

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

High Costs: FPL is charging customers in advance for these risky and costly new reactors because of anti-consumer 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 all of the risk. Utility executives have testified before the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) that the decision to build will not be made until *after* the federal licenses are obtained, which is expected to take several more years.

FPL's estimated costs for the two new Westinghouse AP 1000 reactors are up to \$22 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 \$22-24 billion. Already, the Florida PSC has approved over \$1.3 billion for these speculative projects with another \$200 million+ requested this year. That's a significant burden that utilities are passing onto their customers! ***As Florida's economy continues to slowly recover and families and businesses are still struggling, paying for expensive reactors only makes 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 helping reduce global warming pollution. 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 energy efficiency and renewables.***

Water Resources at Risk: Nuclear power is much more water-intensive than renewable energy sources and generally more intensive even in comparison with traditional fossil fuel sources.² According to FPL, public and commercial water 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.³ ***Our precious water resources should not be squandered on nuclear power when other less water intensive energy options exist including wind, solar and energy efficiency and conservation.***

Radioactive Nuclear Waste Threats: 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 nuclear waste threatening the local community.***

Public Health & Safety Concerns: 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 injuries, 4000 peak cancer deaths, and \$48.6 billion in property damage.⁴ 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.*"⁵ The devastating Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan also highlights how devastating and long-term the impacts of a nuclear accident can be. ***Florida communities are already suffering from the effects of risky energy technologies as illustrated by the oil disaster in the Gulf, building more nuclear reactors only puts Florida at greater risk of another catastrophe.***

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 the nuclear industry, among many other polluting industrial sectors. ***The community is already burdened, building more reactors will only make it worse.***

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. DOE, *Energy Demands on Water Resources, Report to Congress on the Interdependency on Energy and Water*, December 2006.

³ Florida Power and Light, Turkey Point COL Application, Rev. 0, p. 2.5-34, June 30, 2009.

⁴ U.S. Congress, *Consequences of Reactor Accident (CRAC-2) Report*, Nov. 1, 1982. Figures based on 1982 dollars and 1980 population data.

⁵ Mueller, Robert S., U.S. Congressional Testimony, February 16, 2005. See: <http://www.fbi.gov/news/testimony/global-threats-to-the-u.s.-and-the-fbis-response-1>