

TurkeyPointCEm Resource

From: Basilio Sifko [frutabomba1928@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2015 4:38 PM
To: TurkeyPointCOLEIS Resource
Cc: gildrodri@aol.com
Subject: [External_Sender] Florida Power & Light / NextERA Power Line Issue

I oppose FPL's proposal to string a high-voltage, aboveground power line along US Hwy One.
The reasons are:

First.

It is wholly unjustifiable to place a high-voltage, aboveground power line along US Hwy 1. FPL has ample resources to place it belowground. The only justification for aboveground placement is to save a few dollars on one-time placement costs at the expense of our communities, which demonstrates FPL's utter contempt for residents who are also its customers.

Second.

It is dangerous. Traffic accidents are not scripted...they happen. This is why they are called precisely those...accidents. Even reinforced concrete poles crack, break and fall when impacted by tractor-trailers and fuel-laden delivery vehicles traveling at 55 miles per hour, weighing several tons plus the weight of cargo or flammable liquid, namely, gasoline, to the Florida Keys. The assurances of FPL Counsel of absolute safety notwithstanding.

Third.

It will negatively affect tourism. Along this same corridor, millions of tourists travel on their way to the world-known and widely visited ...Florida Keys. Imagine a tourist from any city flying into MIA, renting their car and traveling southbound on US Hwy 1. The welcome they would receive to the Florida Keys is a very visible, very unsightly and very dangerous high-voltage, aboveground power line strung for mile after mile.

Fourth.

This high-voltage, aboveground power line proposes to distribute power to customers outside Miami-Dade County as well. Residents in the affected area are asked to accept the degradation of their communities so FPL can save a few, none-recurring dollars on placement. We pay FPL handsomely for the power they deliver. Now, we are asked to compromise safety, beauty and despoliation of the public landscape with tourism suffering permanent economic damage to aggrandize FPL's Retained Earnings. Moreover, who is willing to negate FPL intends to sell excess capacity to Georgia Power & Light via this aboveground, high-voltage power line?

"Profit" is not a gritty word; however, *it is* a grimy word when spillover-costs are safety and permanent degradation of our communities.

Homeowners and affected businesses along the proposed route will not watch passively and accept a situation in which a tiny handful of power company executives, who, by virtue of:

- Vast power (by "power" I do not mean electricity)
- Considerable influence at all government levels
- And immense economic resources

arbitrarily impose their will.

We are actively organizing opposition. As for the residents on both sides of US Hwy 1: Coral Gables, Cutler Bay, Florida City, Homestead, Miami, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, Princeton and un-incorporated Miami Dade property values will see an immediate, tangible drop upon completion of FPL's would-be power line. A rudimentary economic-impact study will bear out this fact. This, in turn, will lower tax revenues for all municipalities and taxing units; further impoverishing the public sector so private interests may benefit.

It would behoove counsel for FPL/NextERA to revisit a court case as old as me: Microwave Communications Inc. vs. (AKA MCI) American Telephone & Telegraph Company (AKA AT&T). The quarrel began in 1963 and the resolution was implemented January 1, 1984.

Careful examination strongly suggests similarities.

MCI only asked for a license to provide two-way radio communications for truckers traveling Route 66 from Chicago to Joilet, Illinois. AT&T flexed its power, influence and economic resources in opposition.

In the final analysis, Judge Harold Greene's decision ended the monopoly privilege enjoyed by AT&T. A monopoly privilege almost exactly as that enjoyed by FPL. I use the term "monopoly" because it is correct. There are substitutes but who among us uses candles to light our home? So we depend on FPL to generate and distribute power...safely. Some of us strongly believe some markets are what economists call "natural monopolies". Best served where the company can operate serving an "economy of scale". We do not seek to remove the privilege FPL enjoys under a monopoly pricing structure.

We only ask FPL place its high-voltage power line belowground.

FPL's latest Balance Sheet lists the account, "Goodwill & Intangibles", as an asset account with a zero balance. A protracted battle with the entities listed below and the inevitable media exposure will result in, "Goodwill & Intangibles", shifting to the Liabilities section and an account balance. *How much* of a balance is contingent upon FPL's intransigence and insistence at aboveground placement. There is a direct relationship between the two; the more FPL insists on aboveground placement, the more FPL's "brand" will suffer.

The homeowners who would be adversely affected by this "quick-and-dirty" proposal are actively organizing to assure this proposal never becomes reality. We will do our best to make the proposal so public, and therefore so costly, the "fallout" will render it untenable.

US Supreme Court Associate Justice Louis Brandeis was quoted as saying. "*the best disinfectant is the sun*". We agree and hoping (some of us praying) for bright sunny days until this issue is resolved to the satisfaction of the citizens of Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties. Nature supports our position ...for we are the Sunshine State.

The NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission), the Florida Department of Tourism, The Florida Public Service Commission, environmentalist organizations, NGO's, affected municipalities and businesses will be contacted. Homeowners of record six city-blocks east and west and north and south will be culled from public records. Direct mail will be used to inform them how and why their property values will drop.

Just as important are the residents and "mom-and-pop" businesses of Monroe County, specifically those in the Florida Keys whose primary source of income is tourism. It is they who will suffer the most economically.

In the event moral suasion does not convince FPL to recognize right...as well as reality, available legal channels will be used; moratoriums and class-actions are possible eventualities. Preliminary research indicates legal fees alone could rival the marginal difference in underground placement

We expect and are prepared for a protracted legal battle given the resources of FPL. Make no mistake there is a countervailing force to FP&L / NextERA's vast resources. It is called Democracy and we will exercise it.

Lastly, we will see this ill-conceived, counterproductive and unsafe proposal never becomes reality.

Thank you.

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