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## **NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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May 10, 2011 (10:00 am)

Title:

Progress Energy Florida

Pre-hearing Conference

OFFICE OF SECRETARY RULEMAKINGS AND ADJUDICATIONS STAFF

**Docket Number:** 

52-029-COL and 52-030-COL

**ASLBP Number:** 

09-879-04-COL-BD01

Location:

(telephone conference)

Date:

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

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2	U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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4	BEFORE THE ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD
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6	PREHEARING CONFERENCE CALL
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8	In the Matter of : Docket Nos. 52-029-COL,
9	PROGRESS ENERGY FLORIDA : 52-030-COL
10	(Levy County Nuclear : ASLBP No.
11	Power Plant, Units 1 and 2): 09-879-04-COL-BD01
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14	Wednesday,
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15	May 4, 2011
15 16	May 4, 2011 BEFORE:
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16 17 18 19 20 21 22	BEFORE:  ALEX S. KARLIN Chairman  ANTHONY J. BARATTA Administrative Judge

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 1:03 p.m. 2 3 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: This is a prehearing conference in the matter of Progress Energy of 4 5 Florida, application to combine licenses. The docket number is 52-029-COL and 52-030-COL. And the ASLBP 6 7 number is 09-879-04-COL. This prehearing conference call is being 8 held pursuant to our order, the Board's order of March 9 10 30, 2011. And today's date, as I said, is May 4th. We are doing this telephonically and in a moment we'll 11 just do the introductions and ask everyone to identify 12 themselves for the record. 13 But as for the Board itself, in Rockville 14 chambers, Ann Hove, our law clerk, and me, 15 Karlin, the Chairman of this Board are here. 16 Sara 17 Culler, our secretary has just left. She was helping 18 arrange the call. We have Dr. Baratta and Dr. Murphy, the 19 20 other two Judges, participating by phone. Are you 21 there, sirs? 22 JUDGE BARATTA: This is Judge Baratta. 23 Yes, I'm here. JUDGE MURPHY: This is Bill Murphy. 24

here.

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1	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, great. Now maybe
2	perhaps we can ask the parties to identify themselves.
3	Let's start with the Petitioners.
4	Ms. Olson, could you identify yourself and
5	the other members of your team?
6	MS. OLSON: Yes, Mary Olson, Nuclear
7	Information and Resource Service, located in
8	Asheville, North Carolina. Gary Hecker of the Ecology
9	Party of Florida. Is Cara also on the line?
10	MS. CAMPBELL: Yes.
11	MS. OLSON: Cara Campbell of the Ecology
12	Party of Florida, both in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
13	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, great. Progress
14	Energy, Mr. O'Neill, perhaps you could identify your
15	colleagues and your team?
16	MR. O'NEILL: This is John O'Neill in
17	Washington, D.C. With me in the room is Robert Budd
18	Haemer and Stefanie Nelson George and in Raleigh is
19	Dave Conley, in-house counsel with Progress Energy.
20	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Excellent. Okay, thank
21	you. And for the staff, could the staff please
22	identify who is on the line?
23	MR. MARTIN: This is Jody Martin, NRC
24	staff, Office of the General Counsel. With me are my
25	colleagues Laura Goldin and Kevin Roach. We also have

1 Doug Bruner, the Environmental Project Manager, and 2 Brian Hughes, who is the Acting Safety Project 3 Manager. CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay. Good, thank you. 4 5 Welcome. 6 Is there anyone else on the line? That 7 makes sense. 8 the Thank for Very good. you introductions. As a matter of logistics, what we'd 9 10 like to do is make sure that for each of the parties, staff, the Applicant, the Petitioners, that there is 11 12 one speaker who is the representative here and as I 13 will understand that to be for the Petitioners, Mary Olson; for Progress, Mr. O'Neill, unless otherwise 14 designated; and for the staff, would that be Jody 15 Martin, Mr. Martin? 16 17 MR. MARTIN: Yes. 18 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: And we have made available to the public a line to listen in on without 19 20 participating and I'm not sure whether we have anyone We might have one person, but they 21 on that or not. 22 won't be able to speak anyway, so if they're listening, welcome to any member of the public who 23 might be on the line. 24 25 As a matter of background, the last status

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conference we had in this case was in March of last year, 2010. Since that time, we had an oral argument in November of 2010 in our hearing room in Rockville. That was the oral argument regarding the motion to compel production of the groundwater model. At that point we had a short discussion of the schedule. So this really isn't what I like to call a six-month status conference, but I just think, and I think this Board thinks it's a useful thing to pulse the parties and find out if there's anything on the horizon that will help us manage this case in a more efficient and fair way by having conference calls approximately every six months, if possible.

