

PMTurkeyCOLPEm Resource

From: Orthen, Richard [Richard.Orthen@fpl.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 7:43 AM
To: Williamson, Alicia
Subject: FW: Media Coverage in Regards To Public Meetings

FYI.

Rick

I wanted to share news coverage of the news conference hosted yesterday by three Miami-area Mayors about 6&7 and the public meetings.

You can watch the press conference here (13 minutes):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlvLvUZrOKM#t=720>

(PTN): Reuters: Florida mayors call on residents to fight nuclear expansion project

A group of South Florida mayors are escalating their campaign against plans to expand a nuclear power plant near Miami that involves constructing 100-foot (30-meter) tall transmissions lines through some of the area's toniest neighborhoods.

Florida Power & Light Co is seeking federal approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to add nuclear reactors to its Turkey Point plant in south Florida. Public hearings are scheduled for next week.

Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado urged residents to speak against the project, which was approved by the Florida legislature last year.

"This plan should not be approved," he said, arguing that the need for extra water for cooling ponds would shrink the area's supply of fresh water.

Also rising sea levels due to climate change put the plant at risk of being flooded by salt water.

Florida Power and Light, a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Inc , is the state's largest electric utility serving 4.6 million customers.

The company said a real estate boom in South Florida points to increased future electricity demand in coming decades.

"It would be short-sighted and irresponsible to take the option of new units at the existing Turkey Point site off the table," FPL spokesman Greg Brostowicz said in an email.

The additional reactors would cost between \$12 billion and \$18 billion and enter service in 2027 and 2028. The two 1,100-megawatt reactors will together generate enough power for about 1.3 million homes and will use wastewater for cooling, he added.

The city of Miami, together with the neighboring cities of South Miami and the village of Pinecrest are battling FPL in court. They want the utility to spend an extra \$48 million to \$60 million to lay the transmission lines underground.

Philip Stoddard, the mayor of South Miami, said FPL had underplayed the risk of sea level rise to Turkey Point which sits on the coast 25 miles (40 km) south of Miami.

The existing plant is protected to 20 feet (6 meters) above sea level, said Brostowicz, and "can withstand severe flooding associated with the most extreme natural events, including a storm surge higher than Category 5 Hurricane Andrew which made a direct hit in 1992."

The new reactors, elevated to 26 feet (8 meters), also take into account extreme storm conditions as well as increased sea level rise due to climate change, he added.

(PTN 6&7): Miami Herald: Mayors make case against FPL nuclear expansion

The long-running campaign to derail Florida Power & Light's plans to add two new nuclear reactors at Turkey Point revved up Wednesday with mayors from three South Florida cities ticking off a long list of concerns ranging from inadequate evacuation zones to ugly new power lines and heightened risks from rising sea levels.

The mayors — Tomas Regalado of Miami,, Philip Stoddard of South Miami and Cindy Lerner of Pinecrest — held a joint conference with one clear goal: Boost opposition to a controversial expansion that will be the subject of two public hearings federal regulators have scheduled next week in Miami-Dade.

"We are looking at a population base within 50 miles of 2.5 million people," said Lerner. "Who in their right mind would put two new nuclear plants at sea level with storm surge?"

In Tallahassee, meanwhile, Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez, a Miami Democrat, proposed legislation that would require local approval for controversial fees the state Public Service Commission allows the utility to collect for future nuclear projects.

"FP&L's Turkey Point expansion project makes no sense for our economy, our community or our environment. Yet we are forced to pay millions every year to keep it going with no commitment that FP&L will follow through," Rodriguez said in a statement.

Several utilities across the country have postponed nuclear expansion plans, largely because of the high costs of construction and the low costs of other fuels, mainly natural gas. FPL has not formally committed to building the two new reactors, but the utility says it continues to pursue a federal license to prepare for growing demand in booming South Florida.

"All you need to do is take a look at the number of construction cranes along Miami's skyline to understand that the city's need for electricity is growing rapidly," spokeswoman Bianca Cruz said in an email. "It would be short-sighted and irresponsible to take the option of new units at the existing Turkey Point site off the table."

In the decade since FPL announced plans to expand its seaside power plant between two national parks, environmentalists and other critics say their concerns have only deepened, even as the proposal has cleared a string of local and state hurdles.

