida Power and Light has four, which are the two Turkey Point plants and the two St. Lucie plants. And, of course, Progress Energy operates the Crystal River Plant right here in Crystal River.

The 104 nuclear plants operating in the United States have shown that nuclear power is both safe and economic. Finally, the Levy Nuclear Plant will be a major source of economic income for both the civil government and the citizens of Levy County through taxes and excellent employment opportunities. Thank you for this opportunity.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Professor Tulenko. We're going to go next to Randy Welker and then Robert Smith. Randy?

MR. RANDY WELKER: Again, my name is Randy Welker. I'm the Executive Director for the Economic Development Council for Citrus County. And obviously, we don't want the plant to go to Levy; we want it to go to Citrus County. But let's get beyond

that. We tried to in our past.

A couple of things you should know, and I thought it was very interesting. My background is not as a nuclear scientist. My background is law so I'm somewhat of a shady character, I suspect.

But I have been involved in a number of activities. One was through the Department of Energy. I was the President of the Community Reuse Organization for the Fernald Feed Plant that was a uranium processing plant in Ohio. And, as you know, we've dismantled most of those plants. And this past summer if you go to this plant you will see a field in an area that is truly wildlife oriented. It is completely returned to its use.

Now, is that something we would like to always happen with our power plants in the future? And I would say no, we would like to be able to use these as long as we can and continue to use them so that they are productive and whatever. But I think it does answer the question: Can we return certain sites to pristine conditions, and I would argue yes as we saw there.

Again, my background is also in brown field redevelopment, and I've seen the successful

redevelopment of sites that are dirty from what we have done in industry and we've been able to accomplish those tasks.

Now so but the other important part of why I'm here and why I want this to occur is because of our future. I mean, the true honest concern is yes, I do have a large carbon footprint; yes, I would like to see alternatives to the fuel that we are currently using because it is not in our best interest; but most obviously I'm concerned about our economy.

Our economy is in need of this type of use that is economical and beneficial to our community as well as the United States. From what I understand, this power plant currently that we live in this area with and who has been a very good citizen for our community, is the third largest producer of power in the country.

You wouldn't know that. You live here on a daily basis and you expect it to be there but it is actually doing much, much more for this country than just for us in this community.

So I'm very, very supportive. I have a bunch of other notes that probably don't mean much

either but I do want to be as supportive as I possibly can because when we look at things from an economic development standpoint, we try to develop the relationship with the company. We want to see how they are going to be responsive to us and our community. And I don't think that there is any doubt in anybody's mind that Progress Energy has proved themself over and over again as being a very good corporate citizen.

We've relied on them to help us with our schools; we've relied on them -- me personally -- for our economic development; we've relied on them to be honest and upstanding citizens in our community. And if you look at their workers, most of their workers are involved in some way in the community in making it a better place.

So again, I'm not probably the environmental expert that can sit here and tell you all the things that are I want, but from my profession and from what I do, I want to encourage you all to look at what you do very professionally and make sure they do it properly, which I'm sure they will. But I also want to encourage you, because this is a very, very important decision and we're

excited about what is going to happen. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Randy. We're going to go to Robert Smith and then Ken Frink and Patricia Foreman. This is Robert Smith.

MR. ROBERT SMITH: Hi. My name is Robert Smith and I kind of messed up a little bit on the question and answer thing because I thought you had to sign up to ask questions and you did that in the middle.

So I'm going to be Progress Energy's closest neighbor. I live 7,000 feet or less from where their nuclear reactor is going to be. And I have three questions I've been trying to get answered and I think I got some answers but not all.

One of them is, I want to know how many people live within 7,000 feet or less of adjoining properties to two nuclear reactors in the state of Florida, and I want to know if there has been any health studies done on them people within thirty years.

My other question is, on the outside border of their property are you all going to require a fence to border their property all the way around to cut off the movement of the wild game to the State

Forest and surrounding people.

And my third question is, what kind of information do you all have on the devaluing of the adjoining properties to a nuclear power plant. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you very much, Robert. That covers a lot of ground. And what I'm going to do is, I'm going to ask my colleagues to not address that right now so that we can keep going with the speakers. But Rich, Andy, whoever, some of those may fall within our bailiwick; some of them may be within the company's. But we're going to talk to you before this meeting ends, okay, about all those issues. And thank you very much, Robert, for raising those questions to us.

MR. EPPES: Robert mentioned to me he may not be able to stay for the whole meeting.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Well, maybe you two should -- maybe you could go out. Robert, would you mind going out with Rich now and with Dan Mussatti. Okay. Thank you very much.

Ken Frink and then Patricia Foreman, and then we're going to go to Norman Hopkins. Is -- oh, hi, Ken.

MR. KEN FRINK: I snuck up on you. Good afternoon. My name is Ken Frink and I'm a long-term resident of Citrus County. Probably as long term as you could be without actually being born here. I'm also a representative of Burrell Engineering which is a small local engineering firm doing work in the community.

And I would like to touch on three aspects of what we see good things about this project. First and foremost is the positive impact we see in the community.

You know, I moved here back in the mid-seventies and we've been visiting Citrus County since the early seventies. And I've watched how all five of those plants, particularly the nuclear power plant up there, has transformed this community.

Citrus County has always been a retirement, a slow-moving community with a severe lack of meaningful jobs. It's mostly been support jobs. And this one particular project is going to bring, just during the construction of it, I'm hearing over 3,000 skilled laborers, plus all the ancillary, you people that are going to be supporting those people. And then also they have like over 800

full-time jobs that support these plants on a full-time basis for probably the next eighty or a hundred years. And this doesn't even account for the ripple effect, the secondary jobs needed to support those folks.

The second aspect I would like to talk about is the impacts on the local and the global economy. And, in my opinion, fossil fuels need to become a dinosaur and a way of the past. And fossil fuels, obviously there is no doubt that they harm the environment and there is lasting impacts that we would like to see go away. And nuclear, in my opinion, is the single most effective method of energy production in terms of reliability, efficiency and proven effectiveness.

More particular to this project up in Citrus and Levy Counties, is what it is going do is it going to make use of the defunked Cross Florida Barge Canal. That's a project, in my opinion, they stopped back in the seventies, probably never should have been built, but here is an organization that is going to come in and make lemonade out of lemons.

This project, what it is going to do is it is going to utilize the transportation aspects of

the Cross Florida Barge Canal to bring in their heavy equipment and what not. And I don't know if you could find that somewhere else, but it is going to take down, or take away the wear and tear on the local transportation.

They are also going to use the Barge Canal as their intake water. Again, it is an aspect that is there; why not make use of it. And they are also going to use the Barge Canal as the, not the conduit, but the pathway to get to the discharge points which are existing discharge points on the existing power plant.

That's something I'm really happy to see organizations coming and finally make use of it.

And lastly what I would like to talk about -- and it is my first-hand knowledge; a lot of people in this room probably haven't seen this before. It is Progress Energy's readiness to respond to a disaster.

My previous position before I bought into this engineering firm was the Public Works Director for Citrus County. And I've sat through numerous drills and numerous real-time disasters, most notably in 2004 during the hurricanes, watching Progress

Energy in action either getting ready for, responding to, or preparing for these disasters.

And in my opinion, we all should feel safe knowing of the competent professionals involved from this organization that do watch over the safety of those reactors.

And in closing I just ask that the NRC look positively on the Levy County reactor project. As proven in the past with Crystal River Three, it will ultimately be embraced by the community and have a lasting positive impact on both the environment and our local economy. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Ken. We're going to go to Patricia Foreman and then Norman Hopkins. Patricia? Oh, here she is.

MS. PATRICIA FOREMAN: Just for the record, I do not work for Progress Energy; I am not an attorney; and I am not in business to support Progress Energy. Because it seems it's all been positive because of what it is going to give to the community.

Well, I am a retired senior citizen living on a fixed income. And after what the Energy Commission did and the income today, I can't afford

groceries. And it is getting bad and it is getting worse.

I've been a professional all my life but at my age nobody wants to hire me. And in regards to our plant, is the CEO from Progress Energy here? No.

Where does the electric go from the nuclear plant? I've lived here since 1976. I have never had nuclear power. I have always paid for oil and coal which to me is terribly, terribly unreasonable. You ask me to live twenty-five miles from the plant and you can't supply nuclear energy to my little home.

I can't believe -- I guess you have to be in the business. There was an article published in the ***Chronicle*** on October the 27th by Chris Van Armor (phonetic), a wonderful article. ***"Charges Jolt Customers."*** The utility has virtually no risk if the plant does not come to fruition. It does not have to return our moneys that they want to start collecting in January. To me that is very, very unfair.

I am not afraid of a nuclear plant but since no one can tell me where the electrical is going from Crystal River, I have, on the QT -- question: I'm told it goes to Chicago and the big

cities.

Now, if that's true, or maybe if it isn't true, wherever it goes on the grid, charge them. Let them pay for another nuclear plant because I'm tired of it.

Everybody is coming along and raiding my kitchen cabinets. It's like I went before the Board for the water, so they've raised it $10. And then they send me a letter telling me the water is poisoned and it has been for a year. So I take it to my doctor and I say, "Hey, what am I supposed to do?" He says, "Honey, I don't know. I don't know how it will affect you because it will affect everybody different."

I guess what I really want to say is I have an answer for us dummies. We need to form a coalition, hire an advocate attorney, and nip this thing in the bud from the Governor all the way down. Now, you say: Well, that probably wouldn't work. Well, it did because I donated my $10 in Palm Beach County. We took Florida Power and Light to court and we won. And I got $13.75 back and I got $10 a month lower in the bill. So it is possible.

I've written this in the newspapers, both

St. Pete Times and the ***Chronicle***. I would be very happy to form this and spend my time. It will take donations. Now, I only gave $10, but my God, you've got to figure that was 1950. So I don't know what it would take. But I think it is the idea, a way for us seniors to fight this. Not so much the plant. You can build a dozen plants but don't ship my energy up north.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much, Patricia.

MS. FOREMAN: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: And there are senior officials here from Progress who may be able to give you some information on your questions after the meeting. And we're going to go to Norman Hopkins, and then we're going to go to Amanda Douglas, and then to John Russell. Norman?

MR. NORMAN HOPKINS: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Norman Hopkins. I'm a director of a couple of environmental organizations locally. And I guess I'm not going to speak in favor of the Levy County nuclear facility.

First of all, if I could just pick up a point from Pat, who has just been up here, about the

levy of the charges on the customers to help pay for the facility.

What, in effect, they are being asked to do is to contribute to the capital base of Progress Energy for nothing. And two letters have already been written to the Governor concerning this. But essentially there is one easy answer. And that is that Mr. Lyash, or Lash, or, I'm sorry, I don't know how to pronounce his name, should do one thing. And that is not to make the levy. That is the simplest way of eliminating it.

I've had suggestions that we get together and put together a class action suit and get a petition and so on and so forth, but really that is going to take an enormous amount of time and expense. But the simple way it not to charge the levy.

However, let me go on. My first concern is concerning the siting of the facility which is proposed in Levy County. The proposal is to put it on top of the highest level of ground water pressure for miles around, which means that everything that gets generated there is going to go out into the river systems which are fed with fresh water from that very location. And that doesn't seem to make a

great deal of sense to me.

I would just like to quote, first of all, from some Progress Energy document:

"Tritium, which is a hydrogen radioactive isotope, is a byproduct of generating electricity at nuclear power plants. All nuclear power plants release tritium into both the water and air. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency regulates the acceptable level of tritium concentrations in ground water and drinking water, no matter where it comes from."

Now, it is quite clear from the documentation that tritium will not go in through, into a human's body from outside it normally. But if it is ingested in any way, that's a different question. But also I'm not sure -- and, in fact, I don't know, whether the EPA regulations safeguard microorganisms on which the ecology depends.

Now, don't get me wrong. Tritium is the stuff which enables our waters to be seen in the dark. But don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that the algae, the fish, the other organisms are going to glow in the dark and that will reduce the need for more generating capacity. I'm not saying

that.

But also I'm not saying that the algae, the plankton, or the fish will either glow, nor will they grow arms and legs, but they could die, they could get bigger and they could poison whatever eats them.

My second concern is with regard to the cooling waters of the plant. Huge quantities of water are going to be cycled from the Cross Florida Barge Canal and put back to the -- into the Gulf.

My concern in this regard is the possible impact upon the marine food web which is nurtured in our offshore sea grass meadows, and the impact upon the dependent professional and recreational fisheries. Power plants are notoriously damaging to sea grasses when venting to such waters.

My third concern is the cost of the project, and also the fact that we are being asked to contribute to the capital base as has already been discussed. It is difficult to comprehend $17 billion, but it's three times the gold reserves of the International Monetary Fund. It is also five percent of the total reserves of the International Monetary Fund.

And it is an enormous amount of money which is being taken out of financing other forms of alternative energy which are competitive and cleaner. Now those competitive systems could be brought on stream well in advance of the time taken for the Levy plants to be completed and brought on stream.

As an aside, a remark has been made about the cost, the comparative cost of electricity. Now, according to Amory B. Lovins, J. Rom (phonetic), Lester Brown who are widely accepted in this field, the cost of the energy in terms of cents per kilowatt hour from the nuclear plants will be at last twice the cost of the same from wind or solar.

Now, I'm challenged for time but not for what to say so I will close with this statement.

Progress Energy has right of way of hundreds of miles of land under existing transmission lines. It uses solar energy in five Sun Smart schools in Florida. It exercises hydrogen fuel economies in Florida. I'm sorry. Initiatives in Florida. And it's facility in Citrus county has cheap railcar access.

One ought to exploit these assets as an alternative to putting something which is essentially

a tumor on our society and on our land, possibly by siting solar installations on their own rights of way, which they already have, capturing the electricity generated, back-feeding it to the plant site to supply the national grid, converting excess loads generated into hydrogen fuel to service cars and transportation as a future resource.

A balanced complimentary generating policy is needed. If this were founded in Citrus County, creating jobs of the type just described for handling all of that solar energy collection, and increasing the county purse because that would not suffer, then go, make progress. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Norman. We're going to go to Amanda and then we're going to go to John Russell.

MS. AMANDA DOUGLAS: Good afternoon. My name is Amanda Douglas. I'm here on behalf of the Nature Coast Business Development Council, which is the economic development representative for Levy County. I'm here to provide a positive voice in support for the proposed project that we're discussing today.

In a nutshell, economic development is

about creating sustainable wealth and improving quality of life in our communities. This is done by increasing prosperity, creating high quality jobs, creating new personal income, advancing private enterprise, productive use of local businesses and resources, and broadening the tax base.

We believe -- myself, along with the council believes that this project is going to create an opportunity for that to take place in this entire county. And that's pretty much all I have to say. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. John, you want to join us up here and then we're going to go to Thomas Eppes and Al Latimer. This is John Russell.

MR. JOHN RUSSELL: Thank you very much. Some of you that are local know me as an erstwhile congressional candidate in the last two election cycles. I have not been successful yet but I'm here today as a citizen who is concerned with energy. I believe energy is the preeminent issue of our time. We fight wars over fossil fuels. There is tremendous issue with where we are going here today. I guess that's part of what this meeting is about.

I'm a health care professional and I'm also a businessman. I am concerned with any decision that involves constructing a dinosaur. Make no mistake about it. One gentleman alluded to fossil fuels becoming a dinosaur. You don't replace one dinosaur with another.

Right now, as the gentleman was just mentioning here, his name I missed because I was working the camera. The bottom line is that the replacements for nuclear and fossil fuels are upon us today. And while I heard the representatives of the company -- Ms. Barnwell and others who certainly have propriety interest in constructing this plant -- the basic issue is it's as if the future will stand still over the interval from breaking ground to putting this plant on line and, indeed, charging present customers for the privilege of doing so. This is not right.

