

July 6, 2009

Ms. Sheila E. Limbeck  
110 Park Street  
Inglis, FL 34449

Dear Ms. Limbeck:

I am writing in response to your May 28, 2009, letter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) regarding the proposed new nuclear power plant in Levy County, Florida. Thank you for taking the time to write to the NRC with your questions and concerns. We consider public involvement in our activities to be a cornerstone of strong, fair regulation of the nuclear industry.

Your letter presented four separate concerns related to the proposed Levy County nuclear plant. Responses to each of those four concerns are provided below. In responding to your concerns, I have included webpage information that might be useful for reviewing Progress Energy's Levy County combined license application (COLA) in greater detail. Information related to the proposed Levy County nuclear plant, including a public version of the Levy County COLA, can be viewed on the NRC Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/levy.html>. A public version of the COLA means that proprietary information and security-related details have been withheld.

Your first question is related to evacuation routes in the area between the operating Crystal River nuclear plant and the proposed Levy County nuclear plant. Your letter stated "We will be in between two nuclear reactors. Where do we evacuate in the event of a catastrophe such as occurred in Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania – or a terrorist attack? We presently have two roads going in and out – Hwy 19 and C.R. 40. Are there any other evacuation routes in between the 10 mile area from the Crystal River plant and the proposed nuclear power plant? So far, I don't see any."

The NRC will issue an operating license for a nuclear power reactor only after determining that there is reasonable assurance that adequate protective measures can and will be taken in the event of a radiological emergency. Adequate protective measures include a range of actions, including evacuation. To help in planning for an evacuation, a nuclear power plant applicant is responsible for preparing an evacuation time estimate (ETE) analysis for the area within about a 10-mile radius of each nuclear power plant. This estimate is one tool used to assist government authorities to determine the best exit routes during an evacuation. The ETE is used to identify potential traffic congestion points, develop plans for traffic management, and assign traffic control personnel during an evacuation. In the event of an emergency at the proposed Levy County nuclear plant site, U.S. Highway 19 and County Highway 40 will most likely be the main evacuation routes for the city of Inglis. However, there are a number of roads between the proposed Levy County site and the operating Crystal River site that would also be used. The complete ETE is contained in Part 5 (Emergency Plan) of the Levy County COLA, and can be viewed on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/levy/documents.html#appDocuments>. As part of its ongoing safety review, the NRC staff is currently evaluating the ETE for the proposed Levy County nuclear plant. As such, we have not reached any conclusions on its adequacy at this time.

The initial results of the NRC staff's review of the Levy County ETE will be contained in its Advanced Final Safety Evaluation Report (SER). This Advanced Final SER is currently scheduled to be publicly available in September 2010. When the Advanced Final SER is issued, it will be made available on the NRC website. If the NRC issues an operating license for the proposed Levy County nuclear plant, Progress Energy would be required to distribute information related to evacuation procedures, routes, and shelters. This information would be provided to the public in the form of publications (e.g., brochures, calendars, phone books) that are specific to the communities surrounding the nuclear plant. These publications would identify shelter locations for the public in the event of an evacuation due to a radiological emergency.

Your second question is associated with the proximity of the operating Crystal River nuclear plant and the proposed Levy County nuclear plant, and whether there are other locations where nuclear power plants are located within 10 miles of each other. Your letter stated "It seems that this is the only place in our country where two nuclear power plants will be within 10 miles of each other and which are populated. Am I correct?"

The proposed Levy County nuclear plant site is approximately 10 miles from the currently operating Crystal River nuclear plant. There are other populated areas in the United States where operating nuclear power plants are located within 10 miles of each other. In Wisconsin, the Kewaunee and Point Beach nuclear plants are approximately 8 miles apart. In Illinois, the Dresden and Braidwood nuclear plants are located about 10 miles from each other. The NRC maintains information about its reactor plant licensees on its website at: <http://www.nrc.gov>. Location information for all operating nuclear power plants can be found at: <http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/reactor/>. This webpage allows you to access detailed information about a specific nuclear power plant by selecting locations that are highlighted on a map. The information provided for each nuclear power plant includes a summary description of the facility, links to NRC inspection reports, and contact information for the appropriate NRC regional Public Affairs Office.

Your third question is connected to the potential impact of the proposed Levy County nuclear plant on the Inglis Dam. Your letter stated "The nearby Inglis Dam might be damaged by the pressure of the new power plant piping millions of gallons of water a day from the canal – which adjoins the Lake Rousseau area, a popular lake for fishermen and which has many homes surrounding the lake. Is anything being done to upgrade the structure of the dam?"

Information related to the environmental impacts of the proposed Levy County nuclear plant, including water usage and water-related impacts, is located in Part 3 (Environmental Report) of Progress Energy's Levy County COLA. The Levy County COLA can be viewed on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/levy/documents.html#appDocuments>. Section 2.3 of Progress Energy's Environmental Report (ER) discusses water use; Section 5.2 discusses water-related impacts. According to Progress Energy's ER, the proposed withdrawal of water from the Cross Florida Barge Canal (CFBC) would occur approximately 6.9 miles from the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico (approximately one-half mile from the Inglis Lock). The Levy County ER states that these water withdrawals would cause minimal changes in CFBC water levels since the canal is directly connected to the Gulf of Mexico.

