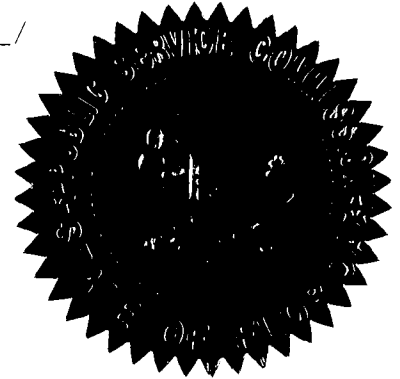


BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 080148-EI

In the Matter of:

PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR  
LEVY UNITS 1 AND 2 NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS,  
BY PROGRESS ENERGY FLORIDA, INC.



PROCEEDINGS: CRYSTAL RIVER SERVICE HEARING

BEFORE: CHAIRMAN MATTHEW M. CARTER, II  
COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR  
COMMISSIONER KATRINA J. McMURRIAN  
COMMISSIONER NANCY ARGENZIANO  
COMMISSIONER NATHAN A. SKOP

DATE: Wednesday, April 23, 2008

TIME: Commenced at 4:00 p.m.  
Concluded at 7:35 p.m.

PLACE: Plantation Inn Golf Resort & Spa  
Sable Conference Center  
9301 West Fort Island Trail  
Crystal River, Florida

REPORTED BY: JANE FAUROT, RPR  
Official FPSC Reporter  
(850) 413-6732

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

## 1 APPEARANCES:

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4 33733-4042, appearing on behalf of Progress Energy Service Co.,  
5 LLC.

6 STEPHEN BURGESS, ESQUIRE, Office of Public Counsel,  
7 c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 W. Madison St., Room 812,  
8 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400, appearing on behalf of the  
9 Citizens of the State of Florida.

10 LISA BENNETT, ESQUIRE, and KATHERINE FLEMING,  
11 ESQUIRE, FPSC General Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak  
12 Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, appearing on behalf  
13 of the Florida Public Service Commission Staff.

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## I N D E X

## WITNESSES

	NAME:	PAGE NO.
1		
2		
3		
4	Mayor John Kitchen	22
5	Amanda Douglas	24
	Carol McQueen	25
6	Doug King	27
	Renate Cannon	28
7	Barney Cannon	31
	Randy Welker	32
8	Norman Hopkins	34
	Morris Harvey	35
9	George Elias	37
	Robert Brinkman	39
10	Art Jones	44
	Bernie Leven	47
11	Burt Eno	48
	William Vibbert	52
12	Betty Berger	55
	Edward Renfro	60
13	Ray Masch	63
	Henry Locke	65
14	Thomas Eppes	66
	Sally Price	72
15	Janet Masaoy	81
	Valerie Keith	85
16	Harry Pickering	89
	Dean Peterson	91
17	Michael Peters	95
	Darryl Diamond	110
18	Kevin Cunningham	105
	Dixie Hollins	106
19	Chris Cook	108
	Janey Baldwin	111
20	Emily Casey	114
	Scott Rexroat	121
21	Phyllis Lott	122
	Susan Kirk	125
22	Carvell Simpson	127
23		
24		
25		

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	EXHIBITS NUMBER:		ID.	ADMTD.
	2	Mr. Jones, Solar Photovoltaics	47	
	3	Mr. Vibbert, Rainbow River Reports	55	
	4	Presentation of Ms. Berger	59	
	5	"Cancer Study a Jolt"	66	
	6	Composite Exhibit, Mr. Eppes	71	
	7	Sally Price's Exhibit	78	
	8	Ms. McQueen, Letter from Nature	79	
	9	Composite Exhibit from Dr. Eno	79	
	10	Ms. Masaoy, St. Pete Times Article	85	
	11	Northdale Says No	111	
	12	Composite Exhibit, Ms. Casey	120	

## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Good afternoon.

3           My name is Matthew Carter. I'm Chairman of the  
4 Florida Public Service Commission. I want to thank all of you  
5 for coming out this afternoon.

6           Let me take a moment to introduce my colleagues. To  
7 my right, Commissioner Edgar, Commissioner Argenziano. To my  
8 left, Commissioner McMurrian, Commissioner Skop.

9           And I wanted to let you know that we are here this  
10 afternoon for a very important hearing. And I'm going to do  
11 something that is fairly boring to you, I'm going to read  
12 something to get it in the record, because we will be taking a  
13 record of what we are doing today. And the most significant  
14 reason we are here today is because we want to hear from you,  
15 the public, about this determination of need that Progress  
16 Energy has applied for, two nuclear power plants in Levy  
17 County.

18           So in that process, as we get ourselves together, we  
19 are going to go through a process where we are going to have  
20 our staff read the notice, that's just a legalistic thing that  
21 we go through, and then we will take appearances of the  
22 parties, and then we will have an opportunity to swear in all  
23 the witnesses, and then we will have some comments. And in our  
24 comment phase, as a courtesy, what we try and to do is we  
25 recognize our elected officials first, and then we go from

1 there.

2 And our goal is just for -- just in case, sometimes I  
3 forget, so for housekeeping matters, just for housekeeping  
4 matters, ladies, if you have to go, it's right outside the door  
5 to your left. Gentlemen, if you have to go, it's out the door,  
6 around the building, in the back. (Laughter.) But, anyway, we  
7 want to do that.

8 Let me just kind of take a moment to go through a few  
9 things, and then we'll get settled here. But I do want to take  
10 this opportunity to thank you, for those of you, members of the  
11 public, that have taken the time out of your busy schedules to  
12 come out and be with us today on this opportunity.

13 So, first of all, we will call the hearing to order,  
14 and we will request a reading of the notice.

15 **MS. BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

16 Pursuant to notice, this time and place has been  
17 scheduled for the purpose of conducting a service hearing for  
18 Docket Number 080148-EI, petition for determination of need for  
19 Levy Units 1 and 2, nuclear power plants by Progress Energy  
20 Florida, Inc. The purpose of the service hearing is set forth  
21 more fully in the notice.

22 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** At this point in time now we will  
23 take appearances.

24 **MR. GLENN:** Alex Glenn on behalf of Progress Energy  
25 Florida.

1           **MR. BURGESS:** Mr. Chairman, I'm Steve Burgess. I'm  
2 here on behalf of the Office of Public Counsel.

3           **MS. BENNETT:** Lisa Bennett on behalf of the General  
4 Counsel's Office of the Public Service Commission, and I would  
5 also like to enter an appearance by Katherine Fleming.

6           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Are there any other parties that I  
7 omitted; any of the other parties? Okay.

8           Hearing none, as I said, ladies and gentlemen, this  
9 is a very important opportunity for us to come out and hear  
10 what you think. Some of you that may be shy about speaking,  
11 there is a yellow form in the back like this, and you can write  
12 comments on this yellow form and send those up to us in  
13 Tallahassee, or you can write those down. But, basically, if  
14 you don't want to speak or anything like that, we still want to  
15 hear from you. It is a very important part of the process for  
16 us to come out, out of Tallahassee and come down where you are.

17           Commissioners, I think in view of our time schedule,  
18 our goal is to -- we'll go for a couple of hours and give the  
19 court reporter a break, and at that point in time we will see  
20 where we are and try to get everybody in. We want to try to  
21 hear from as many people as possible. And our staff, as we  
22 travel back to Tallahassee tonight, about 8:00 o'clock, we want  
23 to get back home safe and sound, so we won't be out there at  
24 midnight or anything like that. So the goal is to try to kind  
25 of wrap things up around that time, and that will help you in

1 your planning, too.

2           Also, those of you in the public, as you are  
3 speaking, please, you know, be considerate of your neighbor.  
4 We want to hear from everybody, okay. We want to hear from  
5 everybody.

6           So, procedurally, I have to say what some may  
7 consider boring stuff, so let me say the boring stuff now. Is  
8 that our statutes require us to examine the need for the  
9 electric system reliability and integrity, including fuel  
10 diversity. The need for fuel-based generating capacity, the  
11 need for adequate electricity at a reasonable cost, and whether  
12 renewable energy sources and technology as well as conservation  
13 measures are utilized to the extent reasonably possible. And  
14 only those issues relating to the need for these proposed power  
15 plants will be heard here.

16           Now, there are some issues about environmental. That  
17 is not within the confines of our hearing. That is other  
18 agencies that will be dealing with that. Normally, this  
19 hearing would take place in Tallahassee, but because it impacts  
20 you and your neighborhood, we wanted to come out and hear from  
21 you directly.

22           We will resume this hearing in Tallahassee around May  
23 21st. There is a two-pronged process. First of all, there is  
24 a public hearing process where we listen to you, those of you  
25 that are impacted in the area, and get information from you



1 about your feelings on the issues, those kind of things like  
2 that. And sometimes if you just think that my tie is  
3 inappropriate, you can tell me that, too. But we don't want to  
4 get out and listen to you and make sure that we have that,  
5 because it is very, very important.

6           The public hearing is a very important process. When  
7 we resume in Tallahassee, it will be a process where we have  
8 attorneys, and we'll have witnesses sworn in, we will have  
9 experts -- and, you know, an expert is just a person from out  
10 of town with a business card, and we'll have all of that going  
11 on. But the most important thing is to hear from you and get  
12 your input in terms of where we're going from there.

13           So what I would like to do is, again, my commercial  
14 announcement is that I'm going to back to the yellow sheets, is  
15 that those of you that do not want to speak today, please  
16 complete one of these yellow forms. You can write your  
17 comments on it, leave it with our staff in the back, or if you  
18 want to just take it home and think about it, you can complete  
19 it and mail it to us. And we have staff -- Staff, would you  
20 raise your hands, our staff members in the back? We are asking  
21 you, those of you that want to be heard, please sign up.  
22 Please sign up, those of you that want to be heard.

23           So, Staff, at this point in time, are there any other  
24 preliminary matters?

25           **MS. BENNETT:** No, Mr. Chair, there are no preliminary

1 matters.

2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Let me do this, then. We'll  
3 have a brief presentation, an overview of this project by  
4 Progress Energy, and after their presentation by Progress  
5 Energy, then I will swear in all of the witnesses and we can go  
6 from there.

7           Mr. Glenn, you're recognized.

8           **MR. GLENN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9           Mr. Chairman, just as a few housekeeping matters on  
10 our side, we have in the back of the room several customer  
11 service representatives in case any customers have questions  
12 specific to their bill or the service that we are providing to  
13 them. And we have customer service representatives who are  
14 across the parking lot in a conference room in the next  
15 adjacent building. So if anyone has any questions, I would  
16 direct them to our representatives who are raising their hands  
17 right now. Okay.

18           Why are we here? As the Chairman indicated, we are  
19 here to discuss Progress Energy's need for power in the  
20 2016/2017 time frame. How we propose to meet that need with  
21 the proposed Levy nuclear plants and why we believe nuclear is  
22 the right choice for our customers and the state. Now, how we  
23 got here and why we chose the Levy plants needs a little bit of  
24 context, and on Slide 3 I show that.

25           Today, Florida is facing significant energy

1 challenges. I have listed just a few of the bullets there.  
2 Balancing all of this, while maintaining stable customer costs,  
3 reliability, and customer satisfaction, is going to be a very  
4 significant challenge ahead. How are we going to do it? Well,  
5 Progress Energy is going to do it through our balanced  
6 solution. What does that mean? That calls for increasing the  
7 amount of renewable energy, increasing the amount of energy  
8 efficiency, and building state-of-the-art power plants. All  
9 three, not just one or two of those are necessary.

10 On Slide 4, I think, first renewables and energy  
11 efficiency. Now, I think the Commission knows Mr. Masiello and  
12 all of his work in capturing cost-effective energy efficiency  
13 and renewable opportunities, and I'm not going to belabor this  
14 point. Suffice it to say that we are maximizing these  
15 resources.

16 Over the next decade we are going to be expanding our  
17 energy efficiency programs by 50 percent, increasing renewables  
18 by threefold. These alone, however, are not enough to meet our  
19 growing demand for power. We estimate that's going to be about  
20 25 percent over the next decade. We must add new baseload  
21 generation to our fleet.

22 It has been nearly a quarter of a century since  
23 Progress Energy Florida added a baseload power plant in the  
24 state, and since then we have added more than 600,000  
25 customers. So what are we proposing to add? In Slide 5 it's a

1 graphic of the Westinghouse AP1000 nuclear power plants, and we  
2 are proposing to add those at our Levy County site.

3           Slide 6 shows a graphic of Levy County. Why Levy  
4 County? Well, three principal reasons: First, we have been a  
5 member in the tri-county community for more than 50 years. Our  
6 employees live and work here. Second, we want to be where the  
7 people want us. The Levy County Commission unanimously  
8 approved amendments to the comprehensive plan recently to  
9 support this plan. Third, the site is extremely well-suited  
10 for a nuclear power plant from a geologic, a water supply,  
11 floodplain, and overall economic perspective, and environmental  
12 perspective.

13           As you can see, the water resource, where are we  
14 going to get the water supply is virtually unlimited. It's the  
15 Gulf of Mexico. And there is going to be no impact to Lake  
16 Rousseau. No water is coming out of the lake.

17           The site layout itself, just a couple of words about  
18 the site layout on Slide 7. As you see in the outlying yellow  
19 portion, the actual physical footprint of this plant only takes  
20 up about two to 300 acres of the nearly 3,100-acre site. So it  
21 is a very small footprint of the plant leaving the remainder of  
22 that site essentially a buffer.

23           Now the outlying blue portion to the south is an  
24 additional 2,100 acres that we acquired, and that's to gain  
25 transmission exits from the plant, the intake and discharge

1 piping to the Cross Florida Barge Canal to secure water supply  
2 from the Gulf, and heavy load path access.

3           An aerial view. Now, as you can see here, this site  
4 is not what you would call pristine. It has been used for  
5 silviculture purposes for many, many years. And as you can see  
6 it has been heavily timbered. In fact, that cleared out area  
7 in the middle is where Unit 1 would go, and the cleared out  
8 area which has already been cleared before we bought the  
9 property would be Unit 2.

10           Now, if you refer to the handout that I gave you, the  
11 11-by-17 which shows transmission, and I would refer the  
12 audience to the maps on either side. The Levy project is going  
13 to require the construction of significant new high voltage  
14 transmission lines to interconnect and integrate this plant to  
15 the grid. The maps on the easels, and which I have handed out  
16 to you, generally show in the light green area the general  
17 areas under consideration. Only a subset of these will  
18 actually be chosen for transmission.

19           Now, we understand and we appreciate the potential  
20 impact of building the high voltage transmission lines on  
21 people's property and on the environment. We take it very  
22 seriously. And that is why we have engaged in one of the  
23 largest and most comprehensive public outreach programs in our  
24 state's history for this type of project. Since last year, for  
25 many months we have worked with local officials, homeowners

1 associations, property owners, agencies, key leaders,  
2 environmentalists, to talk about what are the best corridors.

3           In February and March of this year alone we held 13  
4 open houses across ten counties that will likely be impacted,  
5 and mailed out over 100,000 letters to anyone within one mile  
6 of a potential corridor to tell them to come out and listen to  
7 what they had to say. We are incorporating that feedback and  
8 information we received throughout this outreach program to  
9 finally determine what are those corridors that we are going to  
10 identify to put in our site certification application that will  
11 be filed with the Department of Environmental Protection in  
12 June of this year.

13           Now, speaking of timelines, this just gives you a  
14 graphic on Slide 9 of the major milestones. Some of the major  
15 upcoming dates are as I have mentioned, the site certification  
16 application which will be going to the DEP in June of '08,  
17 dealing with all of the environment impacts of the site. We  
18 plan to file our combined construction and operating license  
19 application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in  
20 Washington, D.C. in July of '08, and we plan on pouring  
21 safety-related concrete on the plant in 2012.

22           Now, to the heart of the matter, why we're here.  
23 Just a brief overview of the need. On March 11th, as you know,  
24 we filed our need application, which details why the Levy units  
25 are the cost-effective means of meeting our need when you take

1 into account all the factors of the Power Plant Siting Act. A  
2 word or two on each of these factors. On Slide 10,  
3 reliability. Given our continued growth, as this chart shows,  
4 without Levy units we're going to fall well below the  
5 20 reserve margin in the summer of 2016. And what we're going  
6 to do is we are going to build two units back-to-back in  
7 2016/2017, and we expect to achieve significant cost savings by  
8 gaining economies of scale, achieving efficiencies, and  
9 maintaining a skilled work force while you build those two  
10 plants together, and obtaining O&M savings over the life of the  
11 plant.

12 Now, that said, we continue to negotiate with  
13 potential joint owners in this project. We think that that may  
14 have some benefits by, one, spreading the capital risk of such  
15 a large project; two, reducing the initial price impact to our  
16 customers; and, three, smoothing out any of the reserve margins  
17 in the out years.

18 Fuel diversity, a critical issue. Adding new carbon  
19 free nuclear generation is going to be critical to improving  
20 the fuel diversity of Progress Energy Florida, increasing our  
21 energy independence, and helping to reduce price volatility.  
22 Now, without new nuclear, what this pie shows is 85 percent of  
23 the energy that we produce will be from fossil fuels in 2018.  
24 If we add Levy Unit 1 and 2, that goes down to 60 percent. So  
25 when you look at that blue piece of the pie, that's a fairly

1 fixed and stable price, whereas that other 85 percent of that  
2 pie is the more volatile carbon intensive piece of that pie.

3 Speaking about volatility. On Slide 12, as you can  
4 see, fossil fuel prices have increased dramatically over the  
5 last ten years. In fact, our customers have seen a 40 percent  
6 increase in their bills simply due to fuel. If you look at the  
7 red line, that's natural gas. If you look at the yellow line,  
8 that's oil prices over the last decade. You can see how  
9 stratospheric they have gone. The white line at the bottom is  
10 nuclear fuel. So when you go back to that previous slide and  
11 you see that blue wedge, that's nuclear. That's a stable,  
12 fixed, and depreciating asset.

13 Fuel security. I think we all remember vividly the  
14 2004/2005 hurricane seasons. Progress Energy Florida, and all  
15 other investor-owned utilities, and all utilities in Florida  
16 really depend heavily on natural gas production from the Gulf  
17 of Mexico. There are two pipelines taking that gas into the  
18 state. One, the blue line, is a cross-Gulf pipeline. That was  
19 subject to severe disruptions during the '04/'05 hurricane  
20 seasons. You don't get that with nuclear fuel.

21 Climate change; carbon. A hot topic, no pun  
22 intended, right now. Levy Units 1 and 2 emit no greenhouse  
23 gases and will contribute towards significant and meaningful  
24 reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on our system and for  
25 the state. This chart shows the reduction in emissions



1 resulting from nuclear power when you compare it to coal,  
2 that's the top line, that would be our emissions profile if you  
3 build a coal plant, against natural gas, that is that middle  
4 dotted line, and the dark blue line is nuclear power.

5 Now, if you see that dotted dashed line at the  
6 bottom, those are 1990 levels of carbon. That is what the  
7 governor is targeting utilities to get to by 2025. As you can  
8 see, without 2200 megawatts from the Levy units, that dark blue  
9 line, you will never get to those 1990 limits regardless of  
10 what you do.

11 Cost-effectiveness, a critical issue; and I know many  
12 people in this room are interested in, the Levy units are  
13 cost-effective. This chart on Slide 15 is derived from our  
14 need study. And really what it shows is in most reasonable  
15 scenarios, the plants are the lowest cost to consumers when you  
16 compare them against building only natural gas plants. The  
17 fuel savings alone for these plants will be about a billion  
18 dollars a year annually, or \$92 billion over the life of the  
19 units.

