

TITLE

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO SEEK A COMMITMENT FROM FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY TO DISCONTINUE USE OF THE COOLING CANAL SYSTEM AT THE TURKEY POINT POWER PLANT

BODY

WHEREAS, the Florida Power & Light's (FPL) Turkey Point Power Plant, located in south Miami-Dade County, utilizes a cooling canal system which consists of a network of approximately 5,900 acres of unlined canals no other system of its kind operating anywhere in the world; and

WHEREAS, water from this cooling canal system interacts with the surrounding groundwater, and long-term monitoring data has shown that a hypersaline plume of cooling canal water has been migrating in the groundwater, beyond the boundaries of the cooling canals, contaminating drinking water to the west and entering the surface waters of BNP to the east; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have taken some action in response to violations of water quality standards including, but not limited to, issuing a Notice of Violation in 2015 to FPL for certain water quality violations in the groundwater, and requiring, through an administrative consent agreement, that FPL take certain actions to retract and contain the hypersaline groundwater plume; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the issues were focused on the hypersaline groundwater plume migrating west of the cooling canal system; and

WHEREAS, more recent water quality sampling detected exceedances of State and Miami-Dade County water quality standards in surface water locations in and connected to Biscayne Bay, adjacent to and east of the cooling canal system; and

WHEREAS, this Board, as well as residents of this County and members of the general public, are concerned about these recent discoveries and the impacts on Biscayne Bay, and such discoveries further highlight the challenges posed by the continued operation of the cooling canal system; and

WHEREAS, FPL has a license from the federal government to operate the Turkey Point power plant units that use the cooling canal system until 2033; and

WHEREAS, the County is seeking a commitment from FPL to discontinue the use of the cooling

canal system in favor of efficient, commonly-employed technology such as cooling towers; and

WHEREAS, information and analysis recently made available to the County suggests that the use of mechanical draft closed-cycle cooling towers combined with the elimination of cooling tower wastewater discharges (through the Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) system), represents the best available technology for eliminating the water quality problems being caused by the Turkey Point cooling canal system and would remove all interactions with the aquifer and make use of Miami Dade County reuse water; and

WHEREAS, FPL will spend a minimum of 50 Million Dollars a year for over at least a ten-year period for remediation alone and it is unclear if the extraction wells proposed will have a negative impact on the surrounding environment, while this technology could be completed in a more timely and affordable manner; and

WHEREAS, this technology can be used beyond 2033 if needed for a variety of energy generation technologies that FPL might pursue and can reduce harm to the surrounding environment and water supply in comparison to the failing cooling canal system; and

WHEREAS, current plans for remediation that DEP and DERM have proposed and FPL is operating under will not address the interactions with the Aquifer and Biscayne Bay alone; and

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to express its support for the Miami Dade County Mayor's efforts to obtain such a commitment from FPL,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board supports the efforts by Miami Dade County and the Environmental community to seek a commitment from Florida Power & Light to discontinue the use of the cooling canal system at the Turkey Point Power Plant as soon as possible, in favor of cooling towers.