

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 100009-EI  
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

MAY 3, 2010

IN RE: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COST RECOVERY  
FOR THE YEARS ENDING  
DECEMBER 2010 AND 2011

TESTIMONY & EXHIBITS OF:

NILS J. DIAZ

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**BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY**  
**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF NILS J. DIAZ**  
**DOCKET NO. 100009-EI**  
**MAY 3, 2010**

**Q. Please state your name and business address.**

A. My name is Nils J. Diaz. My business address is 2508 Sunset Way, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida, 33706.

**Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?**

A. I am the Managing Director of The ND2 Group (ND2). ND2 is a consulting group with a strong focus on nuclear energy matters. ND2 presently provides advice for clients in the areas of nuclear power deployment and licensing, high level radioactive waste issues, and advanced security systems development.

**Q. Have you previously provided testimony in this docket?**

A. No.

**Q. Please describe your other industry experience and affiliations.**

A. I presently hold the position of Commissioner, Florida Energy and Climate Commission, as well as board memberships in National Labs and private institutions. I previously served as the Chairman of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) from 2003 to 2006, after serving as a Commissioner of the NRC from 1996 to 2003. Prior to my appointment to the

1 NRC, I was the Director of the Innovative Nuclear Space Power and  
2 Propulsion Institute (INSPI) for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization of  
3 the U.S. Department of Defense, and Professor of Nuclear Engineering  
4 Sciences at the University of Florida. I have also consulted on nuclear energy  
5 and energy policy development for private industries in the United States and  
6 abroad, as well as the U.S. Government and other governments. I have  
7 testified as an expert witness to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives  
8 on many occasions for the last 25 years. Additional details are provided in my  
9 Summary Resume, which is attached as Exhibit NJD-1.

10 **Q. Are you sponsoring any exhibits in this case?**

11 A. Yes. I am sponsoring Exhibits NJD-1 through NJD- 4, which are attached to  
12 my direct testimony.

13	Exhibit NJD-1	Summary Resume of Nils J. Diaz, PhD
14	Exhibit NJD-2	NRC Combined Licensing Processes
15	Exhibit NJD-3	New Reactor Licensing Applications
16	Exhibit NJD-4	Nuclear Power Plant Technology Evolution

17 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

18 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide a summary of the role of the U.S.  
19 Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in licensing FPL's Turkey Point  
20 Units 6 and 7 and to discuss issues important to the continuing project  
21 decision-making process. I arrive at the conclusion that FPL's management  
22 approach to the Turkey Point 6 & 7 project and related decisions is consistent  
23 with the overriding objective of minimizing nuclear power plant cost and

1 schedule risks, in accordance with the U.S. system of regulation of nuclear  
2 power and with best management practices.

3 **Q. Please describe how your testimony is organized.**

4 A. My testimony includes the following sections:

- 5 1. Roles and Responsibilities of the NRC
- 6 2. Statutory Responsibilities of the NRC
- 7 3. New 10 CFR Part 52 Reactor Licensing Framework
- 8 4. Generation III+ Reactors and AP1000 Design Certification Status
- 9 5. Spent Fuel Disposition and Waste Confidence Decision
- 10 6. FPL's Project Management Approach to Turkey Point 6 & 7

11 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

12 A. My testimony addresses the NRC's role and responsibility to conduct an  
13 effective and efficient licensing process for new nuclear power plants, as well  
14 as other regulatory and oversight activities in which the NRC engages to  
15 accomplish its safety objectives. The testimony discusses opportunities for  
16 public participation in NRC licensing, and the protection afforded by  
17 employee concerns programs that were encouraged by NRC policy  
18 statements. The NRC, as the successor to the Atomic Energy Commission, is  
19 endowed by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, with exclusive  
20 jurisdiction over nuclear safety and by the additional enacted laws forming the  
21 statutory frame for protection of public health and safety and the environment.  
22 Next, a summary discussion is provided for the primary nuclear power plant  
23 regulation, 10 CFR Part 50, and the enhanced licensing process codified in

1 1989 by the NRC at 10 CFR Part 52. Then, I discuss the risk minimization  
2 advantages and benefits implemented by the combined licensing process of  
3 Part 52, including a brief description of the synergy between a Combined  
4 Operating License Application (COLA) and a Design Certification. The  
5 status of the Turkey Point 6 & 7 COLA is addressed within the context of the  
6 Generation III+ AP1000 technology advantages and its design certification. A  
7 brief update is then provided on the used/ spent (spent) fuel disposition  
8 program and the NRC Waste Confidence Decision, again placed in the context  
9 of the ongoing licensing proceedings for the Turkey Point COLA. Finally, I  
10 review FPL management decisions for the deployment of their nuclear power  
11 plants. Based on my experience, a review of FPL's decisions leads me to  
12 conclude that the stepwise approach to licensing and project scheduling for  
13 the Turkey Point new units, and its decision to extend their target operation  
14 dates, is prudent and reasonable.

### 15 16 **Roles and Responsibilities of the NRC**

#### 17 18 **Q. What are the responsibilities and mission of the NRC?**

19 A. The NRC was created as an independent agency by the Energy  
20 Reorganization Act of 1974, which abolished the Atomic Energy Commission  
21 (AEC) and transferred its regulatory functions to the NRC. The Atomic  
22 Energy Act of 1954, as amended, provides the foundation for regulating the  
23 nation's commercial nuclear power industry. The Act imposes on the NRC

1 the obligation to protect the public health and safety and to ensure that all  
2 civilian nuclear materials are used in a safe and proper manner. The NRC's  
3 mission is to license and regulate the nation's civilian use of byproduct,  
4 source, and special nuclear materials to ensure adequate protection of public  
5 health and safety, promote the common defense and security and protect the  
6 environment. The NRC achieves its mission by imposing and regulating a  
7 series of safety objectives that enables the safe and secure use and  
8 management of radioactive materials and nuclear fuels for beneficial civilian  
9 purposes.

10 **Q. What primary NRC activities are conducted to accomplish its safety**  
11 **objectives?**

12 A. The NRC conducts multiple primary activities to accomplish its safety  
13 objectives, including: developing regulations and guidance related to the uses  
14 of nuclear materials; licensing or certifying applicants to use nuclear  
15 materials, operate nuclear facilities, and decommission facilities; inspecting  
16 and assessing licensee operations and facilities to ensure that licensees comply  
17 with NRC requirements and taking appropriate enforcement action when  
18 necessary; evaluating operational experience of licensed facilities, activities  
19 and events; conducting research, holding hearings, and obtaining independent  
20 reviews to support regulatory decisions; and conducting activities related to  
21 the common defense and security, specifically controlling access to nuclear  
22 materials and coordinating with international efforts to control the  
23 proliferation of nuclear materials.