We've heard people mention jobs. You know, a couple thousand jobs that have been described as being generated by the construction and operation of this plant, both direct and indirect, will be far and away eclipsed by the numbers of quality jobs for the kinds of people, the people with the skill sets

that would accommodate these jobs, that are missing in action today with declining construction in a declining economy.

The security of this plant. It is a bulls eye. Any of these plants are a bulls eye. I think Robert Kennedy spoke of 9-1-1 -- Robert Kennedy, Junior -- that if that plane had chosen to crash into a nuclear power plant up in that region far more damage would've occurred by that plane crashing into a nuclear power plant than was seen in Manhattan.

So we have to look at the security issues that are certainly superior in a decentralized power generation system. We are going to be spending over a trillion dollars to rebuild our national grid. That national grid must incorporate, facilitate decentralized power generation.

We are just eons behind the United Kingdom and France was mentioned. But what are we going to do with those plants? That's why I asked that question before. We have plants that are old right now that need to be decommissioned. And I think several hundred million dollars is a joke when we talk about the total cost over time of storing

those materials. We today have no effective, you know, plan, liable means of dealing with even the small amounts of waste that the professor had discussed. They may be small but they are potent.

And I encourage people to look at a movie called Kilowatt Ours, Kilowatt O-U-R-S. It specifically delineates where we are at with regard to, you know, even the mining of uranium, which is a declining resource in exactly the same way as oil.

So what can we do? Well, we can look at vortex-induced vibration for aquatic clean energy, which is a hybrid which works. You know, these are proven technologies. It is wave energy on steroids. Of course, on the campaign trail one of the state senators that I was on the dais with, he had no clue what wave energy way.

This is a problem that I spoke about that involves the political industrial hand-in-glove relationship that is in return for those lobbyists' contributions of $2300 we have people that go along and get along. There is great ownership in denying us progress in the future. This is another, more evidence of that.

And I know I'm probably running into time

here but I just want to make mention, since I know this is for the record, I think the key is that we make a stand, as the senior citizen pointed out, a stand for moving in the right direction.

You know, this is not green, it is not efficient, it is not clean. And let's take a stand as the public and move forward towards a new, the new energy age. The information age eclipsed by the new energy age. We can do it.

And I thank you very much and I thank these gentlemen for being here. I am sure they mean well and want to do their job well, but we need to, as a citizenry, take the bull by the horns and take control of this rather than letting the utility companies and contractors sort of run roughshod over our future and that of our children and grandchildren. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Eppes and then we will go to Al Latimer and then to Susan Kirk. Thank you.

MR. THOMAS EPPES: Thank you. My name is Thomas Eppes. I'm a resident of Largo. I drove up here today in my Prius because I think this is a very important meeting that we're having. A lot has

already been said.

This nation does not need and cannot afford to continue stockpiling nuclear waste. I think that is the biggest environmental issue of this hearing. Nuclear waste remains deadly for longer than any society has ever existed. What makes us think that we're going to be around to take care of it.

Until the problem of waste storage is successfully resolved -- and by successful I mean, politically, economically, scientifically, and safely -- no new nuclear power plant should be permitted by the NRC. This is especially true in Florida which has enormous yet largely untapped sources of safe, clean, renewable energy. The technology to convert that energy into electricity can be installed by the power companies for about half the cost of building a nuclear plant and will create far more permanent jobs to help our economy.

As has been already mentioned, the nuclear plant presents a tempting target for terrorist. Distributed solar energy would deprive them of that target. Please do not permit our utilities to divert tens of billions of dollars, of

our dollars, into Twentieth Century nuclear technology when Twenty-First Century solar technology is so much safer, cleaner and cheaper.

Companies like Southern California Edison, Sun Edison, Solendra, and VRB Power are showing everyone how to do it. The NRC can help by not permitting Progress Energy Florida to build a nuclear plant in Levy County. Some things last forever like nuclear waste and solar cells. Which would you rather have in your environment?

France was mentioned. France has gone big on nuclear. It is an entirely different nuclear process than what Progress Energy is talking about doing here and what we do in the United States.

Germany has not been mentioned. Germany is doing a huge amount of solar energy. Which business model do we want to follow?

Progress Energy talks about a balanced solution which I support. I think we need to have a balanced solution of alternative energy and energy efficiency in addition to state of the art power plants.

But where is the balance when Progress Energy is going to limit renewable energy sources to

just three percent of the fuel mix with or without this nuclear plant. Where is the balance when Progress Energy has an energy efficiency program that based on current expenditures over the next eight years will amount to less than ten percent of their investment in this nuclear power plant.

This power plant will cost $7.7 billion per megawatt. Southern California Edison is installing solar panels on leased commercial rooftops in high growth areas for $3.5 billion dollars -- million dollars per megawatt. Less than half the cost.

A recent study by Navigant Consulting for the Florida Public Service Commission showed that Florida's solar potential is 175.8 kilowatt hours which amounts to 71.7 percent of all the electricity produced in Florida in 2007. That simply confirms the study done by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy last year which showed that solar and other renewables could replace 26 percent of conventionally generated electricity in Florida by the year 2023.

California is going to have 20 percent of their electricity generated by renewables by 2010.

Certainly we can do just as good a job. Thank you for your time.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for those comments and for being here with us today. We're going to go to Al Latimer, Susan Kirk, and then we're going to go to Mark Vianello. And I apologize if I mispronounced that. But this is Mr. Latimer.

MR. AL LATIMER: Thank you. I'm Al Latimer, Senior Vice President of External Affairs and Investor Relations for Enterprise Florida. Enterprise Florida is the state's principal economic development organization.

As we work to diversify the state's economy and create jobs, which is our mission, we have strategically focused our business retention and recruitment efforts on industries that offer great high growth potential and pay higher than average state wages. Clean energy is one of the sectors that we focus on.

We classify nuclear power generation companies as clean energy and support Progress Energy's application for construction, for a construction and operator's license.

As Enterprise Florida works to attract new businesses to the state and helps existing businesses to expand, we recognize the many benefits of nuclear power companies. It is generally accepted that businesses function best in an environment where things are predictable and certain. Nuclear generated power can provide low stable cost electricity which helps businesses avoid uncertainty.

Nuclear generated power is reliable. In Florida we have seasonal challenges called hurricanes. During and after hurricanes fossil fuel supplies are interrupted causing price hikes. These unanticipated increases negatively impact businesses ability to survive and compete.

The jobs that will be generated by the construction of this nuclear plant will be high wage jobs. Those jobs will help raise the state average wage and improve the quality of life for not only this community but for the entire state. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Al. Let's go to Susan Kirk, Mark Vianello, and then to Preston Roberts. This is Susan Kirk.

MS. SUSAN KIRK: Good afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to address you on this today.

I am a long-term resident of the area. I am a member of Citrus 20-20. I am a member of the Friends of Chassahowitzka. I have been heavily involved in a local effort to save sixty acres of land with a pristine spring on it. I say that not as a way to speak for those organizations but as a way to bring an awareness to you that I respect and love the nature and the beauty of the environment around us.

That being said, let me bring some understanding to you of my background, my community involvement. For the past ten years I have been heavily involved in the public service of this area as a City Council person for the City of Crystal River. I have been involved in the redevelopment area downtown and I have served on some regional boards and attended state meetings. So I've developed a keen awareness of what is going on in our area. I've done a lot of learning about the companies that are involved in our area and it's brought an awareness to me about what it takes for all of us to blend into a community.

We all have an impact, an environmental impact everyday where we live. We might not want to admit it, we may not recognize it because we've

always done it. But there is an environmental impact in regard to the cars we drive, the sanitary services we expect, and just in the way that we live our everyday lives. Nothing can be done without some kind of environmental impact. All we can do is hope that it is mitigated in the best manner possible.

Due to my role on the City Council I became aware of Progress Energy's efforts and the extensiveness of their efforts to work with environmental impact on the areas that they are involved in. If you go on their web page you will understand and see how their foundation has worked to mitigate areas of the environment and to restore those areas.

So I favor this project. I would only expect, and I have no doubt, that Progress Energy will do what they can to return back to the community and maintain that stewardship to the environment that they have already displayed. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Susan. We're going to go to Mark --

MR. MARK VIANELLO: Vianello.

MR. CAMERON: You can do that. Thank you.

MR. MARK VIANELLO: It's a good Irish

name. My name is Mark Vianello and I'm here to speak in favor and on behalf of Progress Energy.

The last speaker mentioned good stewardship to the community. I am the principal of Marion Technical Institute which is the only technical high school in Ocala. What makes our school unique is the relationship that we have with the business community, whether it be the Economic Development Corporation, Citrus-Levy; Marian County Workforce Development; or Progress Energy. Progress Energy has been a tremendous partner with us over the past two years as we've developed our power academy in their help in preparing students to be linemen, preparing students to work in the energy field. Whether it be providing guest speakers, providing internship opportunities, or employment opportunities, providing resources for our students, they are there. They provide manpower. They are really a tremendous supporter of education and a tremendous steward to our community.

I would also like to say that I think it will be important for the economic development. What's being proposed here in Levy County will be a tremendous benefit to our students, to students in

North Central Florida and to adults in North Central Florida as well. I think they are a tremendous positive economic impact.

And finally I would like to say in my two years in working with the leadership of Progress Energy, specifically Martha Barnwell and Jim Sochacki, I have known them to be extremely intelligent, extremely organized, and I have a tremendous amount of confidence in their ability to work and make this a very positive experience. Thank you for this opportunity.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mark. We're going to go to Preston Roberts, and then to Troy Burrell, Junior, Matt Mucci, and Robert Walther. And this is Preston Roberts coming up right now.

MR. PRESTON ROBERTS: I'm a senior citizen so I walk a little slower.

MR. CAMERON: That's fine. We're all going to be there or are there.

MR. ROBERTS: It is nice to have the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon. And I will make my points brief because many of the things I was going to say have been covered by other people.

I am not an advocate of three nuke plants

in close proximity here. I think that's a very, very dangerous thing to do. I've worked all over the world. I'm more familiar with things that can happen. And three of those plants with stacks sticking up there are ideal targets for our enemies, and we have a few, and we've created a lot of them.

And weapons are readily available throughout Europe and the Middle East. They don't have to be built here. They can be built overseas and you can buy them readily anyplace over there.

A question I have is where is Progress Energy out of? I understand they are out of South Carolina. Is that correct?

UNIDENTIFIED: North Carolina, Raleigh.

MR. ROBERTS: North Carolina. Okay. They are out of Raleigh, North Carolina. And so we are just strictly a business interest to them and they could care less about Florida, other than making money. I believe that's a fair point.

The environmental review that we are here for today is extremely important to me because I'm a farmer. I have a farm and I'm familiar with aquifers and how they work, and the water flow, and I can even hear it in places on my property.

And once you poison those aquifers we're all done and Florida is going to lose its glitter. And the aquifers run all the way across the state and a lot of people draw water from them.

I would just be interested as a matter of point that somebody give some data from this conference on what the radiation testing is around the current nuke plant here in Crystal River. Do some drilling and take some bore samples out of the wells around here and let's just see how they have changed since they've been there for thirty years. I will guarantee you that there is going to be some things here that you are probably not going to want to divulge.

The other thing is also besides being a farmer I'm an engineer, and a home builder, and a designer and also I do a little construction in the commercial real estate.

We can reduce our energy -- now, I'm familiar with this because when we lived in Europe in the eighties they were building buildings over there that had solar energy built into them when they were brand new. The Greeks. We lived in Greece and they had on the tops of roofs, every new house being built

had pipes running up to the roof for heating hot water.

We haven't done anything like that in this country. We don't have any solar panels here to speak of except in California, which is the leader, the big leader, and God bless them.

We can reduce our energy requirements by I calculate a minimum of twenty percent when we build a new home. And the ways of doing it is through the design of the house, the positioning of the house for the sun. They do that in many places out west. They design a house so that they either get rid of the sun or attract the sun.

Insulation, and there is all kinds of insulation programs available today, different kinds of insulation. Triple glazed glass in your windows. Tremendous heat gain can be stopped by having triple glazed glass or you can keep your cool in or your heat in, whichever you're trying to do. Improved heat pump systems, which we're all familiar with. And, of course, putting solar panels on the roofs and having the federal government, as well as the state, start giving incentive to contractors to put these units in and let us sell the energy back to Progress.

Let us make lots of electricity in our homes which we can do.

We can use -- we have batteries there. We pull that energy in, we use it in our homes. We will use what we need to use when we want it, want to do that, and the balance, let's sell it back.

Boulder, Colorado has gone all electric now with panels in their homes. This is true. This was out about two weeks ago. And they are conserving energy and they are very interested in solar. And all the homes now have these units in there that control the house electric flow at the prime and peak times. And that's not something new; that's been readily available. But Boulder is on top. And they are going after it and doing it, and God bless them.

And finally, we are the people of Florida here and we are pretty proud folks. And I understand this Progress Energy plant is going to service thirty-five counties. That's what was told to me today, thirty-five counties. I wonder if we held a vote, a vote, in those thirty-five counties, explained the alternate possibility besides a nuke plant, two nuke plants, three nuke plants, maybe solar panels. Solar farms they call them. They call

them solar farms. Putting those solar farms in place.

Let's look at a cost comparison. Let's do a vote. Let's have a mandate that we take those thirty-five counties and get people to say yes or no. Then there is no question on whether or not it is going to happen. If they say yes, they've got the go-ahead. If they say no, we want more environmental information, and we want to see the dollars and cents figures. And that's been presented to date. It's cheaper.

MR. SULLIVAN: Comparative dollars. Comparative.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Let's -- thank you.

MR. PRESTON: Okay. I've been pretty hot and heavy on Progress Energy but that's what today is for.

MR. CAMERON: Okay.

MR. PRESTON: So thank you for your time.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Preston. Our next three speakers are Troy Burrell Junior, Matt Mucci, and Robert Walther. And this is Troy.

MR. TROY BURRELL: Thank you. My name is Troy Burrell. I've been a Levy County resident for

about the last forty-six years. I live in southeast Levy County probably fifteen to twenty miles from the proposed plant location and about twenty-five to thirty to the existing nuclear plant location. And all that time Progress Energy has been a good neighbor.

I'm also president of Burrell Engineering, a civil engineering firm in Dunnellon, which again we're probably fifteen miles or so from the proposed site.

It is my opinion that the siting of this plant environmentally is reasonably well thought out. They've picked an area that has relatively low population that has access to water, access to, you know, the transmission grids. So by and large I'm in favor of it. I think it is going to bring a boom to both Citrus and Levy County in an economic perspective. I think it is a fairly well thought-out location so I'm in favor of it and I look forward to its process.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Troy. Matt?

MR. MATT MUCCI: Good afternoon. I would like to thank the NRC for allowing us all to be here today. My name is Matt Mucci and I'm the Vice

President for Advocacy for the Tampa Bay Partnership. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Tampa Bay Partnership, we're an economic development organization for the Tampa Bay Region. The Tampa Bay Region consists of seven counties -- Hillsborough, Hernando, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk, Sarasota, and Manatee.

It is my pleasure to be here today to speak on behalf of Progress Energy and their application process to build and operate two new reactors in Levy County.

This project we have supported for several years. And of the seven counties I previously mentioned, five are within Progress Energy's service territory.

As an economic development organization, we feel this would be the most significant infrastructure investment in decades. It is no secret that our region and our state is growing and making sure that it is smart growth is a pivotal step.

Recently the Tampa Bay Partnership completed an exercised we called Realty Check/One Bay. It gave the citizens and the business community

to come together to decide where our growth should be and what needs to be in place to sustain a good quality of life.