Since we last met, which was in November of 2010, we've ruled on quite a number, I think, of motions, motions for summary disposition, motions to add new contentions, to dispense with existing contentions, and one dealing with the motion to compel. I think as far as I can tell, we have ruled on all the pending motions before us. And so there's no pending matter that needs to be ruled on by this Board at this time.

We do note that the Commission, however, has a couple of items, at least, that I'm aware of, that we're aware of. One of them is the petition to

review our decision with regard to Contention 8A and that's up on appeal, I guess. When the Commission, no one knows, but we'll obviously attend to that as they get to that. And the other is the April 14th, 2011 petition to suspend all proceedings, this one included that has been filed with the Commission essentially relating to events, the tragic events with regard to Japan and the Fukushima nuclear power plants.

But those are pending before the Commission, as we understand them, and not before us and we have no specific motions before us at this time. So let me just say the purpose of this call is just to poll the parties and find out what's going on.

And for an agenda, I would propose three things. One is review of the time table and the schedule that was given to us by the staff to just double check where we are on that. Two, to identify any other administrative or other kind of issues that might loom on the horizon that could affect the timing of this proceeding, the critical path of this proceeding or any other better way to manage some of the issues here. And three, to briefly discuss issues related to the protocol of presenting evidence, once we get to the evidentiary hearing. We're going to give a moment or two on that.

1 Does anyone else, any of the parties, have any other items or suggestions that we might add to 2 3 the agenda today or be worth talking about? Perhaps I'd ask Ms. Olson first. 4 5 I think those three items MS. OLSON: 6 cover the issues that I would comment on. 7 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Mr. O'Neill? 8 Judge Karlin, I just note MR. O'NEILL: 9 that in the joint motion that was filed in March, 10 there were a couple of other issues that were raised 11 that may fall into your timetable and schedule. was the site visit and limited appearance statements 12 13 which we proposed for the initially scheduled hearing 14 date of January 2012 and secondly was our proposal 15 that we reserve, in light of the change in schedule for the FSAR and FEIS a hearing in October of 2012. 16 17 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay. I think we'll --18 my impression is that we have ruled on everything that needed ruling on with regard to the joint motion, but 19 20 if we want to discuss -- essentially, I think we want to talk briefly about the site visit and reserving 21 22 October of what did you say, 2012? 23 MR. O'NEILL: '12. CHAIRMAN KARLIN: 24 Good. 25 That MR. O'NEILL: was а request

1	opposed to part of the motion, but I think we may have
2	said that as a suggestion. In light of the change in
3	schedule, we thought January, and particularly the
4	Petitioners were interested in trying to have a site
5	visit in January. And so we all agreed in our joint
6	motion to suggest that.
7	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay. Well, let's add
8	that to the agenda. I think we'll get to that. Good.
9	Anything else from you, Mr. O'Neill?
10	MR. O'NEILL: No, that's all we have.
11	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: And Mr. martin?
12	MR. MARTIN: No, I don't think staff has
13	anything to add.
14	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, I'll just check
15	with my colleagues. I think we've probably gone over
16	this pretty much, but if there's anything else you
17	think we want to put on the table?
18	Dr. Baratta or Dr. Murphy?
19	JUDGE BARATTA: This is Dr. Baratta. I
20	don't have anything to add.
21	JUDGE MURPHY: This is Judge Murphy and I
22	think it's very good.
23	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, then we'll proceed
24	with Item 1 which is kind of a review of the schedule
25	where we turn to the staff and ask them if there's

anything changing.

As I understand it, that is the report we received from them was April 7th. As I understand it, their next status report, as it happens, will probably be due tomorrow, the first Thursday in the month. But essentially, as I understand the schedule as it's evolved, staff is doing its work. It hit the bottom line. The FEIS has been slipped about approximately nine months from the original date and now looks the issue on approximately estimated April of 2012.

Likewise, the FSER, which appears to have slipped 11 months from the original schedule we got is also going to be issued estimated to be April 30th of 2012. Therefore, as I see it, and does the schedule, initial scheduling order would have it, the trigger date for filing of the written submissions as prelude to the hearing would be April 30th of 2012.

Mr. Martin, do you see anything changing as what you're filing tomorrow or even further down the road, is that schedule still holding or is there any adjustments you might think we need to make?

