4/25/17: Opening Statement – Sara Barczak, High Risk Energy Choices Program Director, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, re: FPL's Proposed Turkey Point Nuclear Expansion

Thank you all for joining us today. My name is Sara Barczak and I'm the High Risk Energy Choices Program Director for the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy. The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy is regional, not-for-profit, clean energy advocacy organization working on energy policy in Florida and throughout the southeastern United States. We have been closely involved in FPL's proposed expansion of their Turkey Point nuclear plant for over a decade – challenging this risky, water-intensive and expensive proposal at state and federal levels.

A week from today, we will all gather for the long-awaited evidentiary hearing before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in Homestead, Florida, very near the Turkey Point facility. Even though this has been truly a David and Goliath battle for many years, we have been successful in actually reaching this important proceeding due to our excellent legal counsel at the Everglades Law Center, Emory University School of Law's Turner Environmental Law Clinic and attorney Diane Curran, with Harmon Curran Spielberg & Eisenberg, along with Mr. Mark Quarles, our expert.

FPL's proposed expansion of Turkey Point puts public health and safety at risk along with South Florida's environment and drinking water supply. It also poses dire financial consequences for FPL's customers. Over $280 million has already been charged to customers in advance for FPL's proposed Turkey Point expansion due to anti-consumer state legislation passed over a decade ago known as the "early cost recovery" law or Florida's "nuclear tax."

FPL's highly speculative project has become even more so given the recent financial meltdown and now bankruptcy of the designer/builder for the AP1000 nuclear reactor, Toshiba's Westinghouse – due to the extremely over budget and delayed AP1000 reactor construction projects in nearby Georgia and South Carolina. In fact, Westinghouse is now out of the nuclear construction business altogether – leaving FPL without a builder. Japan's tech giant Toshiba is also on shaky financial ground due to over $6 billion in losses from those new reactor construction projects, and may not be able to endure either.

FPL's proposed project has now been delayed three times to 2028 at the earliest, *twenty years after the original need determination by the Florida PSC* and cost estimates are over $20 billion – and *none of this considers the latest financial meltdown of Westinghouse*. Very simply this is a mess that exemplifies the high risks associated with new nuclear generation that we have consistently warned utilities and regulators of since the mid 2000s. All the while, clean and safe energy choices, such as solar and energy efficiency, have become more and more affordable.

If FPL wants to go forward with this project, their shareholders should carry the risk, not the ratepayers. In fact, FPL's parent company, NextEra, is shuttering costly or inefficient plants across the country but FPL is still pursuing a costly nuclear plant at Turkey Point – throwing customers' good money after bad has to stop.

Given the increasingly speculative nature of this costly, risky project and the unacceptable impacts these reactors could have on the south Florida environment and FPL customers' wallets, this project should never go forward. Clearly, new nuclear power generation has been proven as a losing bet and customers cannot afford anymore gambling by FPL. Thank you.