

Collin Roehner

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 11:53 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Cc: Diane Hood
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 160009
Attachments: Florida Power & Light, State of Florida, Have Plan To Refresh Canal System - News - Nuclear Power News - Nuclear Street - Nuclear Power Plant News, Jobs, and Careers.pdf; Florida regulators order FPL to fix Turkey Point plant water quality _ Utility Dive.pdf; Florida gives FPL 10 years to clean up cooling canals _ Miami Herald.pdf; FPL Ordered to Clean Up Canal System - South Dade News Leader_ Community News _ South Dade News Leader _ Miami Dade County.pdf

Customer correspondence

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Monday, June 27, 2016 8:11 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 160009

Copy on file, see 1215494C. DHood

From: Beatrice Balboa [<mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 24, 2016 11:22 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Cc: eduardo.balbis@psc.state.fl.us; Office Of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Brown; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Ronald Brisé
Subject: Re: Concerns

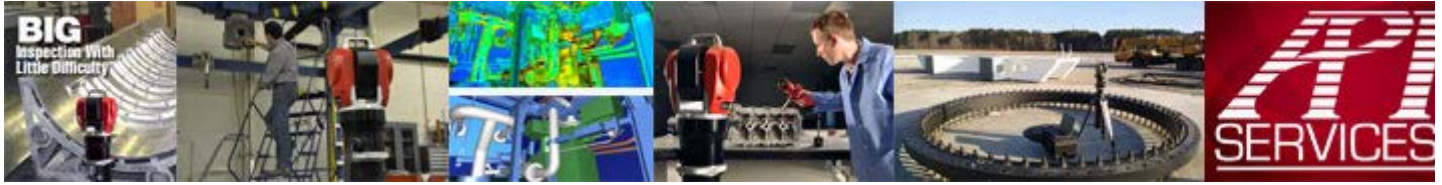
I was reading the latest news media article(s) regarding the latest Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) environmental activities in Southeastern Florida with great interest. Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore the ongoing environmental law violations by FPL, despite strong evidence of adverse impact of these activities. It is imperative that these FPL activities be brought into compliance with Federal, State and County environmental laws and statutes. And yet, FPL may be requesting ratepayers to "foot the bill" for their wanton disregard for the rule of law. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely the public's health, finances, policies, trust, confidence, and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Balboa

1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Apt. 1008

Pompano Beach, FL 33062-6666



Florida Power & Light, State of Florida, Have Plan To Refresh Canal System

Florida Power & Light (FPL) said that it had reached an agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through a detailed Consent Order that finalizes a long-term plan to remove hypersaline water from underneath and near the cooling canal system at the Turkey Point Power Plant 20 miles south of Miami.



FPL has already taken steps to reduce the salinity of the Turkey Point cooling canal system, which was put in place to give heated up cooling water a chance to cool down before being re-introduced into the natural environment.

The latest plan, which gives the company 10 years to clean up the canals, complements the previous actions taken, the company said.

The plan is in the form of a 25-page order from the state that outlines steps that the company said should have immediate impact on salinity issues. Problems were first noted in the 5,900-acre cooling canal system in 2014 in the form of rising water temperatures that had spiked during a local drought. At that time, investigators found a hyper-salty plume had pushed its way into Biscayne Bay and was also threatening fresh water wells in the area. The Miami Herald said the hyper-saline water had moved five miles inland from the plant.

The plan is expected to cost FPL \$50 million in the first year alone. That price tag is expected to be reflected in consumer bills, which could rise as high as 50 cents per month per customer.

Step one is to add 14-15 million gallons of fresh water into the canal system each day – water that will come from nearby aquifers. The plan also calls for use of electromagnetic tracking to monitor the size of the plume, which has been measured at three times the salt content as nearby ocean water. The state is requiring FPL to bring salinity in the canal system back to regional levels.

Step two is to fill dredged canals that were built to allow barges to reach the plant. By filling these “cuts” in the bay, it is hoped that engineers can stop hyper-saline groundwater from leaking into Biscayne Bay.

“We believe this plan, which we hope will not be challenged and subsequently delayed, will address the cooling canal system issues ... while protecting the surrounding environment,” said FPL President and Chief Executive Officer Eric Silagy in a statement.