20 The carbon savings, the cost to customers to pay for  
21 carbon is probably another billion dollars a year. So if you  
22 believe, as we do, that natural gas, oil, and coal prices will  
23 continue to rise, fossil fuel prices are going to continue to  
24 rise, that there is going to be more than minimal carbon  
25 regulation in the foreseeable future, these plants are the

1 right thing to build.

2           Now, on the other hand, if you don't believe that, if  
3 you think that natural gas prices and oil prices are only going  
4 to go down significantly over time, and that there will be no  
5 carbon regulation, then you don't build these plants. That's  
6 really the crux of the issue here.

7           The other issue that I think everybody is familiar  
8 with and concerned with, as are we, are the price impact to our  
9 customers. And we are mindful of any impact on our customers'  
10 bill. Now, as one can see, however, if you look at Slide 16,  
11 and the red line, that's the average annual price increase for  
12 all PEF electric service, including the Levy plants, and that  
13 is projected to be about a 3 to 4 percent annual increase. You  
14 can see that is below inflation and it's below the historical  
15 CPI rate. So even with Levy, we are still below inflation.

16           Now, I want to emphasize, too, this doesn't even  
17 include carbon costs. So if there are costs associated with  
18 carbon that come in, the Levy plants are going to help mitigate  
19 any upward price pressure on our customers.

20           So, finally, to sum up, we need a balanced solution  
21 to secure Florida's energy future. That must include energy  
22 efficiency, it must include renewable energy sources, and it  
23 must include advanced nuclear power plants. We recognize that  
24 these plants are going to have a high initial capital cost.  
25 That's a fact when you compare it against natural gas. But we

1 should not be making energy decisions today looking only at the  
2 next five to ten years. We have got to look at this more  
3 globally for the next 50 to 60 years for this state.

4 So, as such, the company and the state, we believe,  
5 should not put all of its eggs in the natural gas basket. The  
6 Levy units are cost-effective. They are a critical and  
7 necessary hedge against volatile fossil fuel prices, and they  
8 will be a key to providing carbon-free reliable power to our  
9 customers.

10 I want to thank you, and we look forward to  
11 presenting our case to you next month.

12 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Mr. Glenn.

13 Before we go forward, I also wanted to take an  
14 opportunity to introduce from the Office of Public Counsel,  
15 Mr. Steve Burgess.

16 Mr. Burgess, you're recognized, sir. Welcome.

17 **MR. BURGESS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would  
18 just like to express my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and  
19 to the Commission for scheduling and organizing this event. It  
20 demonstrates your recognition of the importance of public input  
21 in your process. And I would also like to thank the good  
22 people that have come out tonight, and to tell you that the  
23 reason that we are here from our office, and the reason that  
24 everybody is here is because we are interested in knowing what  
25 you have to say. Your input is important to the process, and

1 so I look forward to hearing what you, the public, have to say  
2 in this proceeding.

3 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

5 Also, before I ask you to stand and swear everyone  
6 in, is that from time to time as you come up, please state your  
7 name, and it may help with the spelling for our court reporter,  
8 because all of this is being put in the transcript, and also  
9 note that you may have questions from the bench, from the  
10 Commissioners who may have questions, or the parties who may  
11 have questions. But I just kind of wanted to let you know  
12 that.

13 What we are going to try to do, as much as possible,  
14 I'm going to try to find out how many people we have here,  
15 because I want to try to hear from as many people as possible  
16 to get this opportunity and to have public input on the record.  
17 So as we deliberate we can look and see and understand what our  
18 neighbors have to say about this issue. And, actually, I'm  
19 fumbling because I want staff to kind of give me a note to let  
20 me know how many people are here so I can kind of determine how  
21 many -- I'm torn between three to four minutes a person. But  
22 before I do that, I want to make sure that I've got an ample  
23 amount of time. We want to hear from everybody that's here.

24 If you could excuse me one second, please.

25 (Off the record.)

1           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Those of you that are interested in  
2 testifying in this matter here before the Public Service  
3 Commission, would you please -- I have to swear you in as a  
4 group -- would you please stand and raise your right hand,  
5 everyone that's interested in giving testimony this afternoon.

6           (Witnesses collectively sworn.)

7           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you. You may be seated.

8           Again, as you come up, for the court reporter, please  
9 spell your name. That would be very helpful to her. And say  
10 it, too. But the first thing is that I understand that we have  
11 the Mayor of Crystal River, Mayor Ron Kitchen.

12           Mr. Mayor, would you, please -- you're recognized,  
13 sir.

14           **MR. KITCHEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the  
15 Commission. First of all, I would like to say how much we  
16 greatly appreciate you coming to Crystal River instead of all  
17 of us going to Tallahassee. It really is wonderful that you  
18 would come into the community and hold this hearing here. So,  
19 I just want to thank you for that. And on behalf of the City  
20 of Crystal River and all the folks in the area here, I just  
21 welcome you here, and hope you have a good time. Stay as long  
22 as you want, and please come back again soon. And at whatever  
23 the appropriate time is, I would have a comment to enter into  
24 the record, too. So, just let me know.

25           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We really

1 appreciate the hospitality, and the restaurants, and the gas  
2 stations, and the fine lodging establishments.

3 Also we have here from the Board of County  
4 Commissioners, Commissioner Joyce Valentino.

5 Commissioner. Good afternoon.

6 MS. VALENTINO: Good afternoon and welcome, Mr.  
7 Chairman, and the rest of the Commission.

8 I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you  
9 for being here today and providing the opportunity for the  
10 residents to give their input regarding this very important  
11 matter. And I hope that your stay here has been very pleasant.  
12 Thank you.

13 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you so kindly.

14 Commissioners, Mr. Mayor said he also wanted to go on  
15 the record. So if it is appropriate, I would like to recognize  
16 him at this point in time.

17 Mr. Mayor, you're recognized, sir.

18 MAYOR RON KITCHEN

19 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
20 testified as follows:

21 DIRECT STATEMENT

22 MAYOR KITCHEN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

23 And I will be very brief. I just want to say that from the  
24 elected officials of the City of Crystal River, we are  
25 100 percent behind this project. Well, I probably should say

1 99 percent. We wanted it at the Crystal River location. But I  
2 guess it will be the second best choice, that's what we have  
3 said. Our elected officials embrace the project for many of  
4 the reasons just given, and so I just wanted to go on the  
5 record to let you know that the City of Crystal River very much  
6 welcomes this project.

7 Thank you.

8 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

9 If there are any other elected officials whose name I  
10 didn't have, I don't want to overlook you. As a courtesy, we  
11 try -- I know you've got a busy schedule. You may have four or  
12 five meetings on one day, but we try as much as possible to  
13 accommodate our elected officials. Any other public officials  
14 that want to testify on the record that I don't have your name  
15 or didn't call you? Okay.

16 Ms. Bennett, you're recognized.

17 **MS. BENNETT:** Mr. Chair, members of the audience, we  
18 find that in the past calling three names at a time and call  
19 them in the order works the best. So I will go ahead and call  
20 the first three names, and then you can come up and speak in  
21 that order. When the last speaker speaks, I will call the next  
22 three names.

23 So, with that, Amanda Douglas, Carol McQueen, and  
24 Doug King. Amanda Douglas first.

25 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** And if you forget, or if you're

1 from South Georgia, we'll repeat it. We have to have things  
2 over and over for us.

3 AMANDA DOUGLAS

4 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
5 testified as follows:

6 DIRECT STATEMENT

7 **MS. DOUGLAS:** Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman.  
8 Commissioners, thanks for having us.

9 Amanda Douglas, D-O-U-G-L-A-S, Executive Director of  
10 the Nature Coast Business Development Council. We are the  
11 economic development representative for Levy County.

12 I'll be brief. We are just here to provide a  
13 positive voice and support of the proposed nuclear power plant.  
14 The Nature Coast Business Development Council tries to  
15 stimulate economic growth and find ways to provide jobs and  
16 increase revenue, and we believe this is a rare opportunity for  
17 Levy County, and we are eager to see Progress Energy move  
18 forward.

19 Economic development is about creating sustainable  
20 wealth and improving the quality of life in our communities by  
21 increasing prosperity, creating high quality jobs, creating new  
22 personal income, advancing private enterprise, productive use  
23 of local businesses and resources, and broadening the tax base.  
24 And all of these things we feel that the proposed plant will be  
25 able to accomplish. So I think that we can all agree that



1 along with the Nature Coast Business Development Council, Levy  
2 County has a major stake in this project, and we eagerly  
3 anticipate the coming progress and improvement that this  
4 project will bring.

5 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Ms. Douglas. Hang on  
6 one second before you go.

7 Commissioners, any questions?

8 Thank you so kindly.

9 **MS. DOUGLAS:** Thank you.

10 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett, next.

11 **MS. BENNETT:** Carol McQueen.

12 CAROL MCQUEEN

13 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
14 testified as follows:

15 DIRECT STATEMENT

16 **MS. McQUEEN:** Good afternoon. My name is Carol  
17 McQueen, just like Steve. No relation. I wish.

18 Good afternoon. My name is Carol McQueen, and I  
19 serve as chair for the Nature Coast Business Development  
20 Council in Levy County, Florida. I'm a life-long resident of  
21 Florida, and have lived the past 30 years within just a 50-mile  
22 radius of Progress Energy's nuclear power plant and coal power  
23 plant in Crystal River. Seventeen of those 30 years I have  
24 served as an elected mayor for the City of Fanning Springs.

25 As Mayor and Chair of the Nature Coast Business

1 Development Council, I have witnessed firsthand Progress  
2 Energy's commitment to building strong partnerships and their  
3 hands-on commitment to the community. They have created good  
4 jobs in Crystal River and have assisted in providing stronger  
5 communities by strengthening the economy within those  
6 communities.

7           For the past 30 years, they have been excellent  
8 neighbors. Levy and Citrus County have been living in the  
9 shadow of Progress Energy's nuclear and coal power plants for  
10 30 years and they have proven with their operation,  
11 maintenance, and safety record to demonstrate their concern and  
12 partnership within those communities. We are not plowing new  
13 ground here with a nuclear power plant scheduled to go within  
14 ten miles of one that has been here for 30 years, to my  
15 knowledge, and Mr. Glenn said it has been over 50 years. I  
16 think he is probably right.

17           We must begin now to support Governor Crist's  
18 initiative for nuclear power in our state to reduce our state's  
19 dependency on fossil fuels and to decrease global warming. How  
20 else are we going to meet the growing needs of power for not  
21 only the existing Floridians that are in our state, me being  
22 one, but also for the 1,200 new residents that come to Florida  
23 every day. It's an awesome task.

24           Electricity in Florida is not a luxury and  
25 certainly -- we need it. It is a necessity and we need it for

1 sustainability. We need adequate and reliable power. We need  
2 this plant. The Nature Coast Business Development Council just  
3 last week voted unanimously to send a positive recommendation  
4 to this Commission for the construction and operation of  
5 Progress Energy's nuclear power plant in Levy County.

6 I ask that you support this project. It makes sense  
7 in several areas. Economically with both direct and indirect  
8 job creation, environmentally for decreasing global warming,  
9 affordable and efficient energy cost less to produce with  
10 nuclear power. And I guess the fourth and final most thing  
11 that is most important to me living in Levy County is Progress  
12 Energy has earned the trust of our community by being a great  
13 corporation to work with and around.

14 Thank you for this opportunity.

15 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** One second, Ms. McQueen.

16 Commissioners, any questions? Parties? Thank you so  
17 very much.

18 Ms. Bennett.

19 **MS. BENNETT:** Doug King.

20 DOUG KING

21 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
22 testified as follows:

23 DIRECT STATEMENT

24 MR. KING: Hi. My name is Doug King, K-I-N-G. I'm a  
25 businessman in Chiefland, Florida, third-generation Levy County

1 resident. I want to welcome Progress Energy to our county.

2 Levy County is a rural community with a very small  
3 tax base. We have needs just like big counties. Our county  
4 struggles to pay bills, pave roads, and our children are going  
5 to school in portable classrooms in Levy County. Our children  
6 are graduating each year from high school in Levy County,  
7 including my own children at one time, and having to move away  
8 to different counties and different cities in the state of  
9 Florida to find jobs with the hope of moving back to our county  
10 one day.

11 A nuclear power plant is good clean industry and is  
12 going to provide good paying jobs that we very badly need in  
13 Levy County. Again, I would just like to welcome -- as a  
14 businessman, and as a resident, and as a father of children, I  
15 would like to welcome Progress Energy to our county.

16 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you. One second. Any  
17 questions, Commissioners? Thank you.

18 Ms. Bennett.

19 **MS. BENNETT:** The next three, Renate Cannon, Barney  
20 Cannon, and Randy Welker.

21 RENATE CANNON

22 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
23 testified as follows:

24 DIRECT STATEMENT

25 MS. CANNON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,

1 Commissioners. Before I say anything else, I would like to  
2 thank you that you took the effort and trouble to come to  
3 Crystal River to give us a chance to address your board with  
4 whatever support or concerns we might have.

5 I'm here to 100 percent express my support for the  
6 construction of these two power plants, and for the reason that  
7 it will be a clean fuel, a reliable fuel, and a safe fuel at a  
8 reasonable cost. Natural gas is much more expensive. Carbon  
9 has expense cost problems, plus emission problems. And I have  
10 read carefully the information that has been disseminated  
11 tonight by the applicant, and I understand that the earliest  
12 time frame for operation of the plant following the processing  
13 progress -- I mean, the permitting progress, forgive me, will  
14 be 2016/2017 for Unit 1 and 2 respectively.

15 By then you will have another population explosion in  
16 the state. This slump that is currently plaguing us will not  
17 last forever, and it will be very good for the state and its  
18 population and, especially for the citizens of Levy County, if  
19 the energy is there by the time it is needed. And it may  
20 already be a little behind in the time frame.

21 I am a resident of Levy County. I'm sorry, I forgot  
22 to say my name. That is spelled R like Richard, E like echo, N  
23 like Nancy, A like you atom, T like time, E like echo, last  
24 name Cannon like the big weapon. (Laughter.) And I didn't  
25 mean to break the rules, Mr. Chairman.

1                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** That's okay, you're fine.

2                   MS. CANNON: And this is like a CON application for  
3 the hospital, a certificate of need is what I mean, okay? And  
4 we have got the Chiefland Hospital. Wouldn't it be darling if  
5 you would bless us with these two power plants to power that  
6 new hospital.

7                   Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your kindness and your  
8 patience.

9                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you. Wait one second,  
10 Ms. Cannon.

11                   Commissioner Argenziano, you're recognized.

12                   **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** I know Renate very well,  
13 and this is the calmest I have ever seen her. (Laughter.)

14                   I thank you for your constant involvement in your  
15 community. I'm glad to see you.

16                   MS. CANNON: Thank you, ma'am.

17                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett. Hold on, I'm going to  
18 have to exercise some Chairman's prerogative. The three names  
19 is not working for me. One at a time so I can get the name. I  
20 realize I'm from South Georgia, but work with me. One at a  
21 time. Who do we have next.

22                   **MS. BENNETT:** Mr. Cannon. Barnett Cannon.

23                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay, thank you. Mr. Cannon.

24   BARNEY CANNON

25 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,

1 testified as follows:

2 DIRECT STATEMENT

3 MR. CANNON: That's Barney, such as the purple  
4 dinosaur, Cannon like the big gun. (Laughter.)

5 There is not much I can say that hasn't been said  
6 already, and I support everything that has been said. We  
7 definitely need this plant. Historically, we have needed this  
8 plant for about 20, 30 years. The feds said we can't build  
9 except to the old plans. Now, the rest of the world has got  
10 the new plans, they have got the new plants in place, and we  
11 are playing catch up.

12 Several people have said, oh, I have been in Levy  
13 County for six generations, blah, blah, blah. Okay, fine. I'm  
14 only a fifth generation Floridan on the white side. On the red  
15 side we were waving when Columbus came over the horizon. So I  
16 am definitely a Floridian. I support Florida. I was a member  
17 of the Air Force. I have lived on five continents. Not  
18 visited, lived. I have seen what other people do in other  
19 countries, and we are definitely playing catch up. I am in  
20 favor of this project all the way. Thank you very much.

21 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Commissioners? Thank you,  
22 Mr. Cannon.

23 Ms. Bennett.

24 **MS. BENNETT:** Randy Welker.

25 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Randy -- say that last name again,

1 please?

2 **MS. BENNETT:** Welker.

3 RANDY WELKER

4 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
5 testified as follows:

6 DIRECT STATEMENT

7 MR. WELKER: Yes. My son is Wes Welker. No, he's  
8 not. He played football; he played for New England.

9 It's Randy Welker, W-E-L-K-E-R. And, first, I wanted  
10 to thank the Commission, all the Commission for coming. And I  
11 do like both of your ties. Very, very nice. I apologize for  
12 not wearing one today. And you all look very nice, too.

13 (Laughter.)

14 Again, Randy Welker. I'm the Executive Director for  
15 the Economic Development Council for Citrus County. And  
16 obviously I'm very jealous. I congratulate Amanda Douglas for  
17 her comments, and I probably will fall in line saying the same  
18 things and try not to say it over and over again. But we are  
19 very, very pleased with the prospects of this occurring.

20 Obviously, the reliable, safe, and adequate amount of  
21 energy is extremely important to any economic development  
22 effort that's going on. We expect to see the economic  
23 development efforts to continue to grow in both of our  
24 counties. We expect to see companies have opportunities here.  
25 So this is extremely important for the welfare of our community



1 and for its ability to attract jobs. So I thank all of you for  
2 considering this. I also want to thank Progress Energy,  
3 because they have been very responsible in bringing the  
4 community forward and asking them for their assistance.

5 I did have the opportunity to participate in one of  
6 their sessions, and we received for two days a lot of  
7 information about what was going to happen, but also asking for  
8 our input, making sure that they were doing the right thing.  
9 So, again, I thank you all. I hope that you all will support  
10 this.

11 We do rely on you to make sure that it is done  
12 properly. We do rely on your Commission to make sure that all  
13 the other things that we don't understand -- I am not a nuclear  
14 energy specialist by any sense of the imagine, but I do  
15 understand economies. And I can say from my standpoint this is  
16 a very, very positive thing. So now we rely on you all to make  
17 sure that it is done properly and hopefully that it is done in  
18 a timely fashion, because it is extremely important to get it  
19 done. So, anyway, thank you very much.

20 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** When you said New England that's  
21 what threw me off. (Laughter.)

22 Ms. Bennett.

23 **MS. BENNETT:** Norman Hopkins.

24 NORMAN HOPKINS

25 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,

1 testified as follows:

2 DIRECT STATEMENT

3 MR. HOPKINS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and  
4 Commissioners. My name is Norman Hopkins, spelled  
5 H-O-P-K-I-N-S, and I'm speaking today to exercise a word of  
6 caution. There is a tremendous groundswell and there are great  
7 arguments in favor of what is being proposed in Levy County,  
8 but I want to mention a couple of issues which will effect and  
9 impact this community severely. And it will effect the economy  
10 of this community because of its dependency upon the quality of  
11 water and the water resources which are used for the economy in  
12 this area.

13 I don't know how much water you will be consuming on  
14 these two plants, but it could and probably would influence the  
15 level of the water in the aquifer. Already we are suffering  
16 severely from intrusion from the heavier saltier more mineral  
17 water underneath the fresh water. And the fresh water coming  
18 into this area is coming mainly from the north, very close to  
19 the area where you are proposing to have the plants. So  
20 naturally we have a serious concern that the offtake of water  
21 to provide for the electricity is going to deplete seriously  
22 the quantity of water and will increase the degradation of the  
23 water quality which is enjoyed in this locality for the good of  
24 the people who live here, and recreate here, but also those who  
25 work here.