1 **Q. How is NRC's radiological safety oversight exercised?**

2 A. The NRC sets the rules that users of radioactive materials must follow to  
3 prevent or minimize radiation exposure, with 10 CFR Part 20 as the primary  
4 set of standards and regulations. The NRC's regulations are intended to  
5 protect workers using radioactive materials and the general public from the  
6 potential hazards of radioactivity. In fact, radiological protection is the  
7 primary objective for achieving the NRC mission of protecting public health  
8 and safety. Therefore, NRC regulations are constantly reviewed and updated  
9 to improve radiological protection, including efforts to minimize exposure  
10 below regulatory standards. Changes to the regulations and new regulations  
11 are implemented using standard federal practices, based on recommendations  
12 from the NRC staff, industry organizations and academia, and interested  
13 members of the public to improve radiological protection for individuals and  
14 the public. The radiological protection record of workers and the public at  
15 nuclear power plants continues to surpass conservative regulatory  
16 requirements.

17 **Q. Please explain how NRC licensing conditions are monitored at operating  
18 nuclear power plants.**

19 A. An NRC license authorizes an applicant to operate a nuclear facility in  
20 accordance with very specific licensing conditions and referenced applicable  
21 regulations and standards. The license describes the approved conditions and  
22 technical basis the NRC relies on for the safety and security of the public, and  
23 therefore, the corresponding oversight to ensure compliance. The NRC

1 conducts inspections during construction to ensure the plant is being  
2 constructed as licensed, and during operations to ensure the plant is operated  
3 as licensed and with adequate protection of public health and safety, and the  
4 environment. Both routine and special inspections are conducted, using  
5 “resident” inspectors at each of the nuclear power plant and major industrial  
6 facilities and inspection teams from any one of four NRC regional offices.  
7 The objective of the inspection program during plant operation is to monitor  
8 performance in three key areas: (1) facility safety, achieved by avoiding  
9 accidents and reducing the consequences of accidents if they occur; (2)  
10 radiation safety for plant workers and the public, to avoid unnecessary  
11 radiation exposure during routine operations; and (3) safeguards, to protect  
12 plants against sabotage or other security threats. The NRC uses a risk-  
13 informed and performance-based approach for most of its monitoring  
14 programs. NRC inspections are focused on activities where the potential risks  
15 are greatest, and include a process for assessing licensee performance. The  
16 performance assessment uses objective measures in key areas referred to as  
17 the “cornerstones” of safety and security. The associated enforcement process  
18 provides a systematic way to respond to violations in a consistent and  
19 predictable manner, in accordance with the potential safety impact.

20 **Q. Please explain how the NRC investigates allegations and ensures that**  
21 **licensees implement effective employee concerns programs.**

22 A. The NRC conducts investigations of allegations of wrongdoing or intentional  
23 violation of the regulations or license requirements, and has established



1 practices to encourage concerned individuals to report potential safety or  
2 security issues, and a systematic process for evaluating allegations and  
3 investigation findings.

4  
5 The NRC has a well-established and tested framework for protecting the  
6 rights of individuals to raise safety concerns without fear of retaliation. The  
7 1974 Energy Reorganization Act that created the NRC included provisions for  
8 “whistleblower protection.” The NRC subsequently extended the principles  
9 of “whistleblower” protection to a process for managing the “differing  
10 professional opinions” of the NRC staff and to establish a policy expectation  
11 for licensees to establish “employee concerns programs” to promote an  
12 environment that encourages individuals to raise safety concerns.

13  
14 In 1989, the NRC published its “Policy Statement on the Conduct of Nuclear  
15 Power Plant Operations” to clarify the NRC’s expectations regarding personal  
16 commitment and accountability of all individuals engaged in any activity  
17 affecting the safety of nuclear power plants. In 1996, the NRC published a  
18 policy statement, “Freedom of Employees in the Nuclear Industry to Raise  
19 Safety Concerns Without Fear of Retaliation,” which sets forth its expectation  
20 that licensees and other employers subject to NRC authority will establish and  
21 maintain safety-conscious environments in which employees feel free to raise  
22 safety concerns, both to their management and to the NRC, without fear of  
23 retaliation. In November 2009, the NRC requested comments on a draft

1 safety culture policy statement, which reaffirms the importance of a working  
2 environment that promotes a questioning attitude without fear of retaliation  
3 and maintains a positive workplace safety culture. In the near future, after  
4 comments on the proposed policy have been gathered and evaluated, the NRC  
5 is expected to issue a new safety culture policy that enhances the commitment  
6 to a working environment and encourages individuals to raise safety and  
7 security concerns without fear of retaliation.

8 **Q. How are public concerns addressed during the NRC licensing process?**

9 A. The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 provides an opportunity for a hearing to any  
10 person whose interest may be affected by Commission proceedings on the  
11 granting, suspending, revoking or amending a reactor license. The NRC's  
12 regulations have established the process for conducting public hearings, in  
13 accordance with the federal administrative procedures. The NRC has  
14 established licensing boards, including appointed administrative judges, to  
15 implement the hearing process and establish a record for any subsequent  
16 litigation. The adjudicatory process is described in more detail below, under  
17 the discussion of the new reactor licensing process.

18  
19 **Statutory Responsibilities of the NRC**

20  
21 **Q. Please describe the responsibilities of the NRC.**

22 A. The NRC is the independent Government oversight agency with  
23 responsibilities for protection of public health and safety, the environment and

1 the common defense and security. It is empowered by the Atomic Energy Act  
2 with exclusive jurisdiction for nuclear safety. NRC's implementing  
3 regulations are contained in Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10  
4 CFR).

5  
6 Subsequent to the AEA, additional laws were enacted establishing the present  
7 NRC's statutory framework, and contributed to the establishment of the  
8 regulatory practices associated with the safe use of nuclear materials. These  
9 enacted laws are briefly summarized below.

- 10 • The Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 establishes the NRC as an  
11 independent agency responsible for the safety regulation of the civilian  
12 uses of nuclear materials. The Act of 1974 gave the NRC its collegial  
13 commission structure and established its major offices. A later  
14 amendment to the Act also provided protections for employees who  
15 raise nuclear safety concerns.
- 16 • The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 establishes the federal  
17 government's responsibility to provide for the permanent disposal of  
18 high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, and the industry's  
19 responsibility to bear the costs of permanent disposal. Amendments  
20 to this Act have mostly focused on the efforts of DOE to develop a  
21 national repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The resolution of  
22 spent fuel disposition and waste storage is now on hold and surely to  
23 be revised since the Executive Branch announced the termination of

1 the Yucca Mountain project and the formation of a Blue Ribbon  
2 Commission to make recommendations on “options for permanent  
3 disposal of spent fuel and/or high-level nuclear waste, including deep  
4 geologic disposal”.