MR. MARTIN: That is still the schedule right now. There's always some possibility there can be some changes in the future, but we don't have

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1 anything specific and we don't anticipate any changes 2 at this moment. CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Good. 3 I appreciate 4 Anything may happen and changes may occur and 5 it's just your best estimate as of this time. So the schedule you'll file, tomorrow, I 6 7 it is, will essentially be the one I just covered. 8 9 MR. MARTIN: That's the plan. 10 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Well, let's hope it 11 doesn't change. 12 MR. MARTIN: It's not going to happen this 13 That's right. afternoon. 14 (Laughter.) 15 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: It could. But okay. case, then the evidentiary hearing 16 that's the schedule, as I see it, is first we have to acknowledge 17 that there's an emergency petition to suspend the 18 19 entire proceeding and no -- who knows what will happen 20 with that and we can't really plan on the results of So we'll set that aside for the moment, 21 that. 22 recognizing it could change things. But changing on that score, our best -- we look at our 23 24 schedule and the initial written testimony 25 filed exhibits going to need to be in

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approximately June of 2012.

And the evidentiary hearing is likely to occur in the October/November 2012 time frame, which is the time frame that I think you just referred to, Mr. O'Neill. October 2012.

We think it's kind of too early to actually set any dates down and there's so many contingencies that could occur between now and then. It's probably not profitable to try to do so. But simply to -- and I think this is the gist of what you had proposed in your joint motion, just to ask all he counsel and the parties to hold October and maybe even the early part of November 2012 tentatively available for the time we'll actually have the evidentiary hearing.

Was that the gist of the motion, Mr. O'Neill?

MR. O'NEILL: You had originally had the parties hold January of 2012 so in light of the fact of the slippage of the schedule that you just noted, we thought it would be useful for planning purposes to move that to October 2012 and have us all hold that as the present date.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, I think that's right and I think that's -- I don't think we'll issue

an order to that effect or we don't need to, but I 1 2 think today, the Board does believe that's the time 3 frame subject to many contingencies that could change. So I would urge and ask that everyone hold 4 those dates, particularly, for example, if you have a 5 situation where you have one witness who is quite 6 7 critical, I'm thinking of Dr. Bacchus, for example. 8 You really need to ask her to clear the decks and be 9 ready for that, that time frame, because there may be 10 like staff-- might have multiple other parties 11 witnesses that could appear on any particular issue, 12 but you may have one critical issue. 13 If anyone has one critical witness, think you need to alert that person and try to make 14 15 sure he or she keeps that type frame open. Ms. Olson? 16 Your Honor, I do have two 17 MS. OLSON: 18 issues that I think that are probably in that category of contingencies, but I want to voice them. 19 20 the appropriate moment to ask these two questions? 21 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Yes. MS. OLSON: About schedule. 22 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Well, I think we'll get 23 to that in a moment. 24 25 MS. OLSON: Okay.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: I'm going to ask some other questions about schedule. But let me turn to the site visit and the limited appearance statement session.

First, we appreciate the effort that you all went to to try to set up and be available for a time frame I think it was, what are we talking about, April of this year, and given the slippage in the staff's schedule and the application itself, I guess, we thought that would be not productive.

And we now think that it's probably late this year or early next year that things would be settled down enough that we could profitably reschedule or have the site visit and limited appearance statement session.

So that's our thinking at this point. After the FEIS which comes out, which has come out, after the FSER comes out, after the Commission presumably rules on the petition to suspend any new contentions that's get filed, late this year or early part of next year. We would be shooting -- and we're not getting down to any specifics, the site visit and a limited appearance statement session.

Of course, we would have to work with the applicant to find the site visit date that didn't

1 conflict with other operational things that are going 2 on the site. Because we know it's a burden, somewhat 3 of a burden on them. Let me just go to the second item, really 4 5 on the schedule which is identify potential scheduling issues on the horizon. Is there anything that we can 6 7 think of or be aware of that is going to -- may affect our schedule and now, Mr. Olson, you may -- this is 8 where your two points might fit in? 9 10 MS. OLSON: And again, I think they're in 11 that universe of contingencies, but one is the AP1000 12 certification and the second is the possible change of 13 applicants. We have a lot of new stories that we 14 might be dealing with Duke Energy rather than Progress 15 Energy Florida. 16 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay. 17 MS. OLSON: Trigger a pretty major change 18 in parts of the COL and that would certainly give us opportunity to look at those and possibly revisit some 19 20 of the issue we originally raise. I was going to raise 21 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: 2.2 this question and I tease it up reasonably well, Mr. 23 O'Neill, can you tell me whether the Applicant, 24 whether Progress contemplates any amendments to its

Are they planned or reasonably on the

application?