1           And I will ask you to take that into account  
2 seriously as you consider what you are doing or what is being  
3 done both in respect to the building of the plants, and the  
4 operation of the plants, and the distribution of the  
5 electricity through the transmission lines which are going to  
6 go through this area and many other areas.

7           If they could go underground, we would have less of a  
8 problem. But it requires clearing of huge tracts of  
9 ecologically sensitive land to have that happen. I know you  
10 said at the beginning that ecology was the substance of another  
11 meeting or another forum, but I'm proposing to you that this  
12 should be considered on the basis of the impact that would  
13 happen on the communities, the economic health of those  
14 communities. And I thank you. If you have any questions, I  
15 would be glad to answer them.

16           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

17           Ms. Bennett.

18           **MS. BENNETT:** Morris Harvey.

19   MORRIS HARVEY

20           appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
21 testified as follows:

22   DIRECT STATEMENT

23           **MR. HARVEY:** Good afternoon, Chairman and  
24 Commissioners. My name is Morris Harvey. The last name is  
25 Harvey, vice versa. It happens all the time at the doctor's

1 office, I'm Mr. Morris.

2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I hope you don't go into surgery  
3 like that. Just kidding. (Laughter.)

4           MR. HARVEY: Yes, sir.

5           I am representing the Citrus County Council Fiscal  
6 Watch Committee. The Citrus County Council is an umbrella  
7 organization made up of delegates from 15 civic and homeowner  
8 associations, and also some environmental groups. We certainly  
9 support economic development, but we do have concerns about the  
10 environment and about how it is paid for. And one of the  
11 issues I want to raise today is how you are going to pay for  
12 this. And it isn't really directed toward Progress Energy,  
13 it's in general.

14           But in this specific case we are talking about a  
15 \$17 billion cost, including the transmission lines, and this is  
16 going to be transferred onto the customers that exist now. We  
17 consider this as a new tax imposed by you and the legislature  
18 on existing citizens to pay for future growth. Many citizens  
19 are required to pay the tax -- or who are required to pay the  
20 tax -- will not benefit from these expansions. This method of  
21 taxation places a huge burden on low and fixed income citizens  
22 who are being forced to subsidize the new growth.

23           Progress Energy Florida reports they are adding  
24 35,000 new homes and businesses a year, and because homes are  
25 bigger with central air, computers, large screen TVs, and all

1 our modern appliances, the average home today uses much more  
2 electricity than ever before. We believe that a more proper  
3 way to pay for this would be through high impact fees on these  
4 new high load businesses and homes, and this would be the  
5 proper approach to raising these funds. We would like that  
6 situation to be reconsidered.

7 Thank you.

8 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Mr. Harvey.

9 Ms. Bennett.

10 GEORGE ELIAS

11 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
12 testified as follows:

13 DIRECT STATEMENT

14 MR. ELIAS: Good afternoon. It is the last name,  
15 Elias, E-L-I-A-S. I'm a resident of Inverness. I would like  
16 to speak briefly in a nontechnical way about nuclear risk.  
17 We have all received the letter probably, most of us, to the  
18 effect that if we're rear-ended our gas tank is going to catch  
19 fire, or if we press a little too hard on the brake pedal maybe  
20 we are going to lose our brakes, and we better get out car back  
21 to the dealer, and that car that we have already paid a lot of  
22 money for isn't working right and they've got to fix it up.

23 The letter that I don't want to get is from the power  
24 company and it goes like this: It says, oh, sorry to inform  
25 you that we have had a little leak, and on that day the wind

1 happened to be blowing towards Inverness. Of course, we have  
2 no control over that. There is a power up above that declares  
3 which way the winds blows. But you have been exposed to some  
4 radioactivity, and you may die in six months. We're sorry  
5 about that, and have a good day.

6 I make these examples to say the risk factor is  
7 there. Anything designed by man and made by man has problems.  
8 Just the other day the Russian reentry capsule came in  
9 backwards and almost killed them all. The risk is there. I  
10 don't think there has been a nuclear plant built -- been built  
11 in the U.S. in some 20-odd years. Where is the experienced  
12 company that's going to design this new one? I just found out  
13 today it was Westinghouse. What is their track record? Maybe  
14 we should be looking at reactors in France where they seem to  
15 have a very successful safety record with their reactors.

16 Again, don't forget about Three Mile River,  
17 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Chernobyl, the Soviet Union. Those  
18 were real dramatic releases of radioactivity. There have  
19 probably been many, many others of less consequence. Maybe  
20 some we don't even know of from China and interior Russia.

21 I'm scared. Fortunately, we have had one reactor  
22 on-line here and never had a big problem. You're going to add  
23 some more. You are only increasing the risk that that event is  
24 going to happen.

25 If I'm going to have my knee replaced, I will look

1 around for a surgeon who has had a lot of experience. I know  
2 you probably make a lot of study with your plan to go ahead  
3 with Westinghouse, I have nothing against Westinghouse, but  
4 have they built anything recently? I mean, have their designs  
5 incorporated some safety features, the latest things, the  
6 latest technology? I would like to make sure that they did.

7 Another consideration. When I go to the toilet and  
8 flush it, I create waste. I either have to pay to put in a  
9 septic system or pay taxes to a municipality to build a sewage  
10 treatment plant. I think if you, as a corporation, are going  
11 to create waste that is deadly in nature, you better get on it  
12 and find out what the safe solution to the disposal of that  
13 waste is.

14 That's all I have. Thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

16 Commissioners, any questions? Thank you so kindly.

17 Ms. Bennett.

18 **MS. BENNETT:** Robert Brinkman.

19 ROBERT BRINKMAN

20 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
21 testified as follows:

22 DIRECT STATEMENT

23 BY MR. BRINKMAN:

24 Good evening, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. The  
25 last name is spelled B, as in blue, R-I-N-K-M-A-N. I want to

1 thank you for having this service hearing here in the region of  
2 the proposed nuclear plants. The Sierra Club,  
3 Suwannee/St. Johns group has over 2,000 members in 14 counties  
4 of north central Florida, including Levy County. Many of these  
5 members are served by Progress Energy Florida or are served by  
6 potential partners in the proposed nuclear plant. And I want  
7 to note for those of you in the audience who are unfamiliar  
8 with the Sierra Club, that the Sierra Club is the country's  
9 largest and oldest grassroots based environmental organization  
10 whose motto is to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. And  
11 it is for that last purpose that I am here.

12 The Sierra Club policy opposes nuclear power because  
13 all current plant designs are complex, prone to accidents, and  
14 have severe security vulnerabilities. Nuclear waste  
15 transportation, storage, and disposal problems remain unsolved.  
16 The Sierra Club will continue to oppose nuclear power unless  
17 these deficiencies are eliminated, and I would like to note  
18 that the Sierra Club has had this policy for over 30 years and  
19 we are still waiting to address these deficiencies, such as  
20 disposal of nuclear waste.

21 Florida Statutes specify the considerations for the  
22 determination of need of a nuclear power plant, including fuel  
23 diversity, reducing air emissions compliance costs, long-term  
24 grid reliability, reducing over-reliance on oil and natural  
25 gas, and the need for electricity at reasonable cost. Although



1 Progress Energy asserts on its website that nuclear power  
2 plants are economical baseload generation, they also candidly  
3 state that were it not for the Renewable Technology and Energy  
4 Efficiency Act of 2006, they would not be building any nuclear  
5 power plants in Florida. This is significant, because if  
6 nuclear power is the viable option proponents claim it to be,  
7 it should not need the subsidies and risk mitigation being  
8 provided by Federal and Florida law.

9 A determination of need will allow Progress to shift  
10 the capital costs of the development and construction of this  
11 plant and the risk inherent in that from its investors to its  
12 customers. Between federal loan guarantees and the early  
13 cost-recovery provisions of Florida law, the customer taxpayer  
14 will bear the cost and risks of development of this project.  
15 Traditional theories of capitalism hold that businesses make  
16 money by taking risk. The more risk, the more profit  
17 potential.

18 The current regulatory framework abandons this  
19 fundamental principle and leaves the customer with the risk and  
20 the costs, but none of the profit. While estimated  
21 construction costs have tripled in the time since this project  
22 was first announced, Progress Energy admits on its website that  
23 it does not yet have a commitment from its major supplier,  
24 Westinghouse. How can there be any assurance given that  
25 nuclear power would be the most cost-effective available

1 resource as required for the determination of need when the  
2 only certainty with respect to cost is that it will certainly  
3 continue to go up.

4           The history of civilian nuclear power in the United  
5 States is replete with instances of cost overruns, schedule  
6 delays, and even project cancellations after substantial sums  
7 of money have been spent. Progress Energy has anticipated the  
8 possibility of cost increases of as much as 25 percent, yet  
9 long-term experience demonstrate that orders of magnitude  
10 increases are more likely. The nuclear industry promises all  
11 of those problems have been addressed, all the previous  
12 problems have been addressed, yet the proposed reactor design  
13 has never been built.

14           Indeed, the only so-called advanced reactor design  
15 currently under construction in the entire world is in Finland,  
16 and there they are two years behind schedule and nearly a  
17 billion dollars over budget. Many of the problems experienced  
18 in Finland are reminiscent of experiences decades ago in this  
19 country. Substandard concrete pours, pipes that do not pass  
20 inspection, and generally poor quality control.

21           One of the criteria in a needs determination is grid  
22 reliability. The events of February 26th, 2008, the Turkey  
23 Point Nuclear units were forced off-line due to loss of  
24 off-site power after a problem at a substation in Miami,  
25 demonstrating that nuclear power plants are uniquely vulnerable

1 to grid instability caused by relatively minor problems or  
2 human errors.

3 Another criterion for need determination is reduction  
4 in emissions compliance cost. Among these are potential carbon  
5 emission costs. But carbon emissions must be considered in a  
6 complete fuel cycle context. Besides the extensive energy  
7 required to mine and transport uranium --

8 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Excuse me. Are you about close  
9 to --

10 **MR. BRINKMAN:** I am.

11 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I've given you wide latitude. I do  
12 want to hear from as many people as possible.

13 **MR. BRINKMAN:** I appreciate that.

14 The total fuel cycle, along with the embodied  
15 inventory of a nuclear power plant will make its emissions  
16 comparable to that of a natural gas cogeneration plant. There  
17 are better alternatives to nuclear power, both in terms of  
18 emissions and cost to consumers. Among these are cogeneration  
19 plants, renewables, including wind, solar, and biomass, which  
20 are all available here, and energy efficiency and conservation.

21 I'll skip on down. In conclusion, the Sierra Club  
22 urges the Public Service Commission to deny the certificate of  
23 need for the proposed nuclear plants in Levy County, as you did  
24 to FPL's Glades Coal Power Plant, because the costs and  
25 uncertainties were too high. The customer taxpayers should not

1 bear all the cost and risks while the investors in Progress  
2 Energy reap the rewards.

3 And a final thought. The predictions of the  
4 International Panel on Climate Change for the rate of melting  
5 of ice in the polar regions forecasted to occur in the next  
6 30 years are already happening now. If sea level rises as  
7 quickly as suggested by these early changes, how will Progress  
8 Energy move their nuclear power plants to keep them out of the  
9 rising Gulf of Mexico?

10 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

11 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

12 Ms. Bennett.

13 **MS. BENNETT:** Art Jones.

14 ART JONES

15 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
16 testified as follows:

17 DIRECT STATEMENT

18 **MR. JONES:** Hi. My name is Art Jones. I live here  
19 in Crystal River, Florida. I have a degree in math/science  
20 from Columbia University in New York. I understand nuclear  
21 power, and the concept behind it is a good thing, but as the  
22 gentleman from the Sierra Club pointed out, they have never  
23 addressed the final issue of the waste product. And I think he  
24 is right that we really need to make sure that we have figured  
25 out what we are doing with the waste before we go ahead and

1 build some more.

2           However, I do have a very viable solution for  
3 Progress Energy. It is called photovoltaics. It is just  
4 generating electricity from the sun. Now, General Electric has  
5 a wide range of solar solutions. Customers are able to  
6 generate power from the sun with zero pollution and air  
7 emissions from larger systems like the one running Napa's first  
8 100 percent solar winery to an increasing number of home  
9 builders incorporating solar into the communities they build.  
10 This is helping businesses and homeowners manage their energy  
11 costs while reducing their dependence on fossil fuels.

12           And it's just a very simple diagram, and it shows how  
13 we can put these solar panels right on their roof, and they are  
14 available now -- (applause) -- and they will produce  
15 electricity for the home. Exactly. In this way, the  
16 homeowner, when there is excess energy, it can sell power back  
17 into the grid. Now we are talking about really lowering cost  
18 to the homeowners. So this is a solution that if Progress  
19 Energy started spending some of that \$17 billion they've got  
20 committed into the community on these type of programs, you  
21 see, the payback would be immediate. We're talking about  
22 creating jobs today for our workers today in the home-building  
23 fields.

24           So it just makes a lot more sense to invest in  
25 something like that that will show real benefits to the

1 consumer so that over time their electric bills are going down,  
2 down, down, instead of up, up, up. Maybe they will even get to  
3 the point where they are getting a check in the mail every  
4 month for excess energy being used.

5 Now, I know when I spoke to some Progress Energy  
6 people, they said that, well, the problem, Art, is that we need  
7 that peak power surge. It is usually in the mornings in the  
8 winter when there is this big demand for electricity. And I  
9 said, well, that's great, I know, but during the day you're  
10 putting all the energy into the system; when you need that big  
11 surge, that is when you throw some extra coal on the fire, or  
12 you fire up those plants that we already have.

13 And also, one more point. On the nuclear power, the  
14 plant in Crystal River is, I guess, 50 years old or so. When  
15 is that going to be decommissioned? These plants weren't built  
16 to last forever. So if they really want to build another  
17 nuclear power plant, wouldn't it make more sense to build it  
18 right next to the one that's already there, so when that one  
19 goes to be decommissioned, that the new one will be ready to go  
20 on-line there, and then you are using the existing power  
21 corridors and the existing systems that are already there.

22 So I really like the idea of solar power and  
23 photovoltaics. I think it's something that we can do now, and  
24 I think it is a very viable option. And I think that Progress  
25 Energy has a lot of really good people working for them, and I

1 think that they can do better than this. I really do. I think  
2 they can do better than this. Florida is the Sunshine State,  
3 and I think we really should lead the nation in showing what we  
4 can do with our beautiful solar power.

5 Thank you. (Applause.)

6 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Mr. Jones. If you would  
7 like to share that handout with us, if you will give it to our  
8 staff, we'll just mark that as part of our -- is that okay you?

9 **MR. JONES:** Yes, sir. I'll get it ready for you.

10 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

11 Ms. Bennett.

12 **MS. BENNETT:** That will be Exhibit 2, then?

13 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** That will be marked for  
14 identification, Commissioners, as Exhibit Number 2. And it's  
15 Solar --

16 **MR. JONES:** Photovoltaic, P-H-O-T-O-V-O-L-T-A-I-C.

17 (Exhibit 2 marked for identification.)

18 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett, you're recognized for  
19 the next witness.

20 **MS. BENNETT:** Bernie Leven.

21 BERNIE LEVEN

22 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
23 testified as follows:

24 DIRECT STATEMENT

25 **MR. LEVEN:** You'll have to excuse me. I didn't

1 schedule myself to speak. But as long as I'm up here and there  
2 is a microphone, I'll just go right ahead.

3 I would like to thank Progress Energy. They are a  
4 fabulous member of the community, and I do support the project.  
5 However, there are environmental issues that need to be looked  
6 at. And like I was talking to Art before the meeting today, as  
7 the Sunshine State we have to be the leader in solar energy.

8 Thank you.

9 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Mr. Leven. (Applause.)  
10 Ms. Bennett.

11 **MS. BENNETT:** Dr. Burt Eno. I'm apologize if I  
12 mispronounce your name.

13 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Also, as you come, please help us  
14 with the spelling of your last name and the pronunciation of  
15 your name. That would be very helpful.

16 DR. BURT ENO  
17 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
18 testified as follows:

19 DIRECT STATEMENT

20 **DR. ENO:** I'm Dr. Burt Eno. The name is spelled  
21 E-N-O, not too difficult. I'm the president of Rainbow River  
22 Conservation, Incorporated. It is a 501(c)(3) corporation, a  
23 nonprofit dedicated to the protection of the Rainbow River and  
24 its environment. I happen to be also a Ph.D. in mechanical  
25 engineering, so I know a little bit about the matter of energy



1 production and transmission.

2 I understand and I appreciate some of the comments  
3 concerning whether or not there is a need for this nuclear  
4 power plant. I'm wondering if the projections for growth are  
5 really properly being presented, because there has been a  
6 cutback now. I can't quite foresee the growth to continue the  
7 way it has in the past. I question the need for the power.  
8 It's interesting to see that the transmission lines seem to be  
9 carrying all of that power to the south, and I don't see where  
10 it really benefits Levy County or counties to the north. I  
11 think a lot of it is going down to The Villages, and I would  
12 say put the nuclear power plant in The Villages, then.

13 (Applause.)

14 I heard mention from Mr. Graham (sic) that you're  
15 going to draw water out of the canal and put it back in the  
16 canal. I thought it was going to be piped out from the Gulf  
17 five miles out and put back out in that region. If it is  
18 coming out of the canal and goes back into the canal before it  
19 get back to the Gulf, that could be environmentally  
20 deleterious.

21 There are two transmission lines or routes away from  
22 the plant, one that heads south and then east and further  
23 south, and the other we have been calling the northern route  
24 that goes across to the east and then down to the south. And  
25 the route of the transmission line, the northern transmission

1 line, is of greatest concern to us. My position as the  
2 president of RRC, we don't want to see that transmission line  
3 going across the Rainbow River.

4           It appears, even though they are only showing a one  
5 mile wide swath as to where the transmission line is going, it  
6 is pretty apparent to me that it was selected that way to run  
7 along the greenway trails that are already state-owned land and  
8 find its way to the south. In this particular case that  
9 transmission line would run across from the Goethe Forest area,  
10 through the Cool Springs Ranch area, across beneath the  
11 woodlands which is part of Rainbow Springs Villages, just north  
12 of the City on Dunnellon, across U.S. 41, following some more  
13 greenway trail property, and go across the river just north of  
14 the Rio Vista settlement, and also just north of the Chatmire  
15 area, which is a disadvantaged community. It would then follow  
16 more of the greenway trail and head south until it reaches the  
17 Marjorie Harris Cross Florida Greenway.

18           All of this would be subject to a 300-foot clearcut  
19 swath which would eliminate all the foliage and the wildlife  
20 habitat. I can't imagine floating down the Rainbow River,  
21 which is one of the most pristine rivers in the country that,  
22 in fact, is classified as a National Natural Landmark, an  
23 Outstanding Florida Water, an aquatic preserve, to be floating  
24 down that river and look up and see these enormous transmission  
25 lines and towers and a 300-foot swath of foliage cut clear on

1 either side of the river. I think that would be an insult to  
2 the economy, to the environment, and I think that it would  
3 certainly defeat what we have worked so hard to do in the last  
4 couple of years getting some of the parcels of land along that  
5 river on the A-list of the Florida Forever projects, and many  
6 other things that we have accomplished. And this would just  
7 undercut all of that effort.

8           So I plead with the Public Service Commission, I  
9 plead with Progress Energy, don't take that northern route,  
10 even if you do build a nuclear power plant.

