

LAWTON CHILES  
FLORIDA

NRC PUBLIC DOCUMENT ROOM

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 5, 1979

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

50-250,251 SP



Mr. Joseph M. Hendrie, Chairman  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 "H" Street, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

I have recently received the enclosed correspondence regarding a matter involving your agency, and because of my desire to be responsive to all inquiries, I would appreciate having your comments and views.

Your early consideration of this matter will be appreciated and, if convenient, I would like to have your reply in duplicate directed to my State Office, Federal Building, Lakeland, Florida 33801. In your communication, please return the enclosure and make reference to this letter as indicated below.

Most sincerely,

*Lawton Chiles*  
LAWTON CHILES

LC/rob  
Enclosure

RE: In reply, please refer to: 40-MARK P. ONCAVAGE

7904060138



Mark P. Onceavage  
12200 S.W. 110 th Ave.  
Miami, Florida 33176  
February 19, 1979

U. S. Senator Lawton Chiles  
51 S.W. 1 st Ave.  
Miami, Florida

Dear Senator Chiles:

Florida Power and Light Company is encountering "denting" in their steam generators at Turkey Point reactor units 3 and 4. FP&L has requested from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission an amendment to their charter which would permit steam generator repairs.

FP&L has submitted 3 alternatives for the actual repair operation. Alternative no. 1 would replace just the lower units of the 6 steam generators. It would cost \$ 102 million and require a shutdown of 200 days per reactor. The cost of repair and replacement power is \$ 226 million.

Alternatives nos. 2 and 3 call for replacing the entire steam generator units. Large holes will have to be cut into the containment vessels of 800 sq. ft. (alt. 2) and 300 sq. ft. (alt. 3). The cost for alternative 2 including replacement power is \$ 320 million and for alternative 3 is \$ 287 million.

Enclosed is a copy of the request for a hearing I made to the N.R.C. The time period for requesting such action had expired, but due to an irregularity in the information entered in the Federal Register, I feel that the granting of my request for a hearing is completely justifiable.

My first concern is about the radiation danger to the population of South Florida and the possible contamination of Biscayne Bay. FP&L has been vague on their proposals of the handling and disposing of radioactive wastes. When the containment vessel is cut, radioactive particles will be released into the environment. When the pipes to the primary

reactor coolant loops are cut, FP&L will have to dispose of 200 tons of radioactive liquid coolant. These issues have not been documented satisfactorily by FP&L.

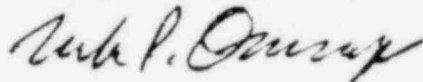
The second concern I have is about the wisdom of the economics of this repair. The range of costs from \$ 226 million to \$ 320 million is probably a conservative range. These figures do not include inflation since 1977, cost overruns, or technical changes since 1977. Each of these items could substantially increase the estimated price.

Another factor that must be considered, is the remaining number of years of operation left before Turkey Point must be decommissioned.

Alternatives to these costly, hazardous, and possibly unfruitful repairs must be studied. If it can be determined that a replacement conventional facility can be built and operated for less money and have a longer working life, then Turkey Point should not be repaired. The consequences of an erroneous decision can unnecessarily burden the economy of Florida for years.

Would you, Senator Chiles, use the prestige of your office to urge the N.R.C. to hold hearings on these issues which are of great importance to the residents of Florida.

Very truly yours,



Mark P. Onceavage

enc: letter to N.R.C.

cc: Senator Stone

Mark P. Oncavage  
12200 S.W. 110 th Ave.  
Miami, Fla. 33176  
February 9, 1979

United States  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington D.C. 20555



Gentlemen:

I request a full hearing and an Environmental Impact Statement on the matter of steam generator repairs at Turkey Point reactor units no. 3 and 4. Florida Power and Light Company is the licensee.

I realize this request for a hearing falls after the deadline of January 13, 1978 as taken from the Federal Register (Dec. 13, 1977, Vol. 42, No. 239, Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251.) However, this same entry in the Federal Register directs interested parties to view Florida Power and Light Company's letter of September 20, 1977 and other material at the "Environmental and Urban Affairs Library" at Florida International University, Miami, Florida.

Unfortunately for the residents of South Florida, the licensee's letter of September 20, 1977 arrived at the Environmental and Urban Affairs Library on January 22, 1979, approximately 13 months after the expiration date for filing for a hearing.

I feel that the failure of the licensee to provide information at the time specified in the Federal Register constitutes "good cause" as required by 10 CFR art. 2.714, a, 1, i.


As a student of environmental affairs, I am concerned with the consequences of the execution of extensive repairs. Turkey Point is located directly on the shore of Biscayne Bay. The surrounding area is a sensitive mangrove estuarine environment which is critical to the viability of Biscayne Bay. Adjacent to Biscayne Bay is Homestead Bayfront Park, Elliot Key State Park, John Pennekamp Underwater Coral Reef Park, and Biscayne National Monument, an underwater preserve. These areas are extremely sensitive environments and would be highly susceptible to damage by liquid contaminants.

Please also note that Turkey Point is located south of the urban centers of Miami and Fort Lauderdale. For 8 months of each year the prevailing wind direction has a southerly component to it which would put these urban centers downwind from Turkey Point making large populations susceptible to accidental releases of airborne contaminants.

If the nuclear containment vessels are to be breached and radioactive liquids and solids are to be extricated, I hereby request an Environmental Impact Statement be drawn up with the hope that further research may prevent a tragic accident to the South Florida community.

If the repairs appear to be excessively expensive, I request that decommissioning be studied as an economic alternative.

Very truly yours,

  
Mark P. Oncavage