The thirsty power plant's two aging reactors have already stressed South Florida's dwindling water supply, they say, contributing to salt water intrusion that has tainted the underground Biscayne Aquifer. Over the summer, the utility came under increased scrutiny after temperatures in existing cooling canals climbed above 100 degrees, threatening to shut them down. FPL increased pumping from nearby waterways and the Floridan aquifer to cool the canals. Nuclear regulators also bumped up operating temperatures to 104 degrees, the hottest in the nation, to accommodate the canals.

The three cities have also lead a battle against FPL's plans to string a new corridor of power lines, towering 150 feet over U.S. 1, saying it will hurt property values. They want the lines underground, arguing the towers don't meet building standards for hurricane winds. But the cities would have to cover the cost, estimated at about \$8 million a mile.

Miami is already challenging the power line approval in court and fighting a state plan — along with Miami-Dade County and environmental groups — to shift water oversight from local managers to the state’s environmental agency.

The mayors also argued that the latest climate change projections, which predict a sea rise two feet higher than previously thought over the next century, have not been factored into FPL’s plan. If the utility moves forward, ratepayers could be hit with billions in costs for a facility that might be reduced to an island before the end of the century.

“FPL is trying to save money for themselves, but push the cost on us,” Stoddard said, complaining that South Florida is bearing a heavier cost than statewide utility users.

FPL spokeswoman Cruz dismissed the complaints. Citing rulings from an administrative law judge in the corridor case, she said the charges of weak power poles and declining property values are plain wrong. As for climate change, Cruz also said the new reactors will sit 26 feet above sea level, an elevation that accounts for rising seas or risks of storm surge from hurricanes. She said the utility is following federal guidelines, but could not say whether they reflected updated projections made by the International Panel on Climate Change, the UN agency regarded as the lead authority on climate estimates.

She also said the new reactors will actually improve water conditions by using reclaimed wastewater from a nearby county sewer plant as a primary cooling source. Water from a deep well will be used for back-up. “What the mayors probably did not say at the press conference is that these new units will take 80 to 90 million gallons of wastewater per day produced by Miami-Dade county, clean it and use it for cooling,” Cruz said.

But the mayors point to the canal problems as an indication of FPL’s inability to manage water concerns in an area where an underground saltwater plume, worsened by the canals, has crept inland and now threatens drinking water supplies. They also worry not enough wastewater will be available, forcing the utility, already the county’s biggest water user, to dip into the aquifer.

“This plan should not be approved as proposed,” Regalado said.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold two upcoming meetings April 22 and 23, at Florida International University and the Hampton Inn in Homestead. The meetings are intended to collect public comment on environmental concerns, but city officials say safety inspectors will also be paying attention. If the cities succeed at blocking the reactors, Miami City Attorney Victoria Mendez said they will also stop the power line because of a concession won in the utility’s state license.

(PTN 6&7) Palm Beach Post: NRC to hold public meetings about FPL’s proposed new nuclear reactors

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has scheduled meetings for April 22 and 23 in Miami and Homestead to allow the public to comment on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Florida Power & Light’s application to build two new nuclear reactors at the Turkey Point site located near Homestead and about 20 miles south of Miami.

On April 22, the NRC has scheduled a public meeting from 7-10 p.m. at Florida International University’s Stadium Club, 11200 SW 8th Street in Miami. On April 23, the agency has scheduled meetings from 1:30-4:30 and 7-10 p.m. in the Reef Room at the Hampton Inn & Suites, 2855 NE 9th Street in Homestead. All three sessions will be preceded by an informal one-hour open house which will allow people to talk with NRC and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff.

FPL submitted an application for a combined license for the two new units in June 2009 seeking NRC approval to build and operate two AP1000 reactors at the site where the company currently operates two nuclear units.

The draft EIS includes a preliminary finding that there are no environmental impacts that would preclude the issuance of a combined license to build and operate the new Turkey Point units. The meetings provide the public with opportunities to submit comments on the draft EIS and its conclusions. The EIS is available on the

NRC website as two documents. Volume 1 goes through chapter 7 and Volume 2 contains chapter 8 through Appendix J.

Those wishing to register in advance to present their comments at the meeting, particularly those with special needs for attending or presenting information, should contact the NRC's Alicia Williamson by telephone at 301-415-1878, or by email at Alicia.williamson@nrc.gov. The NRC will transcribe the meetings and members of the public may also submit comments in writing before and after the meetings.

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