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2.3 WATER

This section provides site-specific and regional descriptions of the hydrology, water use, and water quality conditions that could affect or be affected by the construction and operation of Units 6 & 7. The potential impacts of plant construction and operation on surface water and groundwater are described in Chapters 4 and 5, respectively.

Units 6 & 7 would be collocated with two natural gas/oil steam electric generating units (Units 1 & 2), two pressurized water reactor nuclear units (Units 3 & 4), and one natural gas combined-cycle steam electric generating unit (Unit 5) on the approximately 11,000-acre Turkey Point property. The Turkey Point plant property is located in southeast Florida on the west bank of Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County, approximately 25 miles south of Miami, Florida, as shown on Figure 2.3-1. Major hydrologic features near the plant property are also identified in the figure. Areas surrounding the plant property are shown on Figure 2.3-2.

The 218-acre Units 6 & 7 plant area would be built up to higher elevations above the adjacent grade with finished grade elevations varying from 19 feet to 25.5 feet in North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88). The plant area would be surrounded by a retaining wall structure with the top of wall elevation varying from 20 feet to 21.5 feet NAVD 88. The Units 6 & 7 plant area is south of Units 3 & 4 and completely encircled by the cooling canals of the industrial wastewater facility (Figure 2.3-3, Figure 2.3-4) that are used by Units 1 through 4. Unit 5 uses mechanical draft cooling towers where the cooling tower makeup water is supplied from the Upper Floridan aquifer and the blowdown is routed to the industrial wastewater facility. The Units 6 & 7 plant area is sparsely vegetated consisting of mudflats, open water, dwarf mangroves, man-made remnant canals, wetland spoil areas, and mangrove heads and is isolated by the surrounding industrial wastewater facility. The existing grade elevation within the Units 6 & 7 plant area varies from approximately –2.4 feet to 0.8 feet NAVD 88.

2.3.1 HYDROLOGY

This subsection describes surface water and groundwater hydrology that could affect or be affected by the construction and operation of Units 6 & 7. The site-specific and regional data on the physical and hydrologic characteristics are also summarized to provide the basis for an evaluation of impacts on water bodies, aquifers, aquatic ecosystems, and social and economic structures of the area.

2.3.1.1 Surface Water Resources

The Units 6 & 7 plant area is located on the shore of Biscayne Bay within the Everglades drainage basin of the south Florida watershed subregion, as shown on Figure 2.3-5 (Marella 1999). As described in Section 2.6, the Turkey Point plant property is located in the Southern Slope subprovince of the Southern Zone subregion of the Florida Platform within the Atlantic

Coastal Plain physiographic province (Figure 2.6-1). The physiographic features in the Southern Zone subregion that govern surface water flows southward from Lake Okeechobee include the Immokalee Rise, Big Cypress Spur, Atlantic Coastal Ridge, and the Everglades physiographic sub-provinces (Figure 2.6-1). Higher topographic relief of the Immokalee Rise and Big Cypress Spur in the west and the Atlantic Coastal Ridge in the east of the Everglades historically guided the stormwater runoff and freshwater flows from Lake Okeechobee to drain south and southeast into the Everglades. However, flood control structures and an elaborate drainage canal system constructed in the past century has since modified the natural drainage basin, its freshwater discharge, and its interaction with the coastal bays of the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. The interaction of surface water and groundwater within the area further complicates the hydrology of the area (McPherson and Halley 1997, Godfrey 2006, Wolfert-Lohmann et al. 2007).

The Units 6 & 7 plant area is located in the low-lying areas of the Southern Slope physiographic subprovince on the western shore of Biscayne Bay (Figure 2.6-1). There are no lakes, major rivers, or dams located near the plant area, as shown on Figures 2.3-1 through 2.3-3. However, a network of drainage canals, which includes canals from the Everglades National Park-South Dade Conveyance System (ENP-SDCS) and local project (drainage) canals, provides freshwater supply to the Everglades National Park and controlled drainage from southeast Florida to the Biscayne Bay. Consequently, the hydrology near the Units 6 & 7 plant area is mainly governed by the dynamics of Biscayne Bay. In addition to Biscayne Bay, other major hydrologic features near the Units 6 & 7 plant area include the Everglades and the drainage canal system of southeast Florida, and the cooling canals of the industrial wastewater facility (see Figure 2.3-1 and Figure 2.3-3). Each of these hydrologic features is described below.

The Westinghouse AP1000 certified plant design has been selected for Units 6 & 7. The AP1000 design employs a passive containment that does not require offsite water sources to perform its safety-related functions. Units 6 & 7 would use mechanical draft towers for nonsafety-related circulating water system cooling. Makeup water for the circulating water system cooling towers would be from two independent water sources, each capable of supplying the required makeup water demand, as described in Section 3.4. The makeup water sources for the circulating water system would be reclaimed water from Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department (MDWASD) water treatment facilities and saltwater from radial collector wells with horizontal laterals installed beneath the floor of Biscayne Bay. Therefore, there would be no direct withdrawals or discharges to surface waters associated with the operation of Units 6 & 7. It is noted however, that the majority of water recharging the radial collector wells would originate from Biscayne Bay. Cooling tower blowdown discharge and other applicable plant discharge effluents from Units 6 & 7 would be collected in a common blowdown sump and discharged into deep injection wells, as described in Section 3.4. None of the surface water bodies would be used as an effluent discharge point or heat sink for Units 6 & 7.

Units 6 & 7 transmission lines would use existing and new corridors. New corridors would be established to supplement existing corridors where necessary. The transmission corridors are described in Section 3.7.

2.3.1.1.1 The Everglades

The Everglades is the largest wetland in the continental United States and was part of the larger, natural Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades watershed that once extended south from Lake Okeechobee to the southernmost extremity of peninsular Florida (McPherson and Halley 1997). Elevations within the Everglades, which was formed on limestone bedrock, are lower than the elevations in the Immokalee Rise or Atlantic Coastal Ridge physiographic subprovinces and slope towards the south with an average gradient less than 2 inches per mile (McPherson and Halley 1997, Galloway et al. 1999). The freshwater flow from Lake Okeechobee and the flat terrain of the basin supported the accumulation of layers of peat and mud that formed the historical Everglades wetlands over an area of approximately 4500 square miles (McPherson and Halley 1997, Galloway et al. 1999). Historically, overflows from Lake Okeechobee slowly moved through the Everglades as sheet flows. The overflow also provided the freshwater supply that sustained the ecosystem functions within the wetlands that were dominated by sawgrass and tree islands, the small, forested islands that are a prominent feature of the Everglades (McPherson and Halley 1997, Godfrey 2006). From the Everglades, water drained south to the Gulf of Mexico through a series of open-water sloughs. Hydrological features and direction of historical surface water flows are shown on Figure 2.3-6.

The Atlantic Coastal Ridge that separates the Everglades from the Atlantic coastline has a maximum elevation of approximately 20 feet above MSL datum (Galloway et al. 1999), which is equivalent to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29). At the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tide gage station at Virginia Key, Florida, the NGVD 29 is located approximately 1.6 feet below the NAVD 88. This datum relationship is also considered applicable to the Units 6 & 7 plant area. Applying the datum conversion, the maximum elevation of the Atlantic Coastal Ridge is approximately 18.4 feet NAVD 88. The NAVD 88 is used as the reference vertical datum in this subsection. A conversion to NAVD 88 is provided when a reference to other vertical datums are made. Historically, nearly all of southeast Florida, except for the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, was flooded annually (Galloway et al. 1999). The floodwater discharged to Biscayne Bay through the undeveloped Miami, New, and Hillsborough Rivers and other sloughs that formed the transverse glades in the Atlantic Coastal Ridge.

Since the late nineteenth century, the south Florida watershed subregion has been affected by anthropogenic alterations (Ishman 1997, Godfrey 2006). Land reclamation for agriculture, construction of flood control levees and drainage canals, and urbanization has irreversibly modified the hydrology of the region. One of the major impacts of the hydrologic modification is the reduction of freshwater flow to the Everglades, which resulted in a degradation of the south

Florida ecosystem. Canals were first dug through the Everglades to drain water from the area south of Lake Okeechobee, thus enabling agriculture to develop during the late nineteenth century (McPherson and Halley 1997, Renken et al. 2005, Godfrey 2006). By the late 1920s, major canals were constructed and rivers in the transverse glades were modified to connect Lake Okeechobee with the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean (Figure 2.3-7). In the west, the Caloosahatchee Canal connected Lake Okeechobee with the Gulf of Mexico. St. Lucie Canal in the east connected Lake Okeechobee with the St. Lucie River and estuary. In the southeast, the West Palm Beach, Hillsborough, North New River, South New River, and Miami (River) Canals connected Lake Okeechobee with the Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean (McPherson and Halley 1997, Renken et al. 2005, Godfrey 2006). Government-initiated flood control measures including levee construction and drainage channel modification began in the 1930s (Godfrey 2006).

The consequences of the Everglades watershed alterations were the destruction of plants and wildlife, soil subsidence, saltwater intrusion, and fires in the peat layers during periods of drought (Godfrey 2006). To counter the deteriorating environmental conditions, the U.S. Congress authorized the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project (C&SF project) in 1948 with a mandate to provide flood protection, water supply, prevention of saltwater intrusion, and protection of fish and wildlife resources (McPherson and Halley 1997, Godfrey 2006). The state of Florida formed the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District in 1949, which later became the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), to work with the C&SF project. The C&SF project adopted a water-management plan for Lake Okeechobee and three water conservation areas (WCAs) to provide flood protection and water supply through a complex series of canals, levees, pumps, and control structures (McPherson and Halley 1997, Renken et al. 2005, Godfrey 2006). An area of approximately 800,000 acres was identified in the northern Everglades, on the basis of soil thickness and geologic formations, as potential agricultural land and referred to as the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), which was subsequently drained and farmed. The WCAs, which are approximately 900,000 acres of land enclosed by levees and canals, were constructed in the central Everglades (McPherson and Halley 1997). The locations of the EAA and the WCAs are shown on Figure 2.3-7.

The construction of the flood control canals, levees, and structures by the C&SF project causes a large portion of runoff that originally flowed from the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades to be diverted directly to the Gulf of Mexico by the Caloosahatchee Canal and to the Atlantic Ocean by the St. Lucie Canal. The remaining outflow from the lake discharges to the canals that pass through the EAA (McPherson and Halley 1997). Before flood control, agriculture, and urbanization development, which began in the late nineteenth century, the natural water level in the lake overflowed its southern bank at elevations 20 to 21 feet NGVD 29 (18.4 to 19.4 feet NAVD 88). Currently, the lake water level is artificially maintained at approximately 13 to 16 feet NGVD 29 (11.4 to 14.4 feet NAVD 88) (Galloway et al. 1999). Surface

water flows from the EAA into the WCAs are maintained by pumping, resulting in alterations in the timing and spatial distribution of flows, as well as a reduction in the volume of water discharged. As a result, water levels in the Everglades at present are generally shallower and have shorter hydroperiods than water levels prior to late nineteenth century development (McPherson and Halley 1997, Galloway et al. 1999). By 1930, the network of mostly uncontrolled canals drained large quantities of freshwater from the Everglades into the Atlantic Ocean, lowering the water levels in the Everglades as much as 6 feet compared to the predevelopment period (Renken et al. 2005). In the southern part of the Everglades, levees impede water flows and cause ponding, which became evident during the mid-1960s in WCA-3 with extensive flooding of tree islands. During periods of drought, water is released from Lake Okeechobee to the EAA and the WCAs. Most of the flows, however, never reach the interior marshes as the flows are confined to canals and nearby marshes (Wolfert-Lohmann et al. 2007). Post-development drainage patterns in the Everglades are shown on Figure 2.3-7.

By 2000, approximately 50 percent of the historic Everglades basin in Florida remained undeveloped (Renken et al. 2005). The rest of the area has been altered for agriculture or urban growth (Godfrey 2006). Most of the remaining portions of the Everglades at present are protected by public parks including Everglades National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the WCAs, the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve, and other state lands (McPherson and Halley 1997). Everglades National Park was established in 1947 on marshland south of the WCAs and now covers approximately 1.4 million acres (McPherson and Halley 1997). Everglades National Park is approximately 15 miles west of the Units 6 & 7 plant area and is adjacent to the southeast Florida drainage canal system.

In 2000, the Federal Water Resources Development Act authorized a Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to guide the restoration, protection, and preservation of the water resources of central and southern Florida, including the Everglades (CERP 2008a). The plan covers 16 counties over an area of 18,000 square-miles and focuses on updating the C&SF project. The CERP includes more than 60 elements that would require more than 30 years to construct (CERP 2008a). The CERP projects would improve south Florida's ecosystem by restoring water flows that have changed over the past century. CERP projects would capture and store freshwater flows in surface and subsurface reservoirs, which are currently released to the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. The freshwater would be directed to the wetlands, lakes, rivers, and estuaries of south Florida while also ensuring future urban and agricultural water supplies (CERP 2008a). The reservoir storage areas would mainly be located within the EAA and WCAs.

2.3.1.1.2 Everglades National Park-South Dade Conveyance System

The development of reclaimed land from the Everglades for agriculture, urbanization, and flood control needs resulted in a gradual construction of canals and levees in the south Florida region

before the implementation of the C&SF project. The systematic and elaborate construction of drainage canals in southern Dade County was initiated in the 1960s. The federal Flood Control Act of 1962 authorized the C&SF project for southern Dade County. The C&SF project implemented a system of canals and structures to provide drainage for urban development, prevent over-drainage of agricultural lands, and prevent contamination of groundwater by saltwater intrusion (USACE 2007). The conveyance system relies on gravity drainage through a primary network of 12 canals with outlets to serve a system of secondary canals (USACE 2007). The stages of development of the canals during the 1950s and 1960s are shown on Figure 2.3-8.

The canal system was modified in the 1970s to meet the hydrologic needs of the Everglades National Park, as authorized by the updated Flood Control Act of 1968, by implementing the ENP-SDCS (USACE 2007). ENP-SDCS interconnected several drainage basins of the C&SF drainage project (Cooper and Lane 1987). Gated control structures were first installed at the eastern (coastal) end of the primary canals to release excess stormwater runoff to the coastal water bodies during the wet season and to manage saltwater intrusion during the dry seasons. Secondary controls on the inland reaches of canals were then installed to regulate flow eastward, control inland and agricultural flooding, and maintain higher water levels in the surficial aquifer system where appropriate (Renken et al. 2005). The surface water canal system was fully developed in the 1980s when the ENP-SDCS was completed. The progression of canal development during the 1970s through 1990 is shown on Figure 2.3-9. The conveyance system met its objectives by providing agricultural water supply, controlling inland flooding, and mitigating saltwater intrusion (Renken et al. 2005).

The ENP-SDCS was mandated to supply 55,000 acre-feet of water per year to the Everglades National Park. It made use of the existing canals from the C&SF project (Cooper and Lane 1987). The existing north-south directed borrow canals, L-30 and L-31N/L-31W, were enlarged to convey water from the Miami Canal (C-6) to the Everglades. The west-east running canals provide drainage from the South Dade development corridor to Biscayne Bay by control structures at the mouth of the canals (Renken et al. 2005). The locations of present day ENP-SDCS and C&SF project drainage canals are shown on Figure 2.3-10. The western borrow canal of the Levee L31-E (L-31E Canal) runs parallel to the Biscayne Bay coastline in southern Miami-Dade County, separating the coastal wetlands along the bay from the mainland. Starting north of Black Creek Canal (C-1) and extending to Card Sound Road in the south, the L-31E Canal has a levee crest elevation of approximately 7 feet NAVD 88 (SFWMD 2006a). Near the Turkey Point plant property, the levee and canal are located immediately west of the Turkey Point interceptor ditch and the industrial wastewater facility.

Based on the hydrology of the area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) delineated water management subbasins in southern Dade County (Cooper and Lane 1987). At present, the water management area includes 17 subbasins that contribute flow to Biscayne Bay and the Everglades, as shown on Figure 2.3-11. Surface water flows from the drainage subbasins to

Biscayne Bay or the Everglades are controlled by numerous flow control structures. Flow control structures also control flow between the subbasin areas. The names of subbasins are based on the major canal in the subbasin. A summary of the subbasins (with names corresponding to the primary canal servicing each of the areas), drainage areas, and the control structures at basin outlets that regulate flow to Biscayne Bay is provided in [Table 2.3-1](#page-72-0) (Cooper and Lane 1987). The locations of the major control structures are shown on Figure 2.3-10.

Detailed flow and water level monitoring and measurements are performed as part of the operation of the structures in the ENP-SDCS. A search in the SFWMD database (DBHYDRO) for flow and water level monitoring data within the subbasins listed in [Table 2.3-1](#page-72-0) returned approximately 700 records (SFWMD 2009). The DBHYDRO database includes data from stations maintained by various agencies including USGS, SFWMD, and Everglades National Park. Monthly mean flow rates and water levels at four stations near the Units 6 & 7 plant area, S-197, S-20, S-21A, and S-21, were obtained from the SFWMD database. Details of the station locations and available data records are presented in [Table 2.3-2.](#page-73-0) Monthly mean flow rates and water levels at the selected locations are presented in [Tables 2.3-3](#page-74-0) through [2.3-10.](#page-88-0) The location of these structures is shown on Figure 2.3-10.

2.3.1.1.3 Biscayne Bay

Biscayne Bay is a shallow coastal lagoon located on the lower southeast coast of Florida (Langevin 2001). The bay is approximately 38 miles long, approximately 11 miles wide on average, and has an area of approximately 428 square miles (USGS 2004 and Wingard 2004). Biscayne Bay began forming between 5000 and 3000 years ago as sea level rose and filled a limestone depression (Wolfert-Lohmann et al. 2007). The eastern boundary of Biscayne Bay is composed of barrier islands that also form part of the Florida Keys and separates the bay from the Atlantic Ocean (NOAA 2000). Coral reefs east of the barrier islands make up the northern extent of the Florida reef tract (USGS 2004). Several canals on the western shore discharge surface water into the bay, as described in [Subsection 2.3.1.1.2](#page-12-0). The Biscayne Bay subbasin is hydrologically connected with the Everglades, as shown in Figure 2.3-5. Biscayne Bay is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by a wide and shallow opening of coral shoal near the middle of the bay that is known as the safety valve, and by several channels and cuts (Cantillo et al. 2000). Because Biscayne Bay, unlike most estuaries, is not a drowned river valley, sediment inflow to the bay from rivers/canals is insignificant.

Part of Biscayne Bay is within the designated boundary of Biscayne National Park. With an area of 172,000 acres, Biscayne National Park is the largest marine park in the U.S. National Park system. More than 95 percent of Biscayne National Park is located in the marine environment (USGS 2006). The park contains a narrow fringe of mangrove forest along the mainland. Similar mangrove zones are present along the southern expanse of Biscayne Bay and in the northernmost islands of the Florida Keys including Elliott Key (BNP 2008b).