Along with the proper transit solutions, energy production/consumption is a critical component and decisions need to be made now so that the state is not faced with an energy shortage. The plan for two new reactors would mean a significant amount of jobs which would head out economy back in the right direction.

We have taken an interest in alternative energy approaches and it is a priority of our local legislative state delegation. We commend Progress Energy for their inclusion in the process and for taking our recommendations into consideration. I thank you for allowing me to address you today and I hope you will look favorably on this application and recognize the state-wide benefits. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Matt. Robert Walther, and then we are going to go to Paul Marraffino and Mac Harris.

MR. ROBERT WALTHER: Thank you, Chip. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Rob Walther and I'm speaking today on behalf of the Clean and Safe

Energy Coalition. We are led by our national co-chairs, Christine Todd Widman, former Governor of New Jersey and EPA head, and Doctor Patrick Moore who is one of the co-founders of Greenpeace and was a long-serving head of that organization.

The coalition boasts a membership of 1700 individuals and organizations across the nation and locally who support our mission. We support construction of new reactors and are actively engaged in generating a public dialog to inform others about the way nuclear power enhances America's energy security and economic growth, helps obtain cleaner air and improves the quality of life, health and economic well being for all Americans.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that our electricity demand will increase twenty-five percent by the year 2030. Roughly that means, for every four Americans you can add one more flipping the switch, adjusting the thermostat or opening the refrigerator.

As technology advances and our population increases, so too will our need for energy grow. In Florida alone demand is increasing faster than the state's population. Is it any wonder? It used to be

the only thing you would carry on your person that ran on electricity was your watch, just a small battery. But today we have cell phones, laptops, Blackberries, I-pods, and in the not too distant future we may have cars that are running on electricity that you have to plug into the wall every single night. In fact, it is somewhat ironic that today on Capitol Hill, Congress is talking about to get bailed out the car manufacturers are going to have to make electric vehicles.

So how will we handle the enormous increases in electricity that we will need?

The Clean and Safe Energy Coalition supports conservation. Let me be clear. We support conservation. Energy conservation and efficient electrical appliances will help and a deeper commitment to renewable sources like wind, solar and geothermal is needed. Again, let me be clear. We support these alternative forms of energy.

The greater conservation and renewable energy don't provide the base load power, the power that gets you to and from work, that gets the economy moving all twenty-four hours of the day. Consider that today all renewal sources produce two percent of

our electricity while nuclear power accounts for twenty percent or one out of every five homes and businesses in the United States.

The new plant that could be built in Levy will be able to power 1.4 million homes. The reality is we will require more from these sources and all others in the years ahead. If the housing crisis in Florida has shown us anything, it is that sound economic policy must recognize the virtue of diversity. So too must a wise energy plan and in that diverse plan nuclear energy is a critical component.

But there are other benefits of a nuclear power plant to our local economy. It supports high paying jobs directly at the plant. The Levy plant will provide thousands of construction jobs and many permanent jobs to the region. Furthermore it is estimated that for every job created at a nuclear plant, three more are created in the surrounding community. Three more. Those are Levy jobs. Those are not exportable. They will not go overseas.

Better schools, roads, and other civic improvements are also products of nuclear energy and nuclear energy will save Floridians $1 billion a year

once up and running.

We all have a shared stake in America's energy future. Now is the time for our country to build more nuclear power plants to enable us to generate electricity with a clean, safe and dependable source of power. We support the NRC's preliminary recommendation and a continuation of the licensing process that would lead to new construction in Levy County. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much, Robert. Paul Marraffino.

MR. PAUL MARRAFFINO: Good afternoon. I'm feeling a little lonely here. I came to talk about the Environmental Impact Statement and we have a world debate on energy. I'll try and keep it much more narrow.

I'm here -- I am a member of lots of groups but I'm here to speak just for myself and my wife, Sandra, and narrow it to the Lake Rousseau and your neighbor to the new proposed site for the nuclear power plant.

When the dam was put on Lake Rousseau in 1906, it raised the water level and created a lot of islands, marshes and other things that are a

wonderful breeding site for many birds in the community. Thousands and thousands of breeding pairs are located there.

The Office of Greenways and Trails has been a good steward of this property along with other state agencies. And the question is now that we have a major development being proposed could this large site have an impact on this location. And we, of course, want to minimize that impact because we like birds there. My wife and I do, at least.

There are three things I would just like to propose be considered for the Environmental Impact Statement.

One, that there be a robust stormwater system, stormwater management system; that it be a closed system, meaning that any rainfall that falls on the site doesn't run off on the surface but is dealt with with DRA's and with bio-remediation and other methods.

Secondly, that there be minimum use of pesticides and herbicides on the site and that within 150 feet of any water source, such as a stream, lake, or large ponds, that there be a pesticide and herbicide free zone within 150 feet of that area.

And finally, to control hazardous materials in a very robust way, including diesel fuel and other petroleum products that are on the site.

I think that these may already be baked into the process. I haven't read NRC regulations in a few years but I think they should be on checklists for the development process, that they take this into consideration on a checklist and go forward.

And also, maybe bringing up someone else's comment. There should be test wells around the site. There should be and early development that be measured at a base level and then on a regular basis measure a large selection of items that would be of concern for health reasons and so on. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Paul, for those pertinent, pertinent comments. Thank you very much. Mac Harris. Mac, I didn't know whether you wanted to say something but --

MR. MAC HARRIS: I provided a copy.

MR. CAMERON: Yes, yes. We have that.

MR. HARRIS: If you would like me to simply hit a couple of points and then --

MR. CAMERON: Yes, that would be good.

Thank you.

MR. HARRIS: Hello. I'm Mac Harris and I'm a resident of Citrus County, Florida. I'm a customer of Progress Energy. I'm retired and I'm involved in a number of community activities. But I come here today to speak as a citizen, not on behalf of any of those organizations.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am a retired Progress Energy employee. I want to emphasize however that my interest and involvement in energy issues pre-dates my employment with Progress Energy and continues into my retirement. I came here today because I care greatly about the future of our country and I believe construction of this plant is a vital part of that future.

I first became involved in energy issues more than thirty-five years ago, prior to the 1973 oil embargo. I've covered energy as a news reporter and the last thirty-five years I've unfortunately been involved in oil and gas supply issues, coal issues, with various energy crises we've had; construction of two nuclear plants and upgrades at three others.

I've been involved in national energy

policy such as the 1992 Energy Policy Act where I wrote some papers. During this time I have become increasingly convinced that the only rational and environmentally sound way to meet our energy needs is through the construction of additional nuclear power plants.

I have seen firsthand all of the ways we generate power in commercial quantities and any electric generating power plant has an impact on the environment. But there is no question in my mind that a nuclear power plant has less impact and it is the only commercially feasible way to produce the power we need.

I've also seen firsthand the commitment to energy excellence and to the protection of the environment that Progress Energy shows, and I'm convinced they will take all necessary steps. I believe the technology being used in this plant is the most environmentally friendly of those that are commercially available and the company applying for the permit will construct the plant in an environmentally conscious way. And for these reasons I ask that this panel approve this plant construction. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Mac. We're going to go to Renate Cannon, Gary Maidhof, Dan Hilliard, and then Michael Hernandez. And I'm sorry if I mispronounced your name, Renate.

MS. RENATE CANNON: Good afternoon. Thank you for being here so that we can address you. You did not mispronounce my name. Quite to the contrary, you did a very good job.

I have a -- I am basically for the construction of this plant. However, I would like to mention a few concerns. But before I do, let me address the point that I hear over and over from various persons who are very much concerned that the plants, two, or three, or one, make a fantastic target for Homeland Security, meaning terrorist attacks.

As you can tell from my accent, I wasn't born in this country. I was born in Germany, in communist Germany and successfully escaped by the clothes on our backs. And I am a U.S. citizen since 1972.

Now, believe me, having lived for a long time in Berlin, the Russians next door with their idiotic watchtowers, I could care less which

terrorist it takes tomorrow. Have a little faith in the Lord and it will be well with you. That's number one. And in that same vein, nothing is eternal. No nuclear power plant, no terrorist, no nobody.

Now, coming to concerns. Yucca Mountain was supposed to take nuclear waste twenty-seven years ago. That was already the item when I worked for the Texas Water Development Board. Bringing me to another point. The agency was not called Water Commission. We had that, too. It said development, meaning there wasn't enough around. And Florida is heading in the right direction, the same direction at an alarming rate.

I understand that Progress Energy says it is collaborating with local agencies to ensure the plant has no significant adverse impacts on resources or nearby wells. I would like to know which local agencies.

And another thing I would like to know is does this United States, what you said, Nuclear Regular Atomic Commission, require specific environmental standards and which have to be complied with? And would you please tell me which of your many state members I need to approach to get an

answer.

Which also before I finish here, which is where I sat the gentleman and I don't -- I remember his first name, Scott, who lives closest to the plants, he has been at other meetings in Levy County that I attended. Those answers I am confident the rest of the public would have liked to enjoy to know. And maybe Mr. Emch will have the kindness to tell me what the answers were to the gentleman's questions.

But let it be enough of the passing in general I do support this plan and I would like to know why we cannot recycle the waste and re-use it like it is done in France, if I am not mistaken.

Now, I understand completely one cannot fuss about things at the federal. I am well aware of the process of democracy, meaning if you have an item with PSC at the state level and I understand that the recycling part of nuclear waste has to go to the federal level wire or U.S. delegation and I will do my part. Thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you very much Renate for those thoughtful comments and I know that Mr. Emch will not only talk with you about our standards but also what he might've shared with Mr.

Robert Smith who was here earlier.

And next we're going to go to Gary. This is Gary and then Dan Hillard.

MR. GARY MAIDHOF: Gary Maidhof. I am Citrus County's Department Development Director and I've been asked to speak on behalf of Citrus County Government.

The Levy County project clearly is intended to address the documented needs for additional electrical service that is going to be required within the state of Florida. Progress Energy, and its predecessor, Florida Power Corporation, has a long and established history of providing -- of operating nuclear power plants both efficiently and safely. And the site in question is in close proximity to existing transmission lines which will help deliver that energy at a cost-effective fashion.

I do concur with Mr. Walther who spoke earlier that you all picked the wrong site and it should be in Citrus County. And if the Levy County site doesn't work out for you all, you all are welcome to come back and chat with us. But regardless, this is the right location for nuclear

power facilities and the timing is right. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Gary. Dan Hillard and then Michael Hernandez. Is Dan still here?

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: He left.

MR. CAMERON: Okay. Michael? And then we will go to Ken Cheek and John Marmish. This is Michael Hernandez.

MR. MICHAEL HERNANDEZ: I, like Robert, am also part of the Clean and Safe Energy Coalition. I also have a unique perspective to add because I'm on the ground here in Florida twenty-four hours a day, working to drum up the support for nuclear energy.

As a private citizen I live down in South Miami Dade County, Florida, about 2.5 miles away from the Turkey Point facility that is operated by Florida Power and Light. And our National Co-Chair Governor Christine Todd Whitman also has a home in the area.

We feel pretty safe there. That's from my personal perspective. And also ***U.S. News and World Report*** named Homestead, Florida the fastest growing city in America with 50,000 residents or less. That's indicative of the fact that we don't really mind that there is a nuclear power plant just

off the coast of Biscayne Bay in the region.

Just from the Coalition's perspective, we are very active here in Florida. As Robert mentioned, we do have 1700 members across the country and they go along all sectors from labor to obviously those with energy interests.

Here in Florida, former Governor Jeb Bush, former Speaker of the House, and President of FSU, T.K. Wetherell, Mike Fasano, who is a senator who represents Citrus County, or portions of Citrus County, are all members as is Senator Charley Dean, Senior, represents Levy County, and Senator Carey Baker was also someone who just penned an op-ed in support of this nuclear power plant and in support of nuclear energy advancement throughout the state in general. He just had that published in last week's ***Orlando Sentinel***.

To echo again Robert, we support nuclear energy not only because it is clean, and it is safe, and it is something that provides us for the future. Wind and solar are also a part of the diverse mix. I want to make that very clear and continue to stress we may be a coalition that does advocate the expansion of nuclear power, but we also support a

diverse portfolio, if you will.

We have a booth out there kind of on the side. And we would love to speak to any of you who have any questions. We're not in the prime hallway, but if you want, Robert and I will be there on the side to answer any other questions on the coalition and why we support and take the stances that we do. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thanks, Michael. And we're going to have Laura -- is it Slaback?

MS. LAURA SLABACK: Yes.

MR. CAMERON: Laura come in before we go to Ken and John.

MS. LAURA SLABACK: Hello. My name is Laura Slaback and I'm here representing the Levy County Public Education Foundation. My purpose today is to briefly share with you the positive effect Progress Energy has had on Levy County over the past few years.

Over the past six years they have given a total of over $83,000 just to Levy County alone to the public education.

In 2002, that's when we were first approached by Progress Energy. They approached us

and gave us $1,000 to support our classroom grants which goes directly to programs in the classrooms for the students and teachers.

In 2004, they gave us $15,000 toward the teacher program because we had a critical teacher shortage in the areas of science, math, and special education. They have continued over the last four years for a total of $50,000, additional dollars to the $15,000 towards that program.

In 2003 through 2008 they have supported our annual scholarship program. We have a Superintendent's Gala we do every year, and they constantly give towards those scholarships for graduating seniors.

In 2008 Progress Energy has joined our Board of Directors. And this last year the most recent grant, they gave $17,000 towards a career and tech program.

So we just want to tell you, just re-confirm what other people have said, that they are a great corporate citizen and certainly contribute a lot to the students and teachers of Levy County. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Laura. And let's

go to Ken Cheek. Ken? And then John Marmish and then Art Jones.

MR. KEN CHEEK: Thank you. I'm Ken Cheek. I'm a long-term Citrus County resident. I live in Homosassa, pretty much in the shadow of the Crystal River Plant. I can see the lights of the plant at night on a clear night from my back porch.

I've been fishing and boating in this area for pretty much my entire life. I've really never seen any adverse environmental impacts from the operations here in Crystal River. I trust that the NRC and Progress Energy will bring us a responsible design and I believe the economic impact to the area is very important. And based on that I'm in favor of the project. Thanks.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Ken. John?

MR. JOHN MARMISH: Hello. I'm John Marmish. I'm the Executive Director of the United Way of Citrus County.

I'm not here to offer national power solutions or alternatives, but I'm here to tell you about the great support we get from Progress Energy.

Progress Energy is a great community partner. You might say they offer a brain trust, and

pardon the pun on that. But they support so many nonprofits in Citrus County through their leadership and through their knowledge. On our United Way Board we have two to three employees that represent not only that entity but support the community.

Financial support, I never totaled up how much dollars that has come from the employees of Progress Energy, but I dare say that it is millions of dollars that we have received over the years. Their employees support many nonprofits in the community through direct financial contributions, but also as volunteers. They actively get out and support those nonprofits and provide services that we do not have the talents for or the energy for. And many days are spent on our day of caring, which is volunteer work back into the community, food drives. Their Volunteer Council is composed of volunteers from their employees. And they get out and actively support the nonprofits.

I have also had the opportunity to participate on the community working group which was composed of community and business leaders and local citizens. Our task was to find a route for the transmission lines through Citrus County. And many

other counties have similar groups meeting, whether it be Levy, or Hernando I believe had them. And we all worked in conjunction, trying to figure out the best route for these transmission lines.

We all voted for everything to be buried below the ground so we didn't have to look at them. That didn't work. That was a very expensive alternative. But we all concluded that the best routes were probably the present routes that we have going through the county, and maybe to tie that in with those lines and with the Suncoast Parkway that's coming up through the county. And the purpose was we wanted to see less impact on to our established communities so that the lines did not disrupt that.