11           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

12           (Applause.)

13           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** At some point, will we have  
14 an opportunity to ask Progress -- I wanted to ask them after  
15 they make their presentation. I made a note of that particular  
16 transmission line, and just some questions for them at some  
17 point to clarify.

18           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Yes, ma'am. What my plans were,  
19 Commissioners, is to try to get as many of the comments from  
20 the public as possible, and then try to leave some time on the  
21 back for Commissioners to ask questions of the company.

22           Do you think it can wait?

23           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Whatever you want to do is  
24 fine with me.

25           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett.

1                   **MS. BENNETT:** William Vibbert.

2                                   WILLIAM VIBBERT

3 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
4 testified as follows:

5                                   DIRECT STATEMENT

6                   **MR. VIBBERT:** It's William Vibbert. I am also a  
7 member of the RRC. I'm on the board of the Rainbow River  
8 Conservation. I have a degree in natural resources management.

9                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Could you spell your name, please,  
10 sir?

11                   **MR. VIBBERT:** It's V, like in victory, I, double B,  
12 like in boy, E-R-T. I have a degree in natural resources  
13 management, and 33 years of experience in managing public  
14 lands. I just wanted to echo what Dr. Eno said regarding the  
15 natural resource significance of the Rainbow River. It is not  
16 only one of the most significant natural resources in Florida,  
17 but it is one of the more significant natural resources on  
18 Earth. And I wanted to mention some of those significant facts  
19 about the quality of this resource.

20                                   And also that these designations, some that Dr. Eno  
21 had made, they were specifically designated by the state of  
22 Florida and by the federal government to protect this resource  
23 from projects like this that could diminish it. So I wanted to  
24 just go through a few of those for the Commission.

25                                   The Rainbow River is a first magnitude spring, and

1 Florida's third largest spring, and it's possible that it is  
2 the third largest spring in the entire world. It is also one  
3 the clearest aquatic systems on Earth. This has been  
4 identified in a DEP document which discusses the Rainbow River,  
5 it is one of the clearest aquatic systems in the entire world.

6 The Rainbow River, at 5.7 miles long, is also one of  
7 the longest spring runs in the entire world. It's also a  
8 National Natural Landmark which was designated in 1972 by the  
9 National Park Service, so it has a federal designation, as  
10 well. As Dr. Eno mentioned, it's a Florida outstanding water,  
11 it is a Florida aquatic preserve, and it has been identified by  
12 the state of Florida as a globally significant natural  
13 resource.

14 Also, if the northern route was chosen, as Dr. Eno  
15 mentioned, also, this would permanently diminish the quality of  
16 the state trails plan, which is being administered by the  
17 Office of Greenways and Trails by (inaudible) public lands on  
18 the Marjorie Harris Greenway and going to the Goethe Forest,  
19 the state of Florida has plans to follow these public lands,  
20 and this would obviously preclude that from happening.

21 Also, the northern route would conflict with the  
22 long-term goals that Florida has in this part of Florida. We  
23 call it -- the theme of this section of Florida is the Nature  
24 Coast. And it would be hard to imagine crossing the Rainbow  
25 River with a nuclear transmission line and affecting the

1 ecotourism future of this part of Florida, which it would be  
2 hard to imagine Dunnellon with a nuclear transmission line  
3 going across the Rainbow River, which is a major part of its  
4 future.

5           So I think our view is that the Rainbow River is a  
6 resource that has worldwide significance, and it should be  
7 protected, and the issue of running the northern route is  
8 something that we would highly question as to whether this was  
9 the best way to go.

10           Thank you very much.

11           (Applause.)

12           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

13           **MS. BENNETT:** Mr. Chairman, should that be introduced  
14 into the record, the document that he had?

15           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Beg your pardon?

16           **MS. BENNETT:** There was a document that he presented,  
17 I didn't know if that was to be entered into the record.

18           **MR. VIBBERT:** Yes, they are photocopying it now.  
19 It's the only one I have.

20           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Would you like our staff to make a  
21 copy of it?

22           **MR. VIBBERT:** Sure.

23           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** One of our staff is in the back.  
24 As I said to you initially when I started, our goal is to get  
25 as much information as possible from you about what your

1 information is, or how you feel about this project and all like  
2 that. So if you have got solar information, or the Rainbow  
3 River, things like that, as much as possible we would like to  
4 have that. We can put it as part of our record to be  
5 considered. It's very important for you us to hear from you,  
6 and that's why we are here today.

7 Ms. Bennett.

8 **MS. BENNETT:** That will be Exhibit 3, Rainbow River  
9 Report.

10 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Rainbow River Report,  
11 Commissioners. That will be an exhibit, marked for  
12 identification as Exhibit Number 3.

13 (Exhibit 3 marked for identification.)

14 **MS. BENNETT:** Betty Berger.

15 BETTY BERGER

16 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
17 testified as follows:

18 DIRECT STATEMENT

19 **MS. BERGER:** I'm from Georgia, too. Hi.

20 Progress Energy requests to build two nuclear plants  
21 three miles north of Inglis. These plants would destroy the  
22 town of Inglis and disrupt the lives of 1600 of its citizens.

23 At first I liked the idea, because we would get tax  
24 money. But when I saw what was involved, I changed my mind. I  
25 propose they build these nuclear plants at their Crystal River

1 site, which would eliminate the harm to Inglis. Crystal River  
2 Nuclear has buried 30 years of spent fuel cells there. There  
3 is no provision to take them to Yucca Mountain. There is no  
4 way that any nuclear plants can take their fuel cells away, and  
5 they have a half-life of whatever -- you know more about that  
6 than I do. But, anyway, it keeps going on and on.

7           The Levy site will bury their spent fuels just  
8 three miles north of our town. The area is karst and subject  
9 to sink holes. Their plans open the possibility of sinkholes  
10 from the Gulf of Mexico over our Outstanding Florida Water, the  
11 Withlacoochee River, and through our town. These are enormous  
12 big pipes to carry the water that they are going to require.

13           They plan to pipe cooling water from the Barge Canal  
14 up to their site and return it to the canal and down the  
15 11 miles of the boundaries back to the Gulf. They must  
16 increase their use of fresh water from the aquifer to reduce  
17 the salinity before it enters the Gulf.

18           The Southwest Florida Water Management District is  
19 now in a Phase 3 drought water shortage, no end in sight. We  
20 cannot use our normal amount of water. We can take a bath once  
21 a week now. And they are going to need more than a million  
22 gallons of water a day out of the aquifer. This use would  
23 affect four public water supplies here at the river.

24           In the North Carolina nuke plants the drought has  
25 dropped the water level below their intake pipes. They may not



1 in be able to produce nuclear power because of the drought.  
2 Across 19 from them is planned a limerock mine which requires  
3 22 million gallons of water a day, plus sending 2,000 rock  
4 trucks daily down 19. Eighty percent of these will go through  
5 Inglis and Crystal River. Both of these industries are in our  
6 well field, which is fed only by rainwater, and it's not  
7 raining.

8           There is a ridge just north of these two industries  
9 that prevents the Suwannee River from sending water south. If  
10 it doesn't rain, they're going to use up our water. We can  
11 turn on the faucet and nothing will happen. They should think  
12 of this. This is a lot of expense for them not to know what  
13 their future is. Florida Power gave 3,000 acres of their land  
14 in the main Dunnellon hydro plant to the state because the  
15 drought lasted 17 years. There is no end in site.

16           Also planned is more pipelines carrying natural gas  
17 through our town. Attached to their planned 250-foot wide  
18 transmission lines, which they state they will claim through  
19 eminent domain, the edge of those lines cannot be more than 10  
20 kilovolts according to Florida Statutes. As they run along  
21 roadways and through ten counties, that's a lot of  
22 electromagnetic radiation exposing people as they use the  
23 roads. The school buses with the school children will be  
24 spending 30 minutes or more running down these roads under  
25 these power lines, because that's where they are at, along the

1 edge of the roads. They may move them and take in all of  
2 Inglis and all of Crystal River and all of Rainbow River. We  
3 don't know where they are doing to move them to.

4           But I have confidence in Progress Energy. I retired  
5 from Florida Power, and Progress Energy bought them out. I  
6 think if they saw it was a problem, they would take care of it,  
7 so I have faith in them. To get their cooling water for a  
8 nuclear plant, it would be more practical to pipe it directly  
9 from the Gulf if they built the plants at Crystal River. The  
10 discharge pipe could be extended so far out it would not impact  
11 the Gulf. But if they are going to leave it in Levy County,  
12 they could go west and not come south with these water pipes.

13           We need to power down and not power up. Solar and  
14 wind power are coming and before too long. Inglis is  
15 sandwiched in-between Crystal River Nuclear five miles to the  
16 south and the Levy site three miles to the north. We are  
17 guaranteed to be ten miles from a nuclear plant. We are  
18 sandwiched in the middle of eight miles. Two plants. No  
19 escape routes have been planned if there is a problem with  
20 radiation. And attached is a spillway site where a renewable  
21 energy source is planned as a jewel of the Nature Coast. A  
22 hydroelectric plant within the town of Inglis is planned there.  
23 It's only maybe two megawatts, it's not going to take care of  
24 the state of Florida, but they already have their request in  
25 for a permit. They are an intervenor against this site because

1 they are going to use the same water and the transmission  
2 lines. There they are. So this is your copy.

3 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Betty, when you referred to  
6 the hydroplant, were you referring to the high tower or high  
7 power plant at --

8 **MS. BERGER:** No, that's out. It's the Inglis  
9 Hydropower LLC. They are going to take water from the barge  
10 canal -- they are going to by-pass the dam, so that won't  
11 collapse, because they are not going to dig by it. No, the  
12 high power tried to get back in. They said, well, we were here  
13 first. I'm an intervenor, not them. But I'm for it. It's in  
14 the town of Inglis, and I see no harm it's going to do.

15 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

16 Please give us a number for the exhibit -- it's  
17 Exhibit Number 4.

18 **MS. BENNETT:** Exhibit Number 4, it's called  
19 presentation of Ms. Betty Berger.

20 (Exhibit 4 marked for identification.)

21 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Thank you. Commissioners,  
22 that's an exhibit marked for identification, Number 4.

23 Call the next witness, please.

24 **MS. BENNETT:** Mr. Chairman, before we call the next  
25 witness, I have had three additional exhibits presented from

1 previous speakers. Would you like to take them up now or at  
2 the end?

3 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** You have three more?

4 **MS. BENNETT:** Yes. One from the second speaker and  
5 one from the sixth speaker.

6 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Let's do this. We've got a good  
7 flow going here, let's take up the next witness and we will get  
8 to that in a minute.

9 **MS. BENNETT:** All right. Edward Renfro.

10 EDWARD RENFRO

11 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
12 testified as follows:

13 DIRECT STATEMENT

14 **MR. RENFRO:** Good afternoon. My name is Edward  
15 Renfro, R-E-N-F-R-O, I'm president of the Meadowcrest Community  
16 Association, which consists of nine property owners  
17 associations, some 700 individual residences today, and some 45  
18 private businesses with future development going on.

19 Just as a little personal background, back in the  
20 early 1950s as a member of the Navy and the Atomic Energy  
21 Commission, I was a principal participant in the research,  
22 design, development, construction, and operation of the first  
23 nuclear power plants in the world. When I retired from the  
24 Navy, I spent 11 years as the director of nuke operations at a  
25 major commercial power plant, so I have seen it all.

1           As a matter of fact, just as a personal thing, I  
2 strongly support these two power plants. I recognize the real  
3 benefits of nuclear power, and there's no question of all the  
4 concerns expressed today that they are without a doubt the most  
5 efficient and the most safest power alternatives that are  
6 available to us today or will be at any time in the near  
7 future.

8           That is not what I am here for, however. I'm here to  
9 express a concern that the Meadowcrest Community Association  
10 has with this project. Not with the power plants themselves,  
11 but with the fact that over 200 miles of additional  
12 transmission lines are going to be required. And, more  
13 particularly, Progress Energy has stated to me and others that  
14 their principal number one objective is to utilize existing  
15 power transmission corridors.

16           Immediately adjacent to our Meadowcrest Community  
17 Association is a major power north/south corridor. We have  
18 houses, we have now developing condos that are immediately  
19 adjacent to this corridor. I have personally walked down this  
20 corridor, in this area at least, and we are on the west side  
21 with the houses, condos, and so forth, and on the east side,  
22 there's some businesses and additional property and so forth.  
23 I see no means, after I have been there and looked at it, that  
24 you are going to be able to expand this power corridor.

25           Secondly, we are concerned with the electromagnetic

1 fields, even though that's not a proven scientific problem  
2 these days yet, it is pretty well recognized as a potential  
3 source of problems for individual personnel. So we recognize  
4 that there has been no decision made in this.

5 My purpose in being here today is to express to all  
6 concerned, I have put this in writing to the Commission, and I  
7 think a number of our residents have also written letters -- I  
8 say to the Commission, to Progress Energy -- have also written  
9 letters to Progress Energy. So we have expressed this in  
10 writing, but I wanted everybody to be aware we have some real  
11 concerns with the utilization of any existing, this existing  
12 power transmission line, and we want you to consider it in the  
13 future.

14 Thank you.

15 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

16 Ms. Bennett.

17 **MR. GLENN:** Mr. Chairman, if I might, just for one  
18 second.

19 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Yes, sir.

20 **MR. GLENN:** For any member of the audience, I want to  
21 let them know that Ms. Gail Simpson is in the back of the room  
22 and has been intimately involved in the transmission selection  
23 process as well as the community outreach process. So to the  
24 extent that any members of the audience would like to speak to  
25 Ms. Simpson or myself, either during or after this hearing,

1 we're more that welcome to meet with anyone.

2 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett.

3 **MS. BENNETT:** Ray, and I may mispronounce your name,  
4 Masell (sic) from Brooksville, Florida.

5 RAY MASCH

6 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
7 testified as follows:

8 DIRECT STATEMENT

9 **MR. MASCH:** Good evening. My name is Ray Masch,  
10 M-A-S-C-H, and I am all for the reactors and nuclear power.  
11 Unfortunately, the federals and the state missed the boat for  
12 30 years now. That was my last project. And I'm also -- I was  
13 a certified radiation worker, and my two last projects were  
14 Alabama, Southern Power, and the last project with Florida  
15 Power and Light in Fort Myers. So I haven't lost my accent in  
16 Alabama. And so, actually, I have two questions for Progress  
17 Power, or for Florida I haven't picked any --

18 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Here is what you can do, Mr. Masch.  
19 Put your questions on the record, and we'll have those in the  
20 record, because the Commissioners may have the same questions.  
21 But right now we're taking testimony. But put your questions  
22 on the record, and as we get to our question and answer phase  
23 we can deal with that. But what we are here for from the  
24 public, we want to get feedback from you. But please put your  
25 questions on the record so we'll have that.

1           **MR. MASCH:** Right. So --

2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** The two questions that you would  
3 ask would be -- the first one would be. We have a court  
4 reporter that is taking everything down.

5           **MR. MASCH:** Right. Why don't they build the plant on  
6 the Crystal River site there? I mean, did they buy the land  
7 already in Levy County? Yes, right?

8           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** And your next question would be?

9           **MR. MASCH:** And then the next question will be  
10 \$18 billion, now that's lots of money today, for a 95 cents  
11 dollar. Now, do we have to pay now the nine dollars a month in  
12 advance? Now, this is a question for Progress Power.

13           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** As I said to you, there will be --  
14 the parties as well as Commissioners will have an opportunity  
15 to ask questions. In this phase, what we're doing, we're  
16 taking input. But we have got your question on the record.  
17 And as you can see, my colleagues and I are writing notes, so  
18 we will be asking those questions.

19           **MR. MASCH:** Can't he answer that now, the question?

20           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I would prefer to use as much time  
21 as possible getting input from the public.

22           **MR. MASCH:** I would like an answer to my two  
23 questions.

24           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Well, if we have time for us to do  
25 our questions, then you may be able to hear that later on. But



1 I'm sure that there will be -- Mr. Glenn, when we get into our  
2 question phase, those two questions we'll have you guys answer  
3 as we get into that phase, all right?

4 You've got a note?

5 **MR. GLENN:** All right.

6 **MR. MASCH:** Okay. Thank you, then.

7 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett.

8 **MS. BENNETT:** Henry Locke.

9 HENRY LOCKE

10 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
11 testified as follows:

12 DIRECT STATEMENT

13 **MR. LOCKE:** Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, my name is  
14 Henry Locke from Crystal River. L-O-C-K-E. I, too, have a big  
15 question on the use of fresh water and the amount that will be  
16 used, if it is going to be a desalination plant, how far out  
17 they're going to pump the salt. But I brought a newspaper  
18 article, which is my major concern, and the heading is "Cancer  
19 Study a Jolt." And I won't read it all to you, but a leading  
20 epidemiologist has stated that through her studies it appears  
21 to her -- she never believed that electromagnetic current  
22 causes cancer. After this study, she says there's more to go,  
23 but she now believes it does.

24 I, too, live in Meadowcrest, and I ask that they  
25 don't build any more towers and triple or double the amount of

1 electromagnetic energy going through there. Perhaps they can  
2 put it underground and shield it, which would probably be the  
3 best idea. But now there is a study which is going to be  
4 followed up on that this electromagnetic force does cause  
5 cancer. And when people start coming down with it, once the  
6 towers are there, we are going to be in big trouble. So I ask  
7 you again, no more towers. And that's not just for us, or for  
8 our county, or for Levy County, that protects everybody in the  
9 state.

10 So I will give this newspaper article so they can  
11 follow up, but we now have evidence that this is a problem.

12 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

13 And, Commissioners, that will be marked for  
14 identification as Number 5, a newspaper article.

15 Ms. Bennett, what's the title, please?

16 **MS. BENNETT:** "Cancer Study a Jolt."

17 (Exhibit 5 marked for identification.)

18 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** The next person, please.

19 **MS. BENNETT:** Thomas Eppes.

20 THOMAS EPPES

21 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
22 testified as follows:

23 DIRECT STATEMENT

24 **MR. EPPES:** That's E-P-P-E-S, E as in Energy, P as in  
25 Progress, P as in Progress, E as in Energy, S as in Solar. I

1 moved down here from Georgia about ten years ago. As I have  
2 been listening to the concerns that have been developed here, I  
3 share many of them. The gentleman from Progress Energy's  
4 presentation I thought was very interesting. He pointed out  
5 that fuel diversity is critical. I agree. But nuclear is not  
6 increasing our diversity, it's going backwards. Solar would be  
7 increasing our diversity. Renewables would be increasing our  
8 diversity.

9           According to his piechart that he put up there,  
10 Progress Energy only intends to keep renewables at 3 percent of  
11 the energy mix with or without this nuclear plant. That's  
12 hardly increasing our diversity. It hardly shows a commitment  
13 to renewables on the part of Progress Energy, although in all  
14 of their public relations materials they insist that they are  
15 in favor of renewables, increasing renewables. Similarly, they  
16 say they are in favor of increasing energy efficiency.

17           And it has been -- I have here a newspaper article  
18 that came out February 6th of '07. It's a study that was  
19 co-authored by our own Florida Solar Energy Center over in  
20 Brevard County, which has been at work since 1975. According  
21 to this study, if we instituted compact fluorescent light bulbs  
22 and ENERGY STAR® appliances throughout our service territory,  
23 we could reduce demand by 19 percent over the next 15 years.  
24 Instead of allowing it to increase by 25 percent over the next  
25 ten years, we could actually lower demand 19 percent.