For basin-wide planning purposes, Biscayne Bay is divided into three subregions: North Bay, Central Bay, and South Bay (Cantillo et al. 2000). North Bay extends from approximately 5 miles north of the Miami-Dade/Broward County boundary to the highly urbanized shoreline near Miami, Florida; Central Bay extends from the shoreline near Miami, Florida to the Featherbed Banks east of Black Creek Canal; and South Bay extends from the Featherbed Banks east of Black Creek Canal to Barnes Sound (Figure 2.3-10). The Turkey Point plant property is located on South Bay, which is generally undeveloped and fringed by mangrove wetlands. The South Bay (also identified as the Lower Biscayne Bay) is approximately 100 square miles in area.

The average depth of Biscayne Bay is approximately 6 feet with a maximum depth of approximately 13 feet (Caccia and Boyer 2005). The volume of the bay at mean low water is approximately 1.5E10 cubic feet. The mean low water datum is located at approximately elevation -1.9 feet NAVD 88 at the NOAA Virginia Key, Florida station (NOAA 2008a).

Tides in Biscayne Bay are semidiurnal. NOAA maintains tidal stations in Biscayne Bay and surrounding areas (NOAA 2008b). A list of selected stations near Units 6 & 7 and their estimated tidal ranges are presented in [Table 2.3-11.](#page-90-0) The stations with more than 10 years of record that remain in operation include Virginia Key, Florida (NOAA station 8723214), Vaca Key, Florida (8723970), and Key West, Florida (8724580) (NOAA 2008c, NOAA 2008d, and NOAA 2008e). The Virginia Key, Florida station is located approximately 25 miles north-northeast of the Units 6 & 7 plant area. The Vaca Key, Florida and Key West, Florida stations are located approximately 70 miles and 110 miles southwest of the plant area, respectively. Historical high and low water levels at these stations are presented in [Table 2.3-12.](#page-91-0) Other stations, as listed in [Table 2.3-11,](#page-90-0) are located within Biscayne Bay and Card Sound with only short periods of tidal data and are no longer active. The locations of the tidal stations are shown on Figure 2.3-12.

In Biscayne Bay, the great diurnal tide range, which is the difference between the mean higher high and mean lower low tide levels, is higher near the entrance of the bay, as shown in [Table 2.3-11](#page-90-0) and Figure 2.3-12. At the Cutler, Biscayne Bay, Florida station, the great diurnal range is 2.13 feet. Near the Units 6 & 7 plant area, the range is 1.78 feet, and in southern Biscayne Bay at Card Sound Bridge station, the range is reduced to 0.63 feet. The 100-year return period low water level in Biscayne Bay near the Units 6 & 7 plant area is estimated to be approximately –3.8 feet NAVD 88.

Monthly mean salinities vary widely over Biscayne Bay, ranging from a low of approximately 6 parts per thousand (ppt) to a high of 42 ppt, depending on the amount of rainfall and surface drainage reaching the coastal zone (Caccia and Boyer 2005). The bay is shallow and well mixed with only a weak salinity-based density gradient generated by the freshwater discharge from the canals on the western side. Salinity in the bay is affected by the pronounced wet-dry seasonal dynamics and is highest in June when rainfall is low and evaporation is high (BNP 2008b, Caccia

and Boyer 2005). Natural water temperatures range from 59°F to 92°F at the surface, with little or no thermal stratification.

Studies of Biscayne Bay show the principal circulation forces to be tidal. Hurricane storm events with persistent wind for long periods may also cause relatively large water movements. Measurements of tidal flow past discrete points such as Cutter Bank (east of the industrial wastewater facility) average approximately 50,000 acre-feet per day, or a continuous flow of 60,000 acre-feet per half tidal cycle. Tidal exchange between Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean is estimated to be less than 10,000 acre-feet per day. Apart from the wide and shallow opening of coral shoal near the middle of the bay, the major creeks and sloughs that control the tidal circulation within Biscayne Bay and interact with the Atlantic Ocean flows include Angelfish Creek, Broad Creek, and Caesar Creek in the South Bay and Virginia Key Channel in the North Bay. Measured data indicate a net southward tidal current magnitude of approximately 0.018 meter per second (0.06 foot per second) (Wang et al. 2003). The 10-year annual mean and seasonal freshwater inflow to the bay from major canals over a period from 1994 to 2003 are presented in [Table 2.3-13](#page-92-0) (Caccia and Boyer 2005).

Bathymetry variation within Biscayne Bay is shown on Figure 2.3-13. Long- and short-term shoreline change rates for the bay are not available. The average long-term rate of shoreline change for east Florida along the Atlantic coast shoreline is 0.2 ± 0.6 meter per year (0.66 ± 2.0) feet per year) (Morton and Miller 2005). This long-term shoreline rate of change is relatively small compared to shoreline changes for the other parts of the southeast Atlantic coast (Morton and Miller 2005). Shoreline changes within Biscayne Bay would be smaller than the rates for the Atlantic coast shoreline because the bay is protected from tide and wave actions by the barrier islands. The long-term trends in sea level rise at Miami Beach, Vaca Key, and Key West, Florida are approximately 2.39 ± 0.43 millimeters/year (0.09 \pm 0.017 inch per year), 2.78 ± 0.6 millimeters/year (0.11 \pm 0.024 inch per year), and 2.24 \pm 0.16 millimeters per year (0.09 \pm 0.006 inch per year), respectively (NOAA 2008f). Because Units 6 & 7 would not use surface water from or discharge process water into Biscayne Bay, detailed sediment transport properties for the bay are not provided.

The South Bay also includes Card Sound and Barnes Sound south of Biscayne Bay. Card Sound is part of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve of the Upper Florida Keys. Freshwater input to Card Sound is primarily surficial sheet flow with additional flow from groundwater upwelling (Ishman 1997). Circulation within Card Sound and Barnes Sound is restricted because of the enclosed configuration of the sounds by barrier islands that increases residence times of its waters (Ishman 1997).

The waters of Biscayne Bay support a rich and diverse ecosystem of marine fauna and flora, and the bay serves the coral reef and marine ecosystems of Biscayne National Park. As Biscayne Bay evolved and formed, a natural cyclical change occurred as a result of the large-scale

physical variation, such as sea level and climate change. Analysis of sediment core data from Biscayne Bay and Card Sound indicates that the Biscayne Bay ecosystem underwent many substantial changes between the last 100 and 500 years (Ishman 1997). Southern Biscayne Bay, including Card Sound and Barnes Sound, has been relatively isolated from direct marine influence for at least the last two centuries, and this area is less affected by the urbanization that has occurred to the north. Despite its relative isolation, however, the area has changed substantially during the last century (Ishman 1997). At Card Bank, salinity has varied substantially on multidecadal and centennial time scales relative to the variation observed at central Biscayne Bay sites. Marine influence at Card Bank has increased over the last century. The mud banks of central Biscayne Bay have become increasingly marine and increasingly stable (showing less fluctuation in salinity) during the last 100 years (Ishman 1997). The statutory and legal restrictions of surface water use and the list of impaired waters near the Units 6 & 7 plant area are described in [Subsections 2.3.2.1.3](#page-48-0) and [2.3.3.1.3](#page-59-0), respectively.

2.3.1.1.4 Industrial Wastewater Facility

Units 1 through 4 use the cooling canals of the industrial wastewater facility for condenser and auxiliary system cooling (Figure 2.3-3). The industrial wastewater facility also receives cooling tower blowdown from Unit 5 and existing facilities drainage. The industrial wastewater facility is a closed-loop system of canals for cooling water recirculation with no surface water discharge or surface water interaction with surrounding hydrology. The unlined cooling canals act as a cooling basin that covers an area of approximately 5900 acres spread over a length of approximately 5 miles and a width of approximately 2 miles. Plant cooling water discharged to the canals on the northwestern side is distributed into 32 feeder canals flowing south. The feeder canals flow to a single collector canal in the south, which then distributes water to seven return canals flowing north to the intakes, as shown on Figure 2.3-14. The canals are approximately 200 feet wide with a centerline distance of approximately 290 feet (see Figure 2.3-14). The top elevation of the berms is approximately 7.8 feet above mean low water (5.9 feet NAVD 88). The feeder and return canals are shallow, generally 1 to 3 feet deep, with the exception of the westernmost return canal (formerly Card Sound Canal), which extends to a depth of –18 feet NGVD 29 (–19.6 feet NAVD 88). Routine maintenance of the canals is performed for the removal of aquatic vegetation to minimize flow restriction.

Plant circulating water for Units 1 through 4, and cooling tower blowdown from Unit 5 pumped at the northern end of the feeder canals provide the maximum hydraulic head at the northern end of the canals. The total circulating water flow in the industrial wastewater facility for Units 1 through 4 is 4250 cubic-feet per second. The cooling tower blowdown from Unit 5 is approximately 737 acre-feet per month (12.4 cubic feet per second). The hydraulic head is lowest at the north end of the return canals providing required water flow to the intake pumps. The difference in hydraulic head between the westernmost feeder canals and the easternmost return canals is approximately 3 feet that drives the circulating flow in the industrial wastewater facility.

Measurements taken in the industrial wastewater facility indicate that the water level within the system rise and fall with the tide in Biscayne Bay. Because the canals are not lined, groundwater flow interacts with water in the cooling canals. The cooling canals also experience losses as a result of evaporation and seepage. Makeup water for the industrial wastewater facility comes from treated process wastewater, rainfall, stormwater runoff, and groundwater infiltration. The water in the industrial wastewater facility is hypersaline with salinity concentrations approximately twice that of Biscayne Bay.

The initial design of the collector canal considered a connection of the canal with Card Sound (extending the westernmost return canal). However, the wastewater permit conditions required the canal to be cut off from Card Sound at the southern end of the industrial wastewater facility. At present, the remnant canal (south of the westernmost return canal) does not receive any surface water flow from the industrial wastewater facility and is only connected to Card Sound.

Along the northwest and west sides of the industrial wastewater facility, an interceptor ditch was constructed that has no surface water connection to the industrial wastewater facility or other surface waters. The interceptor ditch with a bottom elevation of –18 feet mean low water (or –19.9 feet NAVD 88) is located just west of and adjacent to the industrial wastewater facility, and east of the L-31E levee. The purpose of the ditch is to restrict inland movement of water from the industrial wastewater facility by pumping water from the interceptor ditch back into the industrial wastewater facility, thereby maintaining the water level in the ditch lower than the water level in L-31E Canal. Pumping from the interceptor ditch to the industrial wastewater facility is performed based on water level monitoring in the interceptor ditch and L-31E Canal at locations and frequencies agreed upon by FPL and SFWMD. This pumping prevents seepage from the industrial wastewater facility from moving landward toward the L-31E Canal and maintains freshwater west of the interceptor ditch.

2.3.1.1.5 Local Site Drainage

The Units 6 & 7 plant area is separated from the low-lying mangrove flatlands of the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands. The Turkey Point units including the industrial wastewater facility is bordered by Biscayne Bay and the L-31E Canal to the east and west, respectively, by the Florida City Canal to the north, and by Card Sound Road and Card Sound to the south. Because the L-31E levee intercepted freshwater flows that historically discharged as sheet flow to the coastal wetlands and the bay east of the canal, the salinity of the wetlands has increased over time. Outflows from the canals near Units 6 & 7 are controlled by two flow control structures, S-20 and S-20F. Public works projects in the early 1900s in this area for mosquito control and land reclamation included shallow ditches approximately 6 to 10 feet wide. The shallow mosquito ditches run north-south, and the drainage ditches run east-west that provided quick drainage of the wetlands. Remnants of the ditches can still be identified in the area (Ruiz and Ross 2004).

The SFWMD has undertaken a plan (Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project) to restore the Biscayne Bay ecosystem that would include areas surrounding the Turkey Point units. At present, FPL maintains wetland areas north and west of Unit 5 (TP 5 Mitigation Area). FPL is also implementing a wetland mitigation project west and southwest of the Units 6 & 7 plant area (Everglades Mitigation Bank). These wetland areas are shown on Figure 2.3-2 and Figure 2.3-3. Locations of wetlands near the Units 6 & 7 plant area, as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, are shown on Figure 2.3-15.

The Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project would provide overland sheet flow in a 13,600-acre area through the construction of spreader canals and other structures (CERP 2008b). The increased natural water flow is designed to improve the ecology of Biscayne Bay including its freshwater and tidal wetlands, nearshore bay habitat, marine nursery habitat, oysters, and the oyster reef community. Any future hydrologic changes brought about by the project would not have any adverse flooding and water use impacts on Units 6 & 7.

The design basis flood elevation for Units 6 & 7 was predicted from a probable maximum surge event combined with the effects of wind-driven wave activity. The design basis flood elevation thus obtained is at 24.8 feet NAVD 88. The corresponding hurricane surge stillwater level is 21.1 feet NAVD 88. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Study for Dade County indicates that the most severe flooding of the county would be as a result of hurricane storm surge events (FEMA 1994). The Flood Insurance Study estimated the surge elevations (stillwater level) at selected transect locations along the Biscayne Bay shoreline. The Units 6 & 7 plant area lies between Transect 30 in the north to Transect 31 in the south. The maximum stillwater levels in the transects vary between 12.0 feet and 12.4 feet NGVD 29 for a 500-year return period, which are approximately 10.4 feet and 10.8 feet NAVD 88.

2.3.1.2 Groundwater

The regional, local, and site-specific data on the physical and hydrologic characteristics of the groundwater resources are summarized in this subsection to provide the basic data for an evaluation of impacts on the aquifers in the area.

2.3.1.2.1 Description and Onsite Use

This subsection contains a description of the regional and local physiography and geomorphology, groundwater aquifers, geologic formations, and groundwater sources and sinks. Regional and onsite uses of groundwater are presented in [Subsection 2.3.2](#page-43-0), including groundwater production and groundwater flow requirements of Units 6 & 7.

2.3.1.2.1.1 Site and Regional Physiography and Geomorphology

Units 6 & 7 are located in Miami-Dade County, Florida, approximately 25 miles south of Miami, 8 miles east of Florida City, and 9 miles southeast of Homestead. The Turkey Point plant property is located within the Southern Slopes subprovince of the Southern Zone of the Florida Platform (a partly submerged peninsula of the Continental Shelf) within the Atlantic Coastal Plain physiographic province (Figure 2.3-16). It is bordered on the east by Biscayne Bay, on the west by the Everglades Mitigation Bank, and on the northeast by Biscayne National Park. The Florida Platform is underlain by approximately 4000 to 15,000 feet of clastic deposits (quartz sands, silt, marl, and clay) and nonclastic deposits of carbonate rocks (shell beds, calcareous sandstone, limestone, dolostone, dolomite, and anhydrite). The sediments range in age from Paleozoic to Recent and overlay the basement complex of Jurassic and Paleozoic age. A description of the regional and site-specific geology, physiography, and geomorphology is provided in Section 2.6.

The physiographic features surrounding Units 6 & 7 are the Atlantic Coastal ridge, the Everglades, and the Florida Keys. The geomorphology of Florida has been described in the literature (White 1970 and Randazzo and Jones 1997) as having three zones: Northern, Central, and Southern. The plant property is in the Southern Zone (Figure 2.3-16). The property spans former coastal mangrove swamps and tidal flats along the west margin of Biscayne Bay that were altered to create the existing and industrial wastewater facility/cooling canals.

The existing ground surface in the Units 6 & 7 plant area is generally flat, with elevations ranging from –2.4 to 0.8 feet NAVD 88. Vegetated depressions resulting from surficial erosion or solutioning are observed on the plant area. Two remnant canals cross the Units 6 & 7 plant area and are connected to the industrial wastewater facility on the eastern side. The 5900-acre industrial wastewater facility, of which 4370 acres is water surface, is the predominant surface water feature on the plant property. A detailed description is provided in [Subsection 2.3.1.2.2.5](#page-40-0).

The surficial geology within the Units 6 & 7 plant area consists primarily of organic muck. The organic muck is described as either light gray–dark gray to pale brown with trace amounts of shell fragments and little to no reaction to hydrochloric acid, or black to brown with organic fibers and strong reaction to hydrochloric acid. The thickness of the muck across the Units 6 & 7 plant area typically varies from 2 to 7 feet with an average thickness of 3.4 feet (MACTEC 2008). The Miami Limestone underlies the muck and is a marine carbonate consisting predominately of white to gray oolitic limestone with varying abundances of fossils such as mollusks, bryozoans, and corals.

2.3.1.2.1.2 Regional Groundwater Aquifers

The regional hydrostratigraphic framework of Florida consists of a thick sequence of Cenozoic sediments which comprise three major aquifers: (1) the surficial aquifer system, (2) intermediate

aquifer system/confining unit, and (3) the Floridan aquifer system (SEGS 1986). The hydrologic parameters and lithologies of each aquifer system vary widely across the state. A generalized hydrostratigraphic column is presented in Figure 2.3-17.

Surficial Aquifer System

The surficial aquifer system is defined by the Southeastern Geological Society (SEGS) Ad Hoc Committee (SEGS 1986) as "the permeable hydrologic unit contiguous with the land surface that is comprised principally of unconsolidated to poorly indurated, siliciclastic deposits." Rocks making up the surficial aquifer system belong to all or part of the Upper Miocene to Holocene Series, consisting primarily of quartz sands, shell beds, and carbonates. In southern Florida, the surficial aquifer system consists of the Tamiami, Caloosahatchee, Fort Thompson, and Anastasia Formations; the Key Largo and Miami Limestones; and undifferentiated sediments (SEGS 1986).

The surficial aquifer system is under mainly unconfined conditions; however, beds of low permeability may cause semi-confined or locally confined conditions in its deeper parts. The base of the surficial aquifer system coincides with the top of laterally extensive and vertically persistent beds of low permeability belonging to the intermediate aquifer system/confining unit. Regionally, the thickness of the surficial aquifer system ranges from approximately 20 to 400 feet.

The main aquifer in the surficial aquifer system in southeastern Florida is the Biscayne aquifer, which is used for primary water supply. The Biscayne aquifer has been declared a sole-source aquifer (SSA) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). An SSA is defined as "an underground water source that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. These areas have no alternative drinking water source(s) that could physically, legally, and economically supply all those who depend upon the aquifer for drinking water" (U.S. EPA 2008a). Figure 2.3-18 (U.S. EPA 2008a) shows the locations of SSAs in EPA Region 4. The figure also contains a description of the limits of the Biscayne SSA. Although the Biscayne aquifer underlies the Units 6 & 7 plant area, it contains saline to saltwater in this area and is not usable as a potable water supply.

Intermediate Aquifer System/Confining Unit

Regionally, a sequence of relatively low-permeability, largely clayey deposits approximately 900 feet thick forms a confining unit that separates the Biscayne aquifer from the underlying, fresh-to-saltwater Floridan aquifer system. The confining unit also contains transmissive units that can locally act as an aquifer system.

The SEGS (1986) defines the intermediate aquifer system/confining unit as "all rocks that lie between and collectively retard the exchange of water between the overlying surficial aquifer system and the underlying Floridan aquifer system." In general, the rocks of this system consist of fine-grained siliciclastic deposits interlayered with carbonate strata of Miocene or younger age.

