

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Ellen Plendl  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 03, 2016 12:40 PM  
**To:** Consumer Correspondence  
**Subject:** Docket 160021-EI  
**Attachments:** Re Concerns; Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

See attached correspondence and reply to add to the correspondence side of Docket 160021-EI.

## Collin Roehner

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**From:** Rhonda Hicks  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 03, 2016 9:33 AM  
**To:** 'beatricebalboa@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Ellen Plendl; Randy Roland; Ruth McHargue  
**Subject:** Consumer Inquiry - Florida Power & Light Company

Ms. Beatrice Balboa  
[beatricebalboa@gmail.com](mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Balboa:

This is in response to your E-mail to Chairman Julie Brown, Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC), regarding Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). Given the nature of your concerns, Chairman Brown requested the specialized staff of the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach respond directly to you.

You expressed a concern about FPL's environmental activities in Southeastern Florida. We will add your comments to the correspondence side of Docket No. 160021-EI.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ms. Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

Rhonda L. Hicks, Chief  
Bureau of Consumer Assistance

## Collin Roehner

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**From:** Beatrice Balboa <beatricebalboa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 30, 2016 3:54 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  
**Attachments:** Study\_ Cooling towers would provide Turkey Point canal water fix \_  
www.mypalmbeachpost.pdf; Should FPL retire its cooling canals\_ Report makes the case  
\_ Miami Herald.pdf

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 significant 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 environmental 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 33062-6631

xxx

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article92459642.html>

<http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/business/cooling-towers-would-provide-turkey-point-canal-wa/nr6dr/>

ENVIRONMENT JULY 28, 2016 6:48 PM

# Should FPL retire its cooling canals? Report makes the case



BY MARY ELLEN KLAS  
*Herald/Times Tallahassee Bureau*

TALLAHASSEE — Florida Power & Light should retire its miles of cooling canals used to cool its Turkey Point nuclear power plant, and replace them with cooling towers that release less pollution into South Florida waterways and use less fresh water, a clean-energy group argued Thursday as part of its campaign to force the utility to reform its practices.

The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, which is suing FPL for violating the Clean Water Act, suggests that if the state's largest electric company replaces its one-of-a-kind canal network, the switch would help Miami-Dade County meet its goal of recycling wastewater and reduce the threat to South Florida's drinking water supply.

The estimated cost of the change: \$59 million to \$79 million per year over a 10-year period, an increase of 1.5 percent to 2 percent in the energy costs charged to customers, said Bill Powers, of San Diego-based Powers Engineering, which produced the report for SACE. The project would take about four years to complete, he said.

County environmental regulators have found that the saltier, heavier water flowing from FPL's nuclear plant through more than 5,900 acres of canals has leaked downward, pushing a line of saltwater inland toward South Florida's drinking water supply. Regulators also have discovered canal water, laced with non-threatening amounts of radioactive tritium, has leaked into Biscayne Bay.



Replacing the cooling canals with cooling towers is a “no-regret system,” said Dr. Stephen A. Smith, executive director for SACE, an organization that calls the cooling canals “an open industrial sewer, wedged between two national parks.”

adiply

The proposal to retire the cooling canals adds ammunition to a resolution passed unanimously by the Miami-Dade County Commission last week asking FPL to stop using the troubled canal system by 2033.

FPL has not agreed to the county's request. In June it signed a consent order with the state agreeing to clean up the canals within 10 years but keep them operating.

After that, if the company seeks to renew its license for the current nuclear reactors beyond 2033, FPL will consider "any potential alternative cooling technologies, which would logically include cooling towers," said Peter Robbins, manager of nuclear communications for FPL.

Robbins blasted SACE as an "anti-utility, anti-nuclear political group" that should "not be trusted."

Powers' report notes that cooling tower technology is already being used by FPL at its Unit 5, a natural gas plant at the Turkey Point site, and FPL proposed building two cooling towers as a way to handle the heated discharge from two new nuclear units it is proposing to build in the future at Turkey Point, Units 6 and 7.