1           Similarly, the study says that if we went to  
2 renewable energy, it could substitute for 26 percent of  
3 conventionally generated electricity. If, indeed, the Progress  
4 Energy figures are correct and demand is going to increase by  
5 25 percent, we already have a 26 percent solution here, plus  
6 19 percent more reduction in demand.

7           The reduction in demand obviously would address the  
8 baseload. The use of renewables obviously would address the  
9 peak load, because when we hit our peak here in Florida, it's  
10 during the day. Sunshine. Let's make use of that sunshine.

11           Unfortunately -- oh, and by the way, I also have  
12 another article here that shows that 81 percent of Floridians  
13 would support having the Florida Legislature encourage solar  
14 energy investment even if it costs them a dollar extra on their  
15 fuel bill, 81 percent. That's huge.

16           Now, Progress Energy has a lot of good people working  
17 for it. They're a good company. But they are a for-profit  
18 business, and they are making a rational business decision here  
19 with this proposal for nuclear power. It makes sense for them.  
20 They will make money because of the way the government has  
21 stacked the deck. And I know that the Commission is going to  
22 be looking at this Friday at the rate impact measure, that is  
23 just one obstacle that Progress Energy faces in trying to  
24 institute energy efficiency and renewable power in its service  
25 territory.

1           As far as the transmission line issue that many  
2 people have addressed, it is a great concern, but if you put  
3 solar panels on people's property, on their roofs, and put it  
4 on business property, shade their parking lot with solar  
5 panels, you will be putting power back into the grid where it's  
6 needed without having to build additional transmission lines.

7           As far as the clean issue, the contention that  
8 nuclear power is a clean energy source, that completely ignores  
9 the waste. We want carbon free. What about Carbon 14? My  
10 understanding is that Carbon 14 is produced when -- it very  
11 badly contaminates the cooling water that is used for the  
12 reactor core, and there is no safe way of dealing with this.

13           We want to look out to the next 50 to 60 years. I  
14 think that is very good. Plan ahead. In 50 to 60 years, the  
15 nuclear power plant they want to build is going to be a pile of  
16 radioactive rubble that's of no use to anyone any more. It  
17 will have to be decommissioned. Then they are going to ask us  
18 to buy them another one. The land that that pile of  
19 radioactive rubble sits on will be useless forever.

20           How is nuclear energy safe? They can't even pay for  
21 their own insurance. We have to have the Price Anderson Act  
22 from the federal government that puts a cap on the losses from  
23 any accident, and after that it's tough luck, Charlie.

24           I know a little bit about statistics.

25           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Are you close, Mr. Eppes?

1 MR. EPPES: I am very close.

2 When we say that there is a very small probability of  
3 an accident, we are not saying it isn't going to happen, we are  
4 saying it is, we just don't know when. It could happen very  
5 early in the life of the plant, as it did at Three Mile Island,  
6 which had only been in operation for a few months before the  
7 accident occurred, or it could very occur very late in the life  
8 of the plant, and it could not occur at all, in the life of a  
9 specific plant. But the risk is there.

10 You have a very grave responsibility as a Commission,  
11 because you are going to decide whether we are going to get at  
12 best 50 years of electricity out of a plant that's going to  
13 continuously generate deadly radioactive waste that will have  
14 to be permanently stored. It cannot be disposed of. It has to  
15 be permanently stored for longer than any society has ever  
16 existed. Think about that. Think about what you are putting  
17 on future generations.

18 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you. And let me have -- you  
19 mentioned two newspaper articles.

20 MR. EPPES: I did. I have more than two, but I will  
21 be glad to share those.

22 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** You can give it to our staff. And  
23 what we will do, Commissioners, is we will make all of those  
24 articles as one composite exhibit, so that will be Composite  
25 Exhibit Number 7. Number 6, excuse me. Composite Exhibit

1 Number 6, and we will just make all of them as one composite  
2 exhibit.

3 Thank you so much, Mr. Eppes.

4 (Composite Exhibit 6 marked for identification.)

5 MR. EPPES: You're welcome. They are my only copies,  
6 though.

7 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Mr. Eppes, if you could step back  
8 to the podium for one second, please.

9 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Excuse me, Mr. Chair. I  
10 feel like I just need to ask a question.

11 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** You're recognized.

12 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** This would not be only the  
13 public to come speak to us, but --

14 MR. EPPES: I'm sorry, what?

15 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** What I need to do is ask  
16 you a question that is on my mind.

17 MR. EPPES: Yes.

18 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Because I was under the  
19 impression, and maybe you can fill me in here, that solar is  
20 not as efficient, and it would require a lot more -- I think it  
21 has something to do with the light that's captured by the  
22 current solar panel. I know that right now there is some  
23 technology where it captures three different colors of light  
24 rather than one that makes it more efficient. But what I'm  
25 trying to figure out in my mind when we talk about solar, if

1 it's is not as efficient, how could you meet the demand with  
2 solar today? I mean, I know new technology is coming around,  
3 but --

4 MR. EPPES: Well, I refer you to the Florida Solar  
5 Energy Center which has all of the information you seek, it's  
6 on the Brevard campus of -- is it UCF, USF? It's on one of the  
7 universities over there.

8 COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO: Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Thank you very much, and thank you  
10 for the exhibits.

11 Ms. Bennett, would you call our next witness.

12 MS. BENNETT: Sally Price.

13 SALLY PRICE

14 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
15 testified as follows:

16 DIRECT STATEMENT

17 MS. PRICE: My name is Sally Price, P-R-I-C-E. I  
18 crawled here from Georgia 58 years ago, and I'm pre-BC,  
19 pre-FPC. I was here before the barge canal and I was here  
20 before Progress Energy, formerly Florida Power. I grew up  
21 eating food that was provided by them. I have loved the  
22 company. They've been great, but I disagree with the location  
23 of the plant if we have to go nuclear.

24 My parents bought on the river in Inglis years ago.  
25 I attended every open house except for one, I believe. At the



1 Dunnellon one, I looked at the chart, and I saw that the lines  
2 and everything ran straight toward The Villages. I asked  
3 questions. They took my name. They took my e-mail. I never  
4 got any responses. I came to the Inglis meeting. The same  
5 question. I told that I did not get responses from there.  
6 They took my name, they took my e-mail and phone.

7 I got a call from somebody, and I gave her a list of  
8 really technical questions, things of concern of citizens who  
9 bring to me. Having been there that long, the retired  
10 postmaster. I write for the newspaper. I never got answers to  
11 any of those questions. I brought up to them that Robert Smith  
12 and his wife and the neighbors that are the closest people to  
13 the power plant have never gotten answers, never gotten calls.  
14 This week four people paid a visit to them and they rode them  
15 on four-wheelers and showed them their property, and showed  
16 them their 25-foot nuke lookout tower. Instead of watching for  
17 deer, they're watching the nuke progress over there, because  
18 they are their closest neighbors.

19 When they saw the charts and the transmission lines  
20 went north through their property, not only were they going to  
21 be the closest neighbor, but they were kind of assured a little  
22 bit on that. But one of my concerns is with this when I look  
23 at that picture and I know with the new water alignments, and I  
24 see that they are planning on taking water from Lake Rousseau  
25 over to The Villages, are they going to run that water line in

1 that extra width that the power transmission lines seem to be  
2 needing now? Are we going to lose our water and our  
3 environment?

4 My notes are totally discombobulated, because when  
5 you ask for a elected officials to come up here and introduce  
6 themselves, our South Levy County Commissioner, Sammy Yearty,  
7 sat over there and did not come up. And they made my picture  
8 with him, and he whispered in my ear, are you embarrassed to  
9 have your picture made with me? Yes, I am. I'm embarrassed  
10 that Carol McQueen would sit over here, and that Amanda Douglas  
11 would sit over here, and Doug would sit over here. These are  
12 people that are elected by us and whose jobs are paid by us,  
13 but have they ever come and polled us? Have they taken a vote?  
14 Have they asked us do we want this in our yard?

15 This is not the speech I made to do. I was so  
16 disgusted that they have all already left. I can't believe it.  
17 And that is only one of the four from our county that could  
18 have come and listened.

19 Now, I'm going to go to kind of where my notes were  
20 if you all don't mind. But I am really emotional over these  
21 people have never asked us. Ready? Okay. Environmental  
22 concerns are totally real. We have already hashed out the  
23 water issues. Every kind of issue over the tarmac mine wanting  
24 to come there. Where the storage cells -- you know, these  
25 cells will be stored. Okay.

1           Being sandwiched between two nuclear complexes,  
2 Levy's evacuation is in question. Yankeetown west of 19 will  
3 evacuate toward the plant in an evacuation. Yankeetown's  
4 school evacuation is north on 19 to Bronson, right toward the  
5 plant. If the alarms go off, which plant are we evacuating  
6 from? Are we going by boat to Cedar Key? Where are we going?

7           If the need for water and power is so great in parts  
8 of the state where growth and construction are not being  
9 controlled, then let that area use their area to solve their  
10 problems, not put their burden on south Levy, one of the last  
11 frontiers of Florida on the coast to make the ultimate  
12 sacrifice --

13           (Applause.)

14           MS. PRICE: -- to make the ultimate sacrifice of our  
15 area at the expense of our water and environment to solve their  
16 lack of control on their growth. I am not asking, but I am  
17 begging for more up-front, open, honest information pertaining  
18 to our sensitive area, our aquifer use, not sandwiching us  
19 between two nuclear power units. My home, I believe, on an  
20 island at the mouth of the Withlacoochee, is one of the closest  
21 homes to the nuclear power plant. My GPS reading is to take  
22 readings of radioactivity. I'm not worried about any of that.  
23 I have lived in Inglis longer than any of those plants have  
24 been there. And I would like to say that -- okay, this is  
25 something I do not know. I will give it to you, but it is

1 called, "Toshiba's shares rise in Tokyo trading on nuclear  
2 talks. Toshiba is negotiating a deal with Raleigh, North  
3 Carolina-based Progress Energy to build two nuclear units in a  
4 bid to expand its market share of atomic plant construction in  
5 the U.S."

6 Then it goes down further and says, "The company will  
7 reap substantial profits from plant maintenance after building  
8 the reactors in the U.S. Westinghouse Electric, a unit of  
9 Toshiba, has started negotiations for engineering, procurement,  
10 construction of an AP1000 reactor in Levy County, Florida."

11 I want to know about are the Japanese going to  
12 engineer, procure, construct, and maintain this plant? Do we  
13 have anything left that is American? We have a mine north of  
14 us that is going to be owned by the Greeks. They are going to  
15 mine our rocks and sell them back to us and take the money  
16 home. We have got a Mexican mine south of our river that takes  
17 our rocks and sells them back to us. We have either a New  
18 Zealand or something that holds them south of the barge canal.  
19 The same thing. I just cannot believe that now, you know, we  
20 have power that is going to be, you know, controlled or  
21 provided or something by Japan.

22 You can have this and do what you want with it. I am  
23 very, very upset. I have been there 45 years. I started in  
24 the post office when I was 17. I served those people until I  
25 was 55. I retired five years ago. I write for the paper;

1 President of the Chamber; newspaper reporter; a realtor. I am  
2 involved. People come to me with every kind of question. They  
3 come to me and ask me to explain this project, why are we  
4 having this project. And I would like to say -- I would like  
5 to know how our elected officials and those paid by our tax  
6 dollars would sell us out without giving us the chance to vote  
7 and show them how we feel. Amanda Douglas, Carol McQueen, Doug  
8 King, and Sammy Yearty, our South Levy County Commissioner,  
9 where is the railroad in this plan?

10           What about the two million gallons of water a day you  
11 have test pumped the last couple of weeks, where did that go?  
12 I am concerned about the aquifer and the environment  
13 destruction, electromagnetic fields, spent fuel cells,  
14 evacuation routes, security costs to us -- security, and costs  
15 to us for years and years without yet even having the plant  
16 where solar is today and we have to wait eight to ten years for  
17 this plant.

18           I am for alternative energy which is now. I don't  
19 believe the taxpayers in South Levy care about the tax dollars  
20 that Levy County will get on our South Levy expense. If a poll  
21 was taken, I believe the speakers who were for the plant today  
22 here, if you divide a line between north and south in Levy  
23 County, I believe that those speaking for the plant -- I  
24 believe that those speaking against the plant now that they  
25 would -- that will impact South Levy, I believe that you would

1 find out that we would be giving them this plant.

2 Let's give the plant to those in the north that want  
3 it, to those who have sold us out, to those that are in favor  
4 of them, let them have it up north. A democratic vote of the  
5 county should decide if they can vote to give it to us.

6 Thank you'll.

7 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Do you want to give that to our  
8 staff?

9 MS. PRICE: I've written all over it.

10 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** That's all right. That would be  
11 marked for identification Number 7. We will just call it Sally  
12 Price's exhibit, from Sally.

13 (Exhibit 7 marked for identification.)

14 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Commissioners, as normal, it's  
15 about time for the court reporter to take a break. What I  
16 would like to do -- and, Jane, if you could just hold on for  
17 one second, let's take care of those three exhibits we need to  
18 mark for identification. Then we can take a break for the  
19 court reporter, and then we can collect our thoughts and I can  
20 give you an opportunity for the questions that you have,  
21 Commissioners, and we will go from there.

22 Ms. Bennett.

23 **MS. BENNETT:** The first exhibit would be Exhibit  
24 Number 8 from Carol J. McQueen, and it would be a letter from  
25 the Nature Coast Business Development Council. That would be

1 Exhibit 8.

2 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Show it done.

3 **MS. BENNETT:** The next two exhibits were sponsored by  
4 Doctor Eno. The first one is a letter from the Rainbow River  
5 Conservation. I think these glasses need to be fixed, and the  
6 second would be Exhibit 10 from Doctor Eno, also.

7 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** We want to make those composites  
8 and such from one witness, so that would just be Composite  
9 Exhibit Number 9.

10 **MS. BENNETT:** Composite Exhibit Number 9 which  
11 includes the letter and a resolution.

12 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** A resolution. So it would be a  
13 letter and a resolution from the Rainbow River Incorporated.

14 **MS. BENNETT:** That would be it.

15 (Exhibit 8 and 9 marked for identification.)

16 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** So, Commissioners, again, it has  
17 been two hours. We need to give the court reporter a break. I  
18 was looking for a clock on the wall, but there is not one.  
19 Let's take a break until about 6:15. We will come back at  
20 6:15. That would give the court reporter time to break, and  
21 also give us time to get our notes together.

22 (Recess.)

23 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Could we get everybody to kind of  
24 get back so we can reconvene. I want to use as much time as  
25 possible to take public comments, so if we can get everyone to

1 reconvene. Let's reconvene.

2           If everyone will take their seats, we can reconvene.  
3 I want to use as much time as possible to hear from you, the  
4 public. So if everyone would take their seats. I know it is  
5 quite -- going to the facilities is over the river and through  
6 the woods, but it is actually indoor plumbing here. I noticed  
7 that, so that is good thing.

8           Let me just say, Ms. Bennett, before we go back, I  
9 noticed that we had a lot of questions and comments about the  
10 transmission line. And basically there is no route selected,  
11 Progress Energy has not selected a transmission route. So a  
12 lot of the discussion has been on a nature that's not before  
13 us today -- but we do want to hear from as many people as  
14 possible.

15           Commissioner Skop.

16           **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17           And to that point, I just had a quick question for  
18 technical staff, because I guess it's my understanding that  
19 with respect to transmission siting, or paths, or something in  
20 that relation, it's my understanding the PSC just picks  
21 starting and ending points, we don't necessarily have any  
22 siting approval of the path that may be taken, is that correct?

23           **MR. BALLINGER:** That's correct, Commissioner. The  
24 actual route selection is done through the DEP as well as the  
25 EMS standards.





1 map.

2 I might ask why two plants? In fact, when I read  
3 that I kind of did, but it seems clear that one of those plants  
4 will store nuclear waste. I have a copy of the February 17th,  
5 2008, New York Times, and I just am going to read a little bit  
6 from it. The title of this article is, "As nuclear waste  
7 languishes, expense to U.S. rises." And under the picture, a  
8 tunnel at Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site in Nevada -- and it  
9 is barren. There is nothing in there -- is not expected to  
10 open for at least a decade. Now, this was a February 17th,  
11 '08 paper. It is not expected to open for at least a decade,  
12 officials say.

13 It goes on to talk about court orders and  
14 settlements, and the federal government has already paid the  
15 utilities \$342 million. The payments come from an obscure and  
16 poorly understood government account that requires no new  
17 congressional appropriations and will balloon in size, experts  
18 said. The payments are due because the reactor owners were all  
19 required to sign contracts with the Energy Department in the  
20 early 1980s with the government promising to dispose of the  
21 waste for a fee of a tenth of a cent per kilowatt hour. It was  
22 supposed to begin taking away the fuel in the then far off  
23 year, 1998. The then far off year. And if you can do your  
24 subtraction, you know how many years ago that was.

25 I also have a copy of a St. Pete Times article

1 March 11th, 2008, and I would like to read the headline on that  
2 to you, also. Progress Energy -- excuse me. Nuke plant price  
3 triples. Progress Energy's planned plant costs \$17 billion.  
4 This is March 11th, 2008. Progress Energy tripled its estimate  
5 for its new nuclear power plant, singular, in Levy County  
6 saying Monday that the new price is \$17 billion. Customers  
7 could start paying -- customers could start paying for it next  
8 year with the average residential consumer facing an increase  
9 of about \$9 a month, and that was mentioned also earlier.

10 Now, I would like to conclude by answering a  
11 question. I believe the woman who asked the question is not in  
12 the room at this time, but perhaps it will find its way to her  
13 so that she'll understand. There was a question about water,  
14 and water being piped away. And, yes, indeed, if you look at  
15 the path of the proposed transmission lines, they lie in the  
16 path of the proposed Suncoast Parkway, too. I'm Chairman of a  
17 group called COST, Citizens Opposed to the Suncoast Tollway.  
18 For 13 years, we are a grassroots organization, we have opposed  
19 that. And I told the folks down at the armory in March don't  
20 use the path of the toll road because it is not going to be  
21 built. So I just, you know, would reiterate that.

22 However, I have a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer book  
23 about this thick that was published in August of 1979. It  
24 shows on Page 42 of that thick book, which I obtained from the  
25 Sierra Club -- it was found by a very devout Sierra Club member

1 who went to a yard sale. She gave it to Sierra Club and Sierra  
2 gave it to me many years ago. On Page 42 there was map showing  
3 blue lines, linear well fields starting at Tampa and heading  
4 north. There were two of them. They are parallel, sometimes  
5 they overlie each other.

6 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Are you close?

7 MS. MASAQY: Almost done.

8 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay.

9 MS. MASAQY: Very important, however.

10 When I looked at that map years ago, I could see that  
11 those linear well fields lay in the path of the existing  
12 Suncoast Parkway 1, which opened in '98, and the proposed  
13 Suncoast Parkway 2, which they have been trying to put in since  
14 '94 up here in Citrus County. Those start down at Tampa and  
15 they end -- one ends at 98, which is exactly where the Suncoast  
16 1 ends, and the other one ends in northern Pine Ridge, where I  
17 happen to live. And I could not understand. We don't have  
18 enough wells in Pine Ridge to supply water to Tampa. However,  
19 Lake Rousseau lies right above that, and within the last month  
20 I have talked to, then met, and listened to two different  
21 gentlemen who own property off of 495, Citronelle area, and  
22 borders on, at least one of them, Lake Rousseau. There is the  
23 connection. The state is trying to take that land. That's  
24 exactly, I believe, where your transmission lines are going to  
25 go. This power plant, plants should never be built.



