UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 17, 2014

Mr. Mano K. Nazar, Senior Vice President
and Chief Nuclear Officer
Florida Power and Light Company
Mail Stop NNP/JB
700 Universe Blvd
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SUBJECT: TURKEY POINT UNITS 6 AND 7 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE SITES AND SCHEDULE UPDATES

Dear Mr. Nazar:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) findings regarding the ongoing environmental review issue concerning the alternative sites. NRC and USACE are cooperating Federal Agencies in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Turkey Point Units 6 and 7. This letter also provides a revised environmental review schedule for the Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) combined licenses (COL) application for two new nuclear units, Units 6 & 7, at the Turkey Point site.

By letters dated May 4, 2012, and February 28, 2013, the staff outlined the following technical issues regarding alternative sites: 1) water availability concerns for the three inland alternative sites (Glades, Martin, and Okeechobee 2), 2) technical deficiencies within the process used to select the alternative sites, and 3) a discrepancy between information provided to the NRC in connection with the NRC National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation and information provided to the USACE in connection with its evaluation regarding the “least environmentally damaging practicable alternative” (LEDPA). As a result, the NRC suspended the review of alternative sites until the NRC staff and USACE were satisfied that the alternative sites in question met all applicable requirements.

Since the February 28, 2013, letter suspending the environmental alternative sites review, FPL has developed an approach to resolve the aforementioned issues and presented that approach as well as supplemental information to the staff of the NRC and USACE during public meetings held on May 22, 2013, and November 13, 2013. After the public meetings, FPL revised its draft responses to NRC and USACE requests for additional information (RAI) (6353 and 6879) on alternative sites, based on the technical discussions at the aforementioned public meetings. After thorough review of the revised responses to the RAIs and supplemental information, the NRC and USACE now agree that FPL has provided sufficient information to allow both agencies to proceed with the NEPA review.

In the November 13, 2013, public meeting, it was agreed that the USACE's LEDPA review would be conducted separately from the NRC staff's NEPA review. This agreement between the two Federal agencies and FPL means that the development of the EIS can proceed. The USACE is separately reviewing FPL's Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) alternatives analysis and may require additional or separate technical information to complete that review. The draft EIS will document the status of the USACE's Section 404(b)(1) review. The NRC staff continues to expect FPL to provide copies of any correspondence FPL submits to the USACE on this issue.

Regarding the schedule for completion of the draft EIS, the senior management of the NRC met to discuss allocation of critical skill resources to a growing list of agency high priority activities. The outcome of those discussions was a decision to move critical agency resources from the Office of New Reactors (NRO) to the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguard Materials to support the completion of high priority Waste Confidence activities. The movement of these NRO resources directly affect the NRC's ability to complete the environmental portion of the Turkey Point COL application. The Turkey Point COL application will be delayed and the environmental review schedule outlined in Enclosure 1 reflects the resource decisions discussed above. If resources needed to complete the staff's development of the draft EIS for the Turkey Point COL application become available or work priorities change, the NRC staff will strive to mitigate the delays assumed in the revised environmental review schedule.

Furthermore, this schedule assumes no new and significant changes or additions to the COL application, the USACE's joint permit application, or documentation that supports the environmental review. New and significant information of this type could affect the staff's conclusions in the draft EIS, and therefore, affect the scheduled completion dates. The staff will re-evaluate this schedule after the time for comment on the draft EIS has expired. At that point, the staff may establish a new milestone for Phase 3 based on the number and complexity of the comments received from other Federal, State, and local agencies; members of the public; and other interested stakeholders.

If you have any questions concerning the environmental review, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson at 301-415-1878 or Alicia.Williamson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA Mark Delligatti for/

Frank M. Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos.: 52-040 and 52-041

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/encl: See next page

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Turkey Point Units 6 and 7 Combined License Application
Environmental Review Schedule

Phase 1: Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Summary Report Issued	December 2010 (A)*
Phase 2: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Issued to Environmental Protection Agency[1]	February 2015 (T)*
Phase 3: Final Environmental Impact Statement Issued to Environmental Protection Agency	February 2016 (T)*

*A-Actual, T-Target

Enclosure

[1] The Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the Federal Register approximately one week after the document is issued. This notice begins the 75-day public comment period on the draft EIS.

Letter to Mr. Mano K. Nazar from Mr. Frank Akstulewicz dated: _____

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