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horizon or under consideration?

Has there been an amendments to the application coming down the pike?

MR. O'NEILL: Any amendments that have any significance the answer is no. As noted in all of the public information regarding the merger, Progress Energy Florida will remain a regulated company in Florida.

The indirect parent will be Duke Energy, but that will not change the nature of the company as a regilded public utility in the State of Florida. It will not change the applicant in any way as a matter of information. We may note that Duke Energy becomes the ultimate holding company after the merger, but -- and there will be an indirect transfer of license application that has been filed and be acted on, but none of that actually affects who is the applicant here and it would not affect anything that goes to financial qualifications or whatever of the company, a regulated utility.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, what about any amendments to the application perhaps associated with the evolution of the AP1000. I mean are we dealing with Rev 16 or 17 or 18 or some other minor amendments that are necessary? Are there any amendments

associated with that? 1 2 O'NEILL: Ι think the present 3 schedules there will be a filing to reflect the new amendment of Rev. 18, I guess, with respect to the 4 5 AP1000, but that should not change, again, anything other than the reference to that which will be in the 6 7 final rule. CHAIRMAN KARLIN: And what is the status 8 9 of the rulemaking? Perhaps -- do you know, 10 O'Neill, I mean in terms of -- it's obviously still As I understand it, Rev 15 rulemaking has 11 12 occurred and is final and was granted and appears in 13 Appendix D to Part 52. MR. O'NEILL: 14 That is correct. 15 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Sixteen, 17, 18 are still pending. When do you contemplate or is the NRC 16 17 given some schedule as to when those rulemakings will be consummated, I quess? 18 MR. O'NEILL: The last schedule that I saw 19 and I'm obviously -- the staff may be able to speak 20 more authoritatively to this since they -- September 21 22 of 2011 being the date by which we had hoped the rulemaking would be final. 23 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Mr. Martin, do you have 24 25 anything to add on that? Is that right?

MR. MARTIN: That is about right. I believe, and I don't have the exact date, but the comment says the proposed rule for Rev 18 of the DCD has been published and has been open for comment for a little while now. I think the comment period still has a couple of days, maybe a week or two left open. And then the current schedule is to hope to try to finish up the rulemaking in the early September to October sort of time frame.

The goal, I think the Commission's goal, if you look at the reference COLs, if we were to issue those -- if we were to issue those by the end of the year, this year for that to happen, so if the rulemaking and the COLs will have been finished by the end of the year.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, that's useful information. So Ms. Olson, you've identified two contingencies. The AP1000 rulemaking process and potential changes to the applicant, who the applicant is or the indirect transfer, whatever. I think that helps -- and we will not suspend the proceeding, based upon either of those things. We're just going to keep proceeding apace. But with that said I want to return to the proposition that please try to -- have you talked with your witnesses with regard to availability

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2 MS. OLSON: I do not have a commitment for 3 it, but obviously that is a conversation we will be, Intervenors will have. 4 5 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Yes. I think -- please 6 do, if you would. I think it's important that we try 7 to -- we have a lot of time, a year and a half and even assuming that this is going to come through and 8 9 many things could change. But please try to let 10 people know as early as possible when it's likely to occur because we really don't want to delay unless an 11 12 absolutely critical problem arises. Ι mean Dr. 13 Bacchus had a difficulty -- a medical difficulty last fall, I think it was, which we accommodated, but we 14 15 hope that that doesn't reoccur. That's all. 16 MS. OLSON: We agree with you. Great. Are there any 17 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: 18 other planned filings, settings, changes to the 19 application? Does anyone have any planned motions or new contentions that are contemplated at the moment? 20 Ms. Olson? 21 22 MS. OLSON: The words "at the moment" I can say no. I'm not saying something couldn't come 23 24 up. 25 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, just this

in October of 2012?

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1 currently contemplated. 2 MS. OLSON: No. CHAIRMAN KARLIN: And staff, Mr. O'Neill, 3 4 anything from you all coming down the pike that we can watch for? 5 MR. O'NEILL: The 8A which is a 6 Yes. 7 contention on low-level radioactive waste, the FSAR 8 has been shall we say supplemented by responses to 9 RAIs that have been issued some time ago. 10 remember the date that we submitted that? Some months We can't remember the exact date. 11 ago. And once the staff issues the FSAR that 12 addresses that and if it changes in a way that 13 14 reflects it, we would anticipate being able to file a motion for summary disposition of 8A. 15 16 CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay, that's useful 17 So you've responded to some RAIs that information. relate to the low-level waste plan and your FSAR has 18 19 been supplemented and you're thinking that something subsequent to that either the FSER or whatever you may 20 further motion for 21 file some motion, summary 22 disposition. MR. O'NEILL: Yes, and of course, all that 23 information has been made available to the Intervenors 24 at the time after which it was filed, the document 25

1 disclosures.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Okay. That's useful to know. Anything else from the staff, Mr. Martin?

