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Docket: NRC-2020-0277

Notice of Intent to Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC; Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Unit Nos. 1 and 2

Comment On: NRC-2020-0277-0001

Notice of Intent To Conduct Scoping Process and Prepare Environmental Impact Statement; NextEra Energy Point Beach, LLC, Point Beach Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2

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General Comment

I am commenting as an individual, a long-time resident of Southeastern Wisconsin and as a supporter of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

1. Economic Costs:

The public needs to be informed in a clear, articulate, complete and understandable (as in a manner understandable to a lay person) communication of the actual and potential short and long term costs of continued operation of units 1 & 2 and how those costs will be paid. The costs should include continued operation, decommissioning and the short and long term effects on the surrounding communities, Wisconsin and other states surrounding Lake Michigan as well as any past, present and future actual and potential degradation of those communities, Wisconsin, the states and Lake Michigan.

Also, who will profit from continued operation of units 1 and 2 must be analyzed and communicated to the public. Because operation is paid for by taxpayers and ratepayers, it is essential to understand if continued operation is economically fair and appropriate. It is unacceptable to compare economic advantage with human safety and environmental destruction that threatens human safety. There have been and continue to be lots of "wizz bang" ideas in Wisconsin that are promoted as economically a benefit for the public that also have safety costs and potential safety costs that seem not to be communicated. It is not OK to compare economic gain to human safety. Not even a little. The federal government needs to lead on this by moving away from an "acceptable risk" analysis.

The communication needs to be easily accessible to the general population and, therefore, media such as PSA's, news releases and social media should be utilized to inform the general public.

2. Environmental Concerns:

Under the circumstances of experiences with Chernobyl, Three Mile Island and Fukushima Daichii nuclear accidents and other problems, such as waste storage, that have occurred with nuclear reactors, a clear and exhaustive analysis of environmental and societal risks and risk potentials from continued operation of units 1 and 2 as well as possible accidents must be included and described to the public in a manner that will effectively reach a wide public audience.

3. Federal Review Transparency and Communications with the Public:

Although units 1 and 2 were originally permitted pursuant to federal rules and law, there was insufficient communication about those permits to the general public. The units are outdated, expensive and dangerous with risk factors for accidents when operated and when decommissioned. The design life span of the units has been exceeded. Many of the risks, such as waste storage, still await realistic and safe solutions and place risk on the public without a clear public understanding of that risk. The federal decision process must reach out to the general public, locally, regionally and nationally in a way that actually communicates. The process must inform the public about each issue and the specific discussion and considerations being used to make the decision. It is not sufficient to consider extending the license for units 1 and 2 without a complete effort to reach the public. All media should be utilized to communicate.