

DANTE B. FASCELL  
19TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND  
SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE  
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ABUSE AND CONTROL  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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COOPERATION IN EUROPE  
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NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY  
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HOUSE DELEGATION

CANADA—UNITED STATES  
INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
MEMBER, U.S. DELEGATION

December 7, 1984

Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

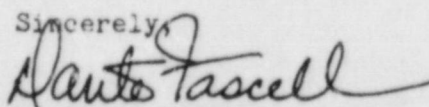
Dear Mr. Kammerer:

I have received several telephone calls to my District Office in Miami from some constituents of mine opposing the recent NRC decision to allow Florida Power and Light Company to double its nuclear waste storage capacity at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in my Congressional District.

I would very much appreciate your looking into this matter and providing me with the benefit of a response.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,



DANTE B. FASCELL  
Member of Congress

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EDO --- 000188

Docket Nos. 50-250  
and 50-251

JAN 2 1985

*Docket file only*  
Distribution Docket file 50-250/251  
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EDO#188 EDO RDG  
HDenton ORB#1 RDG  
OELD SECY (1) 84-2052  
WDircks GLainas  
KBowman EDO#188 OCA  
DEisenhut DMcDonald  
CParrish JPartlow  
Green ticket file/ORB#1

The Honorable Dante B. Fascell  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Fascell:

I am pleased to respond to your December 7, 1984, letter requesting information relating to the issuance of amendments to the Turkey Point Plant Unit Nos. 3 and 4 Operating Licenses which permit the increase in the licensed storage capacity from 621 spent fuel assemblies to 1404 spent fuel assemblies for each of the two Turkey Point spent fuel pools.

The Commission issued Amendment No. 111 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-31 and Amendment No. 105 to Facility Operating License No. DPR-41 on November 21, 1984, for the Turkey Point Plant Unit Nos. 3 and 4, respectively. An Environmental Assessment related to this action was issued on November 14, 1984. The Notice of Issuance of Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the Federal Register on November 16, 1984 (49 FR 45514). I have enclosed copies of the amendment issuance and the Environmental Assessment. The amendment issuance includes the Safety Evaluation and Notice of Issuance and Final No Significant Hazards Consideration.

The request for these amendments was individually noticed on June 7, 1984 (49 FR 23715) followed by a monthly notice on July 7, 1984 (49 FR 29925). Comments, request for a hearing and petition for leave to intervene were initiated on July 9, 1984, by the Center for Nuclear Responsibility and Ms. Joette Lorion. The comments and concerns relevant to these amendments are addressed in the Safety Evaluation.

Under NRC regulations, the Commission may issue and make an amendment immediately effective, notwithstanding a request for a hearing, in advance of holding the hearing where, as here, it has determined that the amendment involves no significant hazards consideration. Such issuance is also consistent with Section 132 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 which requires the Commission to encourage and expedite the effective use of available storage at civilian reactor sites.

I will briefly describe fuel reprocessing history, the need for increased storage capacity and alternatives considered in assessing the acceptability of increasing the storage capacity for spent fuel assemblies at Turkey Point and other nuclear power reactor sites.

Currently, spent fuel is not being reprocessed on a commercial basis in the United States. The Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) plant at West Valley, New York, was shut down in 1972 for alterations and expansion; in

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September 1976, NFS informed the Commission that it was withdrawing from the nuclear fuel reprocessing business. The Allied General Nuclear Services (AGNS) proposed plant in Barnwell, South Carolina, is not licensed to operate.

On April 17, 1977, President Carter issued a policy statement on commercial reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel which effectively eliminated reprocessing as part of the relatively near term nuclear fuel cycle.

The General Electric Company (GE) Morris Operation (formerly Midwest Recovery Plant) in Morris, Illinois, is in a decommissioned condition. Although no plants are licensed for reprocessing fuel, the storage pools at West Valley are not full, but the licensee\* is presently not accepting any additional spent fuel for storage even from those power generating facilities that had contractual arrangements with West Valley.\*\* On May 4, 1982, the license held by GE for spent fuel storage activities at its Morris operation was renewed for another 20 years; however, GE is committed to accept only limited quantities of additional spent fuel for storage at this facility from Cooper and San Onofre Unit 1.

When originally licensed, the spent fuel pools for each of the Turkey Point Units had the capacity to hold 217 fuel assemblies. This represented the requirement for one refueling of each unit with reserve capacity to receive a full core. At that time it was expected that the spent fuel would be removed from the site shortly after it was discharged to the spent fuel pools. The Turkey Point Licenses were amended to allow modifying the fuel pool racks to accommodate 621 fuel assemblies which would be adequate to retain the reserve capacity for full core unloading (157 assemblies) until about 1986. Since this date is earlier than the date a Federal depository is expected to be available for spent fuel [1998 - Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Section 302(a)(5)] the rack modifications were essential to allow continued operation beyond 1986. These current amendments allow expanding the storage capacity of each unit to accommodate 1404 assemblies which would extend the full core discharge capability for each generating unit to the year 2005 for Unit 4 and the year 2006 for Unit 3.

Commercial reprocessing of spent fuel has not developed as had been originally anticipated. In 1975 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission directed the staff to prepare a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) on spent fuel storage. The Commission directed the staff to analyze alternatives for the handling and storage of spent light water power reactor fuel with particular emphasis on developing long range policy. The Statement was to consider alternative methods of spent fuel storage as well as nuclear power plant shutdown.

A final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Handling and Storage of Spent Light Water Power Reactor Fuel (NUREG-0575), Volumes 1-3 (the FGEIS) was issued by the NRC in August 1979. The finding of the FGEIS is

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\*The current licensee is New York Energy Research and Development Authority.

