

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 120009-EI
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

MARCH 1, 2012

IN RE: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COST RECOVERY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 2012

TESTIMONY OF:

ALBERT M. FERRER

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FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ALBERT M. FERRER

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MARCH 1, 2012

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Albert M. Ferrer. My business address is 800 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell, New Jersey 07649.

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

A. I am employed by Burns and Roe Enterprises, Inc. (BREI) as Vice President, Power Consulting Division.

Q. Please describe BREI.

A. BREI is an engineering, procurement, construction, operations, and maintenance company that provides services to private and governmental power industry clients worldwide.

The Power Consulting Division provides consulting services to the nuclear and fossil power industry. Services provided by the Division include owner's engineer, independent engineering, due diligence, acquisition services, uprate analyses, life extension studies, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) oversight, contract evaluation and EPC project management.

1 Burns and Roe's nuclear experience includes some of the earliest U.S.
2 commercial nuclear power plants. Burns and Roe have been involved in the
3 design of eight commercial nuclear power plants. More recently, Burns and
4 Roe provided a conceptual design of the Traveling Wave Reactor - a 3,000
5 megawatt sodium-cooled reactor using a revolutionary core design funded by
6 the Gates Foundation. The Babcock & Wilcox Company used Burns and Roe
7 to develop conceptual designs for their mPowerTM reactor - a passively safe,
8 small modular reactor with a below-ground containment structure. Burns and
9 Roe evaluated General Electric's Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor
10 for compliance with Electric Power Research Institute's Utility Requirements
11 Document. For the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Burns and Roe
12 performed independent due diligence investigations for four new U.S. nuclear
13 plants in support of the DOE's utility loan guarantee project applications.
14 Burns and Roe also participated in the development of three combined
15 Construction and Operating License Applications for new nuclear power
16 plants in the southeast U.S.

17 **Q. Please describe your educational background and professional**
18 **experience.**

19 A. I hold an M.S. in Nuclear Engineering from New York University and a B.S.
20 in Mechanical Engineering from Manhattan College, with honors. I have been
21 Vice President of BREI's Power Consulting Division since 2005. I report
22 directly to the Chairman and President of BREI. In my current position I
23 provide management, executive leadership, and oversight for all engineering

1 consulting services performed by the Division including those provided by its
2 specialists and consultants.

3

4 Prior to joining BREI, I was Senior Vice President and Managing Director for
5 Stone and Webster, with responsibility for the firm's Strategic Management,
6 Markets and Regulatory, and Project Finance Services practices. During my
7 career at Stone and Webster, I held positions ranging from project engineer to
8 manager of major EPC power plant projects involving site feasibility,
9 environmental impact evaluations, conceptual engineering, detailed design,
10 procurement, cost and estimating, construction engineering, construction
11 management, and start up and testing of a variety of technologies including
12 coal plants, simple cycle and combined cycle gas plants, nuclear plants,
13 geothermal plants, and small hydro facilities. As a project engineer or project
14 manager, I was responsible for cost and scope control, planning, coordinating,
15 scheduling and supervising engineering activities for various nuclear projects.
16 I also provided expert testimony at hearings before the Nuclear Regulatory
17 Commission's (NRC) Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards involving
18 the construction permit process for nuclear plants.

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

20 A. My testimony summarizes an independent review conducted by myself and
21 other BREI Power Consulting Division personnel regarding Florida Power &
22 Light Company's (FPL) execution of the Extended Power Uprate (EPU or
23 Uprate) related activities at St. Lucie (PSL) and Turkey Point (PTN) power

1 plants in 2011. The purpose of this review was to determine whether FPL's
2 project activities executed in 2011 were reasonable and prudent. In
3 conducting the review, we applied the prudence standard that has been used by
4 the Florida Public Service Commission, which is whether FPL's management
5 actions and decisions are within the range of what a reasonable utility manager
6 would have done, in light of the conditions and circumstances which were
7 known, or should have been known, at the time the decision was made.
8 Hindsight review is impermissible.

9 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

10 A. FPL took actions and made decisions on the execution of the PSL and PTN
11 nuclear plant EPU project during 2011 in a reasonable and prudent manner.
12 FPL is pursuing the EPU project consistent with sound project management
13 practices commonly used for other prudently managed projects in the industry,
14 is aggressively managing the project and its contractors, has a reasonable and
15 manageable project schedule and execution approach, has a prudent approach
16 to pursuit of NRC licensing for the project, and is taking appropriate and
17 prudent actions to mitigate project risks.

