

5 Reasons Why New Nuclear Reactors Should NOT be Built at Turkey Point in Miami-Dade County

Environmental Injustice: Florida Power & Light's (FPL) existing Turkey Point plant already has two operating reactors and is located in a predominantly African-American community near Homestead, just over 20 miles from Miami. Allowing new reactors to be built here continues the history of environmental racism surrounding construction of nuclear power plants. ***The community is already burdened, building more reactors will only make it worse.***

High Costs: FPL is charging customers in advance for these risky and costly new reactors because of bad legislation passed by the Florida legislature in 2006. Ratepayers are on the hook even if the new nuclear reactors go bust and unlike FPL's shareholders, ratepayers will bear most of the risk.

FPL's estimated costs for the two new Westinghouse AP 1000 reactors are now over \$17 billion. History has shown these large, risky projects are rarely built on time and are often over budget. For example, estimates for Progress Energy's proposal to build two new AP1000 reactors in Levy County started at \$6-8 billion in 2006, and have since skyrocketed to \$17-22 billion. ***Florida's economy is already suffering and families and businesses are struggling, paying for more expensive reactors will only make this worse through higher electric bills.***

Clean, Safe and Affordable Energy Choices Exist: Energy efficiency is the best way to save people money while also saving Florida's natural resources and dealing with global warming. In June 2009, economist Dr. Mark Cooper from Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment concluded that "over the expected forty-year life of a nuclear reactor, the excess cost compared to least-cost efficiency and renewables would range from \$19 billion to \$44 billion per plant."¹ ***There are less risky energy choices for Florida including efficiency and renewables.***

Radioactive Nuclear Waste: Highly radioactive nuclear waste from nuclear power plants has no place to go since the U.S. lacks a federal geologic repository. Turkey Point is already storing vast amounts of this dangerous waste on site. ***Building more reactors means more highly radioactive waste threatening the local community.***

Public Health & Safety Risks: Few other nuclear reactors are as close to a major metropolitan area as Turkey Point is to Miami. A 1982 Congressional report estimated that if a meltdown occurred ***at just one*** of the Turkey Point reactors it could cause 29,000 peak early fatalities, 45,000 peak early injures, 4,000 peak cancer deaths, and \$48.6 billion in property damage.² Further, in a post 9/11 world there is no reason to provide terrorists more targets. In February 2005, FBI director Robert S. Mueller testified before the Select Committee on Intelligence in the U.S. Senate: "*Another area we consider target rich and vulnerable is the energy sector, particularly nuclear power plants.*"³ ***Florida communities are already suffering from the effects of risky energy technologies as illustrated by the oil disaster in the Gulf, building more reactors only puts Florida at greater risk of another catastrophe.***

Water: Nuclear power is much more energy intensive than renewable energy sources, as well as fossil fuel sources.⁴ According to FPL's own research, public and commercial use in Miami-Dade County is projected to increase 35% by 2025, while thermoelectric power use in the county is projected to increase 3224% in the same time span.⁵ ***Our precious water resources should not be squandered on nuclear power when other less water intensive energy options exist such as energy efficiency and conservation, wind, solar and bioenergy.***

For more information, visit www.cleanenergy.org.

¹ Cooper, Mark, *The Economics of Nuclear Reactors: Renaissance or Relapse*. Vermont Law School, 2009. See: [http://www.vermontlaw.edu/Documents/Cooper%20Report%20on%20Nuclear%20Economics%20FINAL\[1\].pdf](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/Documents/Cooper%20Report%20on%20Nuclear%20Economics%20FINAL[1].pdf)

² U.S. Congress, *Consequences of Reactor Accident (CRAC-2) Report*, Nov. 1, 1982. Figures based on 1982 dollars and 1980 population data.

³ Mueller, Robert S., U.S. Congressional Testimony, February 6, 2005. See: <http://www.fbi.gov/congress/congress05/mueller021605.htm>

⁴ Hoffmann, J., S. Forbes, T. Feeley, U.S. DOE, Estimating Freshwater Needs to Meet 2025 Electrical Generating Capacity Forecasts, June 2004.

⁵ Florida Power and Light, Turkey Point COL Application, Rev. 0, p. 2.5-34, June 30, 2009.