The consent order is the result of a months-long process and was developed in consultation with regulatory agencies and independent experts in hydrology, environmental conservation and wildlife protection. As part of the plan, FPL will install a recovery system to capture hypersaline groundwater and safely put it deep underground in bedrock that is separate from drinking water sources.

In addition to removing hypersaline water, FPL will immediately undertake restoration projects on the east side of the cooling canals designed to protect the quality of surface water in Biscayne Bay. The projects include restoring an area called Turtle Point to its previous natural state, helping encourage marine and plant life in the area, FPL said.

The agreement also ensures that additional progress continues to be made at Turkey Point. FPL has already taken short-term action to successfully reduce the salinity in the cooling canals. FPL is also currently constructing a system that will refresh the canals with up to 14 million gallons per day of Floridan aquifer water, helping keep salinity levels in balance with Biscayne Bay.

Utility Dive

Florida regulators order FPL to fix Turkey Point plant water quality

By [Robert Walton](#) | June 21, 2016

Dive Brief:

Florida Power & Light Co. will take steps to improve water quality around its Turkey Point nuclear plant over a period of ten years, which has been leaking salty water into Biscayne Bay, after agreeing to a consent order with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Palm Beach Post reports.

The plan calls for FPL to install a recovery system to capture hypersalinated groundwater and store it underground, separate from drinking water sources. The utility stressed that the plant's water quality issues involve the cooling canal system and do not impact the safety of the plant or public health.

FPL also agreed to immediately undertake restoration projects on the east side of the cooling canals, including restoring an area called Turtle Point to its previous natural state. The utility has already taken some actions to reduce salinity, but the consent order calls for continued progress.

Dive Insight:

The state of Florida directed FPL to take extensive actions to improve water quality around the Turkey Point nuclear facility, located about 25 miles from Miami, after a salt plume of water was found leaking into the Bay, along with the radioactive isotope tritium. Among the consent agreement's directions, FPL will recover and sequester hypersalinated water in underground bedrock separate from drinking water sources, and take on projects to undo damage.

"With this consent order, we are now positioned to realize further improvements in water quality in and around the cooling canals at Turkey Point," FPL President and CEO Eric Silagy said in a [statement \(http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/fpl-plan-to-improve-conditions-near-turkey-points-cooling-canal-system-reaches-important-approval-milestone-with-state-300287438.html\)](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/fpl-plan-to-improve-conditions-near-turkey-points-cooling-canal-system-reaches-important-approval-milestone-with-state-300287438.html). "We believe this plan, which we hope will not be challenged and subsequently delayed, will address the cooling canal system issues at Turkey Point while protecting the surrounding environment. I'm confident that the fact-based solutions we'll be implementing at Turkey Point will have a lasting positive impact."

The utility pointed out past actions it has taken to address the Turkey Point issues. FPL said the long-term plan "complements" other actions the utility has taken in the past year to reduce salinity in the Turkey Point cooling canal system. And the consent order is the result of a "months-long process and was developed in consultation with regulatory agencies and independent experts in hydrology, environmental conservation and wildlife protection."

As part of the plan, FPL will install a recovery system to capture and store hypersalinated groundwater away from drinking water sources.

The utility spoke with the Palm Beach Post, giving a few more details, including that this

will be a multi-year process. “We are going to pull it back to the boundaries of the cooling canal system” FPL spokesman Peter Robbins told the paper. “The majority of the plume will be retracted within the first five years. Our goal is to get it all. We think that will take longer.”

The water quality issues have not helped FPL's bid to construct two new units at the Turkey Point facility. Florida Senate committees have [held hearings](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/turkey-point-nuclear-plant-canal-leaks-spark-more-scrutiny-over-plans-for-n/418500/) (<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/turkey-point-nuclear-plant-canal-leaks-spark-more-scrutiny-over-plans-for-n/418500/>) this year to investigate how the existing plant is impacting the environment. And in April, the 3rd District Court of Appeal in Miami [reversed the state's decision](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/florida-court-reverses-governors-approval-of-fpls-2-proposed-nuclear-unit/417920/) (<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/florida-court-reverses-governors-approval-of-fpls-2-proposed-nuclear-unit/417920/>) to allow the reactors.

