

4/25/2017: Statement by Captain Dan Kipnis, Petitioner, Nuclear Regulatory Commission on FPL's Proposed Turkey Point Nuclear Reactors & Waste Water Disposal Complications

I am Captain Dan Kipnis, a local resident who has been part of this legal challenge since the beginning. I appreciate you all being here today. Florida Power and Light's short sighted and speculative approach for disposing of the proposed reactors' cooling waste water will place south Florida's delicate natural aquifer systems in jeopardy.

As a longtime fishing captain and Biscayne Bay advocate, and with my decades of work on various committees regulating and enhancing this unique estuarine ecosystem and the freshwaters of south Florida that nurture it, I have grave concerns that pumping millions of gallons a day of polluted water into the boulder zone and Floridian Aquifer will do great harm to both Biscayne Bay but also parts of the Everglades.

I have long criticized FPL's proposal to build more nuclear reactors in this location, which is ground zero for the impacts from climate change, particularly sea level rise (SLR). Investing tens of billions of dollars on a power plant that will be underwater one day, along with the highly radioactive waste it will produce, makes no sense. Amazingly, the NRC has not allowed us to use SLR as a reason to question the siting of the proposed new reactors.

I have several concerns with FPL's proposed waste water deep injection for Turkey Point reactor 6 & 7:

1. FPL has sunk only one exploratory borehole onsite to quantify the geologic structure and fault lines of the site. Geologic engineers agree that the highly effective technology of seismic-reflection be used to fully understand possible migration of disposed waste water through the boulder zone and upward to the Floridian Aquifer. FPL needs to use the best technology, not do this on the cheap.
2. The actual chemical makeup of discharged cooling waste water, if even remotely similar to current cooling water discharge from the leaking cooling canals at the existing Turkey Point reactor units 3 & 4, will carry elevated levels of toxic chemicals and radwaste-laden water. How do we know that? Current sampling of water around FPL's existing Turkey Point cooling canals has shown this to be valid.
3. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that Miami-Dade County's wastewater treatment system and the water FPL will use to cool the proposed new reactors, units 6 & 7, may not remove a "large variety of contaminants" and cannot be relied upon to do so. Even after secondary treatment, chemicals commonly associated with industrial or agricultural wastewater are still present in treated water.

4. Twelve injection wells are planned for the site. FPL proposes to collect more hydrogeological data from the installation of the twelve injection wells that will be installed **only after** the Turkey Point license is issued. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations require environmental impacts be considered **before** the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission action is taken.

In conclusion, FPL's lack of geologic testing, denial of chemical agents being found in treated water and disregard for past and existing migration of boulder zone injected water at the south Dade treatment plant near Turkey Point, cries out for a halt to approving the federal licensing of these proposed reactors and a return to the drawing board regarding the safety, or lack thereof, of our precious drinking water.

Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, US Drinking Water (USDW) includes not just current sources of drinking water, but any aquifer with the potential to provide drinking water and it should be protected. Under FPL's plan, if approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, that guarantee would not be preserved, which is a wholly unacceptable outcome.

Thank you.

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