

WHY THE PROPOSED PROGRESS ENERGY OF FLORIDA NUCLEAR REACTORS ARE A BAD IDEA FOR LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA

The proposed location for Progress Energy's expensive Levy County nuclear plant is currently a clean site that has not yet been contaminated or polluted, does not have industrial facilities and includes a portion of the Goethe State Forest. Instead, Florida utilities must produce electricity needed in Florida through less risky energy supplies such as energy efficiency & conservation, solar, wind, and biopower.

Costing Customers Billions: Progress Energy's proposal to build the Levy County nuclear plant provides an example of the high cost of new nuclear reactors and the difficulty in providing accurate cost estimates. *The cost of two Westinghouse AP1000 reactors skyrocketed since initial estimates, to more than \$22.5 billion -- up \$5 billion from Progress estimates just over a year ago. Additionally, the reactors are now delayed 5 years but ratepayers are on the hook TODAY because of anti-consumer legislation that charges customers in advance for costs associated with building new reactors!*

- Floridians need ways to reduce their electric bills through energy efficiency and conservation and cannot afford the rate increases that will occur if Progress builds a risky new nuclear plant.

Threatening Water Supplies: *The Waccasassa River Drainage Basin is a precious resource; the presence of nuclear power reactors within the basin could seriously jeopardize its well-being.*

- Water withdrawal and discharge will cause hydrological alterations in surrounding freshwater streams, lakes, the Cross Florida Barge Canal, groundwater, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Degrading Water Quality: *The water discharged from the nuclear plant would be hotter than what is withdrawn.* Temperature changes negatively affect the fish, plant, and animal life that depend on healthy water systems.

- The water intake system will likely increase salinity in the upper reaches of the Cross Florida Barge Canal, as well as threaten fish and fish larvae, among other aquatic organisms.

Producing Long Lived, Highly Radioactive Nuclear Waste: *High-level radioactive waste created (used nuclear fuel) has no place to be stored or disposed, nor is it likely that a 'solution' will be found in our lifetimes. Building a nuclear plant in Levy County will unfairly burden future generations with a legacy of radioactive waste.*

- The proposed location in Levy County is currently a 'green field' site; it is clean and free of contamination or industrial facilities. The long-lived, highly radioactive nuclear waste that will be produced by the proposed new reactors will remain onsite for generations, indefinitely threatening the health of nearby communities and the environment.

Posing Security Risks: *Nuclear plants are vulnerable to terrorist attacks and sabotage; building a new nuclear plant threatens our security.*

-If an accident or successful terrorist attack occurred, the full impacts to human health and the environment in this region would be immense.

Threatening Human Health: *A 1982 Congressional report estimated that if a meltdown occurred at just one of Progress Energy's reactors at their nearby Crystal River nuclear plant, it could cause 900 peak early fatalities, 3800 peak early injuries, 2800 peak cancer deaths, and over \$53 billion in property damage. The operation of more reactors in this area will only worsen these terrible impacts and put more people's lives and health at risk. (*Peak means highest calculated value from the study – it does not necessarily mean worst case.)*