



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

FEB 17 1972

Dear Mr. Schlesinger:

I wish to express my concern over the situation at Crystal River, Florida, where the Florida Power Corporation is constructing its Unit No. 3, a nuclear addition to two existing fossil-fueled units. A second nuclear unit (#4) is contemplated for the site.

The existing and proposed activities there undoubtedly constitute a significant threat to a valuable and irreplaceable unit of coastal estuarine habitat.

The Florida Power Corporation is conducting environmental studies at the site. However, quarterly reports of those studies and a detailed briefing by the company at the plant site on November 17, 1971, lead us to believe that the studies may not be adequate for the full assessment of the environmental impacts now occurring, and likely to occur. We are unaware of any serious plan by the company to attempt to reduce its intake of cooling water or its discharge of heated water to Crystal Bay.

With the experiences of Turkey Point and Biscayne Bay so recently behind us, I am determined that we not have another such unfortunate contest.

I am asking that you give special attention to the present Crystal River situation so that appropriate assessments of the potential impacts at this site can be made. If corrective measures are needed, they must be planned for now so that they can be built before Unit No. 3 goes into operation.

I am prepared to provide such technical assistance as may be needed in the assessments of the current Crystal River situation.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior

Mr. James R. Schlesinger
Chairman
Atomic Energy Commission
Washington, D. C. 20545

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