

January 24, 2019

Benjamin M. Melnick
Deputy Director, Division of Water Resource Management
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Re: NPDES Permit No. FL0001562, PA File No. FL0001562-012-IW1N

Dear Mr. Melnick,

On behalf of National Parks Conservation Association and Miami Waterkeeper, and our more than 1.3 million members and supporters around the county, we respectfully request an extension of the comment period on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) proposed draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal (DEP File No. FL0001562-012-IW1N) for the wastewater treatment and effluent disposal facilities for three steam-electric generating units (Units 3, 4, and 5) at the Turkey Point Power Plant, owned and operated by Florida Power & Light (FPL). In order to allow stakeholders sufficient time to fully review and analyze the contents of the draft permit and evaluate impacts to Biscayne National Park and Biscayne Bay, we respectfully request a thirty (30) day extension of the public comment deadline, allowing stakeholders a full sixty (60) days to submit comments from the date the draft permit was publicly noticed (January 15, 2019). Currently comments are due on February 14, 2019. If granted, this request for a thirty-day extension would allow for stakeholder input until March 16, 2019.

For years, National Parks Conservation Association and Miami Waterkeeper have been actively engaged in matters regarding the operations of Turkey Point and its effects on Biscayne National Park and Biscayne Bay. Our organizations have a strong interest in ensuring the plant's operations do not cause detrimental impacts to the surrounding environment, including regional water resources, national parks, wildlife, and sensitive wetlands. Over the years, the release of pollutants and contaminants from Turkey Point into the surrounding environment has caused significant environmental degradation. Because this permit will ultimately regulate the discharge of pollutants from Turkey Point and outline important monitoring and reporting requirements, permit specifications will play a large role in determining future impacts of Turkey Point on the surrounding environment, especially Biscayne National Park. As such, it is critical that the State of Florida, through FDEP, makes a good faith effort to provide stakeholders and interested parties ample time with which to analyze and respond to the contents of the draft permit.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact Caroline McLaughlin at cmclaughlin@npca.org.

Sincerely,



Caroline McLaughlin
Associate Director, Sun Coast
National Parks Conservation Association



Rachel Silverstein, Ph.D.
Executive Director & Waterkeeper
Miami Waterkeeper

Cc:

Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marc Harris, Environmental Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Pedro Ramos, Superintendent, Everglades National Park

Margaret Goodro, Superintendent, Biscayne National Park

Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Miami-Dade County

Chairwoman Audrey Edmonson and the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners

Lee Hefty, Director, Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management

Mayor David Rice and the Monroe County Board of Commissioners