5 • The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1985  
6 gives the states the responsibility to dispose of low-level radioactive  
7 waste generated within their borders and allows the states to form  
8 compacts to locate facilities to serve a group of states. This Act  
9 provides that the low-level waste facilities will be regulated by the  
10 NRC or by States that have entered into Agreements with the NRC  
11 under section 274 of the Atomic Energy Act.

12 • The Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 establishes  
13 programs for the stabilization and control of mill tailings at uranium or  
14 thorium sites, both active and inactive, in order to prevent or minimize,  
15 among other things, the diffusion of radon into the environment. Title  
16 II of the Act gives the NRC regulatory authority over mill tailing at  
17 sites under NRC licenses on or after January 1, 1978.

18 • The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 seeks to limit the spread of  
19 nuclear weapons by, among other things, establishing criteria  
20 governing U.S. nuclear exports licensed by the NRC and taking steps  
21 to strengthen the international safeguards system.

22 • The National Environmental Policy Act establishes that, for any major  
23 federal action that could significantly affect the quality of the

1 environment, a detailed environmental impact statement must be  
2 prepared describing the environmental impacts of, and possible  
3 alternatives to, the proposed action. This Act also provides that an  
4 environmental impact statement would accompany proposals  
5 involving major federal actions through the agency review process.  
6 This Act also establishes the Council on Environmental Quality, which  
7 issues regulations on the preparation of environmental impact  
8 statements and on public participation in the preparation of the  
9 statements.

- 10 • The Administrative Procedure Act (APA in 5 U.S.C. Chapters 5  
11 through 8) is the fundamental law governing the processes of federal  
12 agencies. Its original focus was on rulemaking and adjudication. It  
13 requires, for example, that affected persons be given adequate notice  
14 of proposed rules and an opportunity to comment on the proposed  
15 rules, to be published in the Federal Register. This Act gives  
16 interested persons the right to petition an agency for the issuance,  
17 amendment, or repeal of a rule. It also provides standards for judicial  
18 review of agency actions. The APA has been amended often and now  
19 incorporates several other acts that cover a range of administrative  
20 processes, including the Freedom of Information Act. The  
21 Government in the Sunshine Act requires that collegial bodies such as  
22 the Commission hold their meetings in public, with certain exceptions  
23 for meetings on matters such as national security or personnel.

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## 10 CFR Part 52 Reactor Licensing Framework

**Q. Please describe the current NRC nuclear plant licensing structure.**

A. It is appropriate to first review the prior regulatory framework to better understand the current licensing process. The original NRC licensing process for nuclear reactors, codified in section 189 of the AEA, was set forth with more specificity in Part 50 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations; it was used to license all power reactors presently operating in the United States. The main requirements for nuclear power plant regulation are, henceforth, established by Part 50 and the current licensing process and ensuing regulations are subjected to its implementation, with the notable exceptions of the issuance of a combined construction and operating license and other licensing improvements effected by Part 52.

The original Act imposed a two step licensing process on an applicant for an operating license, as regulated by Part 50. First, the applicant was required to obtain a construction permit. The construction permit application was a significant undertaking, requiring the preparation of a Preliminary Safety Analysis Report, demonstrating the reactor technology and site suitability, and preparation of an Environmental Report to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Section 189 of the AEA then required the NRC to hold a mandatory hearing for all construction permit

1 applications, regardless of whether any interested party sought to contest the  
2 application. In the second step of the process, after securing the construction  
3 permit, the applicant was required to obtain an operating license to authorize  
4 plant operations, after construction was completed. To complicate matters,  
5 plant construction was started before the design was substantially completed  
6 and regulatory reviews of technical issues continued during construction. The  
7 operating license application was also a significant undertaking, the goal of  
8 which was to enable the NRC to make the findings required by the AEA and  
9 NEPA. The applicant was required to submit a Final Safety Analysis Report  
10 and an Environmental Report. Section 189 of the AEA requires the NRC to  
11 provide an additional hearing opportunity at the operating license stage.  
12 Numerous operating license proceedings were challenged at this stage, after  
13 significant investments were made and plant construction was substantially  
14 completed. Extensive delays became common and costly.

15  
16 In 1989, the NRC adopted a streamlined, combined licensing process for  
17 nuclear power plants, embodied in Part 52 of the NRC regulations. It was  
18 codified in Section 185(b) of the AEA by the Energy Policy Act of 1992, to  
19 achieve straightforward objectives of plant standardization and financial risk  
20 minimization, with well-defined safety and environmental reviews as a  
21 backbone. Part 52 allows for a single license to be issued to an applicant,  
22 consisting of a combined construction permit and operating license, after  
23 fulfilling all pertinent safety requirements. In essence, the revised NRC

1 licensing process still contains the elements needed to make the necessary  
2 reviews and safety determinations, including public involvement, safety  
3 review, independent review by the Advisory Committee on Reactor  
4 Safeguards (ACRS), environmental review, public hearing and continued  
5 NRC oversight, in a more efficient and effective package. Part 52 strongly  
6 encourages the use of standard, pre-approved designs for new plant  
7 applications. It also provides the opportunity to request early approval of  
8 sites for nuclear plants, in advance of an application to construct and operate a  
9 nuclear power plant, and to reference a Certified Design that has complied  
10 with safety requirements and approved by an NRC Rulemaking.

11 **Q. Please explain the advantages of the One-Step Part 52 Licensing.**

12 A. The revised combined licensing using Part 52 shifts the burden of proof for  
13 COL applicants to the front end, deferring and therefore reducing financial  
14 and construction risks until the licensing review is favorably advanced. Part  
15 52 is a brief yet powerful addition to the nuclear power plant regulations that  
16 should resolve many of the problems of the two-step Part 50 licensing. It  
17 consists of three separate and interacting components, as shown on Exhibit  
18 NJD-2, which can be used independently or jointly: the Early Site Permit, the  
19 Standard Design Certification and the Combined Operating License (COL).  
20 The most important is the COL because it is the only license that allows plant  
21 construction and operation. The Part 52 approach allows early resolution of  
22 safety and environmental issues. The issues resolved by the design  
23 certification rulemaking process and during the early site permit hearing



1 process are not reconsidered during the combined license review. However,  
2 the Part 52 licensing process allows for full public participation, so that the  
3 issues associated with the design and site can be resolved before construction  
4 begins.