18 **Q. Please describe how BREI conducted its review.**

19 A. I led the BREI review, which was comprised of senior level personnel with
20 experience in nuclear plant engineering, nuclear plant licensing, nuclear plant
21 operations, power plant construction, and project controls. The BREI review
22 team: a) conducted interviews with FPL personnel at its Juno Beach
23 headquarters and at the PSL and PTN sites; b) prepared written data requests

1 to FPL personnel and reviewed FPL's responses to these questions; c)
2 reviewed technical reports, letters, drawings, procedures, schedules,
3 descriptions of organization roles and responsibilities, qualifications of EPU
4 team personnel, correspondence with the NRC, and prior testimony filed with
5 the Florida Public Service Commission; and d) observed on-going EPU
6 activities at both the PSL and PTN sites. BREI personnel were also given
7 ready access to EPU project personnel, documentation, and the PSL and PTN
8 sites.

9 **Q. Please describe the major areas of your review.**

10 A. BREI reviewed the following areas:

- 11 ● Project Plans, Outage Execution Plans, Schedules and Organization;
- 12 ● Engineering and the Engineering Work Control Process;
- 13 ● Project Schedule; and
- 14 ● License Amendment Request Related Activities.

15 **Q. Please describe the conclusions of BREI's review of the EPU project plan,**
16 **schedule, and organization.**

17 A. Three Project Plans were reviewed for the EPU Project - one overall for the
18 FPL fleet and one each for PSL and PTN. BREI also reviewed numerous
19 documents pertaining to the implementation of the EPU project, including
20 schedules, corrective actions, procedures, meeting minutes, NRC
21 correspondence, and internal audit reports. In addition, BREI personnel
22 visited FPL corporate offices and both sites to conduct interviews with EPU
23 project personnel.

1 BREI found that the various EPU Project procedures were being utilized by
2 team members. BREI also found that the EPU project team was well aware of
3 challenges and was actively implementing the strategies that had been
4 developed to mitigate identified challenges.

5
6 In our experience, projects that are performed on an expedited schedule can
7 create additional and unique project management challenges due to the
8 compressed time frame and potential additional work as discoveries are made.
9 BREI found that the FPL EPU project management team has properly
10 managed the project taking into account the great challenges of performing
11 this extremely large and complex project on an expedited time frame. FPL
12 exercised vigilant oversight of the project and the deliverables. FPL
13 maintained strong workforce oversight to support and fortify contractor
14 performance. FPL project team members use sophisticated and state of the art
15 performance metrics to manage project performance. Experienced project
16 management personnel continually review contractor deliverables including
17 engineering reports, drawings, calculations, and work packages. In addition,
18 FPL has appropriately assigned defined scopes of work to additional, well-
19 qualified contractors to enhance schedule and budget performance. Consistent
20 with good nuclear industry practice, the EPU project team has also sought to
21 learn from relevant EPU project experience by contacting and exchanging
22 lessons learned with industry peers that are also implementing EPUs. FPL has
23 also thoroughly incorporated the essential elements of risk management into

1 the project to track challenges and develop mitigation strategies for
2 engineering, procurement, construction, and licensing.

3 **Q. Please summarize the conclusions of BREI's review of EPU engineering**
4 **and the engineering work control process.**

5 A. During 2011, FPL closely monitored the engineering progress, prioritized
6 modifications based upon potential severity of cost and schedule impacts, and
7 selected contractor and subcontractor assignments to enhance quality, cost,
8 and schedule performance. These are proactive measures taken by FPL to
9 minimize cost and schedule impacts during construction caused by delays in
10 issuance of engineering modification packages and work planning packages
11 and by discovery of the need for additional work during outage performance.
12 In addition, in June of 2011, decisions were made to change the outage start
13 dates. The PSL Unit 1 outage was deferred approximately three months, the
14 PSL Unit 2 was deferred approximately seven weeks, and the PTN Unit 4
15 outage was deferred approximately five weeks. FPL also decided to change
16 the durations of the EPU outages at PSL to provide, in part, additional time for
17 engineering, planning, procurement, and outage preparation to ensure
18 successful outages.

19
20 The magnitude of the work being performed for the implementation of four
21 EPU's at four units is significant. The fifteen month schedule for completion
22 of all four outages is aggressive. FPL management has maintained vigilant
23 oversight of the project and has increased the intensity of its management

1 oversight as necessary. Based upon our interviews of the EPU project team,
2 the team leaders and team members are well-qualified, possess a positive
3 “can-do” attitude and have put forth significant efforts to ensure the success of
4 its contractors and the project while maintaining teamwork among internal and
5 external team members. BREI also noted that personnel with EPU experience
6 on other nuclear projects are being used to support FPL’s EPU project. FPL’s
7 use of personnel with recent EPU implementation experience has also helped
8 the FPL project team.

