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Duke Energy Florida, LLC, Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant, Partial Site Release

Comment On: NRC-2019-0076-0001

Duke Energy Florida, LLC; Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant

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Comment on FR Doc # 2019-06838

Submitter Information

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General Comment

I was unable to attend the April 25, 2019 public meeting about Duke Energy Florida's (DEF) request to release about 3,800 acres of land from the former nuclear plant footprint for other uses, so I did not get to see their presentation or ask questions.

I do have some concerns with potential other uses of the land DEF wants released. Because of the push in the past few years to export LNG and because gas pipelines and the new gas plant are now on the Duke Energy Crystal River location, I am concerned that DEF will construct some sort of LNG facility there or lease or sell land for another party to construct and operated an LNG liquefaction, storage, and/or export facility there. If that happens, I believe that could pose some serious dangers to our area and to the existing facilities and nuclear waste storage.

DEF Crystal River is thousands of acres of very low coastal land that is vulnerable to hurricanes, tropical storms, tidal surge, and flooding. There is limited access to the site. Any new use of that land should be scrutinized by multiple agencies and levels of government so that it does not create more potential drainage or accessibility problems. Any new use should not present increased danger to the public or the environment.

The land to the north of DEF Crystal River has been mined heavily for decades, and this area is known for caves and sinkholes, even under the roads. Will underground integrity be thoroughly scrutinized for any new project on this DEF property? This land was probably not the best area to build a nuclear power plant half a century ago, and it does not seem like a good place to be storing nuclear waste or having a gas plant or storing the coal ash. But it is what it is. Be careful that it does not become worse. Hopefully DEF will not allow LNG on that property. Can the NRC or some other government agency limit what kind of uses are allowed on the property if it is released?

Be aware that Strom (aka "Glauben Besitz") has a permit for a small-scale inland LNG facility in Crystal River, and the land they intended to lease is adjacent to the DEF property. From what the public has been told by the Citrus County Commission in the summer of 2018, the deal for that parcel of land fell through. Yet Strom continues to file Semi-Annual Reports with the address of that same parcel (6700 N. Tallahassee Road, Crystal River) in their filings. That includes their filing in October of 2018, which was after the Citrus County Commission assured the public that the deal for that parcel fell through. Another Semi-Annual Report should have been filed in April 2019, but as of this moment it has yet to appear in the docket. If they file one, it should appear under this link: <https://www.energy.gov/fe/downloads/semi-annual-reports-strom-inc-fe-dkt-no-14-56-lng-order-no-3537>

People in our area are concerned that DEF will partner with Strom in some way to build this LNG facility or they will seek a permit to build an LNG facility themselves. DEF has access to the gas pipelines, rail, highway system, and the Gulf of Mexico, so with the current push to export LNG, it is likely that someone at DEF is considering this as they ask for land to be released from NRC constraints.

If LNG is brought to this area, it will impact the surrounding communities and neighboring towns and rural areas negatively. These impacts include, but are not limited to, the increased danger to the public from unintentional release, vapor clouds, and ignition; possibility of terrorism attack on an LNG facility; only one paved access road to the power plant available in case of an emergency; bad location in case of natural disaster event (including hurricanes, tropical storms, tidal surges, and flooding), and we regularly have these natural events; Seven Rivers Community Hospital is within what would be an impact zone if there was an incident on the N. Tallahassee Road location or some of the DEF property; exposure of surrounding rural areas and towns from transportation of LNG by road or rail; first responders are not adequately prepared for LNG incidents; and new development is out of character of the surrounding conservation lands. Also, the new gas pipeline (Sabal Trail pipeline) took land easements from people under threat of condemnation and by eminent domain, which was allowed based on supposed "need" for power for the Sunshine State of Florida - not for LNG production and export.

Many people talk about sea-level rise as though it is presenting an imminent threat to Florida. Perhaps it is. I am still listening to all sides of this discussion, trying to sort the truth from the "noise." But if it is really happening at the pace some are saying, this land will be one of the more vulnerable properties.

I ask that the NRC do not just rubber-stamp the DEF request. Find out what kind of uses DEF plans. DEF must be held to a high standard and NRC needs to protect the public as they decide on this request.

Thanks,

J. Barrow