

## TurkeyPointCEm Resource

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**From:** mary benson [marybenson@me.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 06, 2015 7:15 AM  
**To:** TurkeyPointCOLEIS Resource  
**Subject:** Proposed Turkey Point Expansion

Dear Sirs,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing today because you are about to make judgement on a request in my area that will potentially have terrible irreparable ecological consequences if it goes forward. As you know, FPL is attempting to gain approval on a major expansion to the Turkey Point nuclear plant in South Dade Florida. While I am not an opponent of nuclear energy, I believe it is your responsibility to protect our National Parks when a selection process is initiated. I also, have great concerns about the condition of the existing facility. I remember that during Hurricane Andrew significant damage occurred at Turkey Point. I can't even imagine what will happen to this area if something like that happens again if a facility the size of what is proposed becomes reality.

Regarding the FPL request to enlarge Turkey Point, I am sure you are aware that it is located on the border of Biscayne National Park. The existing cooling canals drain into the Card Sound National Lobster Sanctuary. Our marine life has been severely compromised over the last few decades with the population explosion that has happened in and around the Miami area. I have been here since 1996 and have personally experienced the decline of our natural habitat and marine life. The heated water that already runs into this precious area along with sewage infiltration from Miami Dade County has resulted in a marked decline of our local wildlife since my arrival. The stress that this project will have on what natural splendor we still have left will be devastating. As you know, even a slight increase in water temperature can be fatal to living corals and sea grass.

I am told that expansion of the power plant will result in 800 new jobs. Any destruction to Biscayne National Park, will negatively impact the hundred of thousands visitors that we have annually to our area and the businesses that rely on them. I am also greatly concerned that any environmental change could potentially effect the only living coral reef we have in United States waters, The John Pennekamp National Coral Preserve. These resources are far to unique, valuable and delicate to jeopardize. Undoubtedly, the negative economic impact of lost eco visitors will far out weigh the positive economics of the Turkey Point project for south Florida.

The Biscayne National Park has been trying for years to put new management regulations into place that will hopefully give what little marine life we have left a chance to regenerate. I am shocked that they are not pursuing every legal avenue available to prevent the FPL expansion from occurring. Over the next decade, millions of people will visit this area. That is unless, god forbid, an accident happens. Then, the resource could be lost forever and the visitors simply won't come. I feel that extensive study should be performed before any approval of this project be granted in order to guarantee that our National Parks and surrounding habitats will not be harmed. I have seen no evidence that any such studies have been performed. All I see is the plan to clear thousands of acres of natural bay front habitat bordering our National Park and the creation of a facility that will fit the business plan and line the pockets of a major corporation.

I beg you to deny the FPL request for the expansion of the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant expansion.

Sincerely,

Mary Benson

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