5 **Q. What are the benefits of using the Design Certification process for a**  
6 **COL?**

7 A. The Standard Design Certification is a significant complement to the COL  
8 license. The benefits of referencing a certified standard design in the COL  
9 application is that plant design issues that were resolved by NRC in the design  
10 certification process are entitled to finality in the COL process. Therefore, a  
11 COL applicant that references a certified design reduces the scope and length  
12 of the safety review, minimizes risk and costs, and adds predictability to the  
13 process by placing the burden of reactor safety reviews on a rulemaking that is  
14 not subject to subsequent adjudication. Under Part 52, the NRC can certify a  
15 reactor design for 15 years through the rulemaking process, independent of a  
16 specific site. An application for a standard design certification must contain  
17 the technically relevant design information, a design-specific probabilistic risk  
18 assessment and proposed tests, inspections, analyses, and acceptance criteria  
19 (ITAAC) which are necessary and sufficient to provide reasonable assurance  
20 that the plant is built and will operate in accordance with the design  
21 certification. The issues that are resolved in a design certification rulemaking  
22 are subject to more restrictive change processes than issues that are resolved  
23 through the issuance of a license. Important certified design requirements can

1           only be changed by rulemaking, and the rule describes limited circumstances  
2           for other changes, maintaining the stability and standardization characteristics  
3           demanded of the Design Certification Rule (DCR).

4   **Q.    What are the key features of a COL license?**

5    A.    A combined license authorizes construction and conditional operation of a  
6           nuclear power plant. The application for a combined license must contain  
7           essentially the same information required in an application for an operating  
8           license issued under 10 CFR Part 50, including financial and antitrust  
9           information. The application must also describe the ITAAC that are necessary  
10          to ensure that the plant has been properly constructed and will operate safely.  
11          When the application references a standard design certification, the applicant  
12          must perform the ITAAC for the certified design and the site-specific design  
13          features.

14  
15          The ACRS reviews each application for a combined license, together with the  
16          NRC staff's Safety Evaluation Report (SER), in a public meeting. After  
17          issuing a combined license, the NRC verifies that the licensee has completed  
18          the required ITAAC, and that the acceptance criteria have been met before the  
19          plant can operate. The NRC publishes notices of the successful completion of  
20          the ITAAC. At least 180 days before the scheduled initial fuel loading, the  
21          NRC publishes a notice providing an opportunity for members of the public to  
22          participate in a hearing conducted by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.  
23          The NRC considers a request for a hearing only if the request demonstrates

1 that the licensee has not met the acceptance criteria specified in the combined  
2 license.

3 **Q. What is the status of FPL's Combined Operating License Application?**

4 A. FPL submitted its COL Application for Turkey Point Units 6 and 7 on June  
5 30, 2009, and it was docketed by the NRC on September 4, 2009. However,  
6 the NRC has, to date, not completed the analysis necessary to establish and  
7 publish the review schedule, which is expected by mid-2010. This is a delay  
8 of about 6 months beyond the average schedule for similar plants. The  
9 reasons for this delay are a combination of the new contractor mechanism that  
10 the NRC staff will use for the review of the Turkey Point COLA, and the  
11 agency's priorities and competing resource needs for the lead projects. The  
12 NRC estimated schedule for a typical COLA review is approximately 30  
13 months and 12 months for the final mandatory hearing, for a total of 42  
14 months for the process leading to a COL. Presently, variations to this estimate  
15 are occurring due to differences in the applications, complexities brought out  
16 by additional safety reviews or site characteristics, relative placement of  
17 applicants in the NRC staff review schedules and the corresponding staff  
18 allocations. The NRC often refers to these issues as a reason for extending  
19 their review schedules beyond what they had originally estimated for the first  
20 batch of COLAs. If the estimated schedule is used, Units 6 and 7 COLA  
21 review and adjudication should be completed by late fall 2013 or in early  
22 2014. It is important to note that the NRC is reviewing COL applications  
23 based on the reactor technology cited in the application, and is using a

1           “Design-Centered Review Approach” to expedite review and approval of  
2           already reviewed identical parts of an application. The Design-Centered  
3           Review Approach is a new regulatory mechanism for effective and efficient  
4           review of standard reactors and standardized applications. The approach is  
5           simple: instead of every application undergoing a custom, separate review by  
6           an assigned team, the lead application is selected as a Reference COL (R-  
7           COL) and subsequent “identical” applications as surrogates. All issues  
8           reviewed and resolved for the R-COL are considered resolved for all  
9           subsequent applications that conform to the same requirements; one expert  
10          NRC staff team is formed to review each R-COLA and the subsequent  
11          “identical” COLAs. Only the site specific information, including  
12          environmental features, water usage, electrical grid requirements, and others,  
13          are reviewed individually. There are efficiencies to be gained in the timely  
14          and cost-efficient reviews using this method by both the NRC and the  
15          industry. The Turkey Point COL application cited the AP1000 reactor  
16          technology and its associated design certification, and used the TVA  
17          Bellefonte Nuclear Station COLA as the reference plant. Based on the  
18          progression of the reviews of all of the AP1000 COLs, the reference plant for  
19          the AP1000 is now the Vogtle COLA submitted by Southern Nuclear  
20          Operating Company. The Turkey Point COL is therefore depending on the  
21          progress of these proceedings.

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## **Generation III+ Reactors and AP1000 Design Certification Status**

**Q. What are Generation III+ reactors and what are their advantages?**

A. Generation III reactors were the first generation of advanced nuclear reactors with standardized designs to be considered under the new NRC licensing regulations (Part 52) in the 1990s. They were light water reactors with significant evolutionary improvements over the types of reactors in service today. The next generation of nuclear power plants is called Generation III+ reactors, which offer additional improvements over Generation III reactors in the areas of safety, state-of-the-art advances in Instrumentation and Controls, materials, technology and construction techniques, economics and operational simplicity. Shown on Exhibit NJD-4, is a graphic representation of the evolution of nuclear power plant technology as a function of time, beginning with the first demonstration commercial reactors, employing Generation I technology.

The design enhancements for Generation III+ reactors were focused on increased plant safety, ensuring improvements to core cooling, containment integrity, and the capability to prevent or mitigate the consequences of accidents which could result in potentially hazardous offsite radiation doses. There was a definite emphasis in simplification, standardization and the use of inherent safety features to carry out the intended safety functions. The bottom

1 line objective was clear: new reactors were to be measurably safer, simpler,  
2 more independent of operator actions, and easier to operate and maintain. A  
3 new measuring stick employing probabilistic risk assessments was used to  
4 establish the safety case, supported by better documented operational  
5 experience and models. What was sought, and eventually built into the  
6 Generation III+ advanced designs, was one to two orders of magnitude  
7 improvement in the key risk factors, relative to present reactors. The designs  
8 were to be standardized to secure the safety gains and the reliability and  
9 economic advantages.

