



**UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

March 23, 2017

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I am responding to your letter of March 7, 2017, posing a number of questions about the environmental review associated with Florida Power and Light's (FPL's) application to build and operate two new nuclear power plants at the Turkey Point site in Florida. Licensing the two new units at Turkey Point is the subject of a current adjudication before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB). Under agency regulations, the Commission has an appellate role in proceedings before its ASLBs. Because of that role, I trust that you will understand that the Commissioners must remain impartial during the pendency of a case, whether it is before a licensing board or an appeal to the Commission. In addition, staff activities related to this application are expected to conclude over the next several months, and a mandatory hearing before the Commission will follow. To maintain the Commission's impartiality in these proceedings, your concerns have been referred to the staff. Answers to your specific inquiries are enclosed.

Your letter also raised concerns with the two plants currently operating at the Turkey Point site. Let me assure you that the NRC maintains oversight at these facilities through its full-time on-site resident inspectors and additional inspection activities by other NRC personnel. In our recently released annual assessment for Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Station Unit 3 and Unit 4, their performance was rated in the highest performance category of the Reactor Oversight Process Action Matrix, because all inspection findings have been of very low safety significance and all performance indicators were within the expected range.

With regard to the cooling canals in particular, the radioactive effluent discharges and measurements of radioactivity in the environment have been within NRC regulatory limits and are as low as is reasonably achievable. The NRC is aware of separate State and local regulatory concerns regarding the cooling canals and FPL's activities in response to those concerns. While those issues are being resolved, the NRC will maintain its oversight to ensure FPL continues to adhere to all NRC requirements.

R. Grijalva

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If you need any additional information, please contact me or Eugene Dacus, Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, at (301) 415-1776.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Victor M. McCree
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosure:
As stated

RESPONSE TO THE HONORABLE RAUL GRIJALVA RE: FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR NEW REACTORS AT TURKEY POINT DATE March 23, 2017

This correspondence addresses policy issues previously resolved by the Commission, transmits factual information, or restates Commission policy.

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