1           **MS. KEITH:** Hi. My name is Valerie Keith. My  
2 husband and I live in northern Citrus County on Lake Rousseau.  
3 My concerns are two-fold. For those of us who reside in  
4 northern Citrus County and Levy County, we accept the fact that  
5 we live in the shadow of the Crystal River nuclear power plant.  
6 From what I understand, this plant sits on approximately  
7 4,700 acres of land. I cannot, for the life of me, imagine why  
8 Progress Energy would want to build another plant just eight  
9 miles away.

10           Something is terribly wrong here. We have numerous  
11 residential communities that are only two to four miles away  
12 from the proposed site. These communities, Inglis, Yankeetown,  
13 Crystal Manor, and the Lake Rousseau areas will be sandwiched  
14 in between two nuclear power sites. Therefore, the entire  
15 state will benefit from our double risk and sacrifice.

16           Why not build this new facility on the existing site  
17 in Crystal River? The Crystal River site already has an entire  
18 infrastructure in place. I understand the estimated cost of  
19 the new facility will be approximately \$17 billion. Certainly  
20 the cost would be much less by using the existing land.

21           This enormous expenditure will soon be passed on to  
22 the consumer in the form of higher electric bills. Let's be  
23 sensible here and trim the cost to a minimum for a project that  
24 will most likely run over budget.

25           Proponents talk about higher elevation and less

1 exposure to the flood-prone areas in a hurricane. Is there now  
2 a problem with the Crystal River plant? Should we be concerned  
3 about a Category 4 or 5 hurricane with that facility?

4 My second concern has to do with the discharge of  
5 pollution coming from the Crystal River plant, which is  
6 believed to be one of the dirtiest power plants in the country.  
7 Because of the prevailing winds, the pollution usually drifts  
8 to the west and south over the Gulf of Mexico. However, on  
9 some occasions when the wind comes in from the south and west,  
10 the pollution drifts our way and settles on top of Lake  
11 Rousseau. For this reason, on those days I avoid any outdoor  
12 activities. I also will not eat any fish that is caught in  
13 Lake Rousseau for fear of the mercury contamination coming from  
14 this plant. And then we'll have it times two.

15 In the winter, our winds come primarily from the  
16 north. My fear is the pollution effect of a new power plant  
17 located to the north of us will make a detrimental impact on  
18 the Nature Coast and our tourist-based economy and environment.

19 I urge this Commission to have Progress Energy  
20 reassess the possibility of building the new nuclear power  
21 plant on the existing Crystal River site for environmental and  
22 economic reasons, or best of all, not at all.

23 (Applause.)

24 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Just one question. When  
25 you refer to the pollution from the current plant, you're

1 talking about the coal plants?

2 **MS. KEITH:** That's correct.

3 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Thank you.

4 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

5 Commissioner Skop.

6 Ms. Valerie, would you come back, please? Ms. Keith,

7 I'm sorry. I said Valerie. Ms. Keith.

8 **MS. KEITH:** Yes.

9 **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** And to Commissioner Argenziano's  
10 point with respect to the additional mercury. You mentioned  
11 times two. I was lost in that, so I'll just ask you to --

12 **MS. KEITH:** If we have a second plant, and maybe I'm  
13 not sure about the emission from a new plant as far as the  
14 mercury coming out of the discharge.

15 **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** Well, I just think -- and correct  
16 me if I'm wrong, but I think that to your point that the coal  
17 has direct emissions where a nuclear does not. So it's --

18 **MS. KEITH:** So the new one -- I guess a question  
19 would be would the new power plant have that, and it will not?

20 **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** My understanding would be no.

21 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Commissioner Argenziano.

22 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Just quickly, there's a  
23 difference between the nuclear power plant no CO2 emissions  
24 while the plant -- has some CO2 emissions while you are  
25 building the plant, but when the plant is in operation there is



1 no CO2. There is from a coal plant. This plant that's being  
2 proposed is not a coal plant, it's a nuclear power plant.

3 **MS. KEITH:** Okay. And then I guess a question for  
4 the record would be what type of environmental impact would any  
5 kind of discharge be on the area? Because I feel as though  
6 living where we are in the path, if there is anything that  
7 comes from the emissions, I would like to know about it ahead  
8 of time.

9 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Thank you.

10 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you so kindly, Ms. Keith.  
11 Ms. Bennett.

12 **MS. BENNETT:** Harry Pickering.

13 HARRY PICKERING

14 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
15 testified as follows:

16 DIRECT STATEMENT

17 **MR. PICKERING:** Good evening. My name is Harry  
18 Pickering, P-I-C-K-E-R-I-N-G. I have no opposition to the  
19 nuclear power plants. I am here -- I heard Mr. Skop's comments  
20 that you are not here to -- you're not involved in the  
21 selection of the transmission routes, but I would like to just  
22 take a brief moment to put my comments on record and to have  
23 Progress Energy to hear my comments.

24 I live in Homosassa on Pine Meadow Avenue and  
25 Cardinal, one block from a double power line. Two big towers

1 with two lines on it, and it takes out an area of about 300 to  
2 400 feet. This is also -- along this power line is the  
3 proposed route for the Suncoast Parkway extension. Also on  
4 this power line is an interstate natural gas line from Florida  
5 Gas Company, and now Progress Energy wants to put the  
6 transmission route there. That's one of three possible  
7 corridors.

8           In the handouts we got at the open house at the  
9 Crystal River National Guard Armory, the handout said that the  
10 transmission lines would take 700 to 1100 feet. And I was just  
11 talking to Ms. Simpson during the break, and she said that that  
12 would not be the case if they went on our power line. It  
13 wouldn't be quite as expansive. But, you know, we are under  
14 attack in our neighborhood. We have already got a double power  
15 line, we have already got a natural gas line, the Suncoast  
16 Parkway extension will most likely, in all probability, come  
17 through there, and now we are going to lose more land to the  
18 transmission lines.

19           And that area is impacted in such a great manner now  
20 that we can't stand any more impact. There has got to be an  
21 alternative. And what the alternative is for Progress Energy  
22 on their map they have an alternative route south of Grover  
23 Cleveland Boulevard in the southern part of Citrus County is to  
24 run the transmission line bordering Withlacoochee State Forest  
25 along County Road 491. There is no development in this area,

1 there is only a few homes down towards Stagecoach Road, and a  
2 few cattle ranches down towards 98. But other than that, they  
3 are not going to impact -- they will impact very few private  
4 property owners there, whereas if they put the transmission  
5 line coming in this corridor here, it's going to impact  
6 hundreds and hundreds of homeowners all the way south through  
7 the county through Sugarmill Woods down to Hernando County.

8           So what I'm asking is that Progress Energy consider  
9 taking the route along County Road 491. It's going to have the  
10 least impact. I'm sure it would be the least cost to Progress  
11 Energy in terms of, you know, property that they have to  
12 purchase, and I would like that to go on the record and  
13 Progress Energy to consider taking that corridor as one of  
14 their routes -- as the route.

15           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Mr. Pickering. We  
16 appreciate that. That's already part of the record. We  
17 appreciate that. Thank you so kindly.

18           Ms. Bennett.

19           **MS. BENNETT:** Dean Peterson.

20   DEAN PETERSON

21 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
22 testified as follows:

23   DIRECT STATEMENT

24           **MR. PETERSON:** Hello. My name is Dean Peterson, and  
25 I live in North Citrus County right along the Withlachooshee

1 River. I kind of go along with what Sally Price was saying and  
2 a lot of the other people. I don't understand the reason for  
3 the power plant being built where they want to build it, and  
4 some of the proposed transmission line routes make no sense at  
5 all. One of them goes right over the top of my house. And  
6 that map over there shows one thing for proposed routes, that  
7 map over there shows a different proposed route area. There  
8 are some things missing, and I don't understand why they can't  
9 get their act together with that.

10           When I went to the meetings about these, when I asked  
11 about the proposed transmission line routes, and I asked the  
12 attorneys that were present up in Inglis, and I said what  
13 happens to the property values -- and this is for everybody,  
14 all the way through, all the way down. What happens to the  
15 property values of the people, maybe you are not going over the  
16 top of and taking eminent domain, but what about the property  
17 that's right next to it? Because these are only 200-foot-wide  
18 corridors that they are talking about, and I asked the attorney  
19 what are you going to do about that. And they said, well,  
20 that's just the way it is. They could care less about any of  
21 the people that this is affecting.

22           And as far as this being a proposed new plant, I  
23 don't understand that, either. Because as far as Progress  
24 Energy is concerned, this is already a done deal. Even though  
25 they don't have the permitting, they are already hiring people

1 to come down to build this plant. They have got them in the  
2 area for doing this. And so this is kind of -- to me it seems  
3 like Progress Energy is kind of bullying their way into this  
4 area.

5 We are already -- I'm going to be sandwiched in  
6 between two power plant areas. They are turning a pristine  
7 Nature Coast area, that's what everybody moved here for, into  
8 between the mines, Progress Energy, and everybody else we are  
9 turning it from a residential recreation area into an  
10 industrial area. And all the people that have moved into this  
11 area, that affects everybody. And I think the majority of the  
12 people that I have talked to that live in Inglis, that live in  
13 the area along the Withlacoochee River, all feel the same exact  
14 way about this.

15 The only ones that I have heard here anyhow that are  
16 for this are people that don't live in the area, the majority  
17 of them anyhow, or business owners that this isn't going to  
18 effect directly their lives. And a lot of people like myself  
19 that have bought here, built here, this is a retirement area.  
20 Now all of a sudden -- you know, this stuff was not here when  
21 we bought and built here. Now all of a sudden we are getting  
22 run out.

23 This is not making any sense to us at all and to the  
24 area. And so, again, I go along with what a lot of what the  
25 other people have said.

1 (Applause.)

2 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

3 Ms. Bennett.

4 **MS. BENNETT:** Jack Dennis.

5 **MS. DeMELLO:** Mr. Chairman, Mr. Dennis had to leave,  
6 but he wanted to make sure that you knew he was here.

7 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** And he left a letter. Let's mark  
8 that.

9 **MS. DeMELLO:** He didn't leave a letter, he's going to  
10 send you one.

11 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Well, let's put a place  
12 holder.

13 **MS. BENNETT:** There is a customer letter that we will  
14 receive that will go into the record. It doesn't need to be  
15 marked as an exhibit.

16 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Let's do that. Thank you.

17 **MS. BENNETT:** Emily Casey will be next if you are  
18 ready, Mr. Chair.

19 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I'm ready. Emily Casey. Did I get  
20 it right?

21 **MS. CASEY:** That's correct. But I'm going to hold my  
22 comments until a gentleman that needs to leave, so he can go  
23 ahead and speak, if that's okay with you, and I will talk  
24 later. Because he really needs to go.

25 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Sure, why not. With an honest face

1 like you've got, Emily, why not?

2 **MS. CASEY:** Thank you.

3 MICHAEL PETERS

4 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
5 testified as follows:

6 DIRECT STATEMENT

7 **MR. PETERS:** And I was going to tell you I was the  
8 ugliest Emily ever.

9 My name is Michael Peters, and you guys need to grab  
10 your pens and papers and get ready to start writing. I'm going  
11 to try and --

12 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I thought you were in a hurry?

13 **MR. PETERS:** I am. And you will be to see me gone.  
14 Trust me. (Laughter.)

15 I love what Ms. Keith said, and for what it is worth,  
16 Sally Price sold me my house a little over two years ago.  
17 She's a wonderful lady.

18 I'm a commercial mortgage broker, and have been for  
19 the last eight years, and a facilitator of development for  
20 developers from outside the state, both east and west of the  
21 Mississippi River, and have been responsible for, previously in  
22 this life, subdivisions and shopping centers throughout Florida  
23 and the southeast United States.

24 You'll probably be hard pressed to find a person in  
25 this room who is more pro-growth than me. And this isn't a

1 NIMBY -- not in my back yard -- issue, even though I live in  
2 the line of the transmission lines, as well, and we bought our  
3 house that was built before any of the current mines present  
4 and projected existed. This is about numbers.

5           Three hundred acres they propose to build on a  
6 3,100-acre parcel. Basically, a lot of my topics have already  
7 been recovered by other people, and the fact of the matter was  
8 this did seem to be an interconnect to The Villages. The  
9 gentlemen who spoke for Progress Energy at the opening of this  
10 meeting referenced 23 open houses. However, both of the two  
11 that I attended had no feedback allowed, meaning we were not  
12 able to ask questions and get intelligent answers back, or  
13 state our position. We could walk around, look at posters, and  
14 look at things that they told us they were going to do. I  
15 don't call that give and take or communication. I call that  
16 being told how things are going to be.

17           There is not an unlimited supply of water, lo, even  
18 in the Gulf of Mexico. Life expectancy versus breakeven costs  
19 are things that every person on this panel should consider. As  
20 a business owner, and a former developer, and facilitator of  
21 development, we looked at life expectancy on construction of  
22 buildings, et cetera. I will just tell you because I have done  
23 the research, nuclear power plants have a life expectancy of 35  
24 years. They also break-even on construction costs at 30.

25           No permits have been issued by the Federal Department



1 of Energy for nuclear power plants since Three Mile Island.  
2 Now here of all places we pursue two right next to one already  
3 existing? I love the question people were questioning, because  
4 until you have been up to this area where we live, you wouldn't  
5 realize -- and if you visited the area of Crystal River, we  
6 have these big towers everywhere with sirens. They go off at  
7 noon every Friday.

8           One Friday my wife freaked out because they cycle  
9 once. They come on and you can hear them echoing from all over  
10 the place. They ran for about a minute and a half instead of  
11 one ten-second cycle. And she started looking at me and  
12 wondering did we need to pack up the dogs, did we need to pack  
13 up our stuff. Where do we go? Which direction? And the  
14 question is if we are going to have two this proximate to us,  
15 literally blocking our evacuation from one to the other, how do  
16 we know which direction to go? It's a fair question.

17           I have got to ask, you know, why? Since there is not  
18 one place in the United States currently to dispose of nuclear  
19 power plant waste, specifically spent fuel rods, where are they  
20 going to put these and how are they going to get that waste to  
21 this currently unknown site? I didn't know about Yucca  
22 Mountain before attending.

23           I believe, this is my personal opinion, nuclear is  
24 antique, period. Progress Energy stressed today renewables.  
25 Nuclear isn't. Uranium isn't being created as I speak. As the

1 speaker touted efficiency, he failed to note Nevada Solar One  
2 Power Plant. You want to write that down. Nevada Solar One.  
3 It produces 64 megawatts of electricity in Nevada for a little  
4 place called Las Vegas, and lights 16,000 homes as I speak to  
5 you now 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

6           Much like nuclear, it's unaffected by the sun being  
7 out for up to eight days. I don't recall the sun being gone  
8 for eight days formerly in our lifetimes. However, solar  
9 thermal takes electricity -- or, I'm sorry, not electricity, it  
10 takes solar power and it's solar thermal. It heats mineral oil  
11 to 750 degrees, drags it through molten salt, and holds that  
12 heat turning water, which obviously boils at 212 degrees, to  
13 instant steam to turn turbines. And 16,000 homes are currently  
14 provided this power as I talk to you.

15           And so everybody will know, for the record, Nevada is  
16 at a considerably higher latitude, ergo, less sun, than  
17 Florida, and has been -- this power plant producing this  
18 64 megawatts of electricity, electrifying 16,000 homes --

19           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** If I could ask you to kind of wrap  
20 it up.

21           **MR. PETERS:** -- since June of last year. It takes up  
22 300 acres. It heats mineral oil. I covered that. They have a  
23 99 percent reclamation rate on their water used at that  
24 facility, too, by the way. Progress Energy at their corporate  
25 offices didn't know about this plant last week.

1                   Here is another one for you. Sol Focus, S-O-L  
2 F-O-C-U-S.com. HCPV and CPV. Highly concentrated photovoltaic  
3 and concentrated photovoltaic. The fact of the matter is the  
4 technology is accelerating so fast even Progress Energy can't  
5 keep track. Solar panels are now, today, 400 percent more  
6 efficient manufactured by this company and others than they  
7 were one year ago today. In addition, they cost 1/6th of the  
8 cost to manufacture per square foot than they did two years  
9 today. In other words, solar is not any longer a nonviable  
10 option, whether it be in the form of solar thermal, or solar  
11 photovoltaic, or solar thermal.

12                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Mr. Peters, if you could --

13                   MR. PETERS: I am right at the end. One-sixth the  
14 cost, four times the production. Pacwind.org;  
15 P-A-C-W-I-N-D.org. Wind energy via squirrel-cage fans, if you  
16 will, set on their sides. No longer the giant blades that  
17 supposedly kill birds or anything else. Ten kilowatts of  
18 stackable electricity on 256 square feet of land. 256 square  
19 feet of land is a very small amount of space. Up to  
20 40 kilowatts of electricity can be produced per 256 square feet  
21 of raw land with these power systems. So you'll know, when you  
22 walk outside, we are wasting billions of dollars of energy as  
23 you feel the wind hit your face.

24                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Mr. Peters, I'm going to have to  
25 cut you off now.

1           **MR. PETERS:** Thank you.

2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I'm really going to have to cut you  
3 off.

4           **MR. PETERS:** Thank you. Thank you for your time.

5           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, sir.

6           Emily, we're going to have to put you at the back of  
7 the list, since you gave your spot.

8           **MS. CASEY:** That's okay.

9           **MS. BENNETT:** Darryl Diamond.

10          **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Don't go away, Emily. Wait for us.

11          **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** She's waiting.

12   DARRYL DIAMOND

13 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
14 testified as follows:

15   DIRECT STATEMENT

16          **MR. DIAMOND:** Hello. My name is Darryl Diamond. I'm  
17 going to spell my name, and my e-mail is my name at  
18 EarthLink.net, so it is Darryl, D-A-R-R-Y-L, Diamond, like the  
19 stone, @Earthlink.net.

20                   I basically have three concerns, and most of them  
21 have not been touched upon, so I feel kind of unique. The  
22 first thing is if there is no answer tonight, if one of you  
23 could e-mail me, I could disseminate the information  
24 specifically to the Town of Inglis, that's where I have  
25 property, that's where I'm also on the planning commission for

1 the last few years. Of course, we have been pushing for  
2 controlled growth, but with between two and 3,000 workers  
3 coming in in a couple of years that controlled growth is going  
4 to go out the window to a certain extent.

5           Anyway, the first concern is at one point in time,  
6 and I stand corrected if I'm wrong, the NRC required a five  
7 mile no-building zone. And I believe that is what predicated  
8 the placement of the Crystal River plant. And I could be  
9 corrected. I believe that is why the Crystal River plant is  
10 five miles away from 19 and away from everybody else.

11           The reason why I bring this up is I have never seen  
12 an answer. I have spoken to our mayor of Inglis, all the  
13 commissioners -- of course, I'm on the planning commission,  
14 too, and we are all in the dark and we are concerned before you  
15 go through three and a half years with the NRC, has this been  
16 addressed? If it has, fine; tell us what the disposition was.  
17 About two-thirds of our town is within that five-mile zone. I  
18 personally own land up 19 within a mile of that. I want to  
19 know -- I'm also a real estate broker in Inglis, and I like to  
20 be knowledgeable when I sell property. I want to be able to  
21 tell people you are going to be able to build on that land, it  
22 is platted, it is zoned this way, or you are within a mile, or  
23 two miles, or five miles, you are not going to be able to  
24 build, whatever the situation is. I have never had a clear  
25 designation on if the NRC is going to allow building within

1 five miles. That's the first thing.