It was quite an informational opportunity for me. We also had the opportunity to take a tour of the plant. And I can't tell you how impressed I was with the security measures that they have in place as far as they could tell us, and as far as I could see. I was very, very impressed.

And I think that in summation that the things that they are going to bring to you is greater employment to Levy County, but we hope that all the employees live in Citrus County. If they don't then

they are missing out on a great opportunity.

But anyway, it will enhance the quality of life for both counties. We also will provide leadership for our communities and also address some of the power resources that are sorely needed in our nation right now.

Through this community work that I did and through the tour of the facility and with all the information we constantly receive from the working groups and their leadership, I really look forward to having a nuclear facility here nearby, unfortunately not in Citrus County.

Like was said earlier, if it doesn't work out for Sumter or Levy County, please come south. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you very much. Thank you, John. Art Jones.

MR. ART JONES: My name is Art Jones. I live here in Crystal River.

And I think that the location of this plant is a bad location. I've listened to what people have said here, and particularly Mr. Norm Hopkins. And this is somebody who has really done his homework. It is somebody that is not on

anybody's payroll. It is somebody who is doing his homework because they care about Crystal River and all the people that live here.

And we love our water here in Crystal River. Kings Bay is made up of over thirty freshwater springs and it is a manatee sanctuary here in the winter. Anything that has any danger of interrupting the flow of fresh water into those springs is something that we are absolutely opposed to.

If Mr. Hopkins says that this is going to be a tumor on our environment, well I believe him. He is not being paid to say that. I think the plant, the location of this plant is just in a bad, bad, bad location. As Mr. Hopkins pointed out, it's at the top of the -- what was the word he used -- point true metric concentric circles that brings water down. So it is one of the highest points in this area and the water flows south into Crystal River. And then you have Rainbow River right next to it over in Marion County.

Now, I understand that the nuclear plant is going to bring a lot of tax money into Levy County but it is going to affect the environment here in

Crystal River. So it is just a bad location for the plant.

And I believe that the plant is way too big. I mean, Progress Energy hasn't built any nuclear plants in over thirty years, there's just been nothing built in this country. So if you are going to start building nuclear plants again let's start out with something really small. You know, something really small, and let's build it where the need is for the power so you don't, you know, have these transmission lines going 180 miles to bring power over the villages. If the villages are growing, and the villages need power, and these nuclear plants are so safe, well then build it over near the villages.

This just looks like a really bad location for the plant. It looks like a bad environmental disaster waiting to happen.

Mr. Hopkins was talking about tritium going into the environment and tritium into the water. I mean, it just doesn't make sense. I think that the Rainbow Springs, and Kings Bay, and Crystal River, and this whole area around here in the water is absolutely priceless. And I would like to see

Progress Energy present some true alternatives.

I mean, a lot of their models are based on Florida just growing, growing, growing. We all know it's not happening right now. Things have slowed down and there is no guarantee that things are going to start taking off and growing in the future again like they used to be. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance. You know, our country is changing. It is time to downsize. If they need power let's build small efficient plants where the power is needed.

So, you know, I just want to say I think we should keep it simple. I know the NRC has got tons, and tons, and tons of paperwork to go over and, you know, I hope you really look and listen clearly to people like Mr. Hopkins who has done their homework and that will take the burden off you. Here is someone that did the homework and it is just not a good location for these plants. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you, Art. Thank you for those comments. I think I got everybody who signed up. We have one last person.

MS. TYLER: I signed up.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: This lady signed up.

MR. CAMERON: Is this Theresa?

MS. TYLER: Janice Tyler.

MR. CAMERON: Why don't you come up. I'm sorry.

MS. TYLER: I did sign.

MR. CAMERON: All right. I missed it.

MS. JANICE TYLER: Hi, I'm Janice Tyler and I live here. And you, I believe, are the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. That's your job, you regulate. You don't live here. I do live here and I have some concerns.

Now most of the concerns have been addressed so I won't belabor the issue. But I am concerned about our groundwater. We have a unique system with the Florida aquifer and it is our drinking water. That is a great concern to me.

The next two things I have to say are questions. The first question is, is there anyplace else in the United States that has three nuclear plants together? Can someone address that question?

MR. CAMERON: Janice, why don't you just keep going on and we will try to get an answer for you.

MS. TYLER: Well, if there is any place

that has three together, I think that's too many. And I think that makes a terrorist target. And this is a lovely area, pristine area, and I think that's one of the reasons we've been targeted to put three together in here. And I would like to know where the energy is going aside from locally.

Second question. I always consider myself a bottom line kind of person. So I'm just wondering what is Progress Energy and the NRC, what is your liability in case of a nuclear mishap. Because sadly we know they happen. Chernobyl, Three Mile Island. What is your responsibility?

MR. CAMERON: Well, Janice, we're going to have someone talk to you about that.

MS. TYLER: Well, I didn't know why you couldn't tell everyone.

MR. CAMERON: Because we want to get on with the rest of the speakers. Thank you.

MS. TYLER: The last thing is, what is going to happen for property devaluation when you run your transmission lines through people's, near people's homes because of health purposes?

MR. CAMERON: Okay.

MS. TYLER: Is there any monetary

compensation?

MR. CAMERON: I'm going to ask Jody perhaps to talk to you right after the meeting about those questions. Thank you very much.

MS. TYLER: Okay. Well, I think that's a sideways step.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Final speaker, Theresa, Theresa Waldron.

MS. THERESA WALDRON: Hello. I am from the Nature Coast Sierra Group here, and we have over 1200 members ourselves. And we want to live each day in a clean enjoyable environment like everyone else. I got here a little late so I'm just observing and listening to everyone else and picking up a lot of information and concerns of the community here.

I do believe it is time for change and I do believe we've heard that lately. Nuclear is old. It has been here. It has done its thing and it has helped us, it really has. But we have to be looking to the future and nuclear is not the future.

Yucca Mountain never occurred. I don't believe there is any national hazmat standards created to be enforced for any nuclear accident. I don't know that the everyday citizen has the

opportunity to hold a nuclear commission, such as yourself, to the fire if you destroy our homes, and our lives, and our drinking water. And I would like to see that in writing just like the liability of any other company that could affect my day or my life.

There's quite a few items that we, as a community, need to be aware of. We are situated on a hydraulic part of the sand hill. Everyone has heard of the karst and how fragile it is. We are at a downhill position from I believe it is north of Levy.

But this central part of Florida only receives the water that we receive from rain. We don't get it from any other location. We don't get it from snow fall, or another river, or anything else. Central Florida is totally dependent for drinking water from rain which goes through our wetlands that are being destroyed every day. They are being purified and filtered to go into our private aquifer. This aquifer only feeds Central Florida. North Florida has its own aquifer.

And everyone, I don't think the public understands. It doesn't matter the money, the house, the jewels you own, when we run out of water we are out of life. And there is no guarantee that the

millions of gallons of water that these new plants are planning to use are not going to be affecting the down flow of the aquifer. And everyone that is on the down flow, which would be everyone practically, our wells could be contaminated.

We don't know when that water is going to get the salt intrusion from the Gulf. There is -- I want that in writing, too -- a guarantee that you're not going to be destroying our wells. Because I live in the country I don't have city water. I have the best water I have ever had in my life. I have a private well on the Florida aquifer.

I was born and raised in St. Pete and I lived on city water my whole life until I moved here in 2000. And that was one of the reasons I bought the house, because I had a drink of water from the faucet. And you cannot replace that. You can't filter it to taste that good.

And there are estuaries that will be destroyed in the bend area of Florida once you open that up to sprawl. And everyone talks smart growth. I would like to see smart growth if you have to grow. People live, people want houses. Why don't we have individual communities that are self-sufficient

that do not have constant sprawl, sucking the resources from everyone around them. That is smart growth.

Another question. Bringing construction and everything to Levy County, bringing money, jobs. After the construction is done, how many local people will you be employing with a high school diploma and maybe a year of technical school? Will that be adequate for any of your jobs or will you be bringing in highly-trained college educated people from other plants in other areas? Our area does not have a lot four, six, eight year diplomas hanging around for you to just suck up and employ. So that, I believe, is a fallacy.

There is so much. There is so much. We just need to keep our eyes open. And if you are going to build the plants, are you also going to voluntarily build us a de-sal plant? Just go ahead and do it for community service and guarantee there is water because in ten years I don't think there will be. Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you. Thank you, Theresa. I would thank all of you for coming out today. I'm going to ask Drew, as a senior official,

to close out this meeting. And, of course, we will be back in a couple of hours to talk with a new group of people and any of you who would like to join us again.

MR. PERSINKO: I would like to thank everybody for attending the meeting today. I especially want to thank everybody for participating in the meeting today.

The purpose, as we said, of this meeting was to obtain your input to help us develop the scope of our environmental review. And thus the many comments you've provided to us today will help us do that, and those comments are important to us.

I want to remind you that if you, after this meeting, wish to provide comments you still can. You can provide them via e-mail or regular mail to the NRC, and the slides have the addresses where you could provide those comments. And that period is open until December 23rd.

Your comments, all the comments that are provided during the environmental scoping period will be reviewed and discussed. The report that was mentioned on one of the slides called the Environmental Scoping Summary Report, that we

anticipate publishing by April. I also want to remind everybody that if you want to read some more about the Levy site or the Levy application or the regulatory process, I invite you to go to the NRC website. There is a lot of information about Levy as well as the NRC's regulatory process and licensing processes.

And also I want to say that we will be back and meeting with you again in about one year when we develop our draft Environmental Impact Statement and we will have an additional public meeting at that time. And so I wish to thank you very much.

MR. CAMERON: Thank you.

(Whereupon, at the meeting concluded at 3:57 p.m.)

The following are documents
submitted during the afternoon Scoping Meeting

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Thank you to our Corporate and Business sponsors:
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December 1, 2008

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

To Whom It May Concern.

As a 19 year Board of Director Member of the Levy County Schools Foundation, I am writing to you to express my thoughts regarding Progress Energy and their input into our community.

Our foundation was begun in 1989 as a 501© 3 not for profit organization, the direct support organization for the School Board of Levy County. Primarily we provided scholarships for graduating seniors. In 2000 our organization desired to grow to provide additional services in the school district, i.e. classroom grants, recognition of personnel and new programs in reading and technology.

In 2002, Progress Energy's Community Relations Representative, Mrs. Lynette Vermillion contacted us and offered Progress Energy's support of our Levy County Schools Foundation. She provided funding for our new Classroom Grant Program. to award science and math grants (This has continued every year since then.) More importantly she made us aware of other corporations that offered support to school foundations and gave us contact information to help us contact them.

In 2003, a Progress Energy employee, Frank Dola (who we met because his wife was Levy Teacher of the Year) agreed to become a member of our board of directors. Since that time, a Progress Energy representative has continuously been an active member of our board. They have also since that time, been a gold sponsor of our annual Superintendent's Gala and sponsored our Evening of Excellence, which honors teachers, employees and volunteers of the year.

In 2004, Levy County Schools Foundation was awarded a $15,000 grant to support School Board of Levy County employees who wanted to work toward a degree to teach or to become certified in areas of critical shortage (such as science, math and special education.) They have continued to fund this grant for 4 years for a total of $50,000 making dreams come true for residents seeking to complete their education.

This year, through our foundation, Progress Energy awarded a technology grant in the amount of $17,000 to help in the establishment of new career and technical education opportunities for our students.

Progress Energy has not just given money. Their employees have invested time, used their resources to help us grow our organization and become our friends. We think they will make great neighbors and support their presence in our county.

Sincerely,

Bobbie Smith

Mrs. Joseph E. Smith (Bobbie)

MTI
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(352) 671-4765
(352) 671-4766 Fax
www.marion.k12.fl.us/schools/mti

December 4, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

Allow me to take this opportunity and show my support for Progress Energy and the two new reactors they propose to build in Levy County. As principal of Marion Technical Institute, one of our strongest and most visible business partners we have is Progress Energy. They have been most generous in donating time, resources, and expertise to help prepare the much needed future workforce for our region.

The statistics are alarming; within the next five years 50% of the energy industry workforce will be eligible to retire. The leadership at Progress Energy understands this and is helping our community prepare for it. Their good stewardship to our school and region touches students in every high school in Marion County. MTI is designed so students from around the district can attend our school and focus on a specific career path. Our philosophy is to provide real world experiences, hands on activities, certification and career opportunities. Progress Energy helps turn this belief into reality.

One of MTI's newest, most exciting and popular programs is our Power Industry Academy. As lead company for the MTI Power Academy and an active member of our Business Task Force, Progress Energy has gone above and beyond to set up field trips, provide guest speakers, and allow their employees to deliver hands on experiences for our students.

The building of these reactors will be an integral part of strengthening and growing our region's economy. It is my belief that the economic impact will be positive; providing thousands of well-paying jobs, many of which can be filled by current and future students. Just as important environmentally, these reactors are needed to continue the pursuit of alternative sources of energy for our nation.

I have a tremendous amount of confidence in the leadership at Progress Energy and see this opportunity as a win-win situation for north central Florida. I strongly support this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Mark Vianello
Principal
Marion Technical Institute

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Protection of Lake Rousseau Water Quality and Natural Habitat

For over a hundred years Lake Rousseau with its vast area of marshes, islands and hummocks, has provided breeding opportunities for a wide variety of birds. With the current stewardship of the Office of Greenways and Trails and other state agencies, nesting populations have grown and flourished. Many of the breeding populations are *listed species* that require special attention for protection from the environmental impact of large-scale development.

The Levy County Nuclear Power Plant that is under development, is near Lake Rousseau and without measured discipline could have a negative impact on the water quality and breeding potential of this extraordinary area. Fortunately Progress Energy has shown a desire to protect the environment while building large projects to produce electricity required by a growing Florida.

With the existing Progress Energy Nuclear Power Plant in Crystal River and at other locations, health physics is a paramount consideration for system management. At the new Levy County plant, monitoring and protection of ground water should be performed at the same level of discipline as the radioactive element in the core facility. This should be required for the potable water requirements of the populace of surrounding communities. Added to the human requirement is the need to protect the water quality and natural habitat of Lake Rousseau.

Specifically a "closed" robust stormwater system for the property should be designed to keep all rainwater on site for the highest level of remediation defined by the water district. No stormwater, including a 100-year storm event, should leave the site without treatment or remediation.

In addition the use of pesticides and herbicides should be minimized to the lowest level practical. There should be a pesticide and herbicide free zone within 150 feet of any lake, river, stream or pond.

Finally control of hazardous material including diesel fuel should used and stored in a manor the prevents them from entering the groundwater system.

