

February 25, 2015

Mr. Miles Croom
Deputy Regional Administrator
U.S. National Marine Fisheries Services
Southeast Regional Office
Sustainable Fisheries Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT, AND BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT RELATED TO THE REVIEW OF THE COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION FOR THE TURKEY POINT NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 6 AND 7

Dear Mr. Croom:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) for combined licenses (COL) for construction and operation of two new nuclear units at its Turkey Point site in Homestead, Florida. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District, and the National Park Service (NPS) are cooperating agencies on the draft EIS. The NPS does not have any specific regulatory actions pending before it in regard to the proposed Units 6 and 7 at this time. As a cooperating agency, the NPS did provide input into the NRC impact analysis based on its special expertise. However, impact determinations made in this EIS should not be attributed to NPS, but only to the NRC and USACE (also referred to as the "review team"). The NPS's participation in preparing this EIS was primarily centered on data gathering and information sharing regarding the environment in and around the Biscayne and Everglades National Parks, and does not imply NPS concurrence. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared the enclosed draft environmental impact statement (EIS), essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment, and biological assessment (BA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts from the construction and operation of the two proposed new nuclear units at the Turkey Point site on the environment, including Federally protected species and EFH.

Additionally, the enclosed assessments initiate joint consultations between NRC, USACE and U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act. Please note that although the NRC and USACE are initiating a joint Section 7 consultation with NMFS, the NRC and USACE have different regulatory authorities. In the event that NMFS issues an Incidental Take Statement (ITS), please specify in the ITS which Terms and Conditions are imposed on which agency.

M. Croom

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To fulfill consultation requirements as required by the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, please provide any information and comments on the enclosed draft EIS you consider appropriate under the provisions of the FWCA by May 22, 2015. Comments should be submitted to the Chief, Rulemaking and Directives, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mailstop OWFN-12H8, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-001 or via e-mail to TurkeyPointCOLEIS@nrc.gov.

The NRC plans to hold public meetings to go over the analysis and results in the draft EIS in April 2015 in the Homestead, Florida area. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the draft EIS; and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft report. Additionally, the NRC and USACE staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each meeting during which time members of the public may meet and talk with staff members on an informal basis. You and your staff are invited to attend. As soon as the meeting dates are set, the NRC will notify your office.

If you have any questions regarding the draft EIS, EFH, or BA, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson at Alicia.Williamson@nrc.gov or at (301) 415-1878.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-040 and 52-041

Enclosure:
As stated

cc w/o encls: See next page

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Sincerely,
/RA/
 Jennifer Dixon-Herrity, Chief
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Docket Nos. 52-040 and 52-041

Enclosure:
 As stated

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