2 The second thing is everyone in Inglis is concerned,  
3 assuming the plant comes, about a different type of explosion.  
4 It's a population explosion. We are looking at potentially  
5 being in the Guinness Book of World Records. If we go from  
6 roughly 1,700 people in our town, and the workers start coming  
7 in, of course it is going to be well in excess of 2,000  
8 construction works, which is also going to benefit the economy  
9 and workers going into town making good money, we're going to  
10 potentially grow more than 100 percent within six months. We  
11 do not have 2,000-plus beds in Inglis. Of course some people  
12 are going to live in Crystal River, and that's fine. Some  
13 people will live in Dunnellon. But most of them are going to  
14 want -- considering the price of gasoline, driving their  
15 pick-up trucks to the construction site, to live in Inglis.

16 What we are concerned about is specifically the  
17 infrastructure. We do not have a sewer system. We need many  
18 of our roads paved, and the police and fire are our concerns.  
19 Does anyone on the Commission know how many police officers we  
20 have in the Town of Inglis? Well, the answer is very simple.  
21 I know every one of them personally by first name, because  
22 there is only five of them. Now, with several thousand people  
23 coming in working several miles north of town, our restaurants  
24 and bars are going to flourish, and that's fine. But we do  
25 not -- and I'm on the planning commission, and we are trying to

1 analyze this, and we are very concerned about how many more  
2 police we need, how many more firefighters we need. And I do  
3 know that certain Progress Energy representatives have spoken  
4 to our mayor and other commissioners individually about  
5 offering us a joint fire station/police station on 40.

6 Other than that one item, I know nothing about what  
7 the potential growth is going to be. We're guessing. And I'm  
8 am on the planning commission, and I have lived through  
9 tremendous growth in other areas of Florida, so I have an idea,  
10 but we would be -- well, anyway, to get to the point, what  
11 would alleviate our concerns is an impact study. That's what  
12 we would really like. And that's what I would like to ask you  
13 to consider.

14 If we had a clear impact study, even if it was  
15 rudimentary saying, okay, here's how many men are going to live  
16 in this town, men and women, or whatever construction workers  
17 you are going to have, and this is how many more police you  
18 need, fire, and, of course, we do not have a sewer system.  
19 There is going to be a lot more growth as far as homes. That  
20 would be nice if they could -- if Progress Energy did that  
21 study, and then said -- we would really be relieved if they  
22 made it clear that they would be willing to pay for some of  
23 that infrastructure. And right now nothing is clear like that.

24 In short, we need help. We are an area of critical  
25 economic concern, which is an MOA we have signed with the state

1 of Florida, and it is obvious we are a very poor county. Which  
2 later on when the plant is going, yeah, sure, it's going to add  
3 to the tax base and all of that stuff. We understand that. So  
4 that's the second thing, possibly an impact study for this  
5 little town.

6 The next thing is are Florida construction workers  
7 going to be working at this plant, local workers. I have not  
8 really heard that. The few tags floating around Inglis right  
9 now are from Texas, which is not necessarily bad if that's  
10 where most of the workers are putting in the roads, or whatever  
11 they are doing now, but we would appreciate if they would  
12 campaign in Citrus and Levy and Marion Counties. Or at least  
13 say that they would. That is the three concerns.

14 Thank you very much. It is Darryl  
15 Diamond@Earthlink.net. If you can get back to me, the Town of  
16 Inglis would appreciate it a whole lot. Thank you.

17 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** What we can do is, because of our  
18 rules about ex parte communication, but you can give your  
19 information to our staff and our staff can look into it.

20 Ms. DeMello. Thank you, Bev, for thinking ahead.  
21 Thank you.

22 **MR. DIAMOND:** She has my card already. Thank you  
23 very much for your time.

24 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you. Ms. Bennett.

25 **MS. BENNETT:** Kevin Cunningham.



1                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Kevin Cunningham.

2                                   KEVIN CUNNINGHAM

3 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
4 testified as follows:

5                                   DIRECT STATEMENT

6                   **MR. CUNNINGHAM:** Good evening now.

7                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Good evening.

8                   **MR. CUNNINGHAM:** My name is Kevin Cunningham. I'm  
9 from Hernando, Florida. As a realtor, I have seen growth in  
10 Florida first hand over the last 20 years. And, yes, in  
11 Florida we are still growing. In Citrus County we are still  
12 growing. And, yes, even in Citrus County we are still selling  
13 homes.

14                               Energy issues directly effect our economy, our  
15 standard of living, and the environment we all share. To me  
16 it's all about the commitment. Progress Energy has my support  
17 by selling all its non-utility subsidies and showing us that  
18 it's relating back to its core business. That's something that  
19 I had a concern about, which is their core business, which is  
20 customers' growing demand for reliable, affordable electric  
21 service. They have proven to me their interest is securing our  
22 energy's future in Citrus County and the state of Florida, and  
23 as a Floridian, I take that very seriously.

24                               Thank you, Commissioners.

25                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

1           **MS. BENNETT:** Dixie Hollins.

2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Dixie Hollins. Did I get it right?

3                               DIXIE HOLLINS

4 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
5 testified as follows:

6                               DIRECT STATEMENT

7           **MR. HOLLINS:** Hollins.

8           Mr. Commissioner and members of the board, my name is  
9 Dixie Hollins, and I am probably the only one in this room that  
10 has lived for 40 years next to four coal-fired plants and a  
11 nuclear power plant, and I just want to share with you a little  
12 history.

13                           My father and grandfather came up here in 1942 and  
14 purchased 20,000 acres from a New York estate. And back in  
15 those days land was probably worth 50 cents to a dollar an  
16 acre. In the 1960s, Progress Energy -- Florida Power back  
17 then -- came to my father and chose that site because it was a  
18 direct line across the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans where they  
19 were going to get the coal. And they bought 5,000 acres from  
20 us, and a quarter mile transmission corridor. They built two  
21 coal power plants, then they built a nuclear power plant, and  
22 then they built two more coal power plants.

23                           They work very closely with us. And I can tell you  
24 they put security fences around the property they bought; they  
25 were responsible for the drainage to the north and the south

1 and the east and the west; they put cooling towers in to lower  
2 the water temperature; and we were in the pine tree business,  
3 and they voluntarily put monitors out there on 15,000 acres to  
4 make sure that there was no salt residue coming down on my pine  
5 trees. And there was none.

6           They have been a good neighbor. I consider them  
7 family. They have been very supportive and they put Crystal  
8 River on the map. They have boosted up the economy of this  
9 area, and they have provided jobs and provided electricity that  
10 is needed in the state of Florida. They have been community  
11 involvement. They have done the best public relation that I  
12 have ever seen in any big, large organization. I served on the  
13 transmission corridor committee for almost four months; and,  
14 believe me, they have taken all kind of input from everybody  
15 that was on that committee.

16           You can take transmission corridors and turn the  
17 negative into a positive. They have uses. You can grow scrubs  
18 on them, you can have small buildings on them, you can have  
19 agricultural products on them, you can have cattle on them. We  
20 need this power, and Florida Power and Progress Energy, excuse  
21 me, has been very good to this community. I support them 100  
22 percent.

23           I used to live a quarter of a mile away from them.  
24 They were always very positive and very communicative to me on  
25 any projects they did: Fish hatcheries, cooling towers, power

1 plants, transmission line, drainage ditches. I support them  
2 100 percent.

3 I'll be glad to answer any questions, and I'll be  
4 glad to address anybody in this room that has concerns about  
5 living next to a power plant or a transmission line, because I  
6 have five of them going across my property. Thank you very  
7 much for your time.

8 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very, very much.

9 Ms. Bennett.

10 **MS. BENNETT:** Theresa Waldron.

11 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Theresa -- what was the last name?

12 **MS. BENNETT:** Waldron.

13 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Theresa Waldron.

14 Okay. Call the next person.

15 **MS. BENNETT:** Chris Cook.

16 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Chris Cook.

17 CHRIS COOK

18 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
19 testified as follows:

20 DIRECT STATEMENT

21 **MR. COOK:** Thank you, Commissioner Carter,  
22 Commissioners. I appreciate the opportunity for community  
23 input.

24 My name is Chris Cook, C-H-R-I-S, Cook like you do in  
25 a kitchen. I represent the Northdale Civic Association and the

1 Northdale Special Tax District. Northdale is in Hillsborough  
2 County and consists of 13 subdivisions and about 10,000  
3 residents. We support Progress Energy and their need for new  
4 power resources in the state of Florida. We applaud them  
5 moving away from carbon fuel, but. As previous speakers have  
6 mentioned, I do agree that solar is probably the better answer.

7           Unfortunately, you guys don't decide the transmission  
8 lines. That's going to be the DEP. I didn't find that out  
9 until tonight now, but I'm going to go ahead with this anyway.

10           Northdale is just one of over 50 residential  
11 communities that will be affected by the Southernmost east/west  
12 route, transmission route. It's going to go through right our  
13 community. The increased EMF from stepping up to a 230 kV line  
14 poses unacceptable health and safety hazards for our  
15 neighborhood. Several residents along our power line corridor  
16 have reported that they have pacemakers, and these are people  
17 that live adjacent to the existing corridor. There is also a  
18 special needs resident that we know of who suffers from severe  
19 seizure disorder, which means that anything pretty much can set  
20 it off. Sound and sensory sensitivity, chemical sensitivity,  
21 neurological and immune system disorders can all be triggered  
22 by exposure to increased EMF.

23           I would also like to bring to your attention Case  
24 Number 074745 from the state of Florida, Division of  
25 Administrative Hearings, Thomas and Susan Watson versus Tampa

1 Electric Company. The court denied TECO access to its electric  
2 corridor based on these very same circumstances.

3 The extra right-of-way cannot be accommodated on the  
4 Northdale route. It is currently physically 100 feet wide. It  
5 goes right between homes. That means that the homes are  
6 50 feet or less from the existing towers and lines. If this  
7 project is to be approved, we do support the east/west corridor  
8 that follows the State Road 54 route, which is to the north of  
9 us along the bottom edge of Pasco County. State Road  
10 54 corridor right-of-way can better accommodate the extra  
11 width. Much of this is not near homes and is on commercial  
12 property. It's also consistent with the new collocation model  
13 as described in the roads and utilities hybrid.

14 Northdale is a fully developed and well established  
15 neighborhood. There is no growth and no need for new power  
16 lines in our neighborhood. As far as I know, I don't think  
17 this line is going to service any of Hillsborough County.  
18 Progress Energy and the proposed lines would not even service  
19 Northdale and Hillsborough County, but they would provide  
20 service to Pasco County, where they are experiencing tremendous  
21 growth and where the State Road 54 route exists.

22 And I do have one quick question. Are the  
23 proceedings from here -- is the testimony from here going to be  
24 entered into the DEP decisions?

25 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** DEP has access to our need

1 determination, and whatever is in our files that goes to the  
2 need determination, they will have access to that. It would be  
3 available to them.

4 **MR. COOK:** Okay.

5 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** One second.

6 **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Excuse me. I would suggest  
7 if you want the DEP to get something, that you send it to them  
8 personally.

9 **MR. COOK:** Oh, we will, believe me. And I'll give  
10 you this as an exhibit. Northdale says no.

11 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you. Ms. Bennett.

12 **MS. BENNETT:** That would be Exhibit 11, Northdale  
13 says no.

14 (Exhibit 11 marked for identification.)

15 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** And that is with Chris Cook.

16 **MS. BENNETT:** And your next witness is Cheryl  
17 Phillips.

18 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Cheryl Phillips. Okay. Call the  
19 next witness.

20 **MS. BENNETT:** Janey Baldwin.

21 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Janey Baldwin. Janey Baldwin, come  
22 on down.

23 JANEY BALDWIN

24 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
25 testified as follows:

## DIRECT STATEMENT

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**MS. BALDWIN:** Good evening, Commissioners.

First, I would like to say congratulations to Commissioner Argenziano for being appointed to this Commission. I'm so glad you are here.

**COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Thank you. It's good to be here.

**MS. BALDWIN:** We kind of miss you up in the legislature, though.

I wanted to tell you a story. About 40 years ago, I came from Missouri. We had a farm, my husband and I did. And one day one of our neighbors called and said why are you cutting trees on the north end of the property. I said we are not. I consulted my husband, and he didn't know anything about it. He said, well, you are. I said, well, after we close the business we'll come out and take a look. We got the helicopter up, went out there, and sure enough, the new nuclear power plant in Missouri, building their plant, and they had hired a company to clear cut for the transmission lines without saying one word to anyone. No one knew a think about it. We were shocked. Of course, we had to hire an attorney. We had to go to court, spend a lot of money for nothing, because they had the right to do that.

Things have changed, thank God, for the better. I know people are, you know, worried about it and so on, but if



1 they knew what it was like 40 years ago, they would be very  
2 glad that Progress Energy is so willing to answer their  
3 questions and do whatever they can to help them understand what  
4 is going on.

5 I attended one of their committee meetings, the  
6 community working group they called it. And the first meeting  
7 we had, the president of the company was there. And after  
8 everybody had said their peace and so on, he summed it up. And  
9 one of the things he told us was -- and he named four different  
10 people who worked for Progress Energy, he's sending them over  
11 to France, who are way ahead of us in nuclear energy, to see  
12 how it was working. Especially the process they had for  
13 reusing spent fuel rods. The process was developed in this  
14 country, but never used here. And we're sending people over to  
15 France to find out how it's working. I thought, you know,  
16 there is something wrong about this picture. Anyway, they will  
17 be coming back and telling us the result of that study, and  
18 hopefully you'll hear about it, also.

19 But my point in this is to let people know that  
20 Progress Energy is very willing to answer any and every  
21 question. I have been in, I think, four meetings now where  
22 every concern that was brought up today, they have already  
23 answered, and I'm sure they would be very happy to answer all  
24 of them again. You can ask anything. They're right there to  
25 help. It is very different from what I experienced. And we

1 were thrilled to death. When I was asked to be on the  
2 committee I thought, good, I want to hear what this is all  
3 about. And I was very surprised and very happy about it.

4 I'm am from Hernando County, by the way, and we have  
5 had quite a few questions. We are a very questioning audience  
6 there. Anyway, good luck. Thank you.

7 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you so much, Ma'am; thank you  
8 so much.

9 Ms. Bennett.

10 **MS. BENNETT:** Emily Casey.

11 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Emily Casey.

12 Hello. Welcome back.

13 EMILY CASEY

14 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
15 testified as follows:

16 DIRECT STATEMENT

17 **MS. CASEY:** Thank you. Emily Casey. That's  
18 C-A-S-E-Y.

19 Well, I, too, have been sitting there and had my  
20 notes all in order when I started, but as time has progressed,  
21 there's a scratch mark here and a scratch mark there. So I'm  
22 not really -- it's going to sound rather choppy now, because I  
23 don't want to say the same thing over again. So I apologize  
24 for that up front. I had a little time there, as I tried to  
25 get my act together, once again. Okay.

1 I am a science teacher here in the Citrus County  
2 school, I do teach biology and chemistry and environmental  
3 science, physical science. I'm not an expert by any means  
4 about any of this, but I do know a little bit about it. And I  
5 am here really just to now -- I had a speech, but now it is  
6 just to make some statements.

7 One of the things that has been addressed and  
8 questioned was why there. And I do understand why Progress  
9 Energy wants to place the two nuclear plants in Levy County.  
10 One, the land was relatively cheap. And, two, the Levy County  
11 business interests all there see green, green as in dollars and  
12 cents it's going to bring to the county and the tax base.

13 Of course, there's a lot of people that have been  
14 promised jobs. However, if you have looked about a month ago  
15 in the newspaper it was Citrus County that had the highest rate  
16 of unemployment the report said, and we have one nuclear plant  
17 and four coal plants here, so what good has it done? That's  
18 one of my comments.

19 Another comment here is about the tax money. The way  
20 I feel about Progress Energy's ability to bill us starting next  
21 year at \$9 is that Progress Energy might want to and get by  
22 with being able to gamble with their shareholders, and their  
23 shareholders are making sure they are not going to be losing  
24 anything because they want reimbursed for that money, and who  
25 is going to that reimbursement, well, we are. But I have a

1 question about that. If we, as residents, pay \$9 a month, what  
2 is it going to cost businesses and commercial interests?  
3 Obviously, I'm sure more than \$9 a month. So everybody's  
4 electric bill is going to be increasing from this. That's just  
5 another thought.

6           Why is the southeast the only area in the country  
7 where the utility companies are waiting and wanting to build  
8 nuclear power plants? It seems to me like we in the south,  
9 what is it, we can't do any better than this? We are not  
10 innovative enough. There are many other parts of the country  
11 that are moving forward with alternative energies.

12           One of the problems may be our antiquated economic  
13 system that we have in the southeast with how utilities are  
14 reimbursed. I'm by no means an expert on that, but I have read  
15 enough to know that that could be a problem. So maybe the  
16 Public Service Commission and the folks in the powers that be  
17 may want to look at that. That might make it more profitable  
18 for Progress Energy or any other utility to actually go forth  
19 and use alternative energies, which is solar, wind, whatever.  
20 And that's what I really encourage. Because, like I said,  
21 nuclear power plant and nuclear power in the '70s was a new  
22 technology, now it's not and we also know a lot more about the  
23 problems and everything that exists than we knew in the '70s.

24           And one of the things that we have been sold on, we  
25 have learned in the last several years that we cannot always

1 believe just what we're told by big business. Just look at  
2 these nalgene bottles as of just last week that we all carry  
3 around and drink our water in for years. Well, now they are  
4 talking about banning them. Why? Because there are chemicals  
5 in there that have proven now to be toxic and are finally  
6 coming forward. And what I'm saying here, I don't want to get  
7 into the context of all the chemicals that are emitted from the  
8 nuclear power plants, but there are some things that are there  
9 that come out when they clean the plants and all that are not  
10 really being told to us. And I'm sure that as time goes on we  
11 will learn more. So that's something we have to think about.

12           And then last, but not least, I know I am kind of  
13 running over my time, I took the projection studies, population  
14 projection studies from the University of Florida. I went in  
15 the middle row, because they had high, middle, and low, and  
16 made them out on a spreadsheet, because I was just curious.  
17 Well, just who is going to -- or which counties and how much  
18 are they going to increase by the year 2035.

19           So here is the spreadsheet, and I kind of color-coded  
20 them. And what I came up with, I took Progress Energy's  
21 35-county service area and color-coded it to see where the  
22 population would increase the most. And, of course, if you  
23 look right down there where the transmission lines end, that's  
24 Sumter County, Lake County, which we all know is The Villages  
25 and that area. So my proposal to Progress Energy is to be

1 progressive, think outside the box, maybe use these open cow  
2 pastures and fields for a solar energy collection area and let  
3 The Villages and that area, you know, kind of support  
4 themselves and support their own growth.

5           And if you look at it, there is also on this all the  
6 total places where power is being generated. And you'll see  
7 that right now there are seven more places under construction  
8 within the Progress Energy service area, and Unit 3 is, I  
9 believe, if I am using the right terminology is called uprated.  
10 So that's eight new or more -- seven new and one more will  
11 have, you know, more kilowatts being produced.

12           So if you conserve, educate the public and practice  
13 conservation, get conservation methods out to the people, make  
14 it easy, provide incentives for them to conserve, or solar or  
15 wind power, alternative energies, reduce that, maybe we won't  
16 have such a large increase in energy in the next -- what is it,  
17 25 years that you make your projection. And then you will  
18 diversify by making areas of growth be responsible for their  
19 own energy. It just seems to me logical. Then you don't, as a  
20 company, don't even need to put out that billions and billions  
21 and billions of dollars. That's my comment.