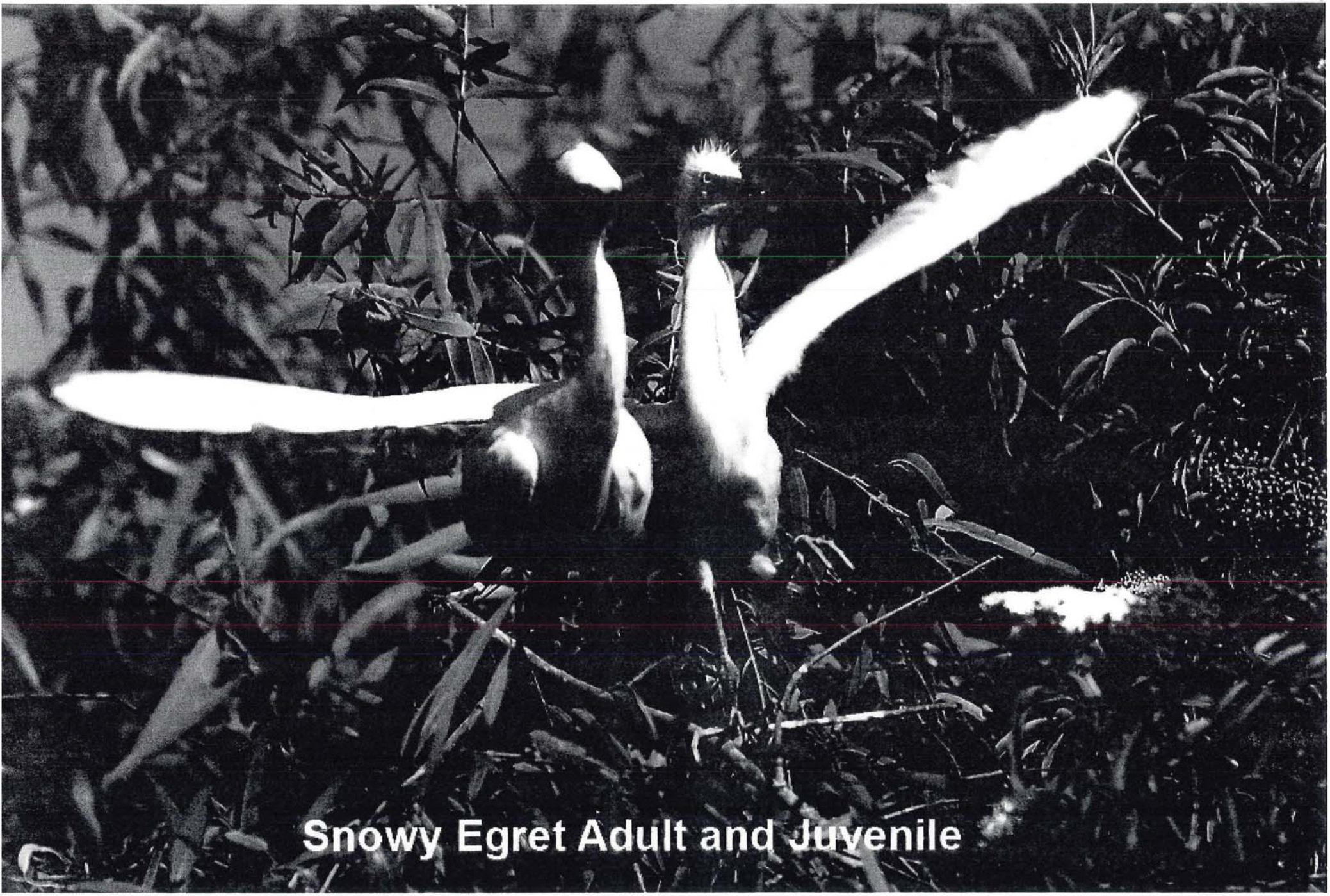
These criteria should be added to check lists that are generated and used during the design review process.

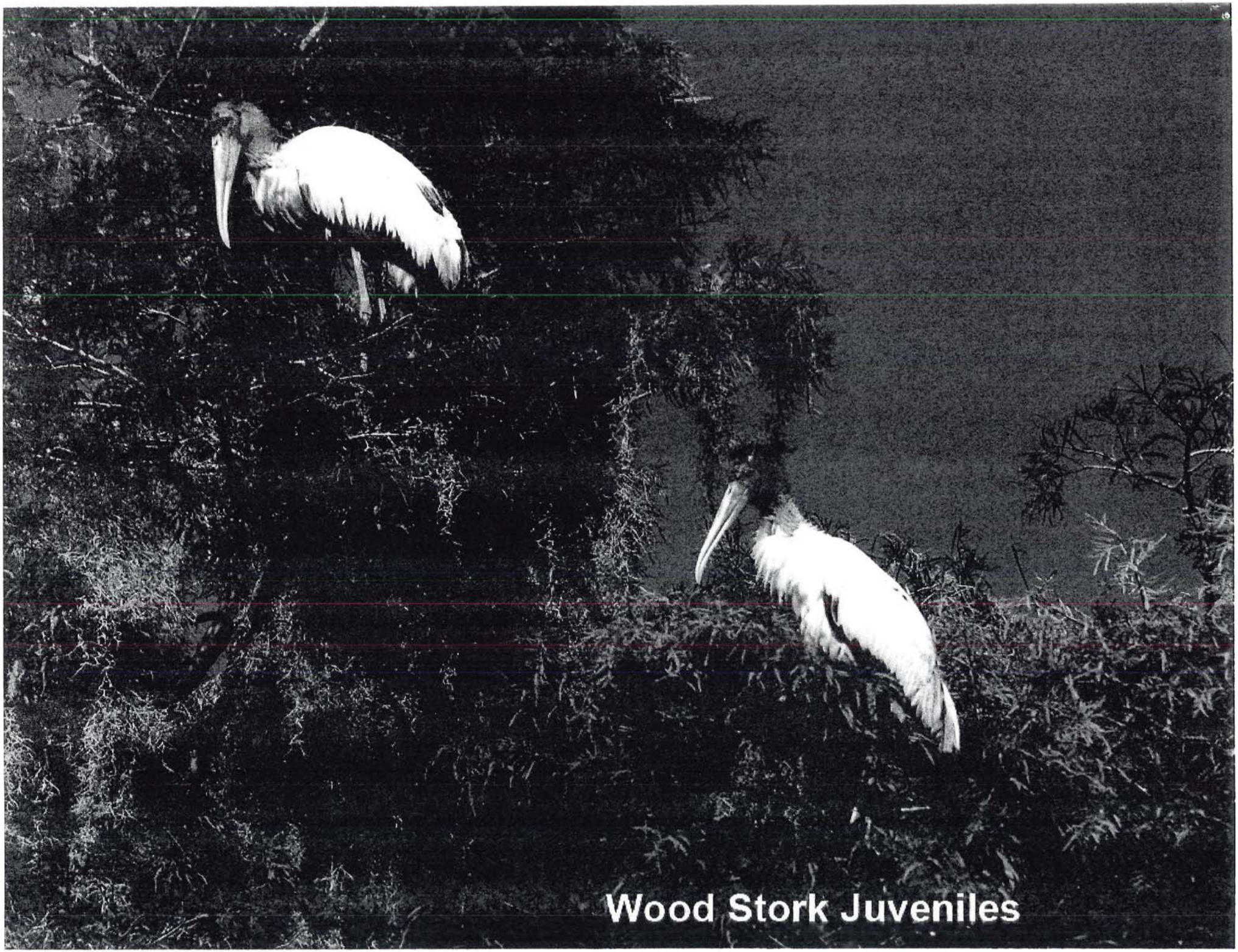
Some images of breeding listed species have been attached. Thank you for your consideration.

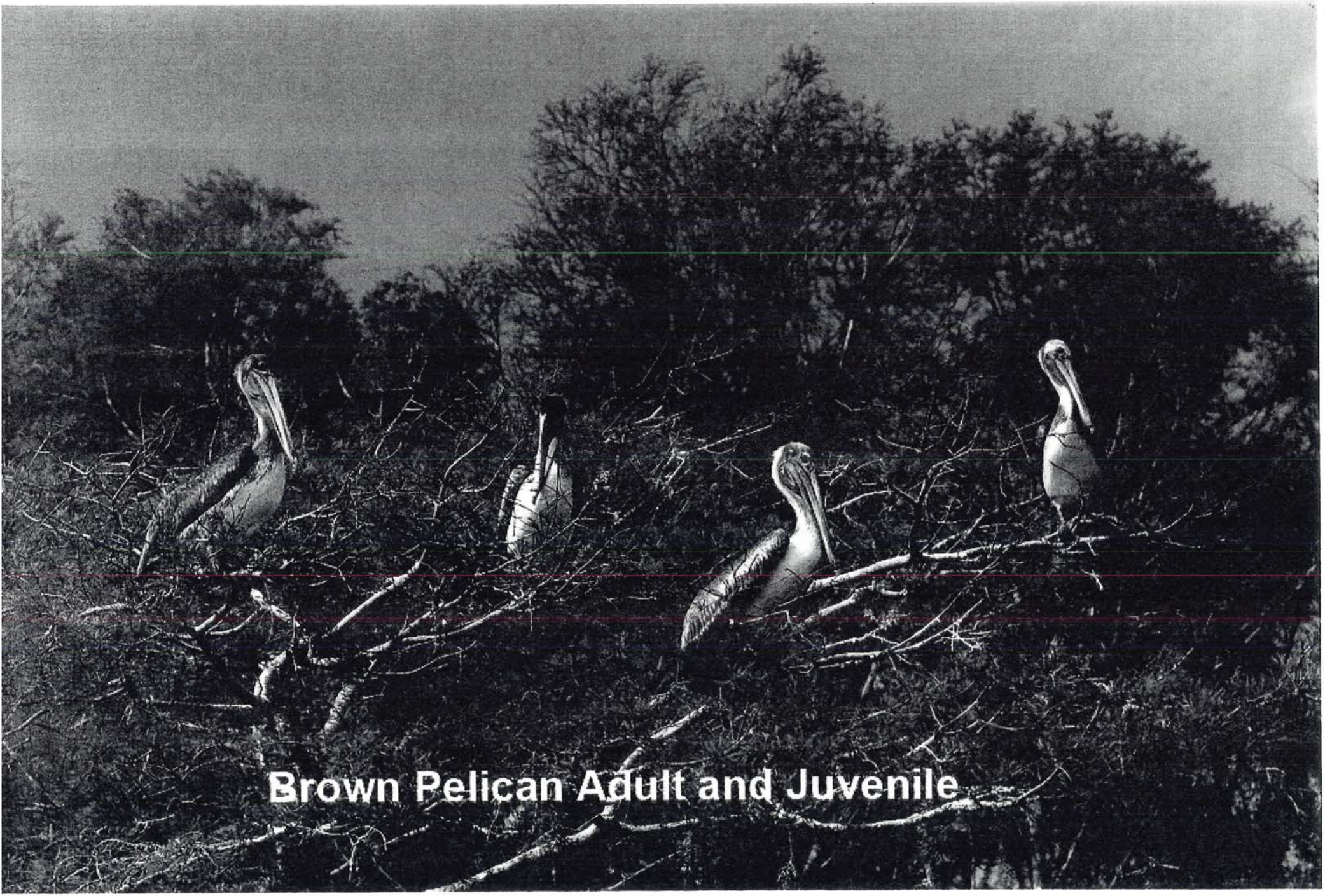
Paul and Sandra Marraffino
Dunnellon Florida

Breeding Ibis


Tricolored Heron Juvenile


Snowy Egret Adult and Juvenile


Wood Stork Juveniles

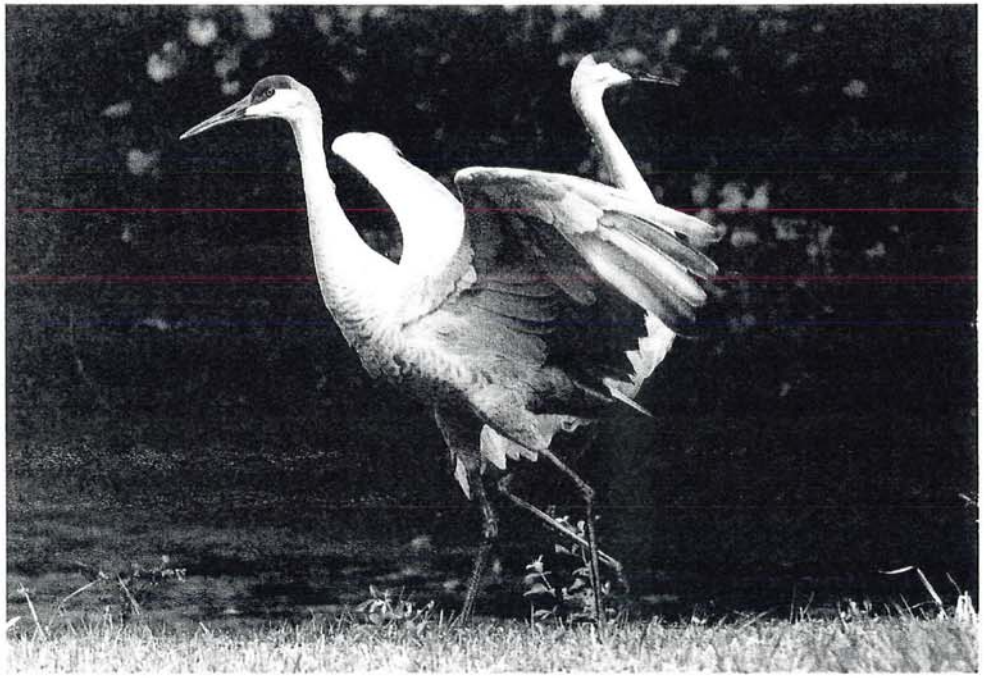

Brown Pelican Adult and Juvenile

Birds of Lake Rousseau

Limpkin

Eagle Nest

Osprey



Sandhill Crane Dance

Little Blue Heron with Crayfish

Statement Regarding Proposed Nuclear Plant

Members of The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensing Panel,

My name is Mac Sherman Harris. I am a resident of Citrus County, Florida, and a customer of Progress Energy. I am retired and involved in a variety of community activities, but I come before you today as a citizen who has a long-term interest in energy issues, not as a representative of any group of organization.

In the interest of full disclosure, I am a retired Progress Energy employee, but I want to emphasize to the commission that my interest in and involvement with energy issues predates my employment with Progress Energy and continues after my retirement. I am not here today at their request. I am here because I care greatly about the future of our country, and I believe construction of this plant is a vital part of that future.

I first became actively involved in energy issues prior to the 1973 Oil Embargo when I covered energy as a reporter for the now-defunct Charlotte (NC) News. Over the last 35 years, I have personally been involved with oil and gas supply issues, with coal issues, with various energy crises, with construction of two nuclear plants, with major upgrades at three nuclear plants, and with national energy policy issues.

During this time, I have become increasingly convinced that the only rational and environmentally sound way to meet the energy needs of our country is through the construction of additional nuclear power plants. I have seen first-hand all of the ways we produce electric power in commercial quantities. While any electric generating power plant has some impact on the environment, there is no question in my mind that nuclear generated electricity has the least impact on the environment of any commercially feasible power source, and that constructing this plant in this location is the most environmentally responsible way to meet the energy needs of the state of Florida.

I have also seen first-hand the commitment of Progress Energy to the safe use of nuclear energy and to protection of the environment, and I am convinced that they will take all reasonable measures to minimize the impact of this plant on the environment.

I believe the technology used in this plant is the most environmentally friendly of those that are commercially available, and that the company applying for the permit to construct the plant is an environmentally conscious company. For these reasons, I ask that this panel rule favorably on the environmental issues regarding construction of this facility.

Thank You

Mac Sherman Harris

2795 W. Sunrise St., Lecanto, FL 34461

4 Dec 2008

NRC Scoping Hearing, Crystal River, Florida, Guard Armory

My name is Dan Hilliard and I am a resident of Citrus County near the proposed plant location. Thank you for this opportunity.

My source reference for this presentation is the Progress Energy Site Certification Application submitted to FDEP earlier this year. My understanding of the State and Federal processes in which we are involved is not perfect, nor is my comprehension complete regarding the application just referenced. It is a massive document and I congratulate the parties involved in its creation, for it is impressive. I have questions regarding the document's perfection which I will put to you and in the end I ask simply that these processes we are engaged in be administered with great diligence. The potential impacts which may result from this application are substantial. We cannot allow them to occur without forethought and thorough analysis.

In the SCA it is stated by the applicant that the project will be consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act as administered by the State's CZMP. It is stated there are no known federal permits required that do not have comparable state permit requirements. While such programs may be properly administered by the State as part of the Act, it is necessary that diligent Federal oversight be administered. I say this because the Federal Government has a vested interest in preserves located nearby such at the Big Bend Sea Grasses Preserve. A component parcel, the Waccasassa Bay State Preserve, is a National Natural Landmark.