In areas where poorly yielding to nonwater-yielding units occur, the term "intermediate confining unit" is used. In areas where low- to moderate-yielding units are interlayered with relatively impermeable confining beds, the term "intermediate aquifer system" applies. The aquifer's units within this system contain water under confined conditions. The top of the intermediate aquifer system/confining unit coincides with the base of the surficial aquifer system. The base of the intermediate aquifer, or confining unit, is at the top of the vertically persistent, permeable, carbonate section that comprises the Floridan aquifer system. The sediments comprising the intermediate aquifer system/confining unit are widely variable across the state. In the southern part of the state, the Hawthorn Group, consisting of the Peace River Formation and the Arcadia Formation, forms both an intermediate confining unit and an intermediate aquifer system. The Hawthorn Group sediments are up to approximately 900 feet thick in southern Florida (Figure 2.3-17). In many areas of the state, permeable carbonates occurring at the base of the Hawthorn Group may be hydraulically connected to the Floridan aquifer system and locally form the top of the Upper Floridan aquifer. The intermediate confining unit provides an effective aquiclude for the Floridan aquifer system throughout the state.

Floridan Aquifer System

The Floridan aquifer system underlies approximately 100,000 square miles in southern Alabama, southeastern Georgia, southern South Carolina, and all of Florida. Potable water is present in some parts of the aquifer. As defined by Miller (1986), the Floridan aquifer system is a vertically continuous sequence of interbedded carbonate rocks of Tertiary age that are hydraulically interconnected by varying degrees and with permeabilities several orders of magnitude greater than the hydrogeologic systems above and below. The system may occur as a continuous series of vertically connected carbonate sediments or may be separated by sub-regional to regional confining beds (Miller 1986). The Floridan aquifer formally consists of three main hydrogeologic units: the Upper Floridan aquifer, the middle confining unit, and the Lower Floridan aquifer (Figure 2.3-17). Porosity and permeability in the aquifer units vary widely depending on location and formation.

In southern Florida, the Floridan aquifer system is composed of all or parts of the Cedar Keys Formation, Oldsmar Formation, Avon Park Formation, Ocala Limestone, Suwannee Limestone, and, possibly, the basal carbonates of the Hawthorn Group in limited areas.

In southern Florida, the top of the Floridan aquifer system ranges in elevation from approximately –1000 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29) to more than –1100 feet NGVD 29 with thicknesses ranging from approximately 2300 feet to more than 3400 feet (Miller 1986). Throughout most of southern Florida, the Floridan aquifer system occurs under confined conditions.

2.3.1.2.1.3 Local Hydrogeology

Two major aquifers underlie the local area including all of Miami-Dade County and the Units 6 & 7 plant area:

- The surficial aquifer system, comprised of the Biscayne aquifer
- The Floridan aquifer system consisting of the Upper Floridan aquifer, the middle confining unit, and the Lower Floridan aquifer

A site-specific hydrostratigraphic column developed from borings drilled up to maximum depths of approximately 615 feet below ground surface (bgs) is presented in Figure 2.3-19.

The Biscayne aquifer extends from near surface to a depth of approximately 240 feet near Fort Lauderdale and approximately 80 to 115 feet locally.

The Upper Floridan aquifer extends from approximately 1000 to 1200 feet bgs. The middle confining unit extends from approximately 1200 to 2400 feet bgs. The Lower Floridan aquifer extends from approximately 2400 feet bgs to an undetermined depth thought to be greater than 4000 feet bgs in the Miami-Dade County area. The Boulder Zone in the Lower Floridan aquifer extends from approximately 2800 to at least 3000 feet bgs at the MDWASD South District Wastewater Treatment Plant (SDWTP)(Starr et al. 2001), which is located approximately 9 miles north of the Units 6 & 7 plant area.

Surficial (Biscayne) Aquifer

The surficial aquifer system comprises all the rocks and sediments from the land surface downward to the top of the intermediate confining unit. These lithologic materials consist primarily of limestones and sandstones with sands, shells, and clayey sand with minor clays and silts. The base of the system is defined by a significant change in hydraulic conductivity. Sedimentary bedrock and unconsolidated sediments in the surficial aquifer system have a wide range of hydraulic properties and locally may be divided into one or more aquifers separated by less-permeable or semi-confining units. Within the surficial aquifer system, the major water-producing unit is the unconfined Biscayne aquifer, which underlies the Units 6 & 7 plant area and all of Miami-Dade County and parts of Broward, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties, as shown in Figure 2.3-21. The aquifer contains carbonate rocks, sandstones, and sand extending from land surface to an elevation of approximately –10 feet NGVD 29 in southern Miami-Dade County and deepening northward to more than elevation –240 feet NGVD 29 in southeastern Palm Beach County and eastern Broward County (Figure 2.3-22). These formations include, from oldest to youngest (bottom to top): the upper portion of the Tamiami Formation, Caloosahatchee Formation, Fort Thompson Formation, Anastasia Formation, Key Largo Limestone, Miami Limestone, and Pamlico Sand (Fish and Stewart 1991). However, the entire

sequence of units is not present in any one place. At the Units 6 & 7 plant area, the formations within the Biscayne aquifer include the Miami Limestone, Key Largo Limestone, and the Fort Thompson Formation (Figure 2.3-19). The Fort Thompson Formation and Key Largo Limestone are the major water producing formations within the aquifer (Miller 1990). Site-specific boring data indicates that the maximum thickness of the Biscayne aquifer is approximately 115 feet at the Units 6 & 7 plant area.

The water table occurs primarily within the organic soils (muck) or the Miami Limestone and fluctuates in response to variations in tide levels, recharge, natural discharge, water levels in adjacent canals, and well withdrawal/injection. The aquifer extends beneath Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. Because of the aquifer's high permeability, and in response to the lowering of inland groundwater levels due to pumpage, saltwater has migrated inland along the base of the aquifer and affects the entire coastal zone. Saltwater moves inland and upward in response to low inland groundwater levels and moves seaward and downward in response to high inland groundwater levels (Klein and Hull 1978).

Biscayne aquifer groundwater use in the immediate vicinity of the plant area has been limited due to saline to saltwater composition. Figure 2.3-23 (Langevin 2001) shows the approximate location of the freshwater-saltwater interface in the area. The figure indicates that the saltwater interface at the base of the aquifer is approximately 6 to 8 miles inland of the Units 6 & 7 plant area.

Intermediate Confining Unit

The intermediate confining unit (upper confining unit for the Upper Floridan aquifer) extends from the base of the surficial aquifer system to the top of the Floridan aquifer system and is characterized by complex interbedded lithologies of the Hawthorn Group. These lithologies consist primarily of silty clay, calcareous sands, silts, calcareous wackestones, limestones, sandstones and sands, and obtain a thickness of approximately 600 to 1050 feet at Turkey Point (Reese 1994). Site information suggests a thickness of approximately 700 feet just to the north of Units 6 & 7 site (Unit 5 Upper Floridan aquifer production wells PW-3 [JLA Geosciences 2006]) to approximately 1000 feet southwest of the site (Dames & Moore 1975).

The top of the Hawthorn Group occurs at approximately –100 feet MSL southwest of the site (Dames & Moore 1975) to approximately –215 feet MSL at Units 6 & 7 and production well PW-3 (JLA Geosciences 2006) in the vicinity of the site. The unit is not exposed at the land surface. Sand beds and limestone lenses comprise the permeable parts of the system, however, the overall hydraulic conductivity of the group is very low and provides good confinement for the underlying Floridan aquifer system.

Floridan Aquifer System

The Floridan aquifer system underlies the Units 6 & 7 plant area and all of Florida. The system formally consists of three main hydrogeologic units: the Upper Floridan aquifer, the middle confining unit, and the Lower Floridan aquifer (Figure 2.3-17). In the Miami-Dade County area, the top of the Floridan aquifer system is found at a depth of approximately 1000 feet bgs, is approximately 3000 feet thick, and is directly overlain by the intermediate confining unit. The Floridan aquifer system forms the deepest part of the active groundwater flow system in southeastern Florida (Reese 1994 and SEGS 1986).

Floridan Aquifer System: Upper Floridan Aquifer

The top most hydrogeologic unit of the Floridan aquifer system is the Upper Floridan aquifer. This unit is overlain by the intermediate confining layer that acts as a confining unit to the Upper Floridan aquifer (Stewart 1980). The Upper Floridan aquifer consists of several thin water-bearing zones of high permeability interlayered with thick zones of low permeability. The hydrogeology of the Upper Floridan aquifer varies throughout Florida. In southeastern Florida, the aquifer has been interpreted to include a thinner Suwannee Limestone and extends down into the Avon Park Formation (Figure 2.3-17). Confinement is typically better between flow zones in southwestern Florida than in southeastern Florida (Reese and Richardson 2008). In southeastern Florida, the Upper Floridan aquifer ranges from 100 feet to greater than 400 feet in thickness as shown on Figure 2.3-24. In the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property, the Upper Floridan aquifer is approximately 200 feet thick.

Although the Upper Floridan aquifer is a major source of potable groundwater in much of Florida, water withdrawn from the unit in southeastern Florida, including Miami-Dade County, is brackish and variable in quality (Reese and Richardson 2008).

Floridan Aquifer System: Middle Confining Unit

The middle confining unit of the Floridan aquifer system underlies the Upper Floridan aquifer, separating it from the Lower Floridan aquifer. In many places, the middle confining unit is divided into upper and lower units separated by the Avon Park permeable zone (Figure 2.3-17). The middle confining unit contains beds of micritic limestone (wackestone to mudstone), dolomitic limestone, and dolomite (dolostone) that are distinctly less permeable that the strata of the Upper Floridan aquifer and Lower Floridan aquifer. The elevation of the top of the middle confining unit is approximately –1200 feet NGVD 29 and the thickness is approximately 1000 feet in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property (Reese and Richardson 2008).

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Floridan Aquifer System: Lower Floridan Aquifer

The Lower Floridan aquifer in southern Florida consists of a thick sequence of low permeability rocks separated by relatively thin permeable zones (Miller 1986). The aquifer underlies the middle confining unit and extends from a depth of approximately 2400 feet bgs to a depth that is undetermined, but thought to be greater than 4000 feet bgs in the Miami-Dade County area. The Lower Floridan aquifer includes the lower part of the Avon Park Formation, the Oldsmar Limestone, and the upper part of the Cedar Keys Formation (Figure 2.3-17). The base of the Lower Floridan aquifer (or the base of the Floridan aquifer system) is marked by impermeable, massive anhydrite beds of the Cedar Keys Formation (Miller 1986).

A highly permeable zone in the Lower Floridan aquifer known as the Boulder Zone occurs in southern Florida. The Boulder Zone contains saltwater and has been permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a zone to discharge treated sewage and other wastes disposed of through injection wells operated in South Florida.

In southern Florida, the Lower Floridan aquifer contains thick confining units above the Boulder Zone. These confining units are similar in lithology to the middle confining unit of the Floridan aquifer system (Reese 1994). The base of the Lower Floridan aquifer is below the base of the Boulder Zone, with the lower section consisting of permeable dolomites or dolomitic limestones of the Cedar Keys Formation (Meyer 1989 and Reese 1994).

2.3.1.2.1.4 Site-Specific Hydrogeology

A subsurface investigation was conducted for Units 6 & 7 between February and June 2008 to evaluate soil, bedrock, and groundwater conditions at depths of up to a maximum of approximately 615 feet bgs. Subsurface information was collected from 94 geotechnical borings, 4 cone penetrometer tests (CPTs), 2 test pits, 22 groundwater observation wells, and 2 surface water stations. Data on the borings, test pits, and cone penetrometer tests in the form of boring logs, laboratory test results, etc., are provided in MACTEC 2008.

Twenty groundwater observation wells, two deep geotechnical piezometers, and the two surface water monitoring stations were installed in the Units 6 & 7 plant area as follows:

- Ten observation well pairs used for measuring groundwater levels (or 20 individual observation wells) were installed across the plant area. These wells were completed to depths ranging from 24 to 110 feet bgs and were installed in the Miami Limestone/Key Largo Limestone and the Fort Thompson Formation.
- Two deep geotechnical piezometers, one at each reactor site, were installed to a depth of approximately 135 feet bgs. These two piezometers were installed to measure pore pressure in the Tamiami Formation and are not part of the groundwater level monitoring network.

 Two surface water monitoring stations (SW-1 and SW-2) were installed in the canals surrounding the Units 6 & 7 plant area. The pressure transducers were set several feet below the water level in the canals to allow monitoring of the surface water level variations.

Groundwater level and surface water level measurements commenced in the 20 observation wells and 2 surface water stations in June 2008. Observation wells OW-606D and OW-706D, installed as piezometers for geotechnical purposes, are not part of the groundwater level monitoring network. Groundwater level measurements are made using electronic recording pressure transducers.

Figure 2.3-25 shows the locations of the 20 observation wells, 2 piezometers, and 2 surface water stations in the plant area. [Table 2.3-14](#page-93-0) presents the construction information for the wells. The observation wells are named in three series that represent the location and screened intervals of the wells:

- OW-600 series wells and geotechnical piezometer are located in the Unit 6 power block area and include "U," "L," and "D" suffix wells monitoring the Key Largo Limestone, the Fort Thompson Formation, and the upper Tamiami Formation, respectively.
- OW-700 series wells and geotechnical piezometer are located in the Unit 7 power block area and include "U," "L," and "D" suffix wells monitoring the Key Largo Limestone, the Fort Thompson Formation, and the upper Tamiami Formation, respectively.
- OW-800 series wells are located outside of the power block areas and include "U" and "L" suffix wells that monitor the Key Largo Limestone and the Fort Thompson Formation, respectively.

A supplemental groundwater investigation was conducted between January and March 2009 at the Units 6 & 7 plant area. The results of this investigation are provided in [Subsection 2.3.1.2.2.3](#page-31-0). Four test wells and fifty temporary observation wells were installed and pumping tests performed for this supplemental investigation as follows:

Four temporary test wells and fifty temporary observation wells were installed for the purpose of conducting aquifer pumping tests. Two pumping wells were located at each unit, with one well completed as an open-hole to test the upper Biscayne aquifer (Key Largo Limestone) and one well completed as an open-hole to test the lower Biscayne aquifer (Fort Thompson Formation). The observation wells at each unit consisted of five well clusters containing five temporary wells each, installed in the following test zones:

- Upper aquitard (Miami Limestone)
- Upper Biscayne aquifer test zone (Key Largo Limestone)

- Middle aquitard (freshwater limestone unit)
- Lower Biscayne aquifer test zone (Fort Thompson Formation)
- Lower aquitard (Upper Tamiami Formation)

Descriptions and locations of the aquifer pumping test wells and temporary observation wells are presented in [Subsection 2.3.1.2.2.3.](#page-31-0)

2.3.1.2.2 Groundwater Sources and Sinks

This subsection contains a description of the historic groundwater levels, groundwater flow direction(s) and gradients, seasonal and long-term variations of groundwater levels, horizontal and vertical permeability and total and effective porosity of the geologic formations beneath the plant area, reversibility of groundwater flow, the effects of water use on hydraulic gradients and groundwater levels beneath the plant area, and groundwater recharge areas. This information has been organized into five subcategories as follows: (1) groundwater horizontal and vertical flow directions, (2) temporal groundwater trends, (3) aquifer properties, (4) hydrogeochemical characteristics, and (5) groundwater recharge and discharge.

2.3.1.2.2.1 Groundwater Flow Directions

Groundwater flow directions are provided in the following sections by aquifer.

Biscayne Aquifer

Regional groundwater flow in the Biscayne aquifer is generally toward the east-southeast. Figures 2.3-26 and 2.3-27 (Langevin 2001) show potentiometric surface maps of the Biscayne aquifer for May and November of 1993. The potentiometric maps show localized effects from surface water canals and cones of depression associated with groundwater well fields. Based on the regional data, the hydraulic gradient in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property is approximately 0.00002 foot per foot . The elevations in NGVD 29 used by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are approximately 1.53 feet higher than the NAVD 88 elevations used for the plant area data (NOAA 2008g).

Potentiometric surface maps for the upper and lower monitoring zones of the Biscayne aquifer in the immediate vicinity of the Units 6 & 7 plant area are shown on Figures 2.3-28 through 2.3-35 and Figures 2.3-69 through 2.3-72). A separate map was prepared for each high and low tide time sequence for the upper (Miami and Key Largo Limestones) and lower (Fort Thompson Formation) monitoring zones. For the purposes of this analysis, high and low tides refer to the approximate local highs and lows obtained from the observation well hydrographs. The water levels were corrected to equivalent reference heads. FSAR Subsection 2.4.12, Appendix 2AA

describes the data evaluation process for the transducer generated water level data and the calculation of reference heads from observed head data.

These maps indicate that the highest portion of the potentiometric surface in the lower monitoring zone generally runs from the southwestern portion of the island near OW-735L to the central portion of the island near OW-706L. Flow patterns extend radially in multiple directions from this high spot, but flow patterns are not symmetrically arrayed. The lower monitoring zone potentiometric surfaces and resulting flow patterns are similar for all high and low tide conditions examined.

In the upper monitoring zone, a relative high spot in the potentiometric surface runs from the northwest near OW-812U to the center of the island near OW-706U. A second high spot in the potentiometric surface is evident in the southeast corner of the island near OW-636U. A relatively low region in the potentiometric surface extends from the southwest near OW-735U to the east-central portion of the island near OW-805U and OW-606U.

Flow patterns in both monitoring zones are complex. In both zones, the center of the island near OW-706 provides a relative high spot in the potentiometric surface and flow lines extend in multiple directions away from this high spot.

Because of the complexity of the observed flow patterns in the upper and lower monitoring zones, one to three flow path lines were used to calculate horizontal gradients for each potentiometric surface shown in Figures 2.3-28 through 2.3-35 and Figures 2.3-69 through 2.3-72. The average horizontal gradient in the upper monitoring zone across all examined tidal conditions is 0.0003 ft/ft, and the average horizontal gradient in the lower monitoring zone is 0.001 ft/ft.

Vertical hydraulic gradients were computed for selected observation well pairs on the site. [Table 2.3-15](#page-94-0) presents the vertical hydraulic gradients determined from these well pairs. The overall vertical hydraulic gradient is generally upward across the plant area. The vertical hydraulic gradients do not vary significantly between high and low tidal cycles.

In general the groundwater flow conditions in the Biscayne aquifer at the Units 6 & 7 plant area can be summarized as follows:

 Flow conditions in the upper monitoring zone indicate a consistent flow direction from the high spots in the potentiometric surface in the northwest and southeast towards the relative low region in the potentiometric surface that runs from the southwest to the east-central of the island. Flow in the low region is generally towards the southwest.

- Flow conditions in the lower monitoring zone indicate a high spot in the potentiometric surface that extends from the southwestern portion of the island to the center of the island. Flow patterns extend in multiple directions from this high spot but the patterns are not symmetrical.
- Vertical hydraulic gradients indicate upward flow potential.
- The vertical (upward) gradient is approximately an order of magnitude larger than the horizontal gradient in the lower monitoring zone. The average horizontal gradient in the lower monitoring zone is, in turn, approximately a factor of four larger than the average horizontal gradient in the upper monitoring zone.