22           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Do we get to keep the charts?

23           **MS. CASEY:** Yes, you do get to keep the chart.

24           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Color-coded.

25           **MS. CASEY:** They are color-coded charts, yes.

1           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Commissioner Argenziano.

2           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Ms. Casey, one of your  
3 comments was that you hoped the PSC would address the -- I  
4 think you said antiquated reimbursement of the cost-recovery.

5           **MS. CASEY:** Right.

6           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** What I want you to know is  
7 that we don't do that. That is mandated by the policymakers in  
8 the Legislature.

9           **MS. CASEY:** Okay. Well, maybe not the PSC, but maybe  
10 you all could initiate that conversation, and have a  
11 conversation and maybe look at that and see if the power  
12 companies here in the southeast cannot be encouraged to go  
13 forth with solar power or alternative energies as opposed to  
14 what is happening now.

15           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Right. I thought you were  
16 saying that maybe we should look at the things that they  
17 recover, the things that they are reimbursed for, and it is --

18           **MS. CASEY:** Just how the whole thing is financed.

19           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Okay. I just want you to  
20 know that the statute, the lawmakers are the ones who dictate  
21 the policy of what a utility can recover and what they spend  
22 their money on. You have to look at prudence in there.

23           **MS. CASEY:** Maybe that whole process needs to be  
24 looked at. I don't know all of the particulars about it, I  
25 don't know maybe the correct terminology to use, but maybe that

1 whole process needs to be updated and changed as the popular  
2 buzz word is, think outside the box.

3           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** I just really want you to  
4 know that that policy is by your state senators and  
5 representatives. We are not the policymakers. We do what they  
6 tell us to do.

7           **MS. CASEY:** Okay. So then maybe we need to go to  
8 the --

9           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** There you go.

10           **MS. CASEY:** Maybe we need to know what we need to do.  
11 Maybe there is somewhere -- whatever the steps are, there needs  
12 to be a change. Thank you.

13           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

14           Commissioners, this will be marked for  
15 identification, Ms. Emily Casey, this will be Number 12. It  
16 will be a composite exhibit, both the charts. Maybe you can  
17 get those color-coded for us, too.

18           **MS. CASEY:** And I have the little book here that I  
19 made basically a quote from, or had one at one time, but I just  
20 kind of marked it out. Can I put that in with the exhibit?

21           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Sure, absolutely. It will be  
22 Composite Exhibit Number 12.

23           (Exhibit 12 marked for identification.)

24           **MS. CASEY:** Okay. Thank you.

25           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you. Those students are



1 lucky to have you as their science teacher.

2 **MS. CASEY:** I don't know about that, but thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett.

5 **MS. BENNETT:** Scott Rexroat.

6 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Say again.

7 **MS. BENNETT:** Scott Rexroat.

8 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Scott, you've got to help us with  
9 your last name.

10 SCOTT REXROAT

11 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
12 testified as follows:

13 DIRECT STATEMENT

14 **MR. REXROAT:** It is Rexroat, Scott Rexroat. I don't  
15 have a big presentation here, I just want to say that, you  
16 know, I have a dear love of Florida. And I think this is  
17 the -- we have moved into the new millennium here with the 21st  
18 century, and I believe that solar energy is the way to go with  
19 our power sources, and Florida should set the precedent for the  
20 rest of the nation.

21 I would also like to say that, you know, probably the  
22 reason why they don't want to build on the Crystal River power  
23 plant site is because it's contaminated with nuclear waste and  
24 it wouldn't sustain two more plants without contaminating the  
25 people that live in the region. I'm just suspecting that.

1 I do know that there is a lot of power in the sun,  
2 and not to pick on anybody, but the Progress Energy guy there,  
3 I can prove it. I've got a magnifying glass out there. I can  
4 burn the rest of his hair off the top of his head with it. So  
5 there is --

6 **MR. GLENN:** It wouldn't take a lot of time.

7 (Laughter.)

8 **MR. REXROAT:** Five minutes maybe, you know, once it  
9 heats up. So, you know, we can harvest this energy from the  
10 sun. The Nature Coast is the Nature Coast for a reason, and I  
11 hope it isn't the Nature Coast for the reason that they want to  
12 just fill it up with nuclear power plants here. And, you know,  
13 you can already see the infrastructure in Florida to spread the  
14 development and waste, you know, a lot of what we have here,  
15 and they are going to need power for that development. But,  
16 anyways, that is all I have to say. Thanks for being here.

17 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

18 Ms. Bennett.

19 **MS. BENNETT:** Carvell Simpson.

20 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Say again.

21 **MS. BENNETT:** Carvell Simpson.

22 MS. SIMPSON: He just stepped out.

23 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Call the next person.

24 **MS. BENNETT:** Phyllis Lott.

25 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Phyllis Lott.

1 PHYLLIS LOTT

2 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
3 testified as follows:

4 DIRECT STATEMENT

5 **MS. LOTT:** Hi. My name is Phyllis Lott, and I have a  
6 home at 31 Magnolia Avenue in Yankeetown. I'm sort of playing  
7 catch-up here. I came in late, because I wasn't really aware  
8 of this meeting. So listening to everyone speak, and I'm  
9 really impressed that everybody has done such a marvelous job  
10 in their homework, looking all of these facts and figures, and  
11 I'm feverishly trying to write all of this stuff down.

12 But I'm looking at this and I am thinking we are  
13 holding a meeting here, but the land has already been  
14 purchased, the comp plan was already changed, everything was  
15 already in the works, but now we're holding the meeting. I  
16 don't understand why the meeting was not held before all of  
17 this was done. It's like -- it's almost like, well, it's just  
18 too late; we're going to do this anyway, but we're going to be  
19 nice and hear what you people have to say about it. It seems  
20 like that whole procedure is backwards here.

21 A lot of the things I was going to say have already  
22 been said, and I'm not going to repeat them. I was told that  
23 it was going to rejuvenate the economy. That this was going to  
24 be a boost to our economy, that it would be a boost as far as  
25 housing and businesses are concerned and everything. Well, I

1 pulled up some information on the website and it talked about  
2 how these nuclear plants going into areas, they usually choose  
3 an area that is severely depressed prior to the siting of the  
4 facility, and actually anything that went there would increase  
5 the economy from a manufacturing plant to anything. So I  
6 really don't think you can say, well, this is going to really  
7 boost our economy. I think it's not going to help; I think it  
8 is going to hurt.

9           Let me tell you what was proposed to go into -- next  
10 to the nuclear power plant. My family owns several thousand  
11 acres over there. We had an offer on the land by a developer  
12 who had proposed to build multi-million dollars homes, golf  
13 courses, everything over there. When he got wind of the  
14 nuclear power plant, he pulled the plug, forfeited his deposit,  
15 and he was done. So what we have done now, instead of doing  
16 something that would have really helped this community, been  
17 really important to businesses, because it seems like it's a  
18 lot of these business owners who want this to take place, what  
19 we have done now is substituted a nuclear power plant. This  
20 will not help our economy. In the long-run this is going to  
21 hurt.

22           Who in the world wants to build nice homes and an  
23 upscale community sandwiched between two nuclear power plants?  
24 Maybe some of you want it, but I can tell you that most people  
25 will not want to raise their families, their children, this is

1 not an area they will look at to buy a new home at. They will  
2 not. They will be turned off by this.

3           So it's divided between the people that want it and  
4 the people that don't want it. The people who want it, of  
5 course, are businesses. The people who don't want it are  
6 people who have families, and children, and retirees who come  
7 here to enjoy the beauty that this area holds. And it is  
8 picturesque. It is gorgeous. Anytime you go anyplace in this  
9 country, if you come back to this area, and you are just drawn  
10 by its beauty.

11           And what we're doing now -- and the question I want  
12 to ask is are we the only -- I don't know of any community, and  
13 there may be some out there, a community that is sandwiched  
14 between two nuclear power plants. Are we the only ones? Are  
15 there some others in this country that's like that? Are we the  
16 only two that's going to be like eight miles apart, two nuclear  
17 power plants? I just wish everybody would stop and take a deep  
18 breath and think about this, and think about what the long-term  
19 effects are going to be. And we are going to forfeit something  
20 that we can never reclaim again.

21           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

22           **MS. BENNETT:** Susan Kirk.

23           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Susan Kirk.

24                           SUSAN KIRK

25 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,

1 testified as follows:

2 DIRECT STATEMENT

3 **MS. KIRK:** Good afternoon, Chairman, Commission  
4 members. My name is Susan Kirk. I'm a resident of Crystal  
5 River, have been since about 1984. I spent two years on my  
6 local planning and zoning board, two years on my community  
7 redevelopment agency, and another seven years on the Crystal  
8 River City Council. And I was sitting on the Council when they  
9 announced that they would be building the project in Levy  
10 County.

11 Right now I'm a citizen at large heavily involved  
12 with my community in many different aspects. I won't repeat  
13 the things that have been said here, but I just wanted to say I  
14 heartily endorse this whole project for Progress Energy, for  
15 the benefits, the responsible company that we have known  
16 Progress Energy to be, the things that they bring to our  
17 community, and I know that it will be a plus in many, many  
18 ways.

19 Thank you.

20 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you very much.

21 Ms. Bennett.

22 **MS. BENNETT:** There were three individuals that we  
23 called that were not present when we called them. I believe  
24 Mr. Simpson is not back yet.

25 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Let's go back to Theresa Waldron.

1           **MS. BENNETT:** Theresa Waldron.

2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I'm trying to go back in the order  
3 that I had folks present.

4           **MS. BENNETT:** Yes. Theresa Waldron was the first  
5 that we called that was not present.

6           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** She's not here?

7           Then we had Cheryl Phillips. Okay. I take pretty  
8 good notes. Carvell Simpson. There we go. Right?

9           **MR. SIMPSON:** Right.

10          **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Who said that you can't  
11 learn anything in the south Georgia public school system. Mr.  
12 Simpson.

13   CARVELL SIMPSON  
14 appeared as a witness and, swearing to tell the truth,  
15 testified as follows:

16   DIRECT STATEMENT

17          **MR. SIMPSON:** My name is Carvell Simpson, and I have  
18 lived in this area now for 13 years. I am refugee from Long  
19 Island where they have built the Lucolt (phonetic) plant which  
20 they dismantled before it got on-line.

21                   I moved to this area because of what I saw. And  
22 after 13 years, I realized that we are basically sitting on a  
23 gold mine here. Everybody seems to want the things that we  
24 have in this area, between the Tampa Bay Area Transit  
25 Authority, SWFWMD and St. Johns River want our water supply,

1 the transmission gas lines coming in, and I'm just getting a  
2 little bit overwhelmed about why is it that everybody want the  
3 things that we have, yet they don't particularly want it in  
4 their area. And it just boggles the mind to think that here we  
5 have all these people coming at us and the things that we have,  
6 but nobody wants it in their area. Progress Energy wanted to  
7 build 200 miles of transmission lines. Well, why not save all  
8 that money building transmission lines and build it in the area  
9 where that power is going to be used?

10           The other thing that really ticks me off is the fact  
11 that I'm 72 years old, and I have to pay probably for the next  
12 ten years or more for something that I may not get any benefit  
13 at all from. I probably will be assessed \$9 a month, and if  
14 the plant comes on-line in ten years, if I'm still around,  
15 maybe I'll recoup some of that money, but the chances are  
16 likely that I may not. And it just seems to me that there is  
17 something wrong with the fact that Progress Energy is a  
18 publicly traded company, why aren't the -- and I think Ms.  
19 Argenziano answered that already, but why aren't the  
20 shareholders paying to build this plant? Why should I pay for  
21 it when I may never get any benefit at all from it?

22           And that's all I have to say, just that I am getting  
23 very frustrated. Thank you.

24           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Mr. Simpson, you look darn  
25 good for 72.



1           **MR. SIMPSON:** Thank you very much.

2           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Ms. Bennett.

3           **MS. BENNETT:** There are no other witnesses that have  
4 signed up to speak.

5           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Before I recognize the  
6 Commissioners, is there anyone here that wanted to sign up that  
7 didn't get an opportunity to sign up? Because we are about to  
8 get into a phase with our Commissioners. And thank you,  
9 Commissioners, for allowing me to kind of hold your questions  
10 so we can hear as many people as possible, and I appreciate  
11 that. You didn't have to do it, but I appreciate the  
12 opportunity that you afforded me to hear from as many people as  
13 possible. So, Ms. Bennett, that was the last person you had?

14           **MS. BENNETT:** Yes, sir, Mr. Chair.

15           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. At this point in time,  
16 Commissioners, I'm going to start to my left and come forward  
17 to my right, and then I'll wrap this up.

18                   First of all, Commissioner Skop, you're recognized,  
19 sir.

20           **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21                   I guess I was able to get one of my questions out of  
22 the way earlier. I just had three quick questions. I guess  
23 the first question I had was with respect to -- at least two  
24 consumers raised the issue about alarms and the ability to  
25 distinguish between the existing facility with the proposed

1 facility. If Progress at some point, if it's not already  
2 addressed in the prefiled testimony, might be able to address  
3 those particular concerns. I think that that was an excellent  
4 point that was raised, although it was not maybe necessarily  
5 within our jurisdiction, because we don't get into safety, but  
6 I thought it was a valid point.

7           With respect to two other questions, I think a point  
8 was raised about burying of spent fuel in Florida. And I'm  
9 getting old, but I think there may -- either I didn't hear it  
10 correctly, or there may have been some misunderstanding or  
11 confusion regarding that point. To at least my understanding,  
12 and I'm subject to being corrected, is that the spent fuel in  
13 Florida, at least with your facility, is stored in pools with  
14 water acting as a moderating chilling mechanism, and those  
15 pools can actually stand there without any protective  
16 radioactive garments on them. But I just wanted to see if  
17 Progress might be able to briefly speak to providing some  
18 clarification on that, or just get with the individual  
19 consumers who raised that issue to clarify that point.

20           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** I would prefer -- excuse me for  
21 interrupting, Commissioner. I would prefer that Progress would  
22 do that just within the individual consumer. Because Mr. Glenn  
23 is going to be part of the -- when we go into the actual  
24 litigation phase, he'll be a witness, so let's -- I know you  
25 have got some personnel here today from Progress that can kind

1 of touch base with them, and we'll do that.

2 **MR. GLENN:** We would be happy to do that after this  
3 meeting, or at any time, and also to address that at the  
4 technical hearing, as well.

5 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Okay. Commissioner Skop, you're  
6 recognized.

7 **COMMISSIONER SKOP:** Thank you, Mr. Chair.

8 And I appreciate that. That would probably be a more  
9 appropriate mechanism to have them get with the individual  
10 customers. And, secondly, I think there was perhaps some  
11 misunderstanding or confusion on the return of the water to the  
12 canal. I thought I heard at least one or more people suggest  
13 that the water from the cooling of the reactors would just be  
14 placed right back in the canal. I think there might be,  
15 perhaps, a little bit of disconnect. Again, I might be wrong,  
16 but my understanding was that would be piped way out into the  
17 Gulf. And I think that's a point of, perhaps, further  
18 clarification to correct a misunderstanding or misconception or  
19 confusion. That's all. Thank you.

20 **MR. GLENN:** Commissioner Skop, we can address that,  
21 as well, at the technical hearing. My understanding is that  
22 you are correct, it will not be pumped into the barge canal but  
23 out into the Gulf of Mexico.

24 **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

25 Commissioner McMurrian.

1                   **COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN:** Thank you, Chairman.

2                   I didn't have any specific questions. I just wanted  
3 to let everyone know that, of course, we have been listening.  
4 I think you have seen us all taking notes, and we will be  
5 getting a lot more information from the parties in this docket.  
6 And Mr. Burgess from the Office of Public Counsel is also  
7 taking note of your concerns, and I am not sure -- he works  
8 with a separate agency that represents the consumers before us,  
9 and so he is definitely taking note of your concerns, as well.  
10 We will be getting a lot more information and following up on  
11 the things that we have jurisdiction to address, I think we  
12 discussed that earlier. But I don't have any specific  
13 questions that we won't be looking at further, Chairman.

14                   Thank you.

15                   **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

16                   Commissioner Argenziano.

17                   **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Well, I just want to say I  
18 want to thank everybody for coming today. The debate is very  
19 good. It's good for me to know what you're thinking. You  
20 know, this is my home. I live on Lake Rousseau, and love this  
21 place just as much as many of you, if not all of you do. I  
22 appreciate your input. And at the proper time there is certain  
23 quasi-judicial -- there is a quasi-judicial aspect to what we  
24 do, and we have to make sure that due process is allowed to all  
25 sides.

1           What is in the realm of my duties and jurisdiction, I  
2 will make sure that I look at and will ask the questions that  
3 need to be asked. But I want you to realize, too, that we are  
4 mandated by the Legislature to do certain things, and we have  
5 to do it within parameters, and I will make sure that I do  
6 those things within those parameters. But I ask you also to  
7 make sure that you stay in touch with your legislative  
8 delegation as well as the company, too, with questions that  
9 they may be able to answer, and make your feelings known.

10           And I'm just very glad to be home and to see you all  
11 here tonight and look forward to working with this issue as we  
12 go down the road.

13           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you, Commissioner.

14           Commissioner Edgar.

15           **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16           I just also want to echo my colleagues and say thank  
17 you to everybody who participated. I know it's long to sit,  
18 but we have had some really, really, really thoughtful  
19 comments, and I appreciate that very much. And I came here to  
20 listen, so thank you for the opportunity.

21           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** Thank you.

22           And let me just say to my colleagues how much I  
23 sincerely appreciate you allowing me to listen to as many  
24 people as possible, because it's our goal as a Commission to  
25 make sure that as we go into our deliberations we look at how

1 it impacts upon the ratepayers. That's you, people like you.  
2 And it is important to us.

3           There is a public part of this process and then there  
4 is a -- as Commissioner Argenziano said, there's a judicial  
5 part of the process. But there is nothing more important than  
6 for us to be able to come out. It's hard to look you in the  
7 eyes in Tallahassee, but if we come down to where you are, and  
8 you can tell us exactly what is on your hearts and what is on  
9 your mind and all like that.

10           And I sincerely appreciate this Commission being  
11 willing to come out and listen. And I know that they have  
12 questions and all like that, but they decided to defer their  
13 questions to allow you to get your comments on the record, and  
14 I am deeply honored and privileged to serve with you. And,  
15 Commissioners, I thank you for this opportunity. We have got  
16 staff traveling back to Tallahassee tonight. You all be  
17 careful, because we don't want you all to be part of -- I think  
18 was five police officers they had.

19           **COMMISSIONER ARGENZIANO:** Not just that, Mr. Chair.  
20 There are lots of deer on the way between here and Tallahassee  
21 at night. I've met them up close.

22           **CHAIRMAN CARTER:** So be careful, staff. And with  
23 that, we are adjourned.

24           (The service hearing concluded at 7:35 p.m.)

25                           \* \* \* \* \*

1 STATE OF FLORIDA )

2 : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3 COUNTY OF LEON )

4

I, JANE FAUROT, RPR, Chief, Hearing Reporter Services  
5 Section, FPSC Division of Commission Clerk, do hereby certify  
6 that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place  
herein stated.

7

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically  
8 reported the said proceedings; that the same has been  
transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this  
9 transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said  
proceedings.

10

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee,  
11 attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative  
or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel  
12 connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in  
the action.

13

DATED THIS 5th day of May, 2008.

14



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JANE FAUROT, RPR

16

Official FPSC Hearings Reporter

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