10  
11 The AP1000 Nuclear Power Plant, the reactor selected by FPL for Turkey  
12 Point 6 & 7, is a Generation III+ reactor with passive safety features; it was  
13 issued a Final Design Certification Rule on 2006 and an Amendment to  
14 update to a more comprehensive Design Certification (DC) is currently under  
15 review. Two AP1000s are under construction in China and the technology  
16 has been selected by seven US utilities for deployment as base-load units.  
17 This passive reactor design relies on redundant safety systems using inherent  
18 or passive means to maintain core cooling and integrity, without active  
19 injection of coolant by pumps, for the dominant spectrum of postulated  
20 accident conditions. The AP1000 design leads to a significant reduction of  
21 pipes, pumps, valves and cables, and therefore, to simplicity in operation and  
22 maintenance.

23

1 In summary, the AP1000 reactor attributes include: passive safety with no  
2 active control or operator intervention needed to avoid accidents; low accident  
3 probability (less than one core damage event for 1 million years of operation);  
4 modular design and construction for fewer components, less materials and less  
5 welding; improved fuel design for higher fuel burnup; standardized certified  
6 design to expedite licensing and reduce capital cost; aircraft crash resistance;  
7 higher availability and operating life of 60 years or more and better load-  
8 following capability. It presently appears to be a best reactor technology and  
9 overall leading nuclear power plant for FPL's time frame and economical  
10 considerations.

11 **Q. What is the status and significance of the AP1000 design certification?**

12 A. On January 27, 2006, the NRC issued the original DCR for the AP1000  
13 design in the Federal Register (71 FR 4464). While there was enough  
14 information provided for the NRC to make a safety determination, there were  
15 several important design issues that were not completed or needed upgrades to  
16 the 2006 AP1000 design certification, including a more comprehensive  
17 seismic safety analysis, updated Instrumentation and Control, Control Room  
18 Habitability, redesigned fuel racks and improved fuel design.

19  
20 On September 22, 2008, Westinghouse made an update to its application to  
21 amend the original AP1000 Design Control Document (DCD). The update,  
22 Revision 17, contains changes from those submitted in May, 2007, under  
23 Revision 16. Revision 17 is referenced in the FPL COLA. Also,

1 improvements for aircraft impact resistance and Shield Building Designs were  
2 included in the Amendment. Following the NRC receipt of Part 2 of the  
3 revised Westinghouse Shield Building Design scheduled for April 30, 2010,  
4 the staff will assess the impact on both the AP1000 design certification  
5 amendment review and the associated Combined License applications. As  
6 shown on Exhibit NJD-3, the current NRC published schedule expects the  
7 AP1000 DC rulemaking to be issued approximately by September 2011.

8  
9 It is important to note again the significance of this complete design  
10 certification rulemaking for the licensing of COLAs referencing the AP1000,  
11 and especially so for the lead applications, like Southern Nuclear's Vogtle and  
12 South Carolina Electric and Gas Company's Summer plant. Since the DC is  
13 cited in the COLA applications for the leading reactor projects, the final or  
14 mandatory adjudication proceedings for the COL license cannot be conducted  
15 until the DCR is finalized. Therefore, the expected issuance of the final DCR  
16 design for the AP1000 is one of the major considerations in the deliberate  
17 process that FPL is conducting for Turkey Point 6 & 7 licensing, including the  
18 fact that FPL will be using NRC's Design-Centered Review Approach to  
19 obtain schedule, costs and predictability improvements. Under this approach,  
20 all issues reviewed for the Reference COL are considered resolved for all  
21 subsequent applications that conform to the same requirements.

22



1 **Spent Fuel Disposition and Waste Confidence Decision**

2

3 **Q. Please summarize the present status of the US commercial reactors spent**  
4 **fuel disposition program.**

5 A. The United States Government has not fulfilled its statutory requirement to  
6 establish a permanent geologic repository for commercial reactors spent fuel  
7 or high level radioactive wastes from defense related operations and others.  
8 Furthermore, DOE has announced that it seeks to terminate with prejudice the  
9 application to the NRC for a license to construct and operate a geologic  
10 repository at the Yucca Mountain Site, Nevada. The Executive Branch has  
11 now filed with Congress, on March 1, 2010, an Advisory Committee Charter  
12 that sets the objectives and scope of activities for the “Blue Ribbon  
13 Commission on America’s Nuclear Future”. The stated purpose is “to  
14 conduct a comprehensive review of the policies for managing the back end of  
15 the nuclear fuel cycle, including all alternatives for the storage, processing,  
16 and disposal of civilian and defense spent nuclear fuel, high-level waste, and  
17 materials derived from nuclear activities.” The Blue Ribbon Commission is  
18 to provide advice, evaluate alternatives, and make recommendations on a  
19 variety of issues, including “options for permanent disposal of spent fuel  
20 and/or high-level nuclear waste, including deep geologic disposal.” A draft  
21 report is due within 18 months and a final report within 24 months.

22

1 A factual review of the above occurrences, and of the history and realities of  
2 spent fuel disposition, reveals the long running political uncertainty as well as  
3 the bottom line: the U.S. will deal with spent fuel and high level wastes in a  
4 manner that protects public health and safety, the environment and the  
5 common defense and security, and it will eventually be done. Spent nuclear  
6 fuels are safely and securely stored on-site or off-site storage pools or dry  
7 casks, and safely transported as needed. Nevertheless, a comprehensive  
8 policy to the disposition of commercial spent fuel is needed sooner rather than  
9 later to provide requisite predictability to this long-standing issue, and it  
10 should be made a national priority.

11 **Q. How is the Waste Confidence Decision affected by the termination of**  
12 **Yucca Mountain?**

13 A. The NRC Commissioners have been debating an update or changes to the  
14 Waste Confidence Decision for the last year. Undoubtedly, the deliberations  
15 and decision-making have been affected by the perceived and now proposed  
16 termination to the Yucca Mountain license application, and by other major  
17 political activities. It is apparent that the pending Waste Confidence Decision  
18 is to be subjected to the review of the present full (5 Commissioners)  
19 Commission that would take into account the potential for longer term  
20 approaches to management, storage, and disposal of high-level radioactive  
21 waste and spent nuclear fuel. I believe that the Commission decision would  
22 actually strengthen the present regulatory framework established at 10 CFR  
23 51.23 and would contribute to a more stable structure for complete and

1 permanent resolution to the disposition of commercial nuclear spent fuels. I  
2 am convinced that the licensing, construction and operation of Turkey Point  
3 units 6 & 7 will not be affected by the resolution of the Waste Confidence  
4 Decision.