Floridan Aquifer

Regional groundwater flow in the Upper Floridan aquifer is generally toward the east. Figure 2.3-36 shows a potentiometric surface map of the Upper Floridan aquifer for May 1980 (Meyer 1989). The apparent hydraulic gradient in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property is approximately 0.00006 foot per foot. South Florida is in the brackish to saline portion of the aquifer, and groundwater development has generally been restricted to industrial water supplies.

Determination of groundwater flow directions and hydraulic heads in the Boulder Zone have been unreliable due to the lack of head data and the transitory effects of ocean tides, earth tides, and atmospheric tides (Meyer 1989). Regional groundwater movement in the Lower Floridan aquifer in southern Florida is estimated to follow the circulation pattern described as follows: 1) cold seawater moves inland through the Lower Floridan aquifer, 2) heating of the seawater in the Lower Floridan aquifer during inland movement results in lower fluid density, 3) upwelling of this seawater from the Lower Floridan aquifer occurs through the middle confining unit, and 4) dilution of the seawater (further reducing fluid density) results in its transport back to the ocean by seaward flowing groundwater in the Upper Floridan aquifer. Figure 2.3-48 illustrates this circulation pattern (Meyer 1989). This circulation is generally very slow due to the low permeability of the middle confining unit.

There are no Floridan aquifer monitoring wells installed at the Units 6 & 7 plant area. Dual-zone monitoring wells would be installed as part of the deep injection wells.

2.3.1.2.2.2 Temporal Groundwater Trends

Regional temporal trends in the Biscayne aquifer groundwater levels are monitored by the USGS (USGS 2009a) and the SFWMD (SFWMD 2009). Figure 2.3-37 presents a map of wells and surface water control structures in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property used for long-term monitoring of groundwater and surface water levels. Figures 2.3-38 and 2.3-39 show the hydrographs for these locations. The locations show varying degrees of short-term tidal influence and fluctuations associated with precipitation events. The long-term trends in the wells

and surface water indicate a generally steady water level over the period examined. Well G-1183 shows the largest magnitude of fluctuation with water level elevations ranging from 6.38 to –0.59 feet NGVD 29. The remaining wells show a range of fluctuation of less than 3.5 feet.

Figure 2.3-40 shows hydrographs of the Biscayne aquifer monitoring wells for Units 6 & 7. The hydrographs contain data gaps, which were a result of loss of transducer data due to storm preparation activities or equipment failure. A partial listing of water level data from the transducers is presented in FSAR Subsection 2.4.12, Appendix 2AA. Appendix 2AA also describes the data evaluation process for the transducer generated level data. The results of this evaluation indicate that the present data is sufficient for use.

Regional temporal trends in the Floridan aquifer have been monitored by the USGS (2008). A hydrograph of a well completed in the Upper Floridan aquifer is shown on Figure 2.3-41. The wellhead elevation is 4.50 feet NGVD 29 and the hydraulic head inside the well ranges from 30 to 42.6 feet NGVD 29, indicating that the potentiometric surface in this area is above ground surface.

2.3.1.2.2.3 Aquifer Properties

This subsection provides a summary of the regional, local, and site-specific hydrogeologic parameters of the different aquifer units. These parameters include transmissivity, storativity (storage coefficient), specific yield, hydraulic conductivity (permeability), and leakage coefficient (leakance). The following are definitions of these properties:

- Transmissivity The rate at which a fluid of a specified density and viscosity is transmitted through a unit width of an aquifer or confining bed under a unit hydraulic gradient and is a function of the properties of the fluid, the porous medium, and the thickness of the porous medium (Fetter 1988).
- Storativity (Storage Coefficient) The volume of water released from or taken into storage per unit surface area of the aquifer per unit change in head (Fetter 1988).
- \bullet Specific Yield The ratio of the volume of water a rock or soil will yield by gravity drainage to the volume of the rock or soil (Fetter 1988).
- Hydraulic Conductivity (Permeability) A coefficient of proportionality describing flow per unit time under a unit hydraulic gradient through a unit area of a porous medium and is a function of the properties of the fluid and the porous medium (Fetter 1988).
- Leakage Coefficient (Leakance) The quantity of water that flows across a unit area of the boundary between the main aquifer and its semi-confining bed, typically expressed as

seconds⁻¹ or days⁻¹ derived from the relationship K'/b' where K' is the hydraulic conductivity of the semi-confining unit and b' is its thickness (Davis and DeWeist 1966).

Typical values of hydraulic conductivity, porosity, and thickness for different formations in Miami-Dade County are shown on [Table 2.3-16](#page-98-0) (U.S. EPA 2003). The values are based on weighted averages for management of treated wastewater. The weighted average values presented in [Table 2.3-16](#page-98-0) were developed by the EPA to support a risk assessment of wastewater disposal. The data were based on a literature review of published values of the hydrogeologic parameters used to characterize the hydrologic units in Miami-Dade County. The weighted means of the data were calculated to determine representative values to be used in the risk assessment. The weighted mean method essentially reduces the effect of extreme data outliers and may not be representative of actual conditions. These values were not used in the hydrogeologic analysis of site conditions.

[Table 2.3-17](#page-99-0) presents aquifer test results for tests performed within 15 miles of Units 6 & 7. Figure 2.3-42 shows the locations of these tests. The data were obtained from the SFWMD DBHYDRO database and the Dames & Moore site investigation report (SFWMD 2009 and Dames & Moore 1971). The tests were performed in the Biscayne aquifer, the Floridan aquifer, and confining layers. The tests include standard aquifer performance tests and packer tests used for assessment of the injection and confining layers for deep injection well permitting. The Boulder Zone packer tests listed in [Table 2.3-17](#page-99-0) show transmissivities lower than those reported for other regional testing of the Boulder Zone. The depths given on the table suggest that the tests were performed in the interval between the top of the Lower Floridan aquifer and the top of the Boulder Zone as determined from cross section Y-Y in Reese and Richardson (2008).

Surficial/Biscayne Aquifer

Hydrogeologic properties of the Biscayne aquifer vary based on lithology. Along the coast, where the Biscayne aquifer is the thickest, transmissivities are lower due to the amounts of sandy material. In central and south Miami-Dade County, the aquifer is thinner with higher hydraulic conductivity due to the occurrence of cavernous limestone (Klein and Hull 1978). The permeable limestone content in the aquifer decreases northward and the overall transmissivity of the aquifer decreases with increased sand content. Transmissivities for the highly permeable limestones and less permeable sandstones and sands of the aquifer in the vicinity of Units 6 & 7 have been estimated to range from less than 1.0E06 gallons per day per foot to 3.0E06 gallons per day per foot (Dames & Moore 1971).

According to Parker et al. (1955), the Biscayne aquifer is the most productive of the shallow non-artesian aquifers in the area. The Biscayne aquifer is one of the most permeable in the world with transmissivity values (hydraulic conductivity x saturated thickness) for the highly permeable limestones ranging from 4.0E06 to 15.0E06 gallons per day per foot (5.4E05 to 2.0E06 square

feet per day) with a median value of 5.0E06 gallons per day per foot (6.7E05 square feet per day) and storage coefficients ranging from 0.047 to 0.247. In Broward County, transmissivities are reported to range from about 4.0E05 gallons per day per foot (5.4E04 square feet per day) to 4.0E06 gallons per day per foot (5.4E05 square feet per day) with storage coefficients as high as 0.34 (Sherwood et al. 1973). A generalized distribution of the transmissivities in the Biscayne aquifer is presented in Figure 2.3-43 (Merritt 1996).

Large-capacity municipal wells are commonly completed as open holes and yield from approximately 500 to more than 7000 gallons per minute with only small drawdowns. Specific capacities obtained from pumping tests are on the order of 1000 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown in Miami-Dade County (Klein and Hull 1978).

Two studies performed to the northwest of the plant property by the USGS (Cunningham et al. 2004 and Cunningham et al. 2006) examined the vertical variations in aquifer properties of the Biscayne aquifer. [Table 2.3-18](#page-106-0) presents the results of testing core samples. The locations of the core samples are shown on Figure 2.3-42. Figure 2.3-44 is a plot of core properties versus elevation.The core samples were tested for horizontal air permeability, vertical air permeability, porosity, and grain density. The horizontal air permeability test included a maximum permeability at 90 degrees to the maximum permeability direction to assess horizontal anisotropy. The studies included a detailed examination of the core samples to determine lithology and fossil assemblages. As a result of this examination, the authors were able to subdivide the Biscayne aquifer into a series of high-frequency depositional cycles that ranged from a freshwater to a marine depositional environment. These depositional cycles control the permeability and porosity of the aquifer. The freshwater and transitional portions of the depositional cycles are characterized by lower permeability (<1000 milliDarcies) and porosity (<20 percent), while the marine portions of depositional cycles exhibit higher permeability (>1000 milliDarcies) and porosity (20–40 percent). This general observation appears to support the site-specific findings regarding the fresh water limestone layer and the other marine and transitional units identified at the Units 6 & 7 plant area. The vertical changes in properties as a result of these depositional cycles can be seen on the figure. Figure 2.3-45 presents a plot of the vertical anisotropy ratio $(K_{vertical}:K_{horizontal})$ versus elevation using the vertical permeability and maximum horizontal permeability determined from the USGS laboratory core testing. The graph indicates that the central tendency of the anisotrophy measurements is approximately one. This value was used as a starting point for groundwater model calibration.

As part of the Units 6 & 7 investigation, a total of 10 observation wells were installed in the upper part of the Biscayne aquifer in the Miami Limestone/Key Largo Limestone ("U" suffix wells) and 10 observation wells were installed in the Fort Thompson Formation ("L" suffix wells). The screen depths for the upper ("U") wells range from 15 to 28 feet bgs and for the lower ("L") wells they range from 98 to 110 feet bgs. The locations and installation details of the wells are provided in Figure 2.3-25 and [Table 2.3-14](#page-93-0), respectively.

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Thirty-one in situ hydraulic conductivity tests (slug tests) were conducted in these wells. These data were imported into AQTESOLV™ for Windows version 4.5 (Duffield 2007) and evaluated using either the Butler, KGS (Kansas Geological Survey), McElwee-Zenner, or Springer-Gelhar solution methods (MACTEC 2008). Hydraulic conductivity values obtained for wells screened in the upper part ("U" wells) of the Biscayne aquifer range from 3 to 319 feet per day with a geometric mean of 61.3 feet per day. For the wells screened in the lower part ("L" wells) of the aquifer, values range from 1.0 to 120 feet per day with a geometric mean of 20.1 feet per day. The results of the tests are summarized in [Table 2.3-19.](#page-121-0) The results suggest that the rate-limiting recharge of the well filter pack may be influencing the results of the tests. The rate-limiting recharge effects are caused by the formation having a higher hydraulic conductivity than the filter pack material; this results in the filter pack controlling the slug test response rather than the formation. This interpretation is supported by site vicinity aquifer tests (Dames & Moore 1971) and other regional studies [\(Table 2.3-17\)](#page-99-0) that suggest much higher hydraulic conductivity values for the aquifer. In addition, aquifer pumping tests are, in general, found to yield higher hydraulic conductivity values than slug tests.

Four aquifer pumping tests were conducted in the Units 6 & 7 power block area, in order to determine hydrogeologic properties of the Biscayne aquifer. These tests were performed to measure the hydrogeologic properties of the aquifer units and the overlying or underlying aquitards for use in the design and implementation of the construction dewatering system, development of the site groundwater flow model, and simulation of the radial collector wells in the groundwater model. Two test zones were identified within the Biscayne aquifer: the upper zone, which is located in the Key Largo Limestone, and the lower zone, which is located in the Fort Thompson Formation. The muck and Miami Limestone units are interpreted to have a lower hydraulic conductivity than the underlying Key Largo Limestone. The freshwater limestone layer is interpreted to have a lower hydraulic conductivity than either the overlying Key Largo Limestone or the underlying Fort Thompson Formation. The Tamiami Formation is also interpreted to have a lower hydraulic conductivity than the overlying Fort Thompson Formation. Thus, the Miami Limestone, the freshwater limestone unit, and the Tamiami Formation were treated as aquitards in the subsurface profile. For the conditions at the plant area, the term aquitard is amended from its usual definition as a low permeability unit to a unit that has a much lower permeability than the aquifer units.

A total of four pumping wells and fifty temporary observation wells were installed for aquifer characterization. Two pumping wells and twenty-five observation wells were installed at each unit location. The pumping wells at Unit 6 were designated PW-6U and PW-6L and at Unit 7 were designated PW-7U and PW-7L, with the U/L suffix indicating completion in either the upper (U) or lower (L) Biscayne aquifer test zone. The pumping wells were nominally 30-inches in diameter and were completed as open holes in the test intervals. The upper test zone wells (PW-6U and PW-7U) were both completed at a total depth of 45 feet bgs. The lower test zone wells (PW-6L

and PW-7L) were completed at a total depth of 105 feet and 87 feet bgs, respectively. Each aquifer test location had two observation well clusters of five wells each installed at right angles to and approximately 10 feet from the pumping well. Additionally, a shared well cluster of five wells was installed between the two pumping wells at each unit location at a distance of approximately 25 feet. The observation well clusters at Unit 6 (C6-1 through C6-5) and Unit 7 (C7-1 through C7-5) each included wells designated as A through E completed in the following zones:

- Miami Limestone/Upper Aquitard (A)
- Key Largo Limestone/Upper Test Zone (D)
- Freshwater Limestone/Middle Aquitard (B)
- Fort Thompson Formation/Lower Test Zone (E)
- Tamiami Formation/Lower Aquitard (C)

Figure 2.3-46 presents the configuration of the pumping and observation wells for Units 6 & 7.

Each pumping test was conducted at a constant discharge rate and drawdown data was collected for a period of 8 hours, followed immediately by the recovery period during which water level data were collected for an additional 8 hours. The discharge rate for each test was selected based on data collected during a step-drawdown test conducted on each pumping well prior to initiation of the 8 hour drawdown test. Discharge rates for the tests ranged from approximately 3300 gpm to 5100 gpm.

The pumping test results were interpreted using the AQTESOLV™ (Duffield 2007) computer program. This program contains solution options for different hydrogeologic conditions such as unconfined, confined, and leaky conditions. Two interpretation methods were used: the Theis method and the Hantush leaky aquifer with aquitard storage method. The Theis method was applied to the time-drawdown data, to provide an upper bound on transmissivity, because the Theis method assumes no leakage. The Hantush leaky method with aquitard storage was used to evaluate the distance-drawdown and time-drawdown relationships in the pumping zone observation wells ("D" or "E" series wells). [Table 2.3-20](#page-125-0) presents a summary of the averages of the aquifer testing results. Based on these analyses, the average transmissivity for the upper Biscayne aquifer is approximately 2.3E06 gallons per day per foot and for the lower Biscayne aquifer it is approximately 1.3E05 gallons per day per foot. Details of the pumping tests and the analytical methods are provided in FSAR Subsection 2.4.12, Appendix 2BB.
Intermediate Aquifer System/Confining Unit

The overall hydraulic conductivity of the intermediate aquifer system/confining unit is very low and provides good confinement for the underlying Floridan aquifer system (Bush and Johnston 1988). The leakage coefficient of this confining unit is highly variable, especially in the semi-confined areas where the confining beds may be either sandy or clayey. Leakage coefficient values of the upper confining unit, derived from computer model simulations, range from less than 0.01 inches per year per foot in tightly confined areas to more than 1.00 inches per year per foot in semi-confined areas (Bush and Johnston 1988). According to Bush and Johnston (1988), leakage coefficients calculated from aquifer test data, in general, are much larger than those obtained from simulation, ranging from 0.44 to 88 inches per year per foot. Their analyses indicate that in the majority of locations, leakage coefficients from aquifer test data are too large to realistically represent the exchange of water between the surficial aquifer and the Upper Floridan aquifer. The values obtained from aquifer test data can reflect not only downward leakage from the surficial aquifer, but upward leakage from permeable rocks beneath the pumped interval, as well as leakage from beds of relatively low permeability that might exist within the pumped interval. Upper confining unit leakage coefficients derived from Floridan aquifer test data are composite or lumped properties that include leakage from all available sources.

Floridan Aquifer System

The Floridan aquifer system is a confined series of aquifer zones, separated by aquicludes, that is approximately 3000 feet thick in southeastern Florida. Porosity and permeability in the aquifer vary widely depending on location and formation. High permeability values are the result of both fractured limestone and extensive secondary porosity derived from dissolution of carbonates. In the central part of the Lower Floridan aquifer within the Floridan aquifer system is the Boulder Zone. The Boulder Zone consists mainly of fractured dolostones, in which large cavities develop during drilling as the result of borehole collapse (Safko and Hickey 1992, Duerr 1995, and Maliva and Walker 1998). The Boulder Zone is used for underground injection of industrial and domestic wastes in South Florida.

Floridan Aquifer System: Upper Floridan Aquifer

Hydraulic parameters of the Upper Floridan aquifer vary considerably as a result of the wide variation in hydrogeologic conditions encountered at different locations. According to Johnston and Bush (1988), conditions that most affect transmissivity are the degree of solution development in the aquifer and, to a lesser extent, aquifer thickness. High transmissivities are usually found in the areas having less confinement because circulation of flow helps to develop solution openings in the aquifer. Transmissivities are lowest (less than 50,000 square feet per day) in the Florida panhandle and southernmost Florida (where the aquifer is confined by thick

clay sections and contains thick sections of low-permeability limestone) and are highest (greater than 1,000,000 square feet per day) in the karst areas of central and northern Florida where the aquifer is generally unconfined or semi-confined (Johnston and Bush 1988).

Regionally, storage coefficients calculated from aquifer tests conducted in the Upper Floridan aquifer range from a low of 1.0E-05 to a high of 2.0E-2 with most values in the 1.0E-03 to 1.0E-04 range (Johnston and Bush 1988).

Dames & Moore (1975) installed a test production well, designated W-12295 as shown on Figure 2.3-42, and four observation wells southwest of the Units 6 & 7 plant area. They conducted a 90-day continuous pumping test of the principal artesian water-bearing zone (Upper Floridan aquifer). The test production well was completed as an open hole between approximately 1130 feet and 1400 feet bgs. Calculated average values for transmissivity, storage coefficient, and leakance obtained from graphical solutions of the test data were 400,000 gallons per day per foot (53,600 square feet per day), 6.0E-04, and 0.002 gallons per day per cubic foot, respectively. Bush and Johnston (1988) report a transmissivity of approximately 232,000 gallons per day per foot (31,000 square feet per day) for the Upper Floridan aquifer.

The most transmissive zone is generally found at the top of the unit and is estimated to range between 10,000 to 60,000 square feet per day. According to Bush and Johnston (1988), at wells S-1532 and S-1533 on the Turkey Point plant property the transmissivity is 31,000 square feet per day (Reese 1994). Transmissivity of the Upper Floridan aquifer is highest in west central Florida (greater than 100,000 square feet per day) with lower transmissivities (less than 10,000 square feet per day) in central Florida (Reese and Richardson 2008).