Minimal changes in CFBC water levels would imply a negligible impact on the Inglis Dam. Progress Energy's Levy County COLA does not discuss any proposal to upgrade the Inglis Dam. The NRC is currently reviewing proposed water usage and associated water-related impacts as part of its environmental review of the Levy County COLA. The NRC staff has not reached any conclusions on this information at this time. The initial results of our review in these areas will be contained in a draft environmental impact statement (EIS). This draft EIS is currently scheduled to be available for public review and comment in October 2009. When the draft EIS is issued, it will be made available on the NRC website.

Your fourth question is related to the impact of increased traffic, and the need for additional police, as a result of the proposed Levy County nuclear power plant. Your letter stated "Traffic has already increased in Inglis/Yankeetown due to workers constructing the new bridge (to the Nuclear Power Plant – why else?). Has Progress Energy offered to provide us with additional police for this huge traffic increase? How will this affect residents evacuating during a storm?"

The ongoing construction of new twin two-lane bridges over the Cross Florida Barge Canal is expected to be complete before the first nuclear reactor, if approved, begins operation at the proposed Levy County site. If the Levy County COLA is approved, and if construction of the proposed nuclear plant commences, the communities of Inglis and Yankeetown will likely experience an influx of workers as part of plant construction. In Part 3 (Environmental Report) of its Levy County COLA, Progress Energy is required to assess the socioeconomic impacts on the community related to the presence of nuclear plant construction workers. This assessment also considers the socioeconomic impacts on police services. The NRC is currently reviewing Progress Energy's assessment of the socioeconomic impacts as part of its review of the Levy County COLA Environmental Report (ER). The NRC has not reached any conclusions on this information at this time. The ER for the proposed Levy County nuclear site (Part 3 of Progress Energy's COLA) can be viewed on the NRC website at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/levy/documents.html#appDocuments>. The initial results of the NRC staff's review of these issues will be contained in a draft EIS, which is currently scheduled to be available for public review and comment in October 2009. When the draft EIS is issued, it will also be made available on the NRC website.

In addition to the concerns you provided, the NRC's ongoing environmental and safety reviews of the proposed Levy County nuclear site consider numerous other aspects of the construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant. The NRC staff's initial results of these reviews will be contained in our Advanced Final SER and draft EIS documents.

S. Limbeck

-4-

Once issued, these documents will be made available on the NRC's Levy County public webpage. I encourage you to use the NRC webpage to review Progress Energy's Levy County COLA and information related to our ongoing environmental and safety reviews.

Thank you again for contacting the NRC. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Levy County project manager at 301-415-9967.

Sincerely,

/RA Gary M. Holahan for/

Michael R. Johnson, Director  
Office of New Reactors

S. Limbeck

-4-

Once issued, these documents will be made available on the NRC's Levy County public webpage. I encourage you to use the NRC webpage to review Progress Energy's Levy County COLA and information related to our ongoing environmental and safety reviews.

Thank you again for contacting the NRC. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Levy County project manager at 301-415-9967.

Sincerely,

/RA Gary M. Holahan for/

Michael R. Johnson, Director  
Office of New Reactors

DISTRIBUTION: G20090319/LTR-09-0254/EDATS: SECY-2009-0280

Public	RidsOcaMailCenter	RidsOpaMailCenter
RidsEdoMailCenter	RidsOgcMailCenter	RidsNroMailCenter
RidsNroDnrlNwe1	RidsNroOd	RidsRgn2MailCenter
RidsNroLAKGoldstein	RidsNroDnrl	BAnderson
DDiaz-Toro, OEDO	JMartin, OGC	ABlamey, RII
SBurnell, OPA	KWilliams	RRaione
DBruner	RSchaaf	RidsNsrOd

ADAMS No.: ML091700634 Letter Incoming: ML091560351 Package No.: ML091761053 NRO-002

<b>OFFICE</b>	DNRL/NWE1: LA	DNRL/NWE1: PM	DSEB/RHEB	DSEB/RHEB	NRO/DSEB/RAP3
<b>NAME</b>	KGoldstein	BAnderson	KSee	RRaione	DBruner
<b>DATE</b>	6/22/2009	6/22/2009	6/23/2009	6/23/2009	06/24/2009
<b>OFFICE</b>	NRO/DSEB/RAP3	DPR/DDEP	OGC	DNRL/NWE1: BC	D:NRO
<b>NAME</b>	RSchaaf	KWilliams	JMartin	SCoffin	MJohnson (G.Holahan for)
<b>DATE</b>	06/24/2009	06/23/2009	6/24/2009	6/24/2009	07/06/09

**Official Record Copy**