Miami-Dade County is under a state requirement to recycle 117.5 million gallons of water a day by 2025. The SACE plan calls for replacing the fresh water with reclaimed water, similar to a system that has been in operation for 30 years at the largest nuclear plant in the world, the Palo Verde Nuclear plant near Phoenix, Powers said.

*Mary Ellen Klas can be reached at [meklas@MiamiHerald.com](mailto:meklas@MiamiHerald.com). Follow her on Twitter @MaryEllenKlas*



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**Mdx Way**

No brainer

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**Christopher Jahn** · Fort Lauderdale, Florida

It's time to ditch the canals.

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**Jim Hopf** · Massachusetts Institute of Tec

I'm not necessarily against this proposal, given the low quoted cost. I am puzzled, however, about how cooling towers for the Turkey Point plant would cost only 600-800 million when costs an order of magnitude larger have been quoted for plants like Diablo Canyon (in California).

And I can't shake the notion that this is all part of a scheme to continually add costs to nuclear operations, in an effort to eventually get them to shut down. What FP&L said about the SACE group is accurate.

Like · Reply · 1 · Jul 29, 2016 1:37pm



**Graham Bonsall**

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## Obama's Presidential Library Finds A Home





# Cooling towers would provide Turkey Point canal water fix, group says

BUSINESS

By [Susan Salisbury](#) - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

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Posted: 3:41 p.m. Thursday, July 28, 2016

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Florida Power & Light's Turkey Point nuclear plant's one-of-a-kind failed cooling canal system should be replaced with cooling towers like those used at nuclear facilities around the world, the non-profit [Southern Alliance for Clean Energy](#) said Thursday.

Replacing the 2-by-5 mile unlined cooling canal system at the plant south of Miami with cooling towers that would cost at least \$220 million is an affordable, practical solution to the leaking, polluting system, Knoxville, Tenn.-based SACE said.

"We've known for decades that this system is failing," SACE's executive director Stephen Smith said. "There is absolutely no reason whatsoever why they cannot use this technology here, and shut down this open, industrial sewer. They have made billions of dollars off these reactors. They have run them on the cheap. They have caused significant pollution and need to clean it up."

FPL spokesman Peter Robbins said that cooling towers don't make sense financially or environmentally.

"They are an anti-utility group, a political group. They are in this for themselves. They are not in it for the environment or FPL customers. It is easy to second-guess things and suggest things. We have a duty to protect our customers and their rates that SACE just doesn't have," Robbins said.





American crocodiles are seen near Florida Power & Light Co.'s Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant near Homestead. (Joe Raedle / Getty ... [Read More](#))

SACE contracted with Bill Powers of Powers Engineering, San Diego, to look at technologies that FPL could implement to solve problems caused by the system that is polluting Biscayne Bay and seeping into the aquifer that provides drinking water to more than 3 million people.

Cooling towers for units 3 and 4 would cost an estimated \$220 million to \$310 million, depending on the size and design details, Powers said. They could be operational within four years once permits and approvals are obtained.

Powers' report states that units 3 and 4 generate approximately \$500 million a year in revenue for FPL.

In fact, FPL already uses a cooling tower for a natural gas-fired unit at Turkey Point, and has proposed cooling towers for two new nuclear reactors, units 6 and 7, that it wants to build at the site.

"FPL knows this technology is the best technology and that they should have implemented this a long time ago. FPL is attempting to run Turkey Point 3 and 4 for at least another 17 years, and will likely ask for a license extension behind that," Smith said.

But FPL's Robbins said cooling towers would cost billions, not millions, and that the federal government ordered FPL to build the canals, constructed in 1972, following extensive litigation.

In June the Florida Department of Environmental Protection signed a consent order with FPL which requires it to fix the problems in the next decade. The plan calls for FPL to reduce and ultimately eliminate the plume of extremely salty water seeping into the aquifer from the canals, and update and expand its water quality monitoring network.

On average about 600,000 pounds of salt seep from the canals into the groundwater every day.

Miami-Dade County commissioners have also asked FPL to replace the canals with cooling towers.

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