5  
6 **FPL's Project Management Approach to Turkey Point 6 & 7**

7  
8 **Q. Has a national policy related to risk minimization for nuclear projects**  
9 **been articulated?**

10 A. Yes. The 1992 Energy Act contained three implied strategies to minimize  
11 financial and regulatory risk: 1) licensing decisions are to be finalized before  
12 major construction begins; 2) utilities would order plants after  
13 regulatory/financial risks are mitigated by satisfactory COL progress; and 3)  
14 limited site work (under a Limited Work Authorization) could begin prior to  
15 COL issuance when warranted by effective project management.

16 **Q. Is the Turkey Point licensing approach consistent with the risk**  
17 **minimization and standardization purposes of the 1992 Energy Act?**

18 A. Yes. In fact, FPL's recognition of the need to achieve a higher degree of  
19 predictability in regulatory review schedules and outcomes, as well as  
20 commercial issues affecting deployment of the new nuclear projects is entirely  
21 consistent with the strategies identified in the 1992 Energy Act. FPL has  
22 consistently made project management decisions in accordance with the law  
23 and these intended purposes. For example, FPL made conscious decisions to

1 defer certain long lead procurement decisions and has not entered into an  
2 Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract for the project. By  
3 choosing to reserve these expenditures until a later time, FPL will be able to  
4 make these decisions with more complete and mature information in the  
5 future. This naturally has an effect on the projected in-service dates. I believe  
6 the Turkey Point project management has been taking the enabling steps  
7 necessary to maintain a project schedule and cost capable of delivering  
8 reliable, cost-effective and fuel diverse generation to FPL customers.

9 **Q: Are FPL's decisions and approach consistent with best management**  
10 **practices for Generation III+ nuclear power projects?**

11 Yes. I agree with FPL that the primary focus of the current stage of the  
12 project should be to obtain the necessary federal, state and local approvals for  
13 construction and operation of the Turkey Point 6 & 7 project. Our country has  
14 experienced financial turmoil, multiple major proposed national energy policy  
15 changes, electrical demand reduction and fluctuations in the predicted cost of  
16 new nuclear generation and natural gas. The licensing of the lead nuclear  
17 power plants will serve as learning opportunities for the Turkey Point 6 & 7  
18 project as those other projects progress. These developments, combined with  
19 the need for predictable and cost-effective detailed engineering, procurement  
20 and construction arrangements, lead me to conclude that FPL's stepwise  
21 approach to managing the Turkey Point Project is both prudent and  
22 reasonable.

1 Q. **Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

2 A. Yes.

*Summary Resume  
Of  
Nils J. Diaz, PhD*

*Dr. Nils J. Diaz is the Managing Director of The ND2 Group, an expert and policy advisor group with a strong focus on the national and international nuclear power development and deployment arena, including new and existing plant licensing, regulatory, financial, policy and communications issues. The ND2 Group is presently or was recently engaged by a major nuclear reactor vendor, an Architect/Engineering firm, two nuclear utilities, two international engineering/ consulting firm, and the Department of Energy. He also provides developmental policy advice to three countries and to OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency. He presently serves as a Commissioner, Florida Energy and Climate Commission.*

*Nils Diaz is a past Chairman of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Dr. Diaz was designated Chairman of the NRC by President Bush on April 1, 2003 and he served as such until his retirement from government service on June 30, 2006. As Chairman of the NRC, Dr. Diaz served as the principal executive officer of and the official spokesman for the NRC, and had ultimate authority for all NRC functions pertaining to an emergency involving an NRC license; he was directly responsible for all high level interactions with the US Executive Branch and the Congress, as well as the international relationships and the policy development under NRC's charter. Dr. Diaz was first nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate as a Commissioner with the NRC in August 1996, nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the US Senate again in 2001, and exercised the responsibilities of the position until he assumed the Chairmanship of the Commission.*

*Prior to his appointment to the NRC, Dr. Diaz was the Director (1985-1996) of a national consortium for advanced nuclear power and propulsion (INSPI) for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO), Department of Defense, and Professor of Nuclear Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida (1969-1996). As Director for BMDO, he exercised prime contractor management and Lead Scientist responsibilities for a diverse group of industries (including Aerojet, Boeing, Pratt & Whitney, Hughes Electronics, Rocketdyne and SRI), several national laboratories (including Los Alamos NL, Sandia NL, and Lawrence Livermore NL) and seven major universities, under contracts with the Department of Defense, the Defense Nuclear Agency, the Department of Energy and NASA. From 1969 to 1996, Dr. Diaz held senior positions at universities, Boards and industry, and consulted for the U.S. Government and other governments on civilian nuclear energy development. He also owned six small corporations serving the nuclear industry and government during that period and spent six years at nuclear utilities and reactor vendors, often*

*troubleshooting technical and management performance issues. He lived in Europe in 1981-1982, while serving as Principal Advisor to Spain's Consejo de Seguridad Nuclear, and consulting for other nuclear industries in other European countries.*

