

September 28, 2016

Mr. Larry Williams
State Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE U.S. FISH AND
WILDLIFE SERVICE ON THE BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED TURKEY POINT UNITS 6 AND 7

Dear Mr. Williams:

The U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) for combined licenses for construction and operation of two new nuclear units, Units 6 and 7, at the existing Turkey Point site in Homestead, Florida. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE or Corps) and the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) are cooperating agencies on the environmental review. The NPS does not have any specific regulatory action pertaining to the proposed Turkey Point Units 6 and 7 at this time; therefore, impact determinations made in the review should be attributed only to the NRC and USACE (also referred to as the review team), and not the NPS. As a cooperating agency on the environmental review, the NPS provides input through information sharing and data gathering based on its special expertise regarding the environment in and around the nearby Biscayne and Everglades National Parks and this input does not imply NPS concurrence in the EIS.

Since the publication of the biological assessment (BA) and draft environmental impact statement on the proposed Units 6 and 7 in February 2015, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) met with the NRC and USACE in August, 2015. Since that meeting, we have also interacted with FWS on several occasions. In those communications, the FWS requested the review team provide supplemental information regarding potential effects to terrestrial and aquatic listed species as well as update the BA determinations. This supplemental information requested by FWS during those interactions is included as Enclosures 1 and 2 to this letter. With this submission, we are requesting initiation of Formal Consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, concerning the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*), and wood stork (*Mycteria americana*). As outlined in our previous letter dated February 25, 2015, the NRC and USACE are initiating joint ESA, Section 7 consultation with FWS. Each agency has different regulatory jurisdiction

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and therefore if an Incidental Take Statement (ITS) is needed, please specify in the ITS which Terms and Conditions each agency will need to implement.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the supplemental information, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson at 301-415-1878 or via e-mail at Alicia.Williamson@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Dr. Allen Fetter, Acting Chief
Environmental Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket Nos. 52-040 and 52-041

Enclosures:
As stated

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Enclosures: As stated

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***concurred via email**

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