[Turkey Point Units 3 and 4](https://www.fpl.com/clean-energy/pdf/turkey-point-factsheet.pdf) (<https://www.fpl.com/clean-energy/pdf/turkey-point-factsheet.pdf>) were built in 1972 and 1973, respectively, and their licenses expire in 2032 and 2033. Cooling water is provided through 168 miles of canals, and the plant generates enough power for about 900,000 homes.

Recommended Reading

Palm Beach Post: [FPL ordered to fix Turkey Point plant's salty plume](http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/fpl-ordered-to-fix-turkey-point-plants-salty-plume/nrj3r/) (<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/news/fpl-ordered-to-fix-turkey-point-plants-salty-plume/nrj3r/>)

Miami Herald: [Florida gives FPL 10 years to clean up cooling canals](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article85104132.html) (<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article85104132.html>)

Top Image Credit: [from FPL](http://www.fpl.com/environment/plant/turkey_point.shtml) (http://www.fpl.com/environment/plant/turkey_point.shtml)

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Florida gives FPL 10 years to clean up cooling canals

HIGHLIGHTS

Plan relies on same network of extraction wells outlined under Miami-Dade County cleanup plan

Water monitoring will also be expanded

Critics say too soon to tell if efforts go far enough or work fast enough



The cooling canals of Turkey Point 4:03



State env
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Biscayne



1 of 3



BY JENNY STALETOVICH
jstaletovich@miamiherald.com

Florida Power & Light will have 10 years to clean up a massive underground plume of saltwater threatening drinking water well fields near its Turkey Point plant under a deal struck with state environmental regulators.

In a 25-page order issued Monday, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection spelled out a plan that requires the utility to begin freshening and improving the efficiency of the 5,900-acre loop of canals used to cool two nuclear reactors at the plant. The plan also requires FPL to install a network of extraction wells to halt and ultimately shrink the plume, which has migrated more than five miles inland over the decades.

To ensure the measures work, DEP officials included periodic milestones that require the utility to provide evidence that the salt front is retreating.

But even with checkpoints built in, critics who have pushed the state for more oversight say plenty of questions remain over whether the plan goes far enough or works fast enough.

“

IT APPEARS TO BE DIFFERENT THAN SOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD WITH DEP ABOUT HOW IT'S GOING TO WORK.

Ed Swakon, engineer for rock mining company Atlantic Civil

“It appears to be different than some of the conversations we had with DEP about how it's going to work,” said Ed Swakon, an engineer hired by Atlantic Civil, which operates nearby rock mines. “Until we can talk to them and clarify, it's going to be hard for us to weigh in.”

The order comes amid increasing regulatory action against the utility after neighboring cities, the county, environmentalists and Atlantic Civil sued. Miami-Dade County is reviewing its own cleanup plan, ordered after county staff in March found the canals had leaked into Biscayne Bay and caused an increase in ammonia, which can harm marine life. On Tuesday, a spokeswoman said county staff was still assessing the state's plan, so could not comment.





FPL's president says Turkey Point does not endanger our drinking water

Eric Silagy, president and CEO of FPL, defends the company's environmental record in a recent meeting with the Miami Herald Editorial Board

Luisa Yanez - Lyanez@MiamiHerald.com

FPL has been wrestling with problems at the plant since 2014 when temperatures in the canals spiked during a regional drought. The crisis twice caused the plant's two nuclear reactors to power down but also shed light on a thornier problem — for decades, salinity in canals used to cool the plant has been creeping up and causing an underground plume of saltwater to spread.

FPL had known about the problem for years, records revealed, pushing fixes that their own engineers warned could worsen the plume. The powerful utility — in the last six years, FPL has given \$17 million to political campaigns — had also managed to fend off regulators.

Once the cleanup begins, FPL officials say the majority of the plume should shrink in the first five years.



WE EXPECT TO SEE IMPROVEMENTS IN GROUND WATER QUALITY [TO] BEGIN AS SOON AS THE RECOVERY SYSTEM IS OPERATIONAL.

FPL spokesman Peter Robbins

“We expect to see improvements in ground water quality [to] begin as soon as the recovery system is operational, but keep in mind the recovery well system is designed to draw back the hypersaline plume gradually, without harming nearby wetlands or causing adverse environmental impacts,” spokesman Peter Robbins said in an email.

In the first year alone, cleanup costs are projected to cost about \$50 million, Robbins said. Based on preliminary estimates, officials expect the typical customer bill to increase 25 to 50 cents a month, he said.