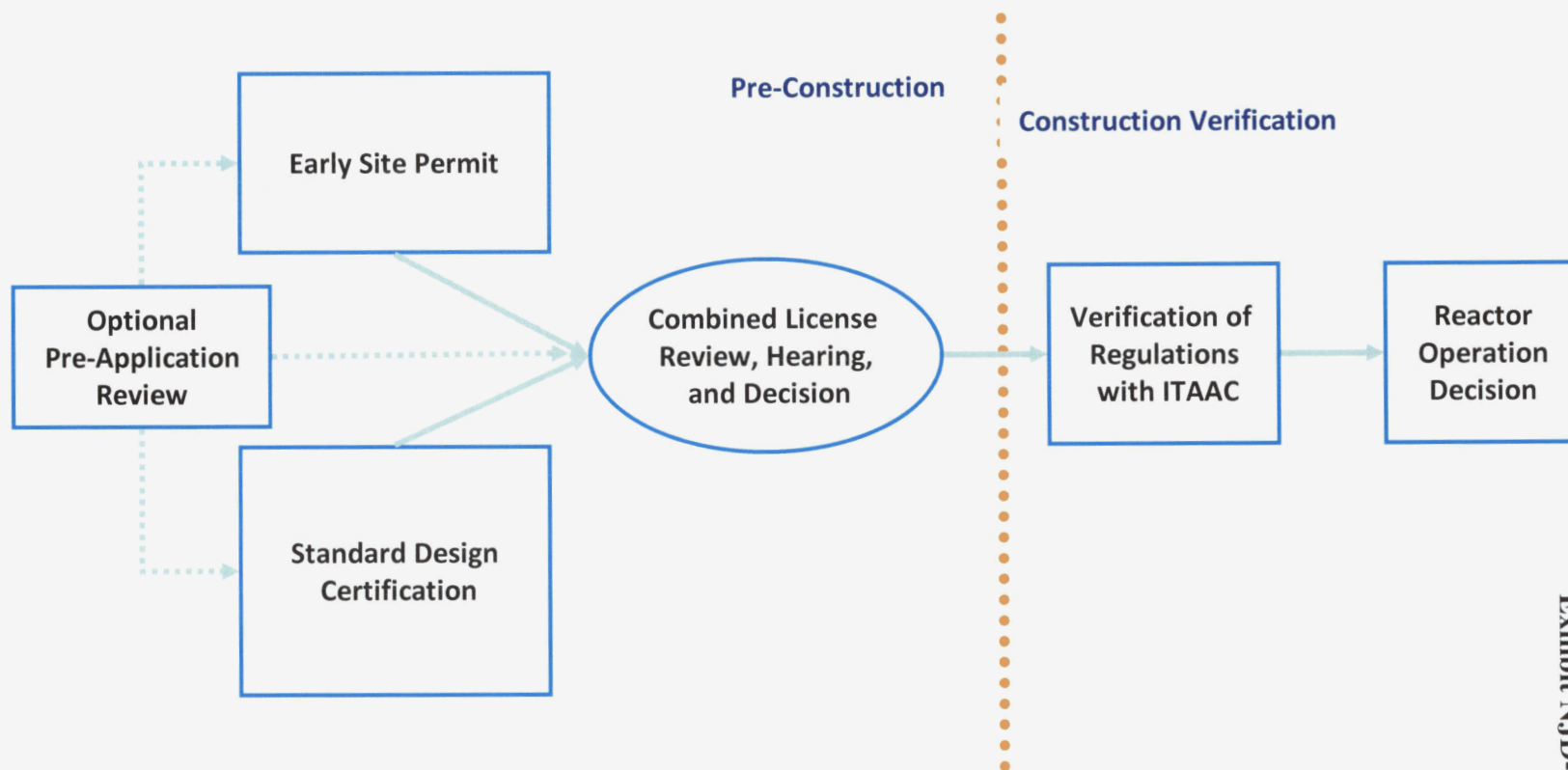
*Dr. Diaz is internationally recognized for his broad expertise and contributions to nuclear sciences, reactor systems and fuels, to the regulation of nuclear facilities and radioactive materials, and to nuclear policy analysis and development. He has worked extensively in the international arena, including interacting and contributing to major policy, fora and decision-making efforts.*

*Dr. Diaz has published over 70 refereed technical articles and has participated in more than 200 international forums on nuclear energy, sciences and technology. He has been recognized worldwide for his statesmanship on nuclear affairs, including chairing the G8Nuclear Summit in Russia and leading the US Delegation to the International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference in 2005. He has received many national and international awards, including the Henry DeWolf Smyth 2008 Nuclear Statesman Award, awarded by the Nuclear Energy Institute, representing the nuclear industry, and by the American Nuclear Society. Dr. Diaz has been elected a Member of the Hispanic Hall of Fame and recognized as one of the top 50 Hispanics in Sciences and Engineering, and was named the National Hispanic Scientist of the Year for 2009.*

*Dr. Diaz holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in Nuclear Engineering Sciences from the University of Florida, and a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Villanova, Havana. He was licensed as a Senior Reactor Operator by the NRC and has formal training and practice in health physics, radiological sciences and nuclear medicine. He is a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.*

*April 2010*

# NRC Combined Licensing Processes



Source: USNRC



# New Reactor Licensing Applications

Schedules by Calendar Year

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

03/23/10

Schedules depict completion of staff safety and environmental reviews. Issuance of license is dependent upon completion of hearing process as well as design certification rulemaking for the selected design.

Schedule begin date is reflected as docketing date, or expected docketing date, following staff acceptance review.

Schedules depicted for future activities represent nominal assumed review durations based on submittal time frames in letters of intent from prospective applicants. Actual schedules based on schedules shown on NRC public web pages.

**Legend**

Combined License Received (blue bar), Projected (blue dashed bar), Rulemaking / Hearing (purple bar with arrow), Design Certification (red bar), Early Site Permit (green bar)

Numbers in () next to COL name indicate number of units/site.

### ABWR DESIGN CENTER REVIEW

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT (2) [blue bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

### ABWR DESIGN CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

STP AIA DC AMENDMENT [red bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

RULEMAKING [purple arrow]

DC RENEWAL [red bar] NOT SCHEDULE

RULEMAKING [purple arrow]

### AP1000 DESIGN CENTER REVIEW

[red bar]

DC AMENDMENT [red bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

RULEMAKING [purple arrow]

SOUTHERN - VOGTLE ESP [green bar] ISSUED

SOUTHERN - VOGTLE (GA) (2) [blue bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

TVA - BELLEFONTE (AL) (2) [blue bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

DUKE - LEE STATION (SC) (2) [blue bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

PROGRESS ENERGY - HARRIS (NC) (2) [blue bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

