Turkey Point Evidentiary Hearing Tele-Press Conference
April 25, 2017

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"On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association, we have serious concerns about the expansion proposal for Turkey Point and the potential threats it poses to Biscayne National Park. Biscayne is our country's largest marine national park and is already being contaminated by Turkey Point's current operations. The expansion could negatively impact endangered wildlife, plans to restore America's Everglades, and the health of our regional water resources here in South Florida. If the expansion moves forward, it will make Turkey Point one of the largest nuclear generating facilities in the county, right on the shores of Biscayne National Park.

Biscayne and Everglades National Parks are home to a number of threatened species like the wood stork, snail kite, and West Indian manatee, and offer amazing recreational opportunities. Collectively, they welcome close to 1.5 million visitors that spend around $125 million annually, invigorating South Florida's economy. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's own guidelines for siting power plants, "sites adjacent to lands devoted to public use may be considered unsuitable," and unacceptable impacts are, "most apt to arise in areas adjacent to natural-resource-oriented areas." The area surrounding Turkey Point is home to two national parks, a national wildlife refuge, and a national marine sanctuary. One would be hard pressed to find a worse place to put a nuclear power plant, let alone expand one.

The amount of water required to operate the two new reactors, on top of current water quality and quantity concerns, puts Biscayne National Park in jeopardy. FPL would be allowed to draw fresh water from under Biscayne National Park, at the same time that we are trying to put more freshwater into the park through the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands restoration project. We can't forget that Turkey Point is already causing massive contamination to our environment through radioactive, hypersaline pollution emanating from the plant's cooling canals. The waters of Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park have already been contaminated. The Biscayne Aquifer, which supplies drinking water for more than 3 million people, has already been contaminated. Now, plans to inject wastewater from the new Units 6 & 7 could contaminate yet another one of our aquifers.

It is clear that FPL cannot manage the operations of their existing facilities. They shouldn't be given a green light to continue their bad practices that jeopardize our national parks, the drinking water supply for millions of people, and our billion-dollar tourist economy that depends on a clean, healthy environment."