The Upper Floridan aquifer water supply wells used for Unit 5 cooling water and Units 1 & 2 process water included the performance of an aquifer pumping test as part of the well installation process. The results of this test indicate a transmissivity of 244,000 gallons per day per foot, a storage coefficient of 2.0E-04, and a leakance of 5.0E-03 gallons per day per cubic foot (6.7E-04 day^{-1}). These values are consistent with the values reported from other nearby tests in the Upper Floridan aquifer.

Floridan Aquifer System: Middle Confining Unit

The middle confining unit of the Floridan aquifer system includes most of the Avon Park Formation (Reese and Richardson 2008) (Figure 2.3-17). The zones that contain highly transmissive dolomite with cavernous porosity are found in the upper to middle part of the Oldsmar Formation in southeastern Florida. Reese (1994) places the base of the middle confining unit at the top of the first such zone. The base of the middle confining unit is encountered at a depth of about 2460 feet in a well (MDS-I12) drilled in southeastern Miami-Dade County, 230 feet below the top of the Oldsmar Formation (Reese 1994). Based on

core sample analysis, packer tests, and aquifer tests conducted at the MDWASD South District Wastewater Treatment Plant site, the hydraulic conductivity of the middle to lower part of the confining unit ranges from 3.0E-03 to 3.0 feet per day (Reese 1994). Vertical hydraulic conductivity measured in eight core samples from a well drilled in eastern Broward County, reported by Reese (1994), ranged from 1.3E-04 to 0.24 feet per day. Core analyses of the low porosity (<15%) dolostones from the Floridan aquifer middle confining unit in Palm Beach County gave vertical hydraulic conductivities of less than or equal to 1.7E-08 centimeters per second. The lowest recorded value was 2.7E-09 centimeters per second (Maliva et al. 2007).

Floridan Aquifer System: Lower Floridan Aquifer

The Lower Floridan aquifer underlies the middle confining unit and extends from a depth of approximately 2400 feet bgs to a depth that is undetermined, but thought to be greater than 4000 feet bgs in the Miami-Dade County area. This thick sequence of carbonate rocks contains several permeable zones separated by thick confining units (Miller 1986). These confining units are similar in lithology to the middle confining unit of the Floridan aquifer system (Reese 1994). Underlying the confining beds in the lower part of the Lower Floridan aquifer is the highly transmissive Boulder Zone, which is of varying thickness. The base of the Lower Floridan aquifer extends below the base of the Boulder Zone with the lower section consisting of permeable dolomites or dolomitic limestones of the Cedar Keys Formation (Miller 1986, Meyer 1989, and Reese 1994). Because the Lower Floridan aquifer is deeply buried in southern Florida and contains saltwater, the unit has not been intensively drilled or tested; therefore, the hydraulic characteristics are not well known (Miller 1986).

Boulder Zone

The Boulder Zone is a highly transmissive zone of cavernous limestones and dolomites found in the lower Oldsmar Limestone in the Lower Floridan aquifer in southeastern Florida. However, locally the Boulder Zone may range upward to the middle of the Oldsmar Limestone or downward to the top of the Cedar Keys Formation (Miller 1986). It consists mostly of massively bedded dolostones within which secondary permeability has been extensively developed. The term "Boulder Zone" is a misnomer because no boulders are present other than large chunks occasionally broken off during drilling. The difficult slow drilling and rough bit behavior, similar to that observed drilling in boulders, encountered while drilling dolostone, gave rise to the term "Boulder Zone" (Miller 1986). The Boulder Zone can be up to 700 feet in thickness (Reese and Richardson 2008). Based on previous studies in the region (Reese and Richardson 2008, Starr et al. 2001, Dames & Moore, 1975, and Miller 1986), the Boulder Zone underlies a 13-county area in southern Florida with the elevation of the top of the zone ranging from about –2000 feet NGVD 29 to about –3400 feet NGVD 29, Figure 2.3-47 (Miller 1986). The Boulder Zone is found at a depth of approximately 2800 feet at the Turkey Point plant property.

Transmissivities ranging from 3.2E06 to 24.6E06 square feet per day have been reported for the Boulder Zone (Meyer 1989). A measured hydraulic conductivity value of approximately 4250 feet per day was obtained from an injection well at the SDWTP, operated by the MDWASD in Miami-Dade County. This value is approximately two orders of magnitude larger than measured values in the overlying portion of the Lower Floridan aquifer and the middle confining unit (Fish and Stewart 1991).

2.3.1.2.2.4 Hydrogeochemical Characteristics

The state of Florida has conducted an extensive characterization of the background water quality in the major aquifer systems (FGS 1992). The data have been subdivided into properties for each of the water management districts. [Tables 2.3-21](#page-126-0) and [2.3-22](#page-127-0) present typical site-specific geochemical parameters for the Biscayne aquifer, the Floridan aquifer, and precipitation at Everglades National Park.

The state of Florida has classified the groundwater in the vicinity of Turkey Point as Class G-Ill waters to identify groundwater that has no reasonable potential as a future source of drinking water due to high total dissolved solids content (Merritt 1996). Field-measured groundwater quality indicator parameters (temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, turbidity, and oxidation-reduction potential) obtained during the collection of samples from observation wells (installed in the Biscayne aquifer as part of the Units 6 & 7 characterization investigation) are summarized in [Table 2.3-21.](#page-126-0) The results of the laboratory analyses of the water samples are presented in [Table 2.3-22.](#page-127-0)

Although the Upper Floridan aquifer is a major source of potable groundwater in much of Florida, water withdrawn from the unit in southeastern Florida, including Miami-Dade County, is brackish and variable with chloride and dissolved solid concentrations greater than 1000 mg/L. Groundwater samples from the Upper Floridan aquifer production wells at Unit 5 ([Table 2.3-22](#page-127-0)) show an average chloride concentration of 2900 mg/L.

Average dissolved solids concentration of Boulder Zone groundwater is approximately 37,000 mg/L total dissolved solids (Meyer 1989). There is also a pronounced temperature anomaly present in the Boulder Zone with the lowest observed temperatures (approximately 50°F) occurring along the southeastern coast. The temperature increases from the Straits of Florida toward the center of the Florida Plateau, suggesting recharge from cold seawater through the lower part of the Floridan aquifer system. The groundwater circulation pattern is shown on Figure 2.3-48 (Meyer 1989).

Figure 2.3-49 presents a Piper trilinear diagram of the plant property and regional geochemical data. Examination of the diamond field on the diagram indicates that the plant property groundwater, Biscayne Bay, and the industrial wastewater facility data all plot together on the

diagram, indicating similar geochemical compositions. These waters are classified as a sodium-chloride water type.

2.3.1.2.2.5 Aquifer Recharge and Discharge

Groundwater Discharge

Natural discharge of groundwater in the Biscayne aquifer is by seepage into streams, canals, or the ocean; by evaporation; and by transpiration by plants. Induced discharge is through wells pumped for municipal, industrial, domestic, and agricultural supplies. Evapotranspiration, transpiration, and groundwater discharge are greatest during the wet season when water levels, temperature, and plant growth rates are high. Pumpage of groundwater constitutes a part of the total discharge from the aquifer. The effect of pumpage is amplified because it is greatest during the dry season when recharge and aquifer storage are least. Most of the water that circulates in the surficial aquifer system is discharged by canals (Fish and Stewart 1991). There is very little direct runoff of precipitation; however, regional discharge of the surficial aquifer into drainage canals and directly into Biscayne Bay is estimated to be approximately 15 to 25 inches per year (Parker et al. 1955). It is estimated that 20 inches of the approximately 60 inches of annual rainfall in Miami-Dade County is lost directly by evaporation, approximately 20 inches is lost by evapotranspiration after infiltration, 16 to 18 inches is discharged by canals and by coastal seepage, and the remainder is used by man (Meyer 1989 and Parker et al. 1955). Nearly 50 percent of the rainfall that infiltrates the Biscayne aquifer is discharged to the ocean (Klein and Hull 1978).

Groundwater Recharge

There are several mechanisms affecting recharge of the surficial/Biscayne aquifer in Miami-Dade County including (Fish and Stewart 1991):

- Infiltration of rainfall or irrigation water through surface materials to the water table
- Infiltration of surface water imported by runoff from the north in the water-conservation areas or by canals
- Infiltration of urban runoff by way of drains, wells, or ponds
- Groundwater inflow from southwestern Broward County

Recharge by rainfall is greatest during the wet season, from June to November, and recharge by canal seepage is greatest during the dry season, from December to May. The average annual rainfall in Miami-Dade County is approximately 60 inches, of which approximately 38 inches is recharge to the aquifer (Parker et al. 1955). Recharge occurs over most of Miami-Dade County

during rainstorms. The low coastal groundwater levels and the low, but continuous, seaward gradient indicate the very high transmissivity of the aquifer, the high degree of interconnection between the aquifer and the canals, and the effectiveness of the canals in rapidly draining floodwaters (Fish and Stewart 1991).

Recharge to the Floridan aquifer system is directly related to the confinement of the system. The highest recharge rates occur where the Floridan aquifer is unconfined or poorly confined as in those areas where the system is at or near land surface or where the confining layers are breached by karst or other structural features. The Floridan aquifer system is confined, with upward vertical gradients, and is approximately 1000 feet bgs in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property.

Groundwater–Industrial Wastewater Facility Interaction

Units 1–4 use the 5900-acre closed-loop industrial wastewater facility for condenser cooling (Figure 2.3-61). The canals comprising this facility are shallow, approximately 3 feet deep with the exception of the grand canal (main return canal), north discharge canal, south collector canal, and the east return canal, all of which are approximately 18 feet deep. The canals convey warm water south from the existing units and return cooled water for use by Units 1 through 4. The industrial wastewater facility does not directly discharge to fresh or marine surface waters; however, because the canals are not lined, water in the canals interacts with groundwater in the unconfined Biscayne aquifer, which immediately underlies the bottom of the industrial wastewater facility. Makeup water for the industrial wastewater facility comes from treated process water, rainfall, stormwater runoff, and groundwater infiltration. There is a net inflow to the industrial wastewater facility from the Biscayne aquifer beneath the canals. The water in the canals has a salinity greater than that of seawater due to the effects of evaporation, with salinity concentrations approximately twice that of Biscayne Bay.

An interceptor ditch adjacent to the west side of the industrial wastewater facility and east of the L-31E Canal and levee was constructed at the same time as the industrial wastewater facility (Figure 2.3-61). The purpose of the interceptor ditch is to keep water from the industrial wastewater facility from influencing groundwater quality to the west in the upper portion of the aquifer. This is accomplished by the existence of a natural freshwater hydraulic gradient during the wet season and by pumping water as necessary from the interceptor ditch into the westernmost canal (Canal 32) of the industrial wastewater facility during the dry season when natural freshwater hydraulic gradients are low. Operation of the interceptor ditch prevents seepage from the industrial wastewater facility from moving landward toward the L-31E Canal in the upper portion of the aquifer and thereby helps to maintain existing groundwater quality in the Biscayne aquifer west of the interceptor ditch. [Table 2.3-23](#page-131-0) presents the manual staff gage readings along various transects between the L-31E Canal and the westernmost canal in the industrial wastewater facility for the year 2008. The table also indicates pumping activities to

maintain seaward flow. Figure 2.3-50 presents hydrographs of canal, interceptor ditch, and industrial wastewater facility Canal 32 water elevations for the year 2008.

2.3.1.2.3 Groundwater Flow Model

In order to better characterize the groundwater flow system, a three-dimensional numerical groundwater flow model was used. The model code used was MODFLOW-2000 (Harbaugh et al. 2000) as implemented in the Visual MODFLOW software. The MODFLOW model is a constant-density, three-dimensional finite-difference model, with modular capability to add various equation solvers and boundary conditions to the basic model. The model developed for Units 6 & 7 used a geometric multigrid (GMG) solver.

The Biscayne aquifer is represented in the model by six layers: 1) muck, 2) Miami Limestone, 3) Key Largo Limestone, 4) freshwater limestone, 5) Fort Thompson Formation, and 6) Tamiami Formation. The horizontal discretization for most simulations in the model is represented by a telescopic grid that ranges from a coarse grid (200 by 450 feet) at the model perimeter to a fine grid (20 by 20 feet) in the immediate area of Units 6 & 7.

Hydrological features are represented in the model as boundary conditions. The river boundary condition is used to represent the industrial wastewater facility and the regional water management canals. Recharge and evapotranspiration boundaries are assigned to the top layer of the model, with properties varying depending on the surface conditions. These conditions include open water (canals), wetlands, and impervious surfaces (Units 1 through 5). The perimeter of the model is represented by a general head boundary, except in portions of the top layer at Biscayne Bay. The general head boundary represents the influence of conditions beyond the model area, primarily recharge from the Everglades. The top layer in Biscayne Bay is represented in the model as a constant head boundary condition using an average head based on tidal monitoring at Virginia Key. The remaining layers beneath Biscayne Bay are represented as general head boundaries at the perimeter of the model. The bottom layer of the model (Tamiami Formation) is represented as a no flow boundary condition. The vertical seepage upwards or downwards through the Tamiami Formation and the Hawthorn Group is assumed to be negligible relative to the horizontal flow in the Biscayne aquifer.

Calibration of the model was performed by adjusting the river boundary condition conductance and riverbed thickness values in the industrial wastewater facility and regional water management canals and by adjusting hydraulic conductivities. The calibration targets for the model were the average measured groundwater levels in the upper and lower monitoring zones at Units 6 & 7 and two SFWMD wells adjacent to the plant area. The average inflow/outflow between the industrial wastewater facility and Biscayne Bay was also used as a calibration target.

The calibrated model was used to simulate the impacts of construction dewatering, construction of Units 6 & 7 (site grade increase and use of diaphragm walls for groundwater control), and operation of the radial collector wells. The results of these model simulations are presented in FSAR Subsection 2.4.12, Appendix 2CC.

2.3.2 WATER USE

This section describes surface water and groundwater uses that could affect or be affected by the construction or operation of Units 6 & 7 and associated transmission corridor and offsite facilities. Consumptive and nonconsumptive water uses are identified, and water diversions, withdrawals, consumption, and returns are quantified. In addition, this section describes statutory and legal restrictions on water use and provides the projected water use for Units 6 & 7.

2.3.2.1 Surface Water Use

Surface water bodies around the Turkey Point plant property include Biscayne Bay, Card Sound, the industrial wastewater facility, numerous named and unnamed canals, and various wetlands. Figures 2.3-1 through 2.3-3 show the relationship of the Turkey Point plant property to these major hydrologic features. The locations of designated wetlands near the Turkey Point plant property are shown on Figure 2.3-15.

The natural drainage of the area is to the east and south towards Biscayne Bay. The shallow tidal creeks and swales in the area are submerged, and therefore any flow they may have is sluggish. This, together with the permeable limestone bedrock of the area, results in approximately two-thirds of the rainfall percolating directly to the water table aquifer. In the absence of well-defined stream channels, heavy precipitation runs off in a slow, sheet flow towards the Biscayne Bay.

A complex network of levees, canals, and control structures was constructed to manage the water resources in the lower east coast region of Florida. The major canals, operated and maintained by the SFWMD, are used to prevent low-lying coastal areas from flooding and to prevent saltwater intrusion into coastal aquifers (Wolfert-Lohmann et al. 2007).

The surface water body that is within the hydrologic system where the Units 6 & 7 plant area is located and that could potentially affect or be affected by the construction and operation of the new units is Biscayne Bay. For construction or operation of Units 6 & 7, there would be no surface water withdrawal directly from or discharging to Biscayne Bay. It is noted, however, that one of the two primary sources of makeup water would be saltwater obtained from radial collector wells located on the Turkey Point peninsula, east of the existing units. As described in [Subsection 2.3.2.2.2.2](#page-53-0), each radial collector well would consist of a central reinforced concrete caisson extending below the ground level with horizontal laterals projecting up to a distance of

900 feet from the caisson in the subsurface beneath the floor of Biscayne Bay. The water recharging the radial collector wells would originate from Biscayne Bay.

2.3.2.1.1 Consumptive Surface Water Use

2.3.2.1.1.1 Present Consumptive Surface Water Use

In South Florida, most (approximately 90 percent) of the water used in homes and businesses comes from groundwater sources, with the remainder coming from surface water sources (SFWMD 2008b).

The consumptive use of water in the state of Florida is regulated by the water management districts, as prescribed in Part II of Chapter 373 of Florida Statute (F.S.). According to the consumptive water-use permit files of SFWMD (2008c), 139 projects in Miami-Dade County were permitted for surface water withdrawals as of October 2008 and are summarized in [Table 2.3-24.](#page-133-0) Eighty-three percent of the permitted projects are for landscape irrigation, and the remaining are for irrigation of golf courses and agriculture, industrial and dewatering uses, and other minor uses. All consumptive surface water uses are self-supplied, and there are no surface water withdrawals for potable water. A total of 9410 million gallons per year are allocated annually for six industrial uses, most of which are used for quarry sites and rock washing facilities. Seven golf course irrigation projects are permitted to withdraw 1360 million gallons per year, and 115 landscape irrigation projects are permitted to withdraw approximately 1123 million gallons of surface water per year.

Figure 2.3-51 shows the location of permitted users within 10 miles of Units 6 & 7, and [Table 2.3-25](#page-134-0) presents the details of their permits. Onsite ponds/lakes and canals are the major sources of surface water for these users. There are no permitted surface water users in the immediate vicinity of Units 6 & 7. The nearest surface water user is located approximately 6 miles west-northwest of Units 6 & 7.

Because all the surface water uses are self-supplied and have limited metered data, it is difficult to estimate the actual monthly withdrawal rates of surface water. In cases of agricultural and landscape irrigation, however, monthly withdrawal rates can be estimated from the monthly supplemental crop requirement data shown in the water use permit applications (SFWMD 2008c). The monthly supplemental crop requirements are calculated according to the SFWMD's Supplemental Crop Requirement and Withdrawal Calculation (SFWMD 2008d), which varies by crop, soil type, and local climatology. Figure 2.3-52 shows monthly supplemental crop requirement applied for some typical crops in the Homestead area in 2008. As seen in this figure, the monthly supplemental crop requirement has a large seasonal variation—it is high in the spring and summer seasons, and low in the fall and winter seasons.

Most of the freshwater withdrawn from surface water sources is not returned to its surface source. Irrigation water applied for agricultural and landscape uses is consumed by the processes of evapotranspiration and infiltration into the subsurface. As indicated in the SFWMD permit files (SFWMD 2008c), most of the surface water withdrawn for industrial and dewatering uses is drained to sedimentation basins where the water percolates back into an aquifer or is returned to onsite borrow pits/lakes and recycled.

Surface waters of Miami-Dade County serve as receiving water bodies for both domestic and industrial discharges. [Table 2.3-26](#page-137-0) lists the major facilities that discharge treated wastewater or cooling water into canals, bays, or the open ocean. As seen in this table, the sources of the surface discharge water originate primarily as groundwater. Two MDWASD Wastewater Treatment Plants discharge treated wastewater into the ocean.