9
10 BREI also compared FPL’s EPU project organization and approach to
11 Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) 08-010, “Roadmap for Power Uprate Program
12 Development and Implementation,” Revision 0, issued July 2009. This
13 guidance document was developed by the nuclear energy industry to provide a
14 high level roadmap for power uprate project development and implementation.
15 This document builds on lessons learned from previous uprate projects and
16 provides general guidance which includes a brief overview of power uprates,
17 the regulatory process, guidelines on targeting uprated thermal power, best
18 practices and operating experience from previous uprates, and keys to success
19 for licensing, implementation and operation at power uprate conditions. The
20 roadmap provides specific guidance for decision-making processes, project
21 management and development, program and equipment analysis, regulatory
22 and licensing processes, and project implementation. The NEI document
23 provides that the features of a strong power uprate project include: fleet-wide

1 effort; feasibility studies; strong project management; dedicated resources;
2 owner's engineer/independent engineer's emphasis; contract support; a risk
3 management strategy; assessments, audits and oversight; and an EPC
4 structure.

5

6 Based on BREI's extensive document reviews and roundtable discussions with
7 project personnel, BREI concludes that the features suggested by the NEI
8 uprate guidance document for a successful EPU project have all been
9 implemented by FPL and were being maintained throughout 2011. This was
10 evidenced by FPL's project execution plans and decisions, periodic meetings
11 and status reports, compliance with EPU Project Instructions, and compliance
12 with corporate procedures.

13 **Q. Please summarize the conclusions of BREI's review of EPU project**
14 **schedules.**

15 A. BREI performed a detailed review of the EPU project schedules for PTN and
16 PSL. The PTN EPU Primavera P6 schedule, a detailed computerized schedule
17 program for the EPU project, is detailed with a total of over 100,000 activities
18 including 30,000 activities in engineering, 15,000 activities in simulator,
19 training and procedures, 24,000 pre-outage activities and 25,000 outage
20 related activities. The PSL EPU Primavera P6 schedule has a total of over
21 90,000 activities including approximately 40,000 engineering activities and
22 approximately 13,000 related to the installation efforts. The schedules include
23 an appropriate and reasonable number of activities for projects of this

1 magnitude. Based on BREI's prior experience, FPL is appropriately
2 managing the activities in the schedules.

3 **Q. Please summarize the conclusions of BREI's review of FPL's NRC**
4 **licensing activities.**

5 A. BREI reviewed FPL's responses to NRC Requests for Additional Information
6 (RAI) submitted during 2011 for both PSL and PTN license amendment
7 request efforts. FPL responses to NRC RAIs were complete, clearly written,
8 and timely submitted. A few of FPL's responses were the subject of follow-
9 up questions by the NRC, but most were adequately addressed with a few
10 technical questions outstanding at the time of our review. In our experience,
11 this exchange of information is typical for an NRC license amendment review
12 process. Additional delays in NRC review of FPL's proposed license
13 amendments due to agency resource constraints and emergent issues arising
14 before the NRC are possible. As a result of information unrelated to FPL's
15 EPU Project presented to the NRC by Westinghouse on December 6, 2011,
16 FPL was requested by the NRC to address the impact of thermal conductivity
17 degradation (TCD) on the PTN EPU safety analyses. FPL provided a
18 response to the NRC request for information (RAI) via letter dated December
19 31, 2011. The FPL response was timely and thorough. FPL's response led to
20 a resolution of the issue where, if finally approved by the agency, the NRC
21 would issue a proposed license condition regarding the use of computer code
22 changes to explicitly account for TCD, rather than postpone approval of the
23 EPU license amendment request for PTN. While the resolution of this issue

1 has not been finalized by the NRC, FPL is actively engaging the NRC to
2 facilitate the timely issuance of the license amendments and has prudently
3 developed alternate plans should delays occur.

4 **Q. Did you also review FPL's management actions with respect to work**
5 **stoppages caused by contractor personnel errors?**

6 A. Yes. There were two notable work stoppages caused by contractor personnel
7 errors in 2011:

8 1. In February 2011, Siemens inadvertently left an alignment pin inside
9 the generator stator which caused core iron damage during subsequent
10 testing. Siemens repaired the damage on an expedited basis over the
11 next several weeks. Following Siemens repair efforts, the generator
12 was tested and determined to be satisfactory. The generator has
13 operated satisfactorily since the outage ended.

14 2. In, December 2011, Bechtel electrical craft personnel commenced
15 work on a motor control center different from the one specified in their
16 detailed work instructions. Upon discovery, the supervisor
17 immediately stopped the work. No injuries occurred and no equipment
18 was damaged. The Bechtel electrical personnel were retrained in
19 equipment clearance processes and subsequently returned to work.
20 During this time, other EPU work continued. The outage duration was
21 not impacted and the cost to FPL was minimal.

22

1 Based on our review, we have determined that FPL's management actions
2 during 2011 were appropriate. The contractors assigned to the EPU project
3 who were responsible for the contractor personnel errors were properly
4 qualified, trained, briefed and instructed consistent with good nuclear industry
5 practice. Despite such prudent and reasonable FPL management actions,
6 some personnel errors on a project of this complexity and magnitude will
7 inevitably occur because workers are not infallible. Moreover, it is consistent
8 with prudent industry practice that when such errors occur, work is stopped
9 and workers are retrained to prevent recurrence.

10 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

11 A. Yes.