My concerns are precipitated by assertions made by the applicant which seem unfounded or in conflict with elements of Florida Administrative Code which relate to the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. It is stated in Volume 5 of the SCA, Appendix 10.2.2:

-That the CREC discharge canal is a Class III surface water and that discharge from the proposed Levy County project will integrate water discharge with that of the CREC.

-That the expected LNP discharge will be cooler than the existing CREC discharge.

-Also in Volume 5, that the Withlacoochee River is not contributing to the CFBC.

-In Volume 8 of the SCA are found depictions of thermal plume models which clearly delineate expansive distribution of heated water from these discharges.

Copies of these extracted assertions are submitted with this presentation.

What concerns me, and I admit freely that I simply may not have found reference within the volumes of the application, is this:

The waters beyond the discharge canal have a higher classification under Florida Administrative Code and this does not appear to be recognized in the applicant's submission. The impact of their discharge cannot reasonably be considered only in context of the discharge canal. This is certainly a matter for the state to resolve, yet if I understand our purpose here today, oversight of the process is a federal responsibility.

62-302.400 (FAC) Classification of Surface Waters, Usage, Reclassification, Classified Waters

Class II

Coastal Waters – From **the southern side of the Cross Florida Barge Canal southward to the Hernando County line**, with the exception of Crystal River (from the southern shore at the mouth of Cedar Creek to Shell Point to the westernmost tip of Fort Island), Salt River (portion generally east and southward along the eastern edge of the islands bordering the Salt River and Dixie Bay to St. Martins River), and St. Martins River from its mouth to Greenleaf Bay.

There appears to be no recognition of cumulative impacts resulting in the discharge of three nuclear power plants in a single location, a discharge flowing into a very shallow coastal estuary region and rich marine resource. It is both a marine nursery and habitat for at least one listed species. I find no reference to, or evaluation of salinity increases and associated impacts resulting from the LNP Blowdown contribution to the CREC discharge flow and think this is pertinent to the CZMA.

I am confused by the assertion that the Withlacoochee River does not contribute to the CFBC by the applicant. Within the SCA is a veritable treasure trove of hydrological information, including many pages of data gleaned from USGS stations regarding system flows in the River. There are two engineered discharge points at Lake Rousseau. One is the Inglis Bypass Spillway, which contributes all flows to the Lower Withlacoochee River. It typically provides an average of slightly more than 1,000 CFS to that Outstanding Florida Water. The second is the Inglis Dam located on the southwest portion of the Lake. It provides for water level management on the Lake by allowing SWFWMD to discharge excessive water into the CFBC through the upper segment of the Lower Withlacoochee River during high rainfall events. Due to documented leakage there is a contribution of a minimum additional flow of ~70 CFS to the segment of the River which discharges in the CFBC and this is a continuous contribution. Within the SCA the applicant has clearly identified contributions to the CFBC for a 35 year period, which during one event exceeded 6,000 CFS (SCA Table 2.3-6 sheets 1 & 2). Monthly mean contributions to the CFBC over the Inglis Dam are in the range of ~400 CFS per the applicant's submission.

For these reasons I have rendered this presentation. I find these apparent inconsistencies unsettling. I do not object to the proposed project in a conceptual sense. However, I pointedly request the various agencies involved in this process hold the State and Applicant to strict interpretation of Federal Statute and exercise due diligence in this review. The State's determined need for this project is met by a real need to preserve resources in this region. They are very interdependent issues.

Thank You for your time.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATIONS

Florida Power Corporation, doing business as Progress Energy Florida, Inc., certifies that the Levy Nuclear Plant will be consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program. The Site Certification Application constitutes the sole application for state-issued permits and approvals under the state's several regulatory programs that comprise the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Section 380.23 (1), Florida Statutes, provides that the issuance of any state license for an activity automatically constitutes the determination that the licensed activity is consistent with Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program. There are no known separate federal permit permits for the Project that do not have comparable state approvals that require separate consistency determinations. If such determinations are required, copies will be provided to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

APPENDIX 10.2.2

NPDES APPLICATION

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER FACILITY PERMIT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides narrative and quantitative information to supplement the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Industrial Waste Application for the proposed nuclear power plant in Levy County, Florida Power Corporation, doing business as Florida. Progress Energy Florida, Inc. (PEF) will be the owner and operator of the Levy Nuclear Plant (LNP). This facility will be constructed northeast of the existing Crystal River Energy Complex (CREC) on a site that was previously used for silviculture for many years. A description of the system is provided below and supplemental information is provided to complement the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) application forms. Note that a 316(b) analysis is included in this application as a separate attachment. A description on how this application is consistent with Florida's Antidegradation Policy is also included in this summary.

EFFLUENT MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL

The LNP facility will obtain the needed steam generator cooling tower makeup water from the Gulf of Mexico via the Cross Florida Barge Canal (CFBC). Additional freshwater needs will be obtained on-site. There are several primary waste streams that will be generated at the site:

- Cooling water system (CWS) tower blowdown for the steam condensers
- Backwash from the service water system (SWS) and CWS strainers
- Various non-radioactive sources serving internal drainage needs, collectively called the turbine building sump, including:
  - Steam Generator Tube Sheet Flushing (1 hr/week)
  - Condensate Polisher Resin Sluicing (3 hrs/week)
  - Backwashing and Upper Bed Rinsing (1 hr/week)
  - Demineralizer R.O and EDI Reject Water (Continuous)
  - Secondary Equipment Drains/Losses (Intermittent)
  - Fire Testing Drains (Intermittent)
  - Auxiliary Building Sump (Intermittent)
  - Annex Building Sump (Intermittent)
  - Diesel Generator Building Sump (Intermittent)
- SWS blowdown in the event of a loss of offsite power or the steam generator blowdown during a condenser tube leakage

- Sanitary sewage treated to secondary standards
- Stormwater runoff from the plant site (i.e., the raised reactor pad) and direct precipitation into detention tanks

The CWS water will be salt water and it will be utilized in a series of mechanical draft cooling towers before blowdown is discharged. The turbine building sump, backwash from the strainers, and emergency SWS cooling system (turbines) blowdown will be treated in a settling tank prior to being pumped to the to the cooling tower basin for reuse. Sanitary sewage will be treated to secondary standards prior to discharge to the cooling tower basin for reuse. On-site stormwater will be collected in ponds and pumped to the cooling tower basins for reuse also. The pipeline and stormwater systems are described in more detail below. Any radioactive waste will be isolated and not released to the environment.

Surface Water Discharge Description

The combined discharge from the site will consist of cooling tower blowdown, industrial wastewater, and treated sanitary wastewater will be transported by two pipelines, one for each unit. The pipelines will discharge into the CREC discharge canal. The CREC discharge canal is currently permitted for discharge into the Gulf of Mexico, a Class III marine surface water (Crystal River Plant Unit 1, 2 and 3 - Permit Number FL0000159, Crystal River Plant Unit 4 and 5- Permit Number FL0036366). The CREC point of discharge is located approximately at latitude 28°58'00"N, longitude 82°41'40"W.

It is proposed in this application that the LNP facility will have a separate permit for its discharge and treatment systems. The discharge will be internal to the CREC facility. The existing applicable permit at the CREC will be modified to include the LNP discharge. It is anticipated that the permit limits for the CREC site will be applied to the LNP discharge.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The LNP project will not include any solid waste or bulk storage facilities. Stormwater will not be exposed to materials that may cause significant contamination because there is no bulk storage of materials and the loading and handling facilities will be covered. Stormwater from the power generation operations will be collected and treated to criteria found in state rules as currently adopted by the FDEP. These rules include those by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) for Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) by reference, as well as Chapter 62-621, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

This application includes the stormwater runoff from the power generation area (i.e., the raised portion that contains the reactor, buildings, parking lots, etc.). Stormwater runoff from the raised power generation facility at the LNP site will be collected and controlled by a stormwater drainage system. The drainage system leads to stormwater ponds for on-site treatment sized to comply with state criteria for stormwater management as required by the ERP program. The stormwater collected in the ponds may be pumped to the CWS basin for reuse as necessary.

Once intermingled with the CWS basin, this stormwater becomes part of the blowdown discharge.

Stormwater associated with the access and haul roads, railroad, and barge slip will not be collected, but will be permitted under the ERP program as applicable. The facilities for stormwater treatment from the power generation pad will also be sized to ERP program standards, prior to reuse.

ANTIDEGRADATION DEMONSTRATION

The permitting requirements in Chapter 62-4.242 F.A.C. list the antidegradation factors that must be considered in making a determination that a discharge is necessary and desirable under federal standards and is in the public interest, which include:

- Whether the proposed project is important to and is beneficial to the public health, safety, and welfare

  The LNP meets the public interest test because the project will provide electric power in compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements. Ultimately a decision about the need for this new power plant will be made by the Public Service Commission of the State of Florida. Without a Determination of Need from the PSC, the project will not go forward.

- Whether the proposed discharge will adversely affect conservation of fish and wildlife, including endangered or threatened species

  By having an internal discharge to the CREC facility, the potential environment impacts have already been accounted for in an existing permit. The expected LNP discharge temperature is lower than the CREC permit limits and, in fact, the LNP discharge is expected to cool the existing flows.

  Provisions will be made to minimize impacts during construction and the facilities have been designed to comply with applicable regulatory criteria.

- Whether the proposed discharge will adversely affect the fishing or water-based recreational values or marine productivity in the area

  By having an internal discharge to the CREC facility, the potential environment impacts have already been accounted for in an existing permit. The expected LNP discharge temperature is lower than the CREC permit limit. The LNP discharge is expected to have a minor affect on existing CREC discharge conditions and no significant impacts to aquatic biota in the CREC discharge canal vicinity are expected.

- Consistency with any Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Plan

There is no SWIM plan for the portions of the water bodies near the LNP facilities. The Lower Withlacoochee River is an Outstanding Florida Water and it requires special consideration. The LNP site has no streams that directly discharge stormwater off-site. The runoff from the site will be by sheet flow, and it is located approximately 4 miles from the river. Stormwater from impervious areas at LNP will be treated prior to release to the level that the rules require. The predominant water supply for the cooling water will come from the Gulf of Mexico (via the CFBC), thus avoiding the river. The discharge will be to the CREC discharge to the Gulf. Therefore, the project is designed to avoid any SWIM or other sensitive water bodies.

- Demonstration that other discharge locations, land application, or recycling, are not feasible

  The LNP amply fulfills the objective of providing for beneficial reuse of industrial wastewater. No off-site additional reuse alternative or land application options appear to be feasible. Similarly, no alternative discharge locations appear to be preferable to the currently utilized, previously approved, outfall at CREC.

- Verification of waste minimization and source reduction

  The LNP design inherently features waste minimization and source reduction concepts. Best Management Practices for stormwater and other treatment requirements will be met. The Professional Engineer signature affixed to this NPDES application confirms that the cited rule requirement will be met.

Since the LNP discharge will be permitted as an internal discharge to the CREC facility, the affect on the CREC permits is currently being assessed further by PEF. Additional permit modifications for CREC facility are anticipated as a result of this application, but will be filed separately when those permits are renewed in their next cycle. The proposed LNP project is consistent with the applicable antidegradation considerations listed above.

and Trails. The Inglis Lock was completed in 1968 and was designed to transfer vessels between Lake Rousseau and the CFBC, with a maximum lift of about 29 ft (Department of the Army, 1977). The lock has not been functional since 1999 (Florida Department of Environmental Protection [FDEP], 2005). Inglis Dam at the southwestern end of Lake Rousseau controls water flow from the lake into an isolated segment of the Withlacoochee River, which flows into the CFBC downstream of Inglis Lock. The Inglis Lock Bypass Channel diverts water from Lake Rousseau, through a canal around the northern side of Inglis Lock, then through a regulated spillway into the original Withlacoochee River, which ultimately connects to the Gulf of Mexico.

The CFBC extends into Withlacoochee Bay. This estuarine area is part of a large complex of estuaries and bays within the Springs Coast region, which extends from the Pithlachascotee River Basin north of Tampa, northward to the Waccasassa River area south of the Suwannee River mouth (U.S. Department of the Interior, 1990).

The influence of freshwater flowing into the bay from various coastal rivers near the project area, such as the Crystal River, Withlacoochee River, and Waccasassa River, creates a range of salinities that contribute to various habitat types. In addition, small changes in tidal inundation, elevation, and substrate characteristics contribute to the mosaic of coastal marshes and hammocks in the area. The Withlacoochee Bay (and Springs Coast) area is considered low energy, meaning that wave energy is dampened over the wide, shallow west Florida Continental Shelf (Department of the Interior, 1990).

3.4 ZONE OF INFLUENCE

The zone of influence is the portion of the CFBC hydraulically affected by the LNP CWIS withdrawal of water. The zone of influence defines the source area for non-motile planktonic organisms that are possibly influenced by the induced flow. Currents inside the CFBC will vary from maximum currents directed into and out of the canal during flood and ebb tide cycles as well as periods of low to no current at slack tides between the ebb and flood cycles. For the purpose of this calculation, the zone of influence is defined as the location where the ambient current velocity in the CFBC is greater than the CWIS induced velocity 90 percent of the time. Two one-dimensional computer models were completed to characterize ambient current velocities in the CFBC and the CWIS induced velocities and determine the location where the current velocity in the CFBC is greater than the CWIS induced velocity.

