

5 Good Reasons to NOT Build New Nuclear Reactors at Turkey Point in Miami-Dade

High Costs

FPL wants to charge customers in advance for risky and costly new reactors through 'Early Cost Recovery,' passed by the Florida legislature in 2006. This allows private investors to cash in even if the new nuclear reactors are never built. Rate payers are becoming conscripted shareholders that reap none of the benefit, but bear most of the risk.

History has shown these large 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, Florida started at \$6-8 billion in 2006, but have since skyrocketed to \$17-22 billion.

There are many less risky and more affordable energy choices for Florida. 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

Water

Nuclear power is much more water intensive than renewable energy sources, and uses more than fossil fuel sources.² According to FPL's application for Turkey Point, 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. We cannot afford to squander precious water sources on electricity when other options exist. Efficiency and solar are virtually water free!

Radioactive Nuclear Waste

Most of the highly radioactive nuclear waste from nuclear power plants has no place to go since the U.S. lacks a federal geologic repository. The Department of Energy application for a proposed radioactive waste site at Yucca Mountain in Nevada, which is sited on sacred Native American lands, is decades behind schedule and may never open. This would be a good decision, as it was not a scientifically acceptable location. Turkey Point already has two million pounds of spent fuel on site; more reactors mean more radioactive waste in Miami-Dade.

Public Health & Safety Risks

Few other nuclear reactors are as close to a major metropolitan area as Turkey Point is to Miami and Miami-Dade County. A 1982 Congressional report estimated that if a meltdown occurred **at just one** of the Turkey Point reactors it could cause 29,000 fatalities, 45,000 injuries, 4,000 cancer deaths, and \$48.6 billion in property damage within the first year.³ 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.*"⁴

Environmental Injustice

Florida Power & Light's (FPL) Turkey Point nuclear power plant is located in a predominantly African-American community near Homestead, just over 20 miles from Miami. Building new reactors here continues a long history of environmental racism surrounding construction of nuclear power plants.

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

³ U.S. Congress, *Consequences of Reactor Accident (CRAC-2) Report*, Nov. 1, 1982. Figures based on 1982 dollars and 1980 population data.

⁴ Mueller, Robert S., U.S. Congressional Testimony, February 6, 2005. See: <http://www.fbi.gov/congress/congress05/mueller021605.htm>