According to Ecology & Environment, Inc. (2007), approximately 16.2 million gallons per day of wastewater, which represents approximately 5 percent of the total volume of public water supplied by the MDWASD, is currently reused in the MDWASD system. Most of the reuse is for process water and irrigation at the regional wastewater treatment plants.

2.3.2.1.1.2 Future Consumptive Surface Water Use

The SFWMD prepares water supply plans for each of its four planning areas to support planning initiatives and address local issues. The regional water supply plans encompass a minimum 20-year future planning horizon and are updated every 5 years. Each regional water supply plan update provides revised water demand estimates and projections.

According to the SFWMD's *Water Supply Plan Update 2005–2006* (SFWMD 2006b), the total water demand of the lower east coast region which includes Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward, and Palm Beach counties will increase by 27 percent between 2005 and 2025, as shown in [Table 2.3-27](#page-138-0).

Agricultural water withdrawal demands are projected to decline by 9 percent by 2025 due to a decrease in agricultural acreage. However, withdrawal demands for public supply, domestic self-supply, and recreational (landscape and golf course) irrigation are projected to increase by more than 30 percent by 2025.

Power generation water use and withdrawal demand are both expected to increase significantly during the planning period, reflecting the development of new power generation facilities in the lower east coast planning area. Industrial demands, which include construction and mining dewatering, are relatively small and historical data do not indicate any trends in use. Therefore, the industrial water use levels are expected to remain constant through the projection period.

In Miami-Dade County, surface water is rarely used as a source for public or domestic water supply, as already indicated in [Table 2.3-24.](#page-133-0) Moreover, there is no surface water use and withdrawal permit for Units 6 & 7 anticipated in the future. Although the withdrawal demand for recreational water use could be increased in the future, the total consumptive surface water use is not expected to significantly increase in Miami-Dade County.

2.3.2.1.2 Nonconsumptive Surface Water Use

The Turkey Point plant property is adjacent to a large area of protected marine environments: Biscayne National Park is located to the east, and Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve (Card Sound portion) and John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park are located to the southeast as shown in Figure 2.3-53.

As described in NPCA (2006), Biscayne National Park encompasses much of Biscayne Bay, making it one of the largest marine parks in the National Park system. The park protects part of the third-largest coral reef system in the world and the longest stretch of mangrove forest remaining on Florida's east coast, providing habitat and nursery grounds for most of the region's important commercial and recreational fish, shellfish, and crustaceans. It is also a source of environmental education and recreation.

According to Biscayne National Park (BNP 2008a), the park encompasses approximately 181,500 acres, 95 percent of which is under water. Therefore, most of the activities in this national park are water-related activities such as boating, canoeing, diving, fishing, sailing, snorkeling, swimming, and waterskiing.

Commercial fishing has been allowed within the boundaries of Biscayne National Park since the park became a National Monument in 1968. According to the landings data presented by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI 2008), the average annual landing amounts and trips in the entire Miami-Dade County region was 1.7 million pounds and 8186 trips for the period of 2003 through 2007. Four major species represented more than 60 percent of the total amounts: pink shrimp (20 percent), spiny lobster (15.6 percent), bait shrimp (14.1 percent), and ballyhoo (10.8 percent). Major species that commercial harvesters target include pink shrimp, spiny lobster, blue crab, stone crab, and finfish.

Recreational fishing is among the most popular activities undertaken in Biscayne National Park. According to the park's internal annual fisheries report (NPS 2006), the park hosts thousands of recreational fishing vessels annually; the 1997 total was estimated to be approximately 33,000 fishing vessels. Most fishermen tend to be recreational anglers, with approximately 20 percent engaging spearfishing and 30 percent fishing further offshore (east of the park's islands). The areas that most fishermen use are along the reef tract (hard bottom substrate) and the area

inside the bay near Adams Key (mixed substrate). The composition of the catch covers common reef species, such as snappers, grunts, and lobster (NPS 2006).

Pleasure boating, or cruising, remains a popular water-based activity in South Florida and in Biscayne National Park. The number of registered vessels has increased steadily, reaching a total of 62,324 registered vessels in Miami-Dade County in 2007. Of this total, 59,651 are pleasure craft, and approximately half of these are between 16 to 26 feet long (Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles 2007).

Diving is also an important recreational activity in and around Biscayne National Park. Survey results estimate that there were 3.25 million person-days spent snorkeling and diving in natural and artificial reefs in Miami-Dade County from June 2000 to May 2001 (Johns et al. 2001). During that period, the estimated total use was 9.17 million person-days, including activities such as fishing and glass-bottom boating.

Biscayne National Park hosts over 500,000 visitors annually (NPS 2009). Biscayne National Park is open year-round, but the majority of park visits occur from April to July and in October. [Table 2.3-28](#page-138-1) presents the monthly variation of number of visitors for the period of 2005 through 2007. Visitors spent approximately 152,000 person-days per year in the park during the period.

There are several public beaches in Miami-Dade County. Homestead Bayfront Park, which accommodates a natural atoll pool and beach (Miami-Dade County 2008a), is located within 6 miles of the plant area, as shown in Figure 2.3-53. Homestead Bayfront Park also accommodates fishing in designated areas and along the canal and bay for barracuda, snapper, mullet and sea bass (Miami-Dade County 2008b). Five boat ramps and a yachting marina known as Herbert Hoover Marina are located in the park (Miami-Dade County 2008c).

The Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway runs through Biscayne Bay, and Hawk Channel is a shipping lane that transverses Biscayne National Park on the outside of the Keys (NPS 2006). Commercial and noncommercial vessels pass through the waterway along the eastern side of the bay. Traffic includes cargo vessels, transportation vessels, and cruise ships. The navigational usage of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in the Miami-Dade county district is difficult to quantify, but it is expected to be significant based on the large number of registered vessels within the county.

Barges delivering fossil fuel to Units 1 & 2 use Biscayne Bay. The fossil fuels are delivered from the port of Miami through Biscayne Bay to the units typically hauling between 11,500 and 14,000 barrels of bunker "C" fuel oil per trip. The number of barge trips from 2004 to 2008 varied between 95 and 277 per year.

Other than the navigational use of Biscayne Bay for shipping fossil fuel for Units 1 & 2, there are no nonconsumptive surface water uses by the existing units.

As described in Section 3.9, barges delivering components and modules for the construction of Units 6 & 7 would also use Biscayne Bay. There would be approximately 80 round-trip barge deliveries for modules and components for each unit over an approximately six-year duration.

2.3.2.1.3 Statutory and Legal Restrictions on Surface Water Use

The consumptive use of water in the state of Florida is regulated by the water management districts, as prescribed in Part II of Chapter 373 of Florida Statute (F.S.). This regulation applies to public water supplies, agricultural and landscape irrigation, contamination cleanup, commercial/industrial uses, and dewatering/mining activities. Water uses that are exempt from the permitting process include domestic uses for single-family homes, water used for fire fighting, saltwater and reclaimed water uses (SFWMD 2008f).

Specific water body restrictions on water use imposed by federal, state, or local regulations that are relevant to Units 6 & 7 are summarized below:

- Biscayne National Park is designated as an Outstanding Florida Water and an Outstanding National Resource Water pursuant to Rule 62-302.700 of Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Any discharges or activities that may cause degradation of water quality and natural resources, other than that allowed in Rule 62-4.242(2) and (3) of F.A.C., are prohibited.
- The Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve is managed by the FDEP in accordance with F.S. 258.397 and F.A.C. 18-18. Activities such as dredging, filling, drilling of wells, and erection of structures are regulated to preserve the water quality and aquatic resources.
- Pursuant to the Resolution (No. Z-56-07, conditions 4 & 5) of the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County, FPL shall not apply for any water withdrawals from the Biscayne aquifer as a source of cooling water for the proposed facilities, and shall use reclaimed or reuse water to the maximum extent possible.

2.3.2.1.4 Plant Water Use

2.3.2.1.4.1 Existing Units Water Use

Units 1-4 use the 5900-acre closed-loop industrial wastewater facility for condenser and auxiliary system cooling. Condenser cooling water is pumped from the intake portion of the industrial wastewater facility and through the plant's condensers where it gains heat. The heated water is discharged to the discharge portion of the industrial wastewater facility. The head difference between the discharge and intake in this closed-loop system causes the heated water to flow through the industrial wastewater facility, dissipating heat along the way, and eventually returning the cooled water to the plant intake. The required condenser cooling water is 574,300 gallons per minute (gpm) for Units 1 & 2, and 1.25 million gpm for Units 3 & 4. Incidental rainfall, some

stormwater runoff, treated process wastewater, and groundwater inflows, compensate for evaporative cooling losses from this system.

Unit 5 uses a closed-cycle cooling system with mechanical draft cooling towers. The required cooling tower makeup water is supplied by groundwater from the upper production zone of the Floridan aquifer. A 90-day average withdrawal of 14.06 million gallons per day and an average annual withdrawal of 4599 million gallons per year are permitted to be used for cooling water for Unit 5 and process water for Units 1, 2, and 5 (FDEP 2007). The cooling tower makeup water for Unit 5, which is currently withdrawn from the Floridan aquifer, may switch to reclaimed water if a reliable source of reclaimed water becomes available (FDEP 2007).

Units 3 & 4 use approximately 690 gpm of water from the Miami-Dade public water supply system. Plant water use includes process (primary demineralizer water makeup), potable, and fire protection water. The Newton water treatment plant, which is part of Miami-Dade's public water supply system, supplies the existing units.

The process wastewater from the existing units is released into the industrial wastewater facility, and the sanitary wastewater is sent to an onsite treatment plant and disposed of through an underground injection well.

The State Industrial Wastewater Facility Permit No. FL0001562, issued by the FDEP, authorizes releases of industrial wastewater to the closed-loop cooling system and subsequently to groundwater. The permit does not authorize the existing units to discharge to surface waters of the state. The industrial wastewater facility is an integral part of the existing units design and is not waters of the state.

2.3.2.1.4.2 Units 6 & 7 Water Use

Units 6 & 7 would use closed-cycle, mechanical draft cooling towers for both circulating water system cooling and service water system cooling.

The primary source of makeup water for the circulating water cooling towers would be reclaimed water supplied by the MDWASD South District Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is located approximately 9 miles north of the Turkey Point plant property (Figure 2.3-51). When reclaimed water cannot supply the quantity and/or quality of water needed for the circulating water system, radial collector wells supplying saltwater would be used to supplement the supply. The raw water system would be designed to supply 100 percent of the makeup water from either reclaimed water or saltwater, or any combination of both. The ratio of water supplied by the two makeup water sources would vary depending on the availability of reclaimed water from the MDWASD South District Wastewater Treatment Plant. The circulating water system would be designed to accommodate the differing water quality of the two sources.

Municipal water from the Miami-Dade County public water supply system would serve as the source for potable water, makeup water to the service water system, demineralized water, fire protection, and miscellaneous water uses.

The cooling tower blowdown and wastewater from Units 6 & 7 would be discharged to the Boulder Zone of the Lower Floridan aquifer via deep injection wells, as described in Subsection 3.3.1.2.

The water use quantities and diagrams for the plant during operation are presented in Section 3.3, and water use during construction is discussed in Section 4.2.

Details on the transmission lines are provided in Section 3.7. As presented in Subsection 4.2.1.1.10, the impacts of the transmission line on the surface water use are expected to be small.

2.3.2.2 Groundwater Use

This section contains a description of the historical, current, and projected groundwater use at and in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property. SSAs within the region are also identified and described.

The hydrostratigraphic framework of Florida, including Miami-Dade County and the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property, consists of a thick sequence of Cenozoic sediments that comprise two major aquifers. The two major aquifers are (SEGS 1986):

- The surficial aquifer system, including the Biscayne aquifer.
- The Floridan aquifer system consisting of the Upper Floridan aquifer, the middle confining unit, and the Lower Floridan aquifer. The Floridan aquifer is separated from the Biscayne aquifer by the intermediate confining unit.

The Biscayne aquifer is the most productive of the shallow aquifers in southeastern Florida, and it is the prime source of drinking water for the municipal water systems south of Palm Beach County, including Miami-Dade County. However, saltwater intrusion affects the entire coastal zone of the aquifer, thereby limiting use of the aquifer for drinking water in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property as a result of the saline to saltwater composition of the groundwater. Figure 2.3-23 shows the approximate location of the freshwater-saltwater interface in the area. The figure indicates that the saltwater interface at the base of the aquifer is approximately 6 to 8 miles inland of the Turkey Point plant property. Provisional data from the USGS (2009b) showing the 2008 freshwater-saltwater interface in Southeast Florida indicates a similar pattern to that shown on Figure 2.3-23.

The Floridan aquifer system consists of three units in southeastern Florida: the Upper Floridan aquifer, the middle confining unit, and the Lower Floridan aquifer. In southeastern Florida, groundwater in the Upper Floridan aquifer is brackish and variable in quality. The aquifer typically contains saline water, which is defined as greater than 250 mg/L of chloride, or saltwater, which is greater than 19,000 mg/L of chloride as defined (by the SFWMD) (SFWMD 2008g). The Upper Floridan aquifer, however, is the primary aquifer used for seasonal storage of both raw and treated freshwater within the aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) systems in southern Florida. Approximately 30 aquifer storage and recovery sites in southern Florida have their storage zone completed within or planned for the Upper Floridan aquifer (Reese and Richardson 2008).

The Boulder Zone of the Lower Floridan aquifer contains saltwater which is used for deep well injection of treated municipal wastewater and reverse osmosis concentrate in Miami-Dade County. Injection occurs below the middle confining layer at depths of approximately 2800 feet or greater, approximately 900 feet below the base of the lowest underground source of drinking water (USDW) (defined as an aquifer that contains water with a total dissolved solids concentration of less than 10,000 mg/L (U.S. EPA 2003 and Reese and Richardson 2008).

2.3.2.2.1 Regional Groundwater Use

Historical, current, and projected groundwater use in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property was evaluated using information from the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the SFWMD.

2.3.2.2.1.1 Historical Groundwater Use

Freshwater withdrawal of groundwater has been monitored for Miami-Dade County by the USGS (Marella 2005 and Marella 2008). In the Miami-Dade County area, freshwater is restricted to the Biscayne aquifer. However, the Turkey Point plant property is in an area of the Biscayne aquifer with Class G-III groundwater (non-potable water use). Groundwater use has shown a steady increase between the 1960s and the present as shown on Figure 2.3-55. The primary groundwater use in Miami-Dade County is for public water supply, followed by agricultural irrigation. Beginning in approximately 1985, a new category of use was introduced—recreational irrigation. This category includes golf course irrigation and other types of turf grass irrigation. [Table 2.3-29](#page-139-0) presents the groundwater use for each category.

The underlying Upper Floridan aquifer typically contains saline water to saltwater. In 1990 and 1995, no groundwater use was reported from the Floridan aquifer for Miami-Dade County (Marella 1992 and Marella 1999). In 2000, water use of 3.68 million gallons per day from the Upper Floridan aquifer was reported for the county with a use category of industrial (Marella and Berndt 2005).

2.3.2.2.1.2 Current Use

Figure 2.3-56 shows the current groundwater users in Miami-Dade County based on water use permits filed with the SFWMD (SFWMD 2008a). The figure does not show wells that do not require a water use permit, such as domestic wells, wells used exclusively for fire fighting, or those wells withdrawing saline or saltwater. [Table 2.3-30](#page-140-0) lists the public water supply systems in Miami-Dade County along with the population served (FDEP 2008a). Figure 2.3-57 (FDEP 2008d) presents the major well fields in Miami-Dade County and their associated groundwater protection zones.

In addition to the traditional uses of the groundwater aquifer, other uses of the groundwater aquifer are present in south Florida. These include disposal of municipal and industrial wastewater in Class I injection wells and the use of ASR wells. The ASR wells are used to inject raw or partially treated water into the aquifer for later extraction and use. Figure 2.3-58 shows the typical configuration of Class I injection wells and ASR wells in south Florida. ASR wells are typically completed as open-hole wells in the Upper Floridan aquifer. Class I injection wells are typically completed as open-hole wells in the Boulder Zone portion of the Lower Floridan aquifer which is below the lowermost USDW. Figures 2.3-59 and 2.3-60 show the locations of these wells in Florida (FDEP 2008b).

2.3.2.2.1.3 Projected Use

Projected groundwater use in Miami-Dade County was obtained from the *Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan*, 2005–2006 update (SFWMD 2006b). Figure 2.3-55 includes projections of groundwater use through 2025. The projections combine domestic and public water supply categories into one total value.

2.3.2.2.2 Local Groundwater Use

This section provides a description of the current and projected groundwater use in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property.

2.3.2.2.2.1 Current Use

Units 1 through 4 use the cooling canals of the industrial wastewater facility for condenser and auxiliary system cooling (Figure 2.3-3). The canals also receive cooling tower blowdown from Unit 5 and existing facilities drainage. The industrial wastewater facility is a closed-loop system (Figure 2.3-61) that includes the canal network adjacent to Units 6 & 7. There are no discharges to surface water from the industrial wastewater facility. Cooling water for Unit 5 and process water for Units 1, 2, and 5 are obtained from Upper Floridan aquifer saline production wells (PW-1, PW-3, and PW-4). The locations of these production wells, which were commissioned in February 2007, are shown in Figure 2.3-62. Monthly production from each of the wells is shown

in Figure 2.3-63. The average combined production from the three wells is approximately 180 million gallons per month. Water supply for other water uses at Turkey Point comes from the potable water system of the MDWASD.

A single Class V, Group 3 gravity injection well is used to dispose of up to 35,000 gallons per day of domestic reclaimed water at the Units 3 & 4 wastewater treatment plant. The well, designated IW-1, is open from 42 to 62 feet below ground surface and is 8 inches in diameter.

2.3.2.2.2.2 Projected Use

Reclaimed water from the MDWASD or saltwater from radial collector wells would be the two sources of cooling water for Units 6 & 7. The total makeup flow required from the radial collector wells is estimated to be 86,400 gpm; however, the actual amount of saltwater used would depend on the quality and quantity of reclaimed water available from the MDWASD. Water supply for potable water, service water system makeup, fire protection, and miscellaneous raw water use would be from the MDWASD.

Radial collector wells would consist of a central concrete caisson excavated to an optimal target depth. The caisson diameter is based on the size of pumps and number of laterals required. The optimal target depth of the caisson will be based on the available drawdown and the desired elevation of the laterals. Screened sections will be incorporated along the lateral based on site conditions. Once the caisson and laterals are installed, groundwater will infiltrate into the laterals and flow back to the caisson. The water then will be pumped from the caisson.

Four radial collector wells, each capable of producing approximately 45 million gallons per day, would be installed. Figure 2.3-64 shows the location of the radial collector wells. At any time, one collector well will operate in standby mode as a reserve well in the event of an unplanned well outage or scheduled maintenance event. Each radial collector well would consist of a central reinforced concrete caisson extending below the ground surface with laterals projecting horizontally from the caisson. The laterals would be advanced horizontally a distance of up to 900 feet from the caisson beneath Biscayne Bay and installed at a depth of approximately 40 feet. The wells would be designed and located to induce infiltration from Biscayne Bay.