MR. MARTIN: No, we don't have any planned filings or anything. The only possible scheduling impact that I can envision is you've already mentioned, it would be whatever the Commission advises to do with the Fukushima petition.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Right, right. And we note that one of the items of relief sought in this Fukushima petition is for the Commission to set a schedule for the filing of Fukushima contentions in individual proceedings. I'm not sure whether they're going to do that or not or what the upshot will be, but anyway, we'll keep an eye on that, obviously.

Now a third item we want to talk about briefly is the protocol for presenting evidence at the evidentiary hearing. Again, this is pretty far out and before there will be a trigger date which triggers the requirement to file 45 days thereafter the initial evidence and then the rebuttal evidence. And before the trigger date, we will issue, this Board will issue something or approximately around the trigger dates and instructions as to how you mark and you file your exhibits and things like that. So please be alert to

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that. You can't simply resubmit all of the multiple affidavits that have been submitted with regard to the motions for summary disposition and the original contention. It needs to be a fresh piece of paper, essentially.

And one of the things we would note and maybe Judge Baratta will talk here for a moment as well, but in any event, for the Intervenor's benefit, it's important to note that in order to get a contention admitted, you essentially have to provide alleged facts or expert opinion. But once you get to a hearing, you've got to do more than just allege facts. You have to actually present evidence and so some -- it will probably not suffice simply to repeat exactly what was submitted with the contentions.

Judge Baratta, did you want to speak to that?

JUDGE BARATTA: I just want to make sure that everybody understands that when we get down to the evidence part, you've got to get specific. You can't just simply submit an entire report. You're going to have to provide very specific as to what is in there that supports your position. I have some concern about that at this point. That's all I had to

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say.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Right, right. Did you all hear that?

MS. CAMPBELL: I didn't hear it. This is the Ecology Party. I didn't hear it. I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Could you repeat that,

Judge Baratta? Your line seems to be kind of -
MS. CAMPBELL: It's muted.

JUDGE BARATTA: What I said was that when we get to the evidentiary hearing, you've got to get down to the specifics and you simply can't submit an entire report and claim that that supports your position. You've really got to get down to the point where you're citing specific parts of that report or statements or data and that sort of thing so it's very clear and not just simply do a shotgun type approach or a wallpapering type of approach. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN KARLIN: If you've got a report to attach, you need to point us to a page where you -- that supports you, not just a 100-page document because we're not going to read a 100-page document to try to figure where the support is. You need to make it clear to us and point us to the specific sections that support it.

So saying something like well, we need to consider cumulative effects, well, that's kind of NEPA 101, but we need to understand exactly what cumulative effects you're concerned with or that we should be concerned with or that hasn't been addressed or hasn't been covered, just a broad statement that failed to consider cumulative effects. It doesn't really help us get down to the nitty-gritty of whether or not the NEPA analysis, for example, satisfies or doesn't satisfy the requirements of covering cumulative effects.

Okay, that's -- we will issue something as the time approaches, but I think just take that into consideration as we go forward. Other than that, I think we're done. We'll probably try to schedule another conference call, a status conference call in the fall, six months, eight months from now, whatever, depending on how active things are or quiet. But even if it's very quiet, I think it's useful to hear from you all, make sure we're all still here and double check to see if there's anything we can do to manage this case in a way that's both more efficient and perhaps hopefully more fair. So we will probably talk with you again in six to eight months.

In the mean time, thank you all for

1	participating. Any closing thoughts from Judge
2	Baratta, Judge Murphy?
3	JUDGE MURPHY: Nothing from me.
4	JUDGE BARATTA: Nothing from me.
5	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Anything from the
6	parties?
7	MR. MARTIN: Nothing from the staff.
8	MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.
و	CHAIRMAN KARLIN: Thank you very much, we
10	are adjourned. Thank you.
11	(Whereupon, at 1:35 p.m., the
12	teleconference was concluded.)
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#### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the matter of:

Progress Energy Florida

Name of Proceeding: Pre-Hearing Conference

Docket Number:

52-029-COL and 52-030-COL

ASLBP Number:

09-879-04-COL-BD01

Location:

Telephone Conference

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and, thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.

John Mongoven

Official Reporter

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