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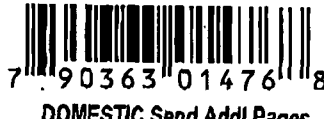
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Template = ADM-013

E-RTDS = ADM-03
Call = A. Kugler (95K1)

FP&L touts the creation of jobs and "greener" than coal-fired plants as reasons for nuclear expansion. It appears that for FP&L, issues related to Turkey Point plant safety, salt water intrusion into the aquifer and degradation of the area's specialized ecosystem hardly hold water. And speaking of water, it's going to take lots of it to cool the additional system. And what about the holding canals located on site in an ecologically sensitive zone?

Let's go back to the job creation theme. Wouldn't any energy technology create jobs? Developing solar and wind energy systems would involve construction and permanent jobs. FP&L's job creation theme is an emotional ploy at best. Is enticement of jobs in trying economic times a good enough reason for expansion? We need direction from something much smarter and more thoughtful. That takes us to "greener" than coal-fired plants.

On the surface, the "greener" than dirty coal theme sounds good. Given there are positives and negatives to most situations, this green theme would be the positive. However, all of us involved, including FP&L, would be remiss if we did not consider the negative. In this case, the negative is the stored, on site radioactive waste generated by the Turkey Point plant, and more reactors mean more radioactive waste. This negative must be factored into the "greener" theme to reflect the true cost of the nuclear facility. Has FP&L factored in this critical cost of how to dispose of radioactive nuclear waste, or will they just continue to store it on site (in a hurricane prone, sea level environment)? Will FP&L send it to an undetermined repository (if one is ever mandated) and at what cost? While the front end looks green, the back end looks dirty. Objectively, the big picture must be duly considered. Decisions that are narrow, short-sighted and reactionary lead to a vulnerable position that can escalate into insurmountable problems (think BP oil, Chernobyl, 3 Mile). Until the above-mentioned negatives are resolved, expansion magnifies potential problems. If issues of health and safety guide a thorough and conscientious investigation, then all of us will benefit.

Sincerely,

Debra Guendelsberger
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