\*\*In fact, spent fuel is being removed from NFS and returned to various utilities.

that the environmental impact costs of interim storage are essentially negligible, regardless of where such spent fuel is stored. A comparison of the impact costs of various alternatives reflects the advantage of continued generation of nuclear power versus its replacement by coal-fired power generation. In the bounding case considered in the FGEIS, that of shutting down the reactor when the existing spent fuel storage capacity is filled, the cost of replacing nuclear stations before the end of their normal lifetime makes this alternative uneconomical. In the FGEIS, consistent with long range policy, the storage of spent fuel is considered to be interim storage to be used until the issue of permanent disposal is resolved and implemented.

One spent fuel pool storage alternative considered in detail in the FGEIS is the expansion of onsite fuel storage capacity by modification of the existing spent fuel pools. Applications for approximately 108 spent fuel pool capacity increases have been received and over 100 have been approved. The remaining ones are still under review. The finding in each case has been that the environmental impact of such increased storage capacity is negligible. However, since there are variations in storage designs and limitations caused by the spent fuel already stored in some of the pools, the FGEIS recommends that licensing reviews be done on a case-by-case basis to resolve plant-specific concerns. The enclosed Safety Evaluation and Environmental Assessment provide details and resolution of the plant-specific concerns related to the Turkey Point site.

Your constituents may be concerned with public exposure resulting from the increased storage capacity approved by the Commission. The staff has completed an analysis of radiation exposure experience, based on estimated source terms and assessment of public doses resulting from 38 prior spent fuel pool modifications at 37 plants.

Estimated doses to a hypothetical maximally exposed individual at the boundary of a plant site, during such modifications, have fallen within a range from 0.00004 to 0.1 millirem per year, with an average dose of 0.02 millirem per year. Similarly, estimated total doses to the population within a 50-mile radius of these plants have fallen within a range from 0.0001 to 0.1 person-rem per year, with an average population dose of 0.006 person-rem per year. Doses at these levels are essentially unmeasurable.

Based on the manner in which the Florida Power and Light will perform the modifications; their radiation protection/as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA) program; the radiation protection measures proposed for the modification tasks including radiation, contamination, and airborne radioactivity monitoring; and relevant experience from other operating reactors that have performed similar spent fuel pool modifications, the staff concluded that adequate radiation protection measures have been taken to assure worker protection and the Turkey Point spent fuel pool modifications can be performed in a manner that will ensure that doses to workers and the general public will be ALARA.

Mr. Fascell

-4-

Based on this review of historical data ("Natural Radiation Exposure in the United States," Donald T. Oakley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Radiation Programs (ORP/SID 72-1, June 1972)) relating to the storage of spent fuel, we concluded that for the spent fuel pool expansions at Turkey Point the additional dose to the total body that might be received by an individual at the site boundary and by the population within a 50-mile radius, respectively, would be less than or equal to 0.1 millirem and 0.1 person-rem per year, respectively. These doses are very small compared to annual exposure to natural background radiation in the United States which varies from about 70 millirems per year to about 300 millirems per year depending on geographical location.

I trust you find this responsive to your request and of assistance in assuring your constituents that the Commission's decision was based on sound technical judgement by the staff. This decision is consistent with the Commission's policy of ensuring that operating facilities, such as Turkey Point, achieve and maintain adequate levels of protection of public health and safety.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

(Signed) William J. Dircks

William J. Dircks  
Executive Director for Operations

Enclosures:  
As stated

\*See previous white for concurrences

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ORB#1:DL*	ORB#1:DL	BC-ORB#1:DL*	OELD*	AD:OR:DL*
CParrish	DMcDonald/ts	SVarga		GLainas
12/20/84	12/ /84	12/20/84	12/21/84	12/26/84
D:DL*	D:DR	EDO		
DEisenhut	HDenton	WDircks		
12/26/84	12/ /84	12/31/84		

*Handwritten initials/signature*

Mr. Fascell

-4-

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SVarga  
12/21/84

*[Signature]*

*ff - no legal  
objection  
J. Gray  
12/21/84*

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GLainas  
12/ /84

D:DL  
DEisenhut  
12/ /84

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HDenton  
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WDircks  
12/ /84



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM:

DUE: 12/28/84

EDO CONTROL: 000188

DOC DT: 12/07/84

FINAL REPLY:

REP. DANTE FASCELL

TO:

OCA

FOR SIGNATURE OF:

\*\* GREEN \*\*

SECY NO: 84-2052

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DESC:

ROUTING:

CONSTITUENTS' CONCERNS RE INCREASE IN WASTE  
STORAGE CAPACITY AT TURKEY POINT

DAVIS  
GCUNNINGHAM  
O'REILLY

ASSIGNED TO: NRR  
CONTACT: DENTON

DATE: 12/14/84

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Received NRR: 12/17/84  
contact: Eienhut

cc: Case/Denton  
PPAS

*Linas*



NUMBER: 84-2052

LOGGING DATE:

12/13/84

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ACTION OFFICE: EDO  
AUTHOR: Rep Dante B. Fascell  
AFFILIATION: U.S. House of Representatives  
LETTER DATE: 12/7/84 FILE CODE: ID&R-6 FP&L (Turkey)  
ADDRESSEE: OCA  
SUBJECT: Opposes the recent NRC decision to allow FP&L to double  
nuc waste storage capacity at Turkey Point  
ACTION: Direct Reply...Suspense: Dec 24  
DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack  
SPECIAL HANDLING: None  
SIGNATURE DATE: FOR THE COMMISSION: Billie

Rec'd Off. EDO  
Date... 12-14-84  
Time... 1:40 P

DANTE B. FASCELL  
19TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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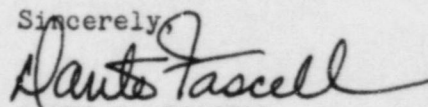
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