A one-dimensional hydraulic model was developed to simulate the CFBC velocities based on tidal forcing at its confluence with the Gulf of Mexico using XP-SWMM. XP-SWMM is a state-of-the-art enhanced version of the standard EPA SWMM system. The HYDRAULICS module of XP-SWMM was used to simulate flow routing in the CFBC. The CFBC was considered to be tide driven. Assumptions to the model were that:

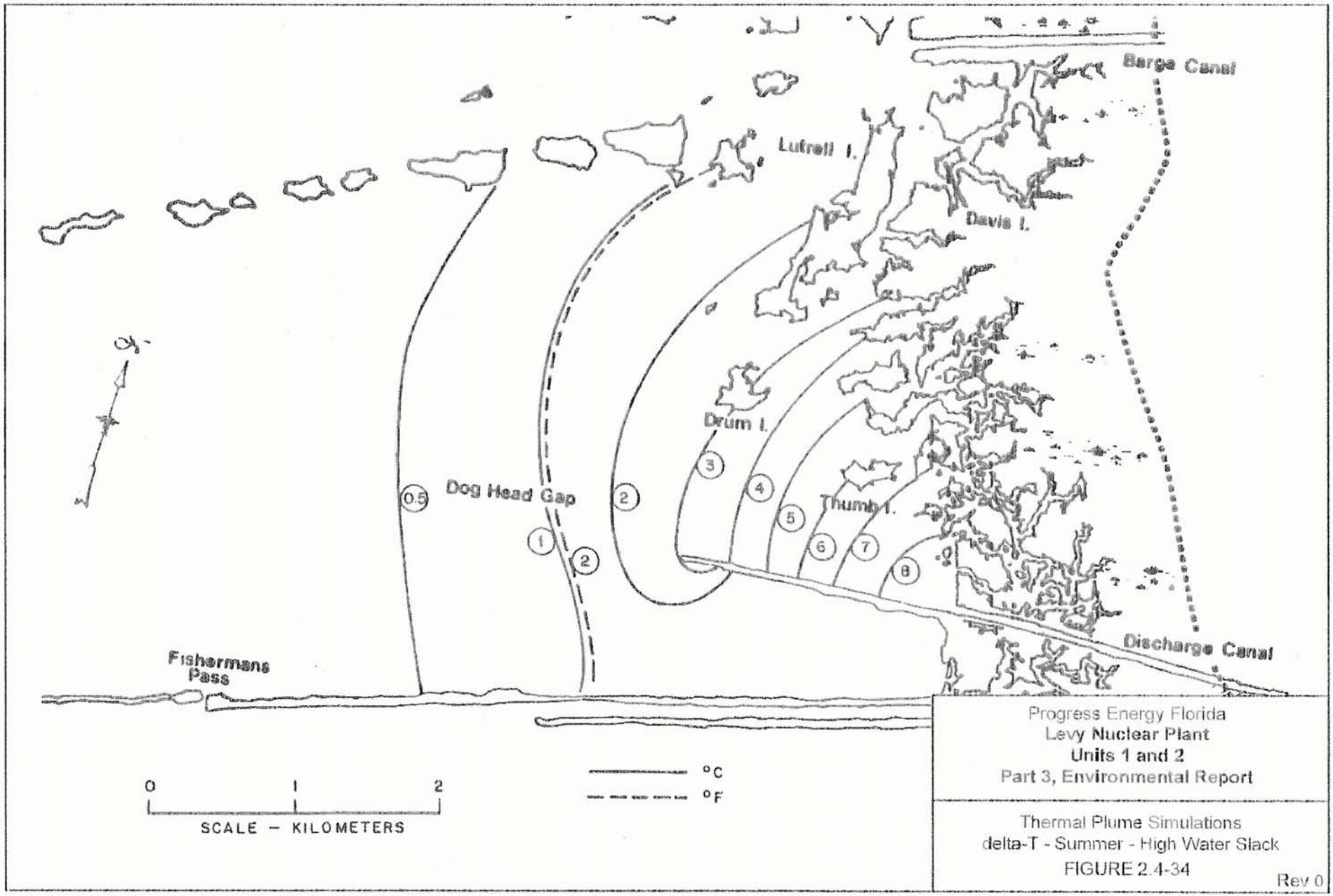
- CFBC cross-section is uniform throughout the canal length

- No flow interface between CFBC and Lake Rousseau exists
- The Withlacoochee River is not contributing to the CFBC
- No rainfall/runoff contributes to the CFBC water budget
- No culverts/bridge piles are present that cause significant head losses in the CFBC

Cross sectional dimensions for the CFBC included a top width of 70.1 m (230 ft), a bottom width of 45.7 m (150 ft), and depth of 3.65 m (12 feet) and applied for the entire length of the CFBC (approximately 7 mi.). Surface water boundary conditions were specified at the upstream and downstream ends of the CFBC. The upstream boundary was the Inglis Lock wall and the downstream boundary was the mouth of the CFBC. The predicted 2008 tides at Cedar Key, Florida (NOAA Station # 8727520), were applied at the mouth of the CFBC during model simulations. The vertical datum for all inverts and stages were referenced to the Mean Low Low Water (MLLW) to be consistent with the predicted tide elevations. The CFBC was divided into 22 cross-sections, 0.25 mi. intervals from the Inglis Lock to 4.0 mi. and 0.5 mi. intervals from 4.0 mi. to the Gulf of Mexico. The simulation period was for 1 year (calendar year 2008). Tenth percentile current velocities based on the simulated velocities throughout the year were calculated at each 0.25- and 0.5-mi. increment to characterize the ambient CFBC velocities (Table 3-5).

A second one-dimensional hydraulic model was completed to calculate the CWIS induced flow velocity under steady state conditions and potential velocity impacts to the CFBC using the Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model. CFBC dimensions were modeled as above and LNP CWIS cooling water flow was inputted to be 190 cubic feet per second (cfs). The HEC-RAS model predicted that CWIS induced velocity would range from 0.07 to 0.09 fps at high and low tide, respectively. As a conservative estimate, the induced CWIS velocity is assumed to be 0.09 fps regardless of tidal stage.

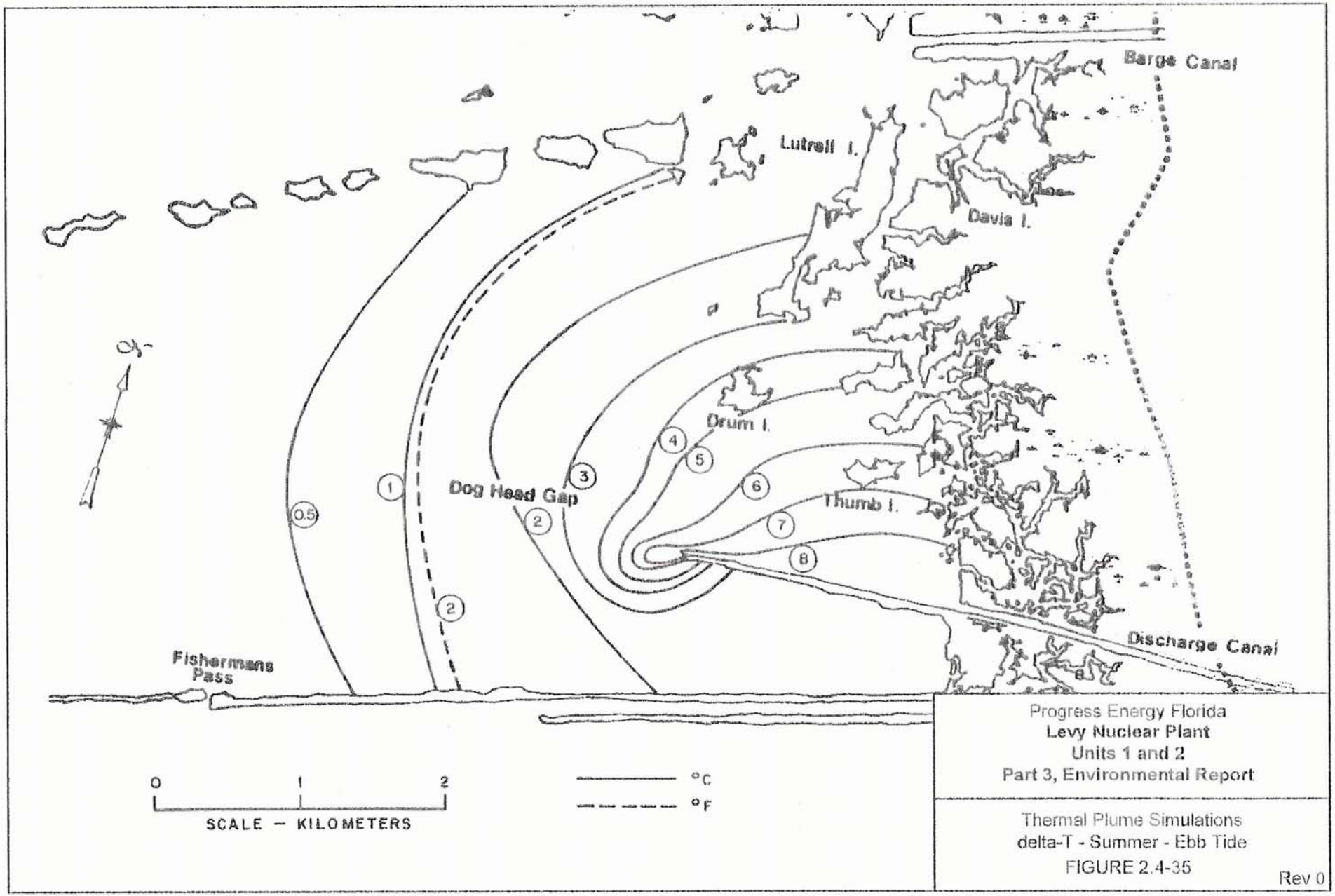
The zone of influence was then determined to be the point along the CFBC at which the ambient current velocity in the CFBC is greater than the CWIS induced velocity 90 percent of the time. Based on the results of the two models, the CWIS induced velocities will be exceeded by the ambient velocities approximately 90-percent of the time at a point 5.0 mi. from the Inglis Lock (Figure 3-13). Therefore, the zone of influence will be bounded by the Lock on the inshore side to 5.0 mi. of the CFBC.



Progress Energy Florida
Levy Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2
Part 3, Environmental Report

Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Summer - High Water Slack
FIGURE 2.4-34

Rev 0



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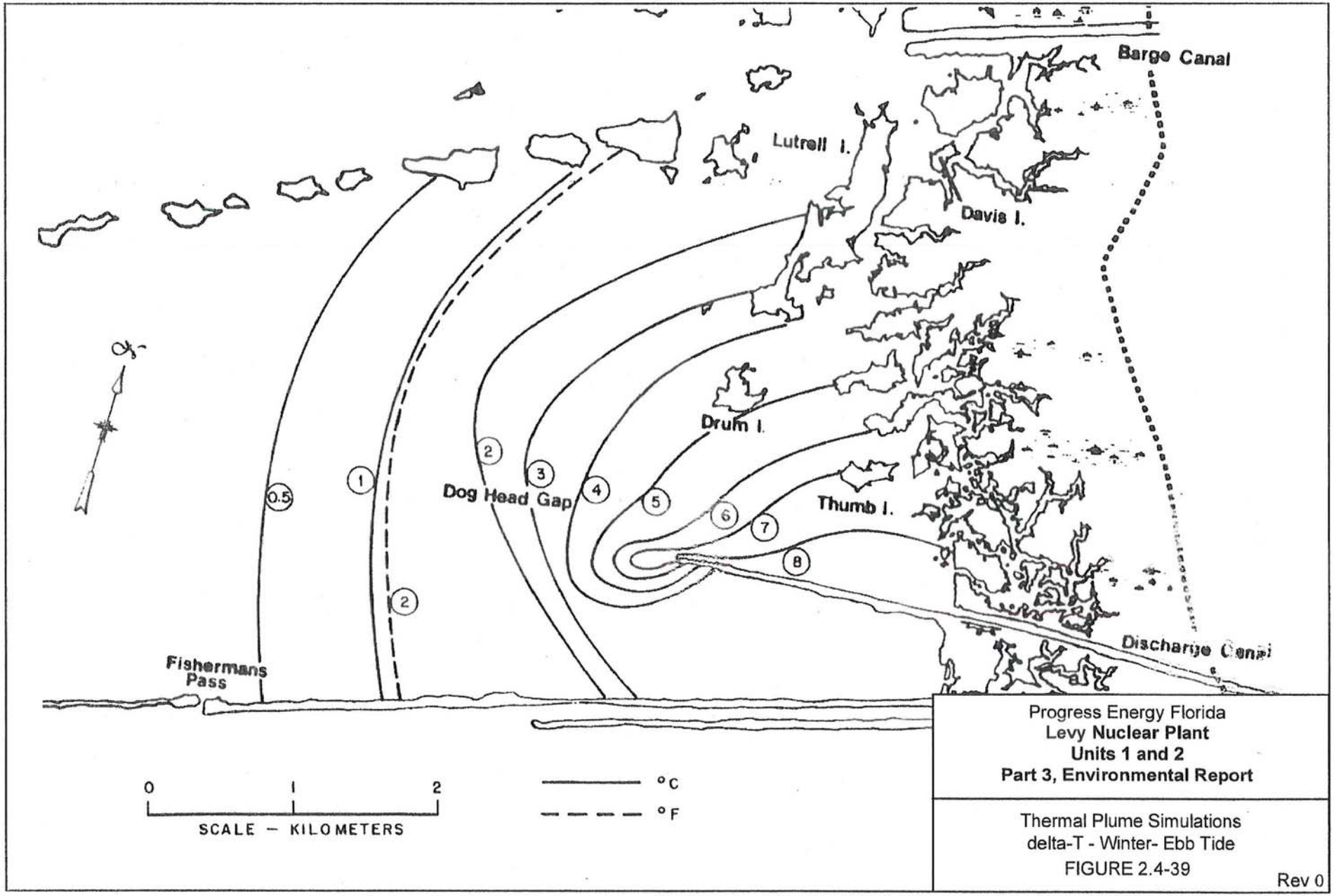
Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Summer - Ebb Tide
FIGURE 2.4-35

Rev 0



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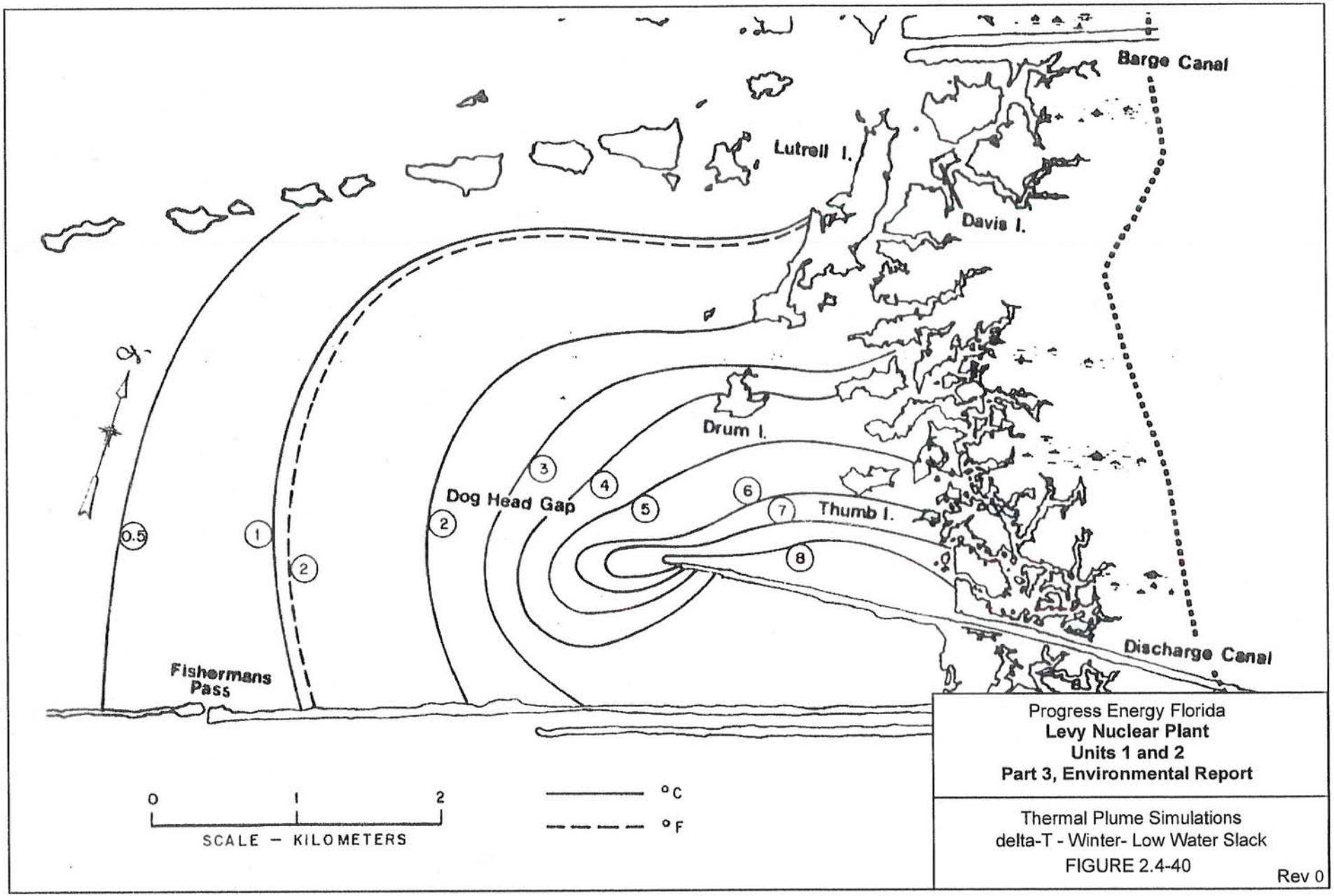
Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Winter- Ebb Tide
FIGURE 2.4-39