Disposal of wastewater from Units 6 & 7 is planned to occur in Class I deep injection wells drilled at the site. The wells would inject the wastewater into the Boulder Zone of the Lower Floridan aquifer at depths of approximately 2900 to 3500 feet below ground surface. This injection zone has been used for the underground disposal of liquid wastes since 1943 (Maliva et al. 2007). The Boulder Zone is located beneath groundwater supplies that are currently or may be used in the future as a source of drinking water. Drinking water supply sources are typically not more than a few hundred feet deep and, therefore, far above the Boulder Zone (U.S. EPA 2000).

The Boulder Zone is permitted by the FDEP as a zone for the discharge of treated sewage and other wastes disposed of through injection wells. The Boulder Zone meets the Florida Department of Environmental Regulations criteria for Class I injection. The Boulder Zone has the following characteristics throughout its extent:

- Deep. The top of the Boulder Zone is 2000 to 3400 feet in depth.
- Confined. There is approximately 800 to 1000 feet of confining limestone and dolomite beds between the Boulder Zone and the base of the Underground Source of Drinking Water.
- Thick. The Boulder Zone is up to 700 feet in thickness.
- Porous. The Boulder Zone has well developed secondary permeability.
- Highly Transmissive. The transmissivity of the Boulder Zone is up to 24.6E06 square feet per day.
- Contains groundwater with total dissolved solids concentration >10,000 mg/L. The average dissolved solids concentration of Boulder Zone groundwater is approximately 37,000 mg/L.

Currently over 90 Class I injection wells are used to dispose of over 200 million gallons per day of secondary treated wastewater in southeast Florida (Bloetscher et al. 2006).

Deep injection wells would be used for the disposal of non-hazardous industrial wastewater consisting of cooling tower blowdown, sanitary wastewater, and miscellaneous plant wastewater from Units 6 & 7. The wastewater disposal requirements for Units 6 & 7 are estimated to be a combined total of approximately 20 million gallons per day when using only reclaimed water from the MDWASD as a cooling water source, and as high as 90 million gallons per day when using only saltwater as a cooling water source. Therefore, the combined disposal volumes are estimated to be between 20 million and 90 million gallons per day when using a combination of reclaimed water and saltwater for cooling. The wells would be Class I industrial injection wells with a total capacity of 90 million gallons per day. The deep injection wells would consist of 10 primary wells and 2 backup wells. The injection zone would be in the Boulder Zone of the Lower Floridan aquifer, which is at a depth of approximately 2900 feet bgs in the plant area. Approximately 800 to 1000 feet of confining limestone and dolomite beds would be present between the injection zone and the base of the USDW.

Injection well design includes determining the allowable injection rate and the area of review. Section 62-528.415 (1)(f)2 FAC (FDEP 2008b) states that the hourly peak injection rate should not exceed a velocity of 10 feet per second. Based on a review of data from other deep injection wells in southeast Florida, it is estimated that each injection well would have a maximum allowed

injection capacity of 18.6 million gallons per day at a peak hourly flow. However, it is estimated that each well would be operated at an injection rate of approximately 10 million gallons per day.

The casing in the injection wells for Units 6 & 7 would be seated at a depth of approximately 2800 feet bgs to maximize the thickness of the confining strata between the injection zone and base of the USDW. Grouting the pilot holes drilled for core and data collection, prior to reaming the holes for casing placement, would be employed to prevent the possible development of double borehole conditions. Additionally, all Class I injection wells are required to have a dual-zone monitoring system that consists of a zone open below the deepest USDW and a zone located in the USDW for geochemical and pressure monitoring.

The temperature and total dissolved solids concentration of the injected effluent will be variable. The injected effluent temperature would vary seasonally. The maximum and minimum expected temperatures would be 91°F and 65°F, respectively. The expected wastewater TDS when using reclaimed water would be 2721 mg/L; when using saltwater from the radial collector wells, the expected wastewater TDS would be 57,030 mg/L. Based on the temperature and TDS values, the density of the injected fluid is estimated to range from 996.8 kilograms per cubic meter (100-percent reclaimed water in the summer) to 1042.2 kilograms per cubic meter (100-percent saltwater in the winter).

2.3.2.2.3 Sole Source Aquifers

EPA has designated two SSAs that are located entirely within the state of Florida, the Volusia-Floridan aquifer and the Biscayne Aquifer, as shown on Figure 2.3-18 (U.S. EPA 2008a). The Volusia-Floridan aquifer is located in east-central Florida, well beyond the boundaries of the local hydrogeologic system underlying the plant area; however, the Biscayne aquifer underlies the site and Miami-Dade County. An SSA is defined as "an underground water source that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. These areas have no alternative drinking water source(s) that could physically, legally, and economically supply all those who depend upon the aquifer for drinking water" (U.S. EPA 2008a). Saltwater intrusion affects the entire coastal zone of the Biscayne aquifer including the Turkey Point plant property. As a result, groundwater beneath the Turkey Point plant property is not used as a drinking water source because of its salinity.

2.3.3 WATER QUALITY

This subsection describes the water quality characteristics of surface water bodies and groundwater aquifers that could affect plant water use, wastewater injection, and stormwater runoff or be impacted by preconstruction/construction and operation of Units 6 & 7.

2.3.3.1 Surface Water

Surface water bodies of primary interest near the Units 6 & 7 plant area include Biscayne Bay, Card Sound/Card Sound Canal, and the cooling canals of the industrial wastewater facility. These water bodies have the potential to be affected as a result of the construction (e.g., surface water runoff), and operation (e.g., radial collector well operation) of Units 6 & 7. They are addressed in the following paragraphs.

2.3.3.1.1 Biscayne Bay and Card Sound/Card Sound Canal

The Units 6 & 7 plant area is located adjacent to Lower Biscayne Bay. Card Sound is south of Biscayne Bay. Card Sound Canal starts at the southern end of the industrial wastewater facility and terminates at Card Sound. Card Sound Canal is not hydraulically connected to the industrial wastewater facility; however, it is connected to Card Sound. Therefore, Card Sound Canal would be expected to have similar water quality to Card Sound. The locations of Biscayne Bay, Card Sound, and the Card Sound Canal relative to Units 6 & 7 are shown in Figures 2.3-1 and 2.3-3.

Biscayne Bay's beauty and utility invites a diversity of recreational and commercial water activities, including powerboating, sailboating, catamaraning, canoeing, sculling, waterskiing, other motorized watercraft, parasailing, swimming, windsurfing, snorkeling, diving, and fishing.

Biscayne Bay is also important navigationally as part of the Intracoastal Waterway and home to the Port of Miami, one of the busiest cargo and passenger ports in the world. Biscayne Bay provides for a variety of educational and research activities. Several marine science and education facilities use Biscayne Bay and include the University of Miami School of Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Florida International University, Barry University, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, the Southeast Fisheries Laboratory, and the Miami Seaquarium. The MAST (Maritime and Science Technology) Academy is a local magnet school located on Virginia Key and is dedicated to students interested in marine science. In addition to these institutions, several governmental agencies as well as scientists from remote locations conduct research and education programs pertaining to Biscayne Bay (FDEP 2008f).

To meet the requirements of Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, the 1999 Florida Watershed Restoration Act was created directing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to implement a comprehensive, integrated watershed approach to evaluating and managing impacts to Florida's waters (FDEP 2006b). Units 6 & 7 would be located in the Everglades (HUC 090202)/Florida Bay (HUC 090203) watersheds as shown in Figure 2.3-5. This watershed is currently managed by the SFWMD, a regional Florida state-run agency responsible for water quality, flood control, water supply, and environmental restoration in 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys (SFWMD 2008i). South Florida's coastal systems support spiny lobster, penaeid shrimp, blue crab, oyster, spotted sea trout, stone crab, and many other marine

and freshwater species of commercial and recreational interest. Coastal ecosystems are especially vulnerable because they attract intense human development, making these areas especially prone to habitat loss and alteration. (SFWMD 2008h) One of the SFWMD's goals is to manage freshwater discharge to south Florida's estuaries in a way that preserves, protects, and, where possible, restores essential estuarine resources. The SFWMD seeks to ensure that estuaries receive not only the right amount of water at the right time but also clean, high-quality water. (SFWMD 2008h)

Biscayne Bay water quality is monitored by the SFWMD through a project with the four-letter code name BISC. Project BISC is monitored by two entities: the Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management and the Florida International University. The entities monitor different parts of Biscayne Bay with the same goals which are to determine water quality and provide data to SFWMD staff and outside agencies. (SFWMD 2008e)

Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management's monitoring program consists of monthly surface water monitoring in Biscayne Bay and its tributaries. Routine monitoring was initiated to detect spatial and seasonal water quality trends, determine impacts on the health of the bay ecosystem, and identify areas of degradation. (SFWMD 2008e)

The program with Florida International University is part of an integrated monitoring network known as the South Florida Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Network. The network monitors water quality on the coastal regions of south Florida. The data generated from the South Florida Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Network is used to examine water quality trends along the Florida coast as well as address issues concerning freshwater inflow, water clarity, salinity, and nutrient availability patterns. (SFWMD 2008e)

Project BISC monitors the following parameters: temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, nitrogen oxides, nitrate, ammonia, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, orthophosphate, total phosphate, silica, chlorophyll A, nitrite, total nitrogen, salinity, total organic carbon, and alkaline phosphate. Figure 2.3-66 depicts the BISC monitoring points Key Biscayne to Miami. [Table 2.3-31](#page-146-0) presents the monthly average water qualities for Project BISC samples collected between 1993 and 2008 at varied depths of sampling local to the Turkey Point plant property. To analyze horizontal variations in Biscayne Bay, the data is presented at two depth ranges: less than 1 meter and 1 meter to 3.5 meters. To analyze temporal variations, the data is presented monthly.

Analysis of the data from Project BISC for horizontal spatial variation reveals that alkaline phosphate, silica, and nitrogen oxides are slightly elevated in samples closest to the shore (BISC101, 110, and 122). Total Kjeldahl nitrogen and nitrate are slightly elevated at sampling location BISC 101. Silica, nitrate, total phosphate, orthophosphate, and total nitrogen are elevated at the southernmost sampling location in Card Sound (BISC 135), with nitrate being particularly elevated during the summer months of 2007. Water quality data from samples taken

in Card Sound (locations BISC 121 and 135) shows no meaningful water quality differences when compared to data from Biscayne Bay, other than elevated levels at BISC135 as stated above. In summary, Biscayne Bay, including Card Sound, is relatively consistent in regard to horizontal spatial variations.

As shown in [Table 2.3-31,](#page-146-0) temperature, dissolved oxygen, and salinity were sampled at two depths and there was no meaningful variation in the data. The water quality data shown in [Table 2.3-31](#page-146-0) is consistent with the data analyzed for other sample locations in Biscayne Bay at varying depths and, as a result, it can be concluded that Biscayne Bay is relatively consistent in regard to vertical spatial variations in water quality.

Seasonal analysis of the data collected through Project BISC shows higher concentrations of total nitrogen during the summer months for all sampling locations. In addition, the temperature of Biscayne Bay varies from an average monthly maximum of 31.3°C in July at BISC 101 to an average monthly minimum of 18.9°C in January at BISC 135 (average of samples taken at greater than 1 foot deep). Otherwise, most likely because of the limited atmospheric temperature variation seasonally (Florida's proximity to the equator), there is minimal seasonal variation in Biscayne Bay.

2.3.3.1.2 Industrial Wastewater Facility

Stormwater runoff from the construction and operation of Units 6 & 7 would be routed to the industrial wastewater facility which is described in [Subsection 2.3.1.1.4](#page-17-0). Water quality sampling and analyses were performed in the industrial wastewater facility in 2003. The results are summarized in [Table 2.3-32.](#page-157-0)

The industrial wastewater facility receives tidal inflow and outflow from the saline aquifer beneath Biscayne Bay because of the exceptional porosity of the underlying rock. The industrial wastewater facility does not directly discharge to fresh or marine surface waters; however, because the canals are not lined, groundwater does interact with water in the industrial wastewater facility. Makeup water for the industrial wastewater facility comes from treated process water, rainfall, stormwater runoff, and groundwater infiltration to replace evaporative and seepage losses. Consequently, the water in the canals is hypersaline because of the effects of evaporation, with salinity concentrations approximately twice that of Biscayne Bay.

Analysis of the industrial wastewater facility temperatures has been performed using a steady-state energy balance model developed for Unit 5 in 2003. This analysis used 5 years of data to predict temperatures in the industrial wastewater facility. Depending on the time of year and plant capacity factors, the temperature of heated water from Units 1 through 4 entering the industrial wastewater facility ranges from approximately 85ºF to 105°F, while cooled water returning to the units ranges from approximately 70ºF to 90°F. The predicted average monthly

temperatures in the industrial wastewater facility range from 95.9°F for water entering to 82.6°F for water leaving (i.e., cooling water intakes). The associated predicted annual average temperature difference (ΔT) across the industrial wastewater facility is 13.4°F over the 5-year period analyzed. To predict the maximum temperatures in the industrial wastewater facility, data from June 1998 was used. The highest monthly temperatures were predicted for this period, with the highest temperature reported at 106.1°F, that had cooled down to approximately 94.8°F at the south end of the industrial wastewater facility, and then further cooled to approximately 91.9°F when returning to the units. Because continuous flow through the canals occurs, spatial variations in water quality and seasonal variation, other than temperature, are not expected.

Liquid radioactive waste effluent from Units 3 & 4 is also discharged to the industrial wastewater facility. The tritium level in the cooling canals is monitored and averaged 5250 picocuries per liter during 2000-2007.

2.3.3.1.3 Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act requires states to develop a list of waters not meeting water quality standards or waters not supporting their designated uses. Chapter 99-223, *Laws of Florida*, sets forth the process by which the list is refined through more detailed water quality assessments. Total maximum daily loads are required for the waters determined to be impaired based on these detailed assessments because technology-based effluent limitations, current effluent limitations required by state or local authority, or other pollution-control requirements are not stringent enough to meet current water quality standards. (FDEP 2008e)

To protect present and future most beneficial uses of the waters, water quality criteria have been established for each designated use classification. While some criteria are intended to protect aquatic life, others are designed to protect human health (FDEP 2008f). The Southeast Coast/Biscayne Bay is given surface water Class III-recreation, propagation, and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife classification.

Biscayne Bay, Card Sound, and Card Sound Canal do not appear on the 2006 Florida 305(b) Report of impaired waters, and are not listed in Section 303(d) impaired waters. Biscayne Bay is described as having "fairly good water quality" (FDEP 2006b).

As shown in Figure 2.3-67, there are only three Section 303(d)-listed waters in the Southeast Florida Coast Water Basin and located within 15 miles of Units 6 & 7. These waters are FL-3303 or C-111 Canal (Aerojet Canal), FL-3033A (a stream in South Dade County), and FL-3304 Canal (Military Canal located at Homestead Air Reserve Base). The closest Section 303(d)-listed water to Units 3 & 4 is the Military Canal at Homestead Air Reserve Base, which is approximately 5 miles from the Units 6 & 7 plant area. The Florida Keys, located just south of Biscayne Bay, are Section 303(d)-listed waters impaired for nutrients. The Homestead Air Reserve Base is impaired

for cadmium, copper, and lead. The Aerojet Canal is impaired for dissolved oxygen and mercury and the FL-3033A stream is impaired for dissolved oxygen and nutrients. Because the Units 6 & 7 plant area is not located close to surface waters on the Section 303(d) list and does not have an intake from or discharge to these water bodies, there would be no interaction between Units 6 & 7 and these Section 303(d)-listed water bodies.

2.3.3.1.4 Surface Water Pollutant Sources

Figure 2.3-68 shows the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharges within 15 miles of Units 6 & 7. The closest industrial NPDES discharger to Units 6 & 7, located adjacent to the plant area, but not permitted to discharge to waters of the state of Florida or waters of the United States, is Units 1 through 5 (Permit Number: FL0001562). All the other permitted NPDES discharges shown on Figure 2.3-68 are remotely located in relation to the plant and, therefore, would not interact with Units 6 & 7.

2.3.3.2 Groundwater

Groundwater in the vicinity of the Turkey Point plant property is not used as a water source because of its salinity. The state of Florida has classified these as Class G-Ill waters to identify groundwater that has no reasonable potential as a future source of drinking water due to high total dissolved solids content (Merritt 1996). Field-measured groundwater quality indicator parameters (temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, specific conductivity, turbidity, and oxidation-reduction potential) obtained during the collection of samples from 12 observation wells (installed in the Biscayne aquifer as part of the site characterization investigation) for field-measured parameters are summarized in [Table 2.3-22](#page-127-0). The results of the laboratory analyses are presented in [Table 2.3-23](#page-131-0). The state of Florida has conducted an extensive characterization of the background water quality in the major aquifer systems (FGS 1992). [Table 2.3-22](#page-127-0) and [2.3-23](#page-131-0) also present typical geochemical parameters for the Biscayne aquifer, the Floridan aquifer, and precipitation at Everglades National Park.

This data was taken from the surficial aquifer at depths of approximately 20 or 100 feet below local ground surface. The location of these wells is shown in Figure 2.3-25.

Chemically, the water in the middle confining unit is similar to seawater, but salinity varies greatly at the top of the unit as the upward moving saline water from the Lower Floridan is blended with the seaward flowing freshwater in the Upper Floridan aquifer (Meyer 1989).

Although the Upper Floridan aquifer is a major source of potable groundwater in much of Florida, water withdrawn from the unit in southeastern Florida, including Miami-Dade County, is brackish and variable with chloride and dissolved solid concentrations greater than 1000 mg/L. Groundwater samples from the Upper Floridan aquifer production wells at Unit 5 show an average chloride concentration of 2900 mg/L.

Treated wastewater, sanitary waste, blowdown, and treated liquid radioactive waste effluent would be injected into the Boulder Zone of the Lower Floridan aquifer via injection wells that would terminate approximately 2900-3000 feet below grade. Subsurface injection, the practice of emplacing fluids in a permeable underground aquifer by gravity flow or under pressure through an injection well, is one of a variety of wastewater disposal or reuse methods applied in Florida. Permits for underground injection wells are issued by the FDEP Underground Injection Control Program. The injection wells permitted by the FDEP Underground Injection Control Program are divided into the EPA's five classes (Class I through Class V) based on the similarity in the fluids injected, activities, construction, injection depth, design, and operating techniques (FDEP 2008b, U.S. EPA 2008b). Class I wells are used for discharging wastewater to the Boulder Zone of the Lower Floridan aquifer, where the wastewater from Units 6 & 7 would be injected. The closest facility to Units 6 & 7 currently permitted for subsurface injection is the MDWASD, approximately 9 miles north, which injects secondary treated municipal wastewater. This facility has 13 active Florida Class I wells (wells used to inject nonhazardous waste or municipal waste below the lowermost underground sources of drinking water). The next closest facility to Units 6 & 7 that is permitted for Class I deep well injection is more than 30 miles north with two active wells. Miami-Dade County injects 91.31 million gpd (average annual) to injection wells. Florida has more than 125 active Class I wells, with the majority of these wells being used to dispose nonhazardous, secondary treated effluent from domestic wastewater treatment plants, like the MDWASD (FDEP 2008c).

