

## **PMTurkeyCOLPEm Resource**

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**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2017 2:00 PM  
**To:** Comar, Manny  
**Cc:** TurkeyCOL Resource  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] From Platts News

### **NRC licensing decision on Turkey Point COLs expected by late 2017**

Groups opposed to Florida Power & Light's plan to obtain NRC licenses to build and operate two new reactors at the existing Turkey Point nuclear power plant in Florida said during a conference call April 25 that they believe the agency will make a licensing decision by year-end, but not in their favor.

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, also known as SACE, the National Parks Conservation Association and two local residents are intervenors in the licensing process. They held the press event in advance of a hearing May 2 before an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, or ASLB. The commission will ultimately make a decision on FPL's application for the units.

FPL is pursuing combined construction permit-operating licenses, or COLs, from NRC for the potential units but has not committed to the project. It already operates a two-reactor station at the site.

During the call, the groups' legal counsel Mindy Goldstein said her "best guess" is a commission decision will come by year-end. Goldstein is director of the Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University School of Law in Georgia.

NRC spokesman Scott Burnell said in an April 25 email that the agency has not given an estimate for completing the review process for the COLs. Before commissioners vote on whether to issue the COLs, NRC must hold a mandatory hearing and that has not yet been scheduled, he said.

But FPL spokesman Peter Robbins said in an April 25 email, that "[W]e continue to pursue the needed approvals for this project and hope to receive the COL approvals late this year."

SACE and its supporters have expressed concerns about environmental issues, including what they said is the potential contamination of drinking water due to migration of wastewater associated with the new units.

Robbins said the ASLB hearing is "an opportunity for FPL experts to share information about the quality of water that would be safely sent deep underground as part of the Turkey Point units 6&7 project." He said FPL's plan for wastewater treatment from the new units would ensure that the wastewater is "safely deposited into a remote and inaccessible area more than 3,000 feet underground. The wastewater then mixes with very salty water that is never used for drinking water."

Thanks

Steve Franzone

NNP Licensing Manager - COLA

"When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be." ~ Lao Tzu

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**Received Date:** 4/26/2017 1:59:48 PM  
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