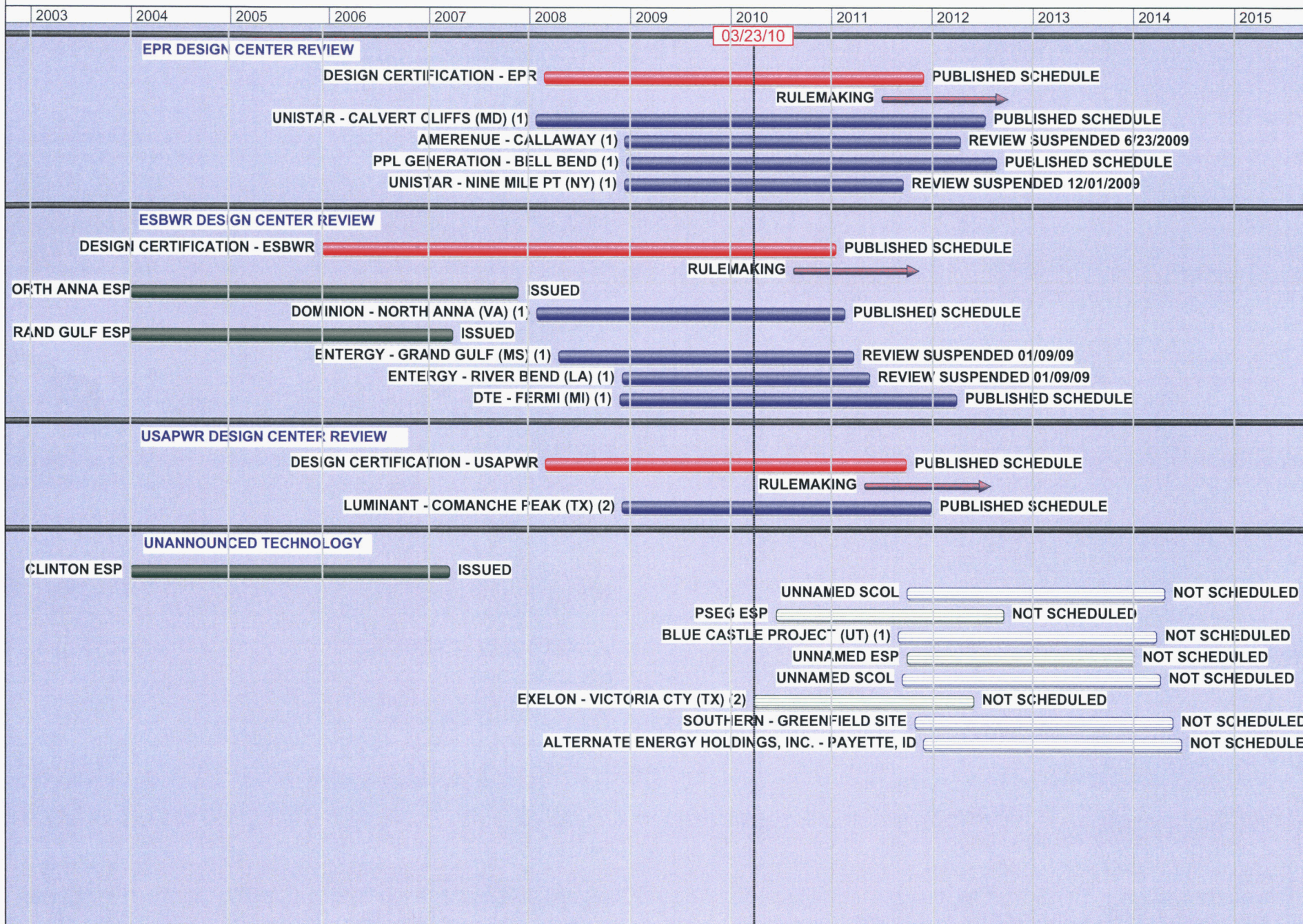
SOUTH CAROLINA E&G - SUMMER (2) [blue bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

PROGRESS ENERGY - LEVY COUNTY (FL) (2) [blue bar] PUBLISHED SCHEDULE

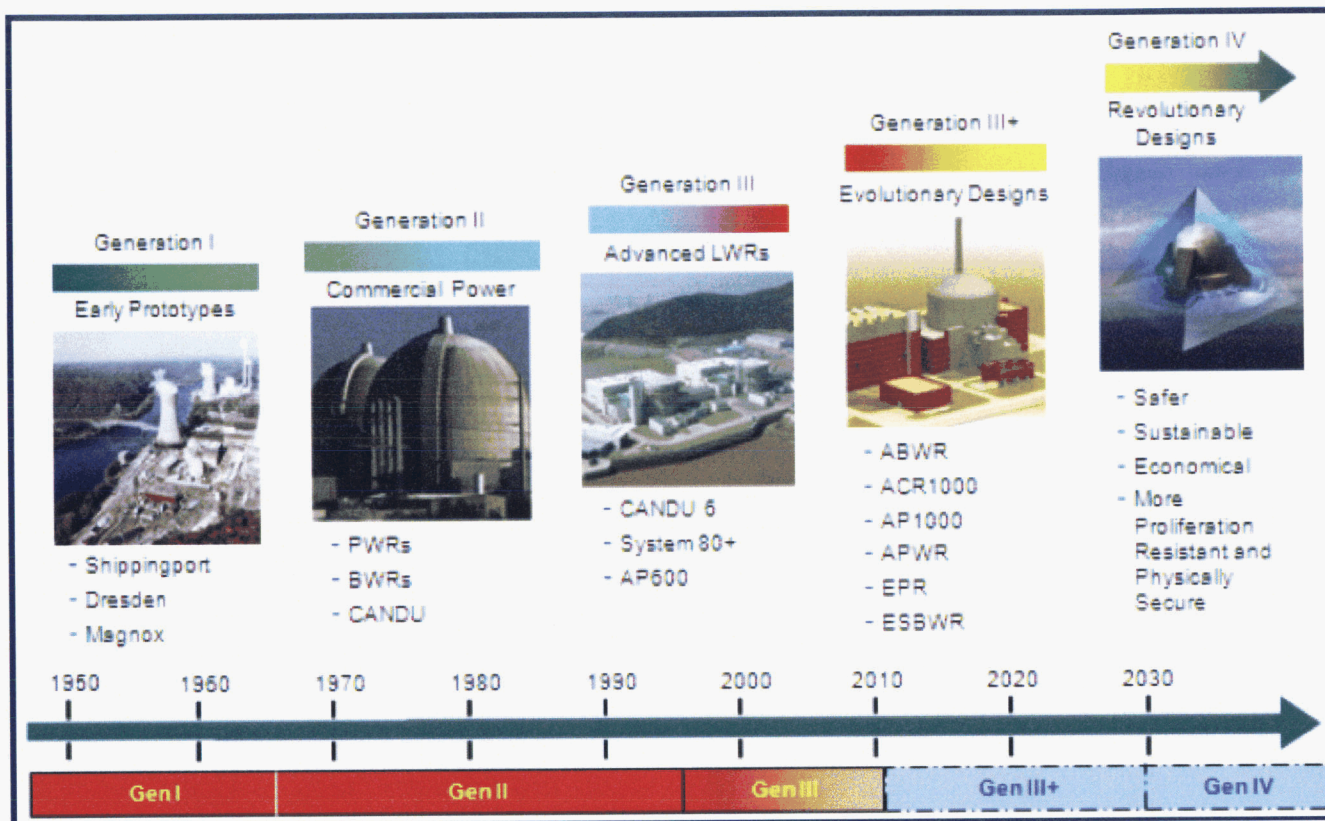
FLORIDA FOWER AND LIGHT - TURKEY POINT (2) [blue bar] NOT SCHEDULED

# New Reactor Licensing Applications

Schedules by Calendar Year



# Nuclear Power Plant Technology Evolution



Source of slide: DOE (<http://nuclear.energy.gov/genIV/neGenIV1.html>)