Additionally, the EPA's *Relative Risk Assessment of Management Options for Treated Wastewater in South Florida* evaluated the potential stressors to human health or ecology (U.S. EPA Apr 2003). These potential stressors include any dissolved or entrained wastewater constituents that may reach receptors in sufficient concentrations to cause adverse human health or ecological effects. In this evaluation, water quality data was obtained from the MDWASD South District Wastewater Treatment Plant, which receives secondary treatment (secondary treatment is the standard practice for municipal wastewater treatment facilities in South Florida). This data was compared to the EPA's maximum contaminant levels for drinking water. Drinking water standards are a good indicator of the health of the groundwater in the Boulder Zone because aquifers above the Boulder Zone are used for drinking water in Florida. It was concluded that South Florida's municipal wastewater (Dade County, Miami-Dade North District) that has received secondary treatment does not exceed the EPA's primary drinking water standard maximum contaminant levels for any constituents at the point of injection to the Boulder Zone. Although FDEP §62-520-410 does not require non-potable water use groundwater aquifers Class G-IV to meet primary drinking water standards, the fact that the Boulder Zone does meet the EPA's primary drinking water standard maximum contaminant levels is indicative of the health of the groundwater.

Section 2.3 References

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=NONE&sitefile_output_format=html_table&column_name=agency_cd&column_name=site_no &column_name=station_nm&begin_date=&end_date=&TZoutput=0&date_format=YYYY-MM-D D&rdb_compression=file&list_of_search_criteria=county_cd, accessed September 13, 2008.

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(a) Subbasin C-9 combines areas C-9 West and C-9 East, as shown in Figure 2.3-12

(b) Joins with Subbasins C-5 and C-6 and outflows through S-25 and S-25B

(c) N/A indicates data not available

(d) Outflows through S-20F

(e) No outflow structure joins with the L-31E Canal

Source: Cooper and Lane 1987

Table 2.3-2 Summary of Data Records for Gage Stations at S-197, S-20, S-21A and S-21 Flow Control Structures

Structure	Database Key ^(a)	Station ^(b)	Latitude ^(c)	Longitude ^(c)	Subbasin ^(d)	Data Type ^(e)	Frequency	Statistics	Agency	Start Date ^(f)	End Date ^(f)
S-197	04994	S197_C	251713.4	802629.2	MODEL	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19690623	20000330
	HA458	S197_C	251713.4	802629.2	MODEL	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19971231	Ongoing
	15763	S197 C	251713.4	802629.2	MODEL	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19700101	Ongoing
	04990	S197 H	251713.4	802629.2	MODEL	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19690623	19930428
	13093	S197 H	251713.4	802629.2	MODEL	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19900921	19990629
	HA459	S197 H	251713.4	802629.2	MODEL	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19980129	Ongoing
$S-20$	13037	S20_H	252201.4	802235.2	FLA CITY	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19900530	Ongoing
	03846	S20 H	252201.4	802235.2	FLA CITY	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19671228	19920526
	13036	S20_S	252201.4	802235.2	FLA CITY	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19900530	Ongoing
	03850	S20_S	252201.4	802235.2	FLA CITY	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19680229	19910826
S-21A	04708	S21A_H	253109.4	802046.2	C ₁	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19720817	19900130
	06601	S21A_H	253109.4	802046.2	C ₁	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19850831	Ongoing
	04712	S21A_S	253109.4	802046.2	C ₁	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19740116	19900130
	06777	S21A_S	253109.4	802046.2	C ₁	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19850831	Ongoing
$S-21$	06597	S21 H	253235.5	801951.4	DA-4	STG	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19840117	Ongoing
	00677	S21_H	253235.5	801951.4	DA-4	STG	Daily	Mean	USGS	19671001	20041020
	06776	S21 S	253235.5	801951.4	DA-4	FLOW	Daily	Mean	SFWMD	19840117	Ongoing
	00679	S21 S	253235.5	801951.4	DA-4	FLOW	Daily	Mean	USGS	19691101	20040930

(a) Record identification number for SFWMD DBHYDRO database

(b) Suffix designation: C – Culvert, H – Headwaters, S – Spillway

(c) Latitude/longitude format: ddmmss.s, dd – Degrees, mm – Minutes, ss.s – Seconds, latitudes in degrees North, longitudes in degrees West

(d) MODEL - Model Land subbasin, FLA CITY – Florida City subbasin, C1 – C1 subbasin, DA-4 – Dade subbasin 4

(e) Flow – flow discharge, STG – stage

(f) Date Format: yyyymmdd, where yyyy – Year, mm – Month, dd – Day

Table 2.3-3 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows at the Canal C-111 Structure S-197

Table 2.3-3 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows at the Canal C-111 Structure S-197

Table 2.3-4 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Level at the Canal C-111 Structure S-197 (Headwater)

Table 2.3-4 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Level at the Canal C-111 Structure S-197 (Headwater)

Table 2.3-5 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows in the Canal L-31E at Structure S-20

Table 2.3-5 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows in the Canal L-31E at Structure S-20

(a) N/A indicates data not available

Table 2.3-6 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Levels in the L-31E Canal at Structure S-20 (Headwaters)

Table 2.3-6 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Levels in the L-31E Canal at Structure S-20 (Headwaters)

(a) N/A indicates data not available

Table 2.3-7 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows in the Princeton Canal at Structure S-21A

Table 2.3-7 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows in the Princeton Canal at Structure S-21A

(a) N/A indicates data not available

Table 2.3-8 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Levels in the Princeton Canal at Structure S-21A (Headwaters)

Table 2.3-8 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Levels in the Princeton Canal at Structure S-21A (Headwaters)

(a) N/A indicates data not available

Table 2.3-9 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows in the Black Creek Canal at Structure S-21

Table 2.3-9 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Flows in the Black Creek Canal at Structure S-21

(a) N/A indicates data not available

Table 2.3-10 (Sheet 1 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Levels in the Black Creek Canal at Structure S-21

Table 2.3-10 (Sheet 2 of 2) Mean Monthly Water Levels in the Black Creek Canal at Structure S-21

(a) N/A indicates data not available

Table 2.3-11NOAA Tide Gages Surrounding the Turkey Point Plant Property and Corresponding Tidal Range

Site Number	Site Name	Latitude	Longitude	Start Date	End Date	Great Diurnal Tide Range ^(a) Feet
8723289	Cutler, Biscayne Bay, FL	25° 36.9'	80° 18.3'	5/1/1970	3/31/1972	2.13
8723355	Ragged Key No. 5, Biscayne Bay, FL	25° 31.4'	80° 10.5'	8/1/1987	9/30/1987	1.68
8723393	Elliott Key (Outside), FL	$25^{\circ} 28.6'$	80° 10.8'	7/1/1974	7/31/1974	2.53
8723409	Elliott Key Harbor, Elliott Key, FL	$25^{\circ} 27.2'$	80° 11.8'	7/1/1974	8/31/1987	1.66
8723423	Turkey Point, Biscayne Bay, FL	$25^{\circ} 26.2'$	80° 19.8'	5/1/1970	8/31/1993	1.78
8723465	East Arsenicker, Card Sound, FL	25° 22.4'	80° 17.4'	12/1/1971	2/29/1972	1.02
8723439	Billys Point, Elliott Key, FL	$25^{\circ} 24.9'$	80° 12.6'	7/1/1974	7/31/1974	1.64
8723506	Pumpkin Key, Card Sound, FL	25° 19.5'	80° 17.6'	8/1/1987	9/30/1987	0.75
8723534	Card Sound Bridge, FL	25° 17.3'	80° 22.2'	5/1/1970	7/31/1971	0.63
8723214 ^(b)	Virginia Key, FL	25° 43.9'	80° 9.7'	1/1/1996	9/30/2008	2.24
8723970 ^(b)	Vaca Key, FL	24° 42.7'	81° 6.3'	12/1/1995	9/30/2008	0.97
8724580 ^(b)	Key West, FL	24° 33.2'	81° 48.5'	11/27/1973	9/30/2008	1.81

(a) Great diurnal tide range is the difference between the mean higher high and mean lower low tide levels

(b) Active stations

Source: NOAA 2008b, NOAA 2008c, NOAA 2008d, and NOAA 2008e

Table 2.3-12Highest and Lowest (Top 10) Tidal Levels at NOAA Virginia Key, Florida; Vaca Key, Florida; and Key West, Florida Gages for the Data Period Given in Table [2.3-10](#page-88-0)

(a) Tidal elevations converted from station datum to NAVD 88, which is located 12.13 feet above the station datum (NOAA 2008c)

(b) Tidal elevations converted from station datum to NAVD 88, which is located 3.88 feet above the station datum (NOAA 2008d)

(c) Tidal elevations converted from station datum to NAVD 88, which is located 6.32 feet above the station datum (NOAA 2008e)

(d) Date format: yyyymmdd, where, yyyy – Year, mm – Month, and dd - Day

Source: NOAA 2008c, NOAA 2008d, NOAA 2008e

Table 2.3-13 Freshwater Inflow to Biscayne Bay from Drainage Canals over the Period from 1994 to 2003

Source: Cacci and Boyer 2005

Table 2.3-14Summary of Observation Well Construction Data

Table 2.3-15 (Sheet 1 of 4) Vertical Hydraulic Gradients

Table 2.3-15 (Sheet 2 of 4) Vertical Hydraulic Gradients

Table 2.3-15 (Sheet 3 of 4) Vertical Hydraulic Gradients

Table 2.3-15 (Sheet 4 of 4) Vertical Hydraulic Gradients

Δh = Lower Reference Head — Upper Reference Head

ΔL = Lower Screened Interval Midpoint — Upper Screened Interval Midpoint

i ⁼Δh/ΔL (negative value indicates downward flow potential and positive value indicates upward flow potential)

Reference Head values are estimated using the density of water in the well and correcting the water level to the average density of seawater in Biscayne Bay.

Table 2.3-16 Representative Hydrogeologic Properties in Miami-Dade County(a)

(a) Values in this table represent weight and averages for risk assessment for measurement of treated wastewater and thus may not be representative of actual conditions.

(b) The vertical hydraulic conductivity included here may be two to three orders of magnitude higher than other measurements in South Florida. Maliva et. al. 2007 indicates a vertical hydraulic conductivity range of 3E-04 to 3E-05 feet per day based on core measurements.

(c) The Lower Floridan aquifer extends below the Boulder Zone; the thickness presented is only for the portion above the Boulder Zone.

Adapted from U.S. EPA 2003

Table 2.3-17 (Sheet 1 of 7) Regional Aquifer Properties

Table 2.3-17 (Sheet 2 of 7) Regional Aquifer Properties

Table 2.3-17 (Sheet 3 of 7) Regional Aquifer Properties

Table 2.3-17 (Sheet 4 of 7) Regional Aquifer Properties

Table 2.3-17 (Sheet 5 of 7) Regional Aquifer Properties

Table 2.3-17 (Sheet 6 of 7) Regional Aquifer Properties

Table 2.3-17 (Sheet 7 of 7) Regional Aquifer Properties

(a) SFWMD 2009

(b) Dames & Moore 1971

(c) APT = Aquifer Pumping Test

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 1 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 2 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 3 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 4 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 5 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 6 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 7 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 8 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 9 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 10 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 11 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 12 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 13 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 14 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

Table 2.3-18 (Sheet 15 of 15) Regional Hydrogeologic Properties from Rock Core Samples

(a) Reported as grams per centimeter in the references

Sources: 1 – Cunningham et al. 2004

2 – Cunningham et al. 2006

NM = Not measured

Table 2.3-19 (Sheet 1 of 4) Slug Test Hydraulic Conductivity Summary

Table 2.3-19 (Sheet 2 of 4) Slug Test Hydraulic Conductivity Summary

Table 2.3-19 (Sheet 3 of 4) Slug Test Hydraulic Conductivity Summary

Table 2.3-19 (Sheet 4 of 4) Slug Test Hydraulic Conductivity Summary

Geometric Mean: Upper: 61.3 feet per day

Lower: 20.1 feet per day

Source: Appendix G Groundwater Data, MACTEC 2008

N/A = Not Applicable

NC = Not Conducted

KGS = Kansas Geological Survey

For wells with multiple tests, test results were averaged and used to calculate the geometric mean.

Data from these tests are considered not valid due to rate-limiting recharge effects from the filter pack.

Table 2.3-20Summary of Aquifer Pumping Test Results

(a) All values are averages.

ENP = Everglades National Park NM = Not Measured

(a) Appendix G Groundwater, MACTEC 2008

(b) FGS 1992 (c) Samples collected February 3-5, 2009 (d) Samples collected and analyzed during routine groundwater level monitoring

Table 2.3-22 (Sheet 1 of 4) Hydrogeochemical Data

Table 2.3-22 (Sheet 2 of 4) Hydrogeochemical Data

Table 2.3-22 (Sheet 3 of 4) Hydrogeochemical Data

Table 2.3-22 (Sheet 4 of 4) Hydrogeochemical Data

Not analyzed

SFWMD = South Florida Water Management District

(a) MACTEC 2008.

(b) Spiked analyte recovery is outside stated control limits. Method performance confirmed using Laboratory Control Spike sample results.

(c) Analyte not detected at or above the method detection limit.

(d) Method blank contamination. The associated method blank contains the target analyte at a reportable level. These data should be used with caution.
(e) Estimated result. Result is less than the reporting limit.

(e) Estimated result. Result is less than the reporting limit.
(f) Everglades National Park.

Everglades National Park.

 (g) FGS 1992.
(h) Test condu

(h) Test conducted on Nitrogen, as Ammonia.
(i) TDS is estimated as specific conductance

TDS is estimated as specific conductance in milliSiemens per centimeter x 1000 x 0.65, specific conductance values are listed in [Table](#page-126-0) 2.3-21.

(j) Based on specific conductance measurements collected February 3-5, 2009.
(k) Assumes specific conductance equals 99 milliSiemens per centimeter.

(k) Assumes specific conductance equals 99 milliSiemens per centimeter.

Samples collected and analyzed during routine groundwater level monitoring.

Table 2.3-23 (Sheet 1 of 2) Staff Gage Readings at L-31E, Interceptor Ditch, and Industrial Wastewater Facility Canal 32

Table 2.3-23 (Sheet 2 of 2) Staff Gage Readings at L-31E, Interceptor Ditch, and Industrial Wastewater Facility Canal 32

Pumping Required ND = No data; NR = Data not readable

Table 2.3-24 Surface Water Uses in Miami-Dade County Permitted by SFWMD

(a) For some permits that have no annual allocation data, the average daily allocations multiplied by 365 are assumed.

(b) This use is for a temporary construction trailer bathroom purposes.

(c) Not Specified.

Source: Estimates based on SFWMD 2008c

Table 2.3-25 (Sheet 1 of 3) SFWMD Surface Water Use Permits within a 10-mile Radius of the Units 6 & 7 Plant Area

Table 2.3-25 (Sheet 2 of 3) SFWMD Surface Water Use Permits within a 10-mile Radius of the Units 6 & 7 Plant Area

Table 2.3-25 (Sheet 3 of 3) SFWMD Surface Water Use Permits within a 10-mile Radius of the Units 6 & 7 Plant Area

(a) MGM: Million Gallons per Month.

Source: SFWMD 2008c

(a) Estimated average flow.

MGD = million gallons per day

Source: FDEP 2004a, FDEP 2004b, FDEP 2005, FDEP 2006a, FDEP 2008c, and SFWMD 2006c

Table 2.3-27 Present and Future Consumptive Water Use for Lower East Coast Region(a) of SFWMD

(a) The Lower East Coast region includes all of Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties, most of Monroe County, and the eastern portions of Hendry and Collier counties.

Source: SFWMD 2006b.

	Visitors (persons)				Visitor-Days (person-days) ^(a)			
Month	2005	2006	2007	Average	2005	2006	2007	Average
January	36,890	41,208	44,672	40,923	9,222	14,850	15,248	13,107
February	29,993	34,520	34,284	32,932	7,498	10,828	11,369	9,898
March	35,935	39,131	45,363	40,143	8,983	12,886	12,496	11,455
April	49,550	50,254	45,652	48,485	12,387	14,095	14,677	13,720
May	50,283	50,464	40,736	47,161	12,570	14,758	11,263	12,864
June	61,005	65,065	52,932	59,667	15,251	16,266	13,233	14,917
July	87,592	83,212	62,126	77,643	21,898	20,803	15,531	19,411
August	45,859	47,226	52,222	48,436	11,464	11,806	13,055	12,108
September	26,186	34,903	41,955	34,348	6,546	8,725	10,888	8,720
October	75,962	97,418	31,017	68,132	18,990	25,258	8,754	17,667
November	26,160	31,227	32,998	30,128	6,540	8,818	9,706	8,355
December	38,313	34,208	33,485	35,335	9,578	9,112	10,307	9,666
Annual	563,728	608,836	517,442	563,335	140,927	168,205	146,527	151,886

Table 2.3-28 Visitation of Biscayne National Park in 2005–2007

(a) A visitor-day is defined as number of visitor hours divided by 12.

Source: NPS 2009.

Table 2.3-29 Historical and Projected Groundwater Use in Miami-Dade County

Projected (Projected use includes public supply and domestic as a single value)

Sources:

1965-2000 Appendix 1 of Marella 2005 2005 Marella 2008 2010-2025 SFWMD 2006b

Table 2.3-30 (Sheet 1 of 6) Public Water Supply Systems in Miami-Dade County

Table 2.3-30 (Sheet 2 of 6) Public Water Supply Systems in Miami-Dade County

Table 2.3-30 (Sheet 3 of 6) Public Water Supply Systems in Miami-Dade County

Table 2.3-30 (Sheet 4 of 6) Public Water Supply Systems in Miami-Dade County

Table 2.3-30 (Sheet 5 of 6) Public Water Supply Systems in Miami-Dade County

Table 2.3-30 (Sheet 6 of 6) Public Water Supply Systems in Miami-Dade County

Note: gpd = gallons per day

Source: FDEP 2008a

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 1 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 2 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 3 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 4 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 5 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 6 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 7 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 8 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 9 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 10 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Table 2.3-31 (Sheet 11 of 11) Biscayne Bay Water Quality

Notes:

1. ND – No Data

2. Source: SFWMD 2008a.

3. TEMP = Temperature, D.O. = Dissolved Oxygen, TURB = Turbidity, NOx = Nitrogen Oxides, NO₂ = Nitrites, NH₄ = ammonia, TKN = Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, OPO4 = orthophosphate, TPO4 = Total Phosphate, SiO2 = Silica, CHLOR A = chlorophyll A, NO3 = Nitrate, TOT N = Total Nitrogen, SAL. = Salinity, TOC = Total Organic Carbon.

Table 2.3-32 (Sheet 1 of 2) Industrial Wastewater Facility System Water Quality Data

Table 2.3-32 (Sheet 2 of 2) Industrial Wastewater Facility System Water Quality Data

Notes:

1. All tested as total unfiltered

2. ND = non-detected