Rev 0



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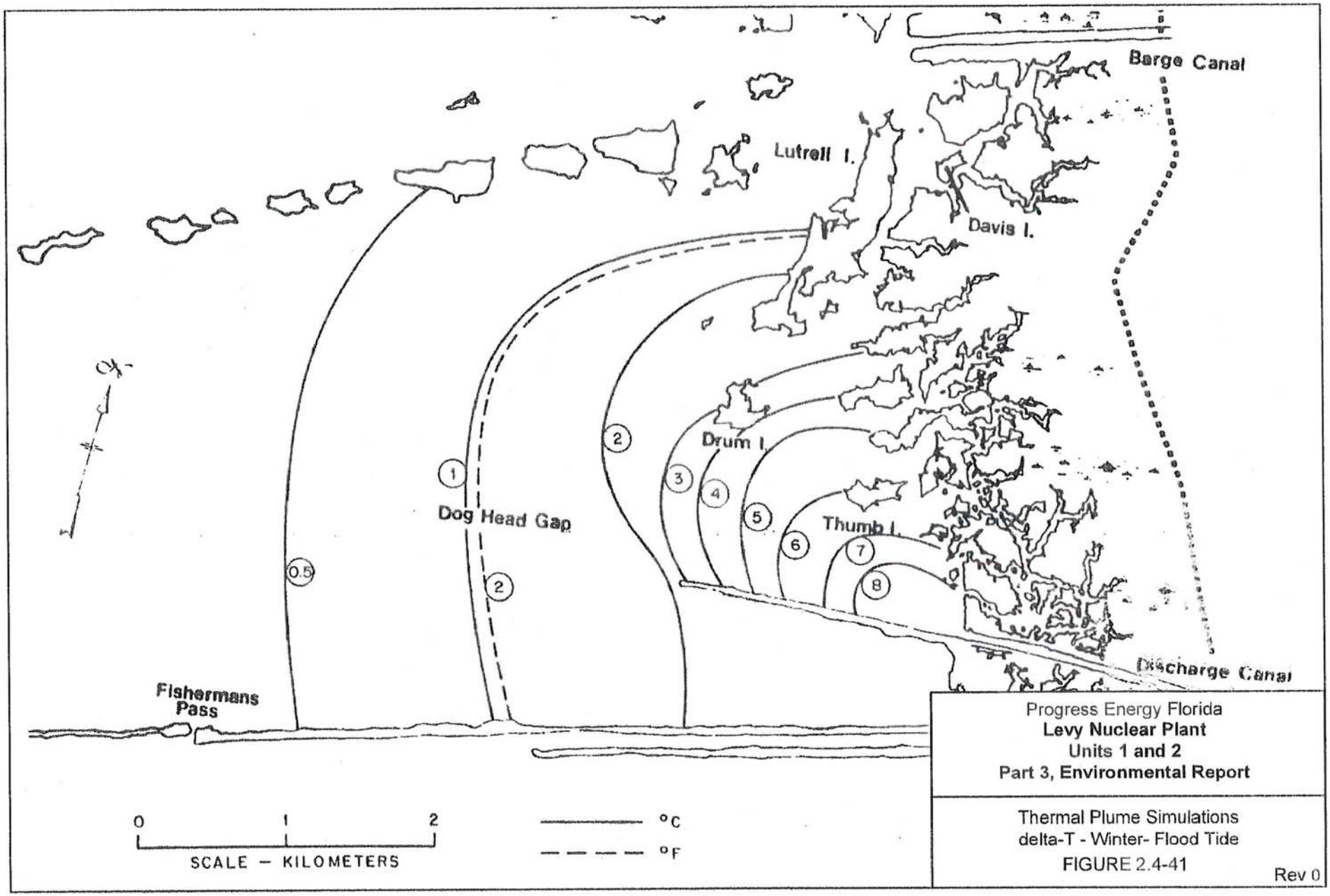
Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Winter- Low Water Slack
FIGURE 2.4-40

Rev 0



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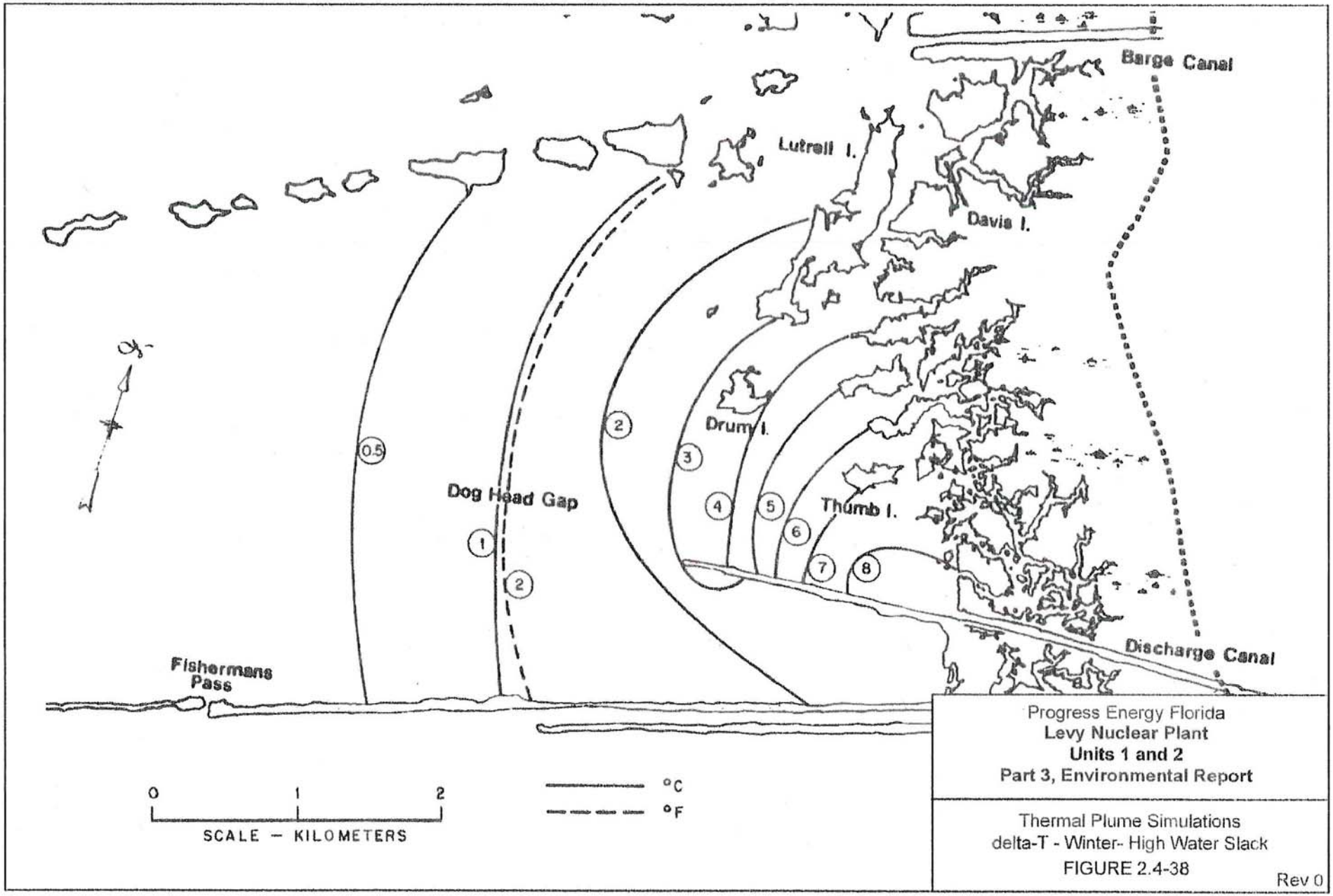
Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Winter- Flood Tide
FIGURE 2.4-41

Rev 0



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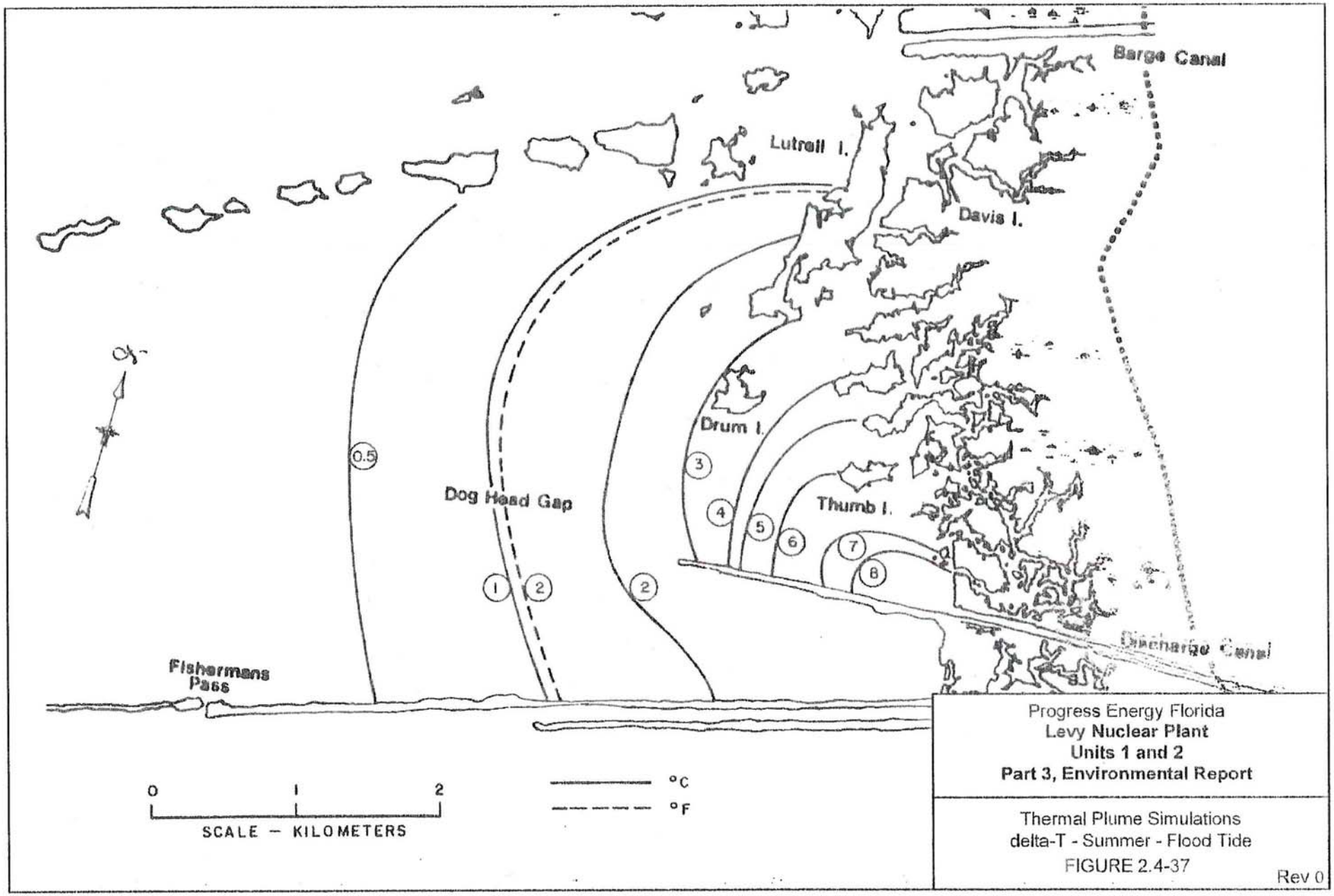
Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Winter- High Water Slack
FIGURE 2.4-38

Rev 0



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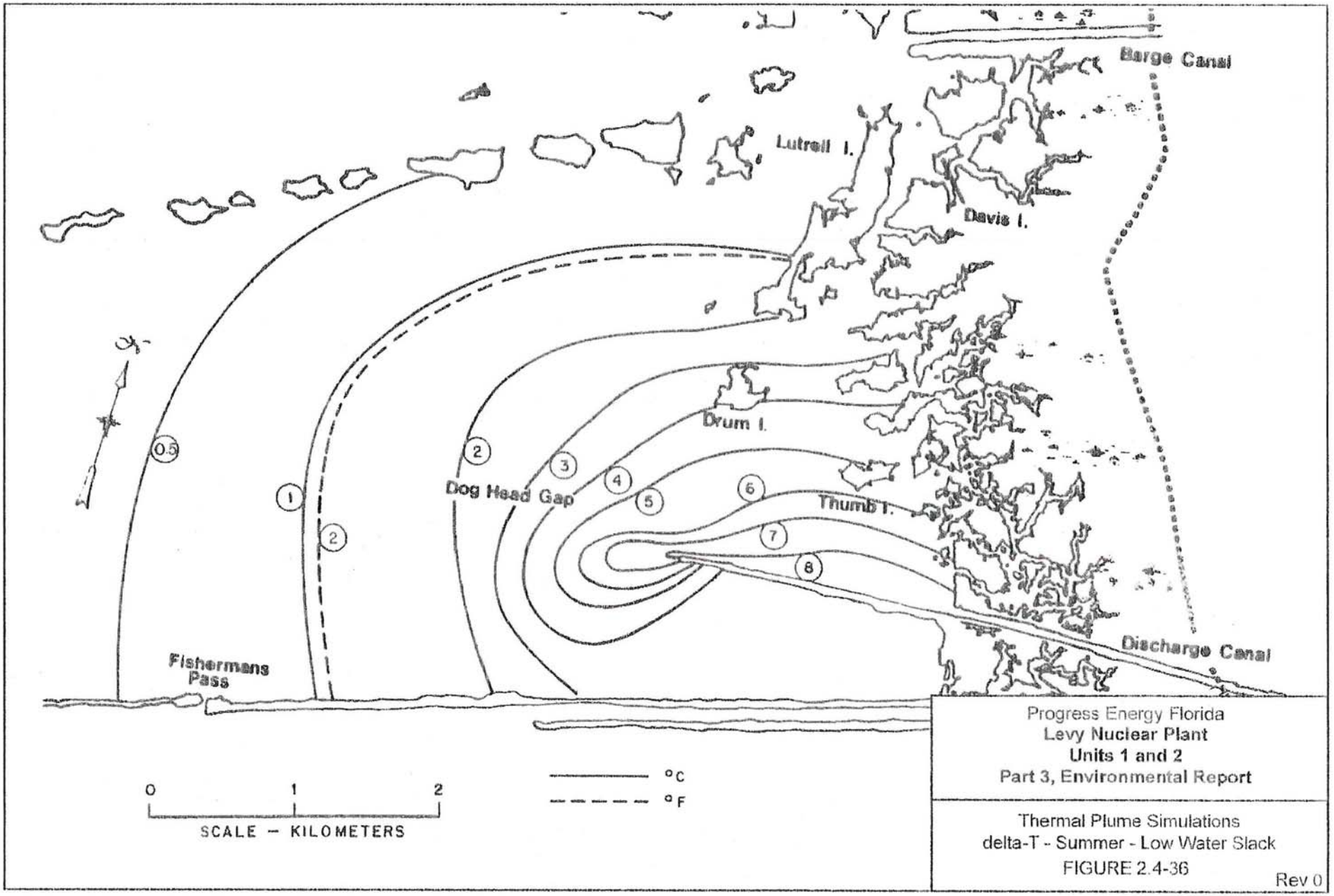
Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Summer - Flood Tide
FIGURE 2.4-37

Rev 0



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Thermal Plume Simulations
delta-T - Summer - Low Water Slack
FIGURE 2.4-36

Rev 0