To reduce the salt plume, FPL plans on first reducing salinity in canal water, which had spiked to more than three times nearby sea water, by adding up to 15 million gallons of water daily from the Floridan aquifer. The state is requiring salinity to mirror nearby bay water. Electromagnetic mapping will then be used to measure the size of the plume.

The state also wants to expand water quality monitoring, which had lapsed over the years and may have allowed the growing plume to go undetected.

When the canals were first dug in the 1970s to keep the utility from dumping cooling water directly into the bay, dozens of monitoring wells were installed because engineers feared salty canal water would begin spreading. In recent years, the number dropped to a handful. The plan calls for renewed monitoring in wells far west of the canals, in neighborhoods between the Homestead Speedway and Florida's Turnpike, and south of Atlantic Civil's rock mines.

FPL will also begin monitoring water in Biscayne Bay, although locations picked for sampling don't appear to be near points where groundwater naturally leaks into the bay, which could provide a better indication of canal water in the bay.

To address leaks, state regulators have signed off on an FPL plan to fill two cuts in the bay dredged decades ago for barges carrying fuel to the plant. Bringing them back to shallow bay depths will presumably stop the groundwater leakage. The state has also ordered FPL to sell nearby wetlands critical to an Everglades restoration project aimed at restoring the flow of freshwater to Biscayne Bay.

Whether the measures adequately address problems, or even cause more harm, remains in question, said Laura Reynolds, a consultant for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.

"This isn't real abatement. We still have the same mass of salt being generated every day, which means we still have problems for saltwater intrusion," she said.

The state is also not requiring the utility to replace the outdated cooling canal system with cooling towers, the method used by more modern reactors.

"Our biggest disappointment is that DEP lays the groundwork for use of the cooling canal system beyond the life of the current nuclear plants," Reynolds said in a statement.

If the plan fails to adequately address issues, more legal action will likely follow. A notice of intent to sue filed by Tropical Audubon and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy expires in about two weeks.

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COMMENTS

6 Comments

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[Greg Hamilton](#) · Miami, Florida

I didn't read what would the consequences FPL would pay if they don't meet the bench marks. I see we will pay more , but FPL has no penalty.

What we need is an alternative electric company to compete for our business. We are beyond the

What we need is an alternative electric company to compete for our business. We are beyond the Stockholm syndrome with FPL.

In addition be aware the State of Florida contract with FPL "and I'm paraphrasing", FPL CAN'T LOOSE REVENUE.

Like · Reply ·  4 · Jun 23, 2016 6:13pm · Edited



Barry L Alexander

Great idea but just who do you propose and what will they pay for access to the distribution network? Or are you thinking of someone stringing lines as well. Now if you could solar is an alternative to live off the grid, I think you would not like that.

Like · Reply · Jun 21, 2016 5:01pm



Roberto Ravelo


Off course Greg poor n middle class all ways get screw but you don't have nothing to worry your FPL stocks might go higher n you might get higher dividend

Like · Reply · Jun 22, 2016 3:18am



Greg Hamilton · Miami, Florida

Roberto Ravelo if you think this only affects the middle class it only solidifies your level of comprehension.

Like · Reply ·  2 · Jun 22, 2016 4:13am

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Barry L Alexander


Another solution would be to desalinate some water and use it to reduce the salt content. Use some wind energy or solar in addition to the nuclear at night.

Like · Reply · Jun 21, 2016 5:00pm



Roberto Ravelo


The FPL president said that the water is not contaminate it but in the news conference he has a bottle of water next to him he should have a glass of tap water

Like · Reply ·  1 · Jun 22, 2016 3:14am



Roberto Ravelo


I have a solution let's live without electricity

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Greg Hamilton · Miami, Florida

In training to do without electricity, you could start by living without your computer, go ahead start now.

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Mario Rios · Florida International University

Greg Hamilton Thank you. This Ravelo guy is all over the place, usually way off the mark.

Like · Reply ·  1 · Jun 23, 2016 9:07am



Jeff Crane · Works at Self Employed



Jen Crane · works at Self-Employed

I wish I could donate millions to officials (pay offs) and make someone else pay my bills and f- ups!

Like · Reply · 2 · Jun 22, 2016 3:29am



Charlotte Edwards · Chestnut Hill School of Anesthesia

10 years is too long. How about 6 months?

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