

TurkeyPointCEm Resource

From: National Parks Conservation Association [npca@npca.org] on behalf of Gregory B. Gregory [npca@npca.org]
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2015 6:45 PM
To: TurkeyPointCOLEIS Resource
Subject: I Oppose the Proposed Expansion of Turkey Point, Docket ID: NRC-2009-0337

May 15, 2015

Chief Cindy Bladley

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Office of Administration, OWFN 12
H8
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Chief Bladley,

I am writing in reference to Docket ID: NRC-2009-0337 to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of Turkey Point Power Plant, located in Homestead, Florida. The site proposed for expansion is located directly on the shores of Biscayne National Park in an area that is extremely susceptible to sea level rise and the impacts of climate change.

If expanded, Turkey Point would become one of the largest nuclear power facilities in the country, located in an area that is ground zero for sea level rise. The waters of Biscayne Bay are also home to incredible coral reef habitat and numerous threatened and endangered animals, including the West Indian manatee, American crocodile, and five species of sea turtles.

Turkey Point's operations are already impacting Biscayne Bay's habitat, water quality, and salinity, which are vital for the health and productivity of the bay. The expansion of the power plant would only intensify and expand these negative impacts, posing significant threats to sensitive ecological areas and critical freshwater supplies.

Like so many Americans, I am committed to protecting the National Park System, which preserves our country's incredible array of landscapes, waters, wildlife, and opportunities for exploration. Biscayne National Park is an irreplaceable national treasure that safeguards precious natural resources and recreational opportunities. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's own regulations, "sites adjacent to lands devoted to public use may be considered unsuitable," and unacceptable impacts are "most apt to arise in areas adjacent to natural-resource-oriented areas." Within six miles of the proposed expansion site, there are two national parks, an aquatic preserve, a national wildlife refuge, and a wetland habitat preserve. In following the NRC's own guidelines, the expansion of Turkey Point could have unacceptable and irreversible impacts on these treasured sites.

Operating two new reactors at Turkey Point could also have huge impacts on the quantity and quality of precious freshwater resources. The withdrawal of massive amounts of water from under Biscayne Bay as back-up cooling water could increase salinity levels within the Bay and hasten saltwater intrusion into our limited freshwater supplies. Furthermore, expanding a nuclear power plant in an area that is ground zero for sea level rise threatens the future of South Florida. I strongly oppose the expansion of Turkey Point as proposed due to the project's potentially widespread negative environmental and public health and safety impacts and the serious threats it poses to Biscayne National Park.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Mr. Gregory B. Gregory
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