TurkeyPointCEm Resource

From: Denise James [denise@craigjamesphotography.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2015 1:40 PM
To: TurkeyPointCOLEIS Resource
Subject: New reactors

Two of South Florida's most important public lands and wildlife habitats - Biscayne and Everglades National Parks - will be put at risk and be forever changed by a project of this scale. Wherever you happen to live - South Florida or not - these special places (hotspots for our planet's biodiversity) are a part of your natural heritage.

The powerful new reactors (1,117 MW each) are to be cooled primarily by 90 million gallons per day of recycled Miami-Dade County sewage and wastewater. This water will not be pure H2O - and some will be released over Biscayne Bay and surrounding wetlands along with steam in the planned cooling towers. Aerosol droplets known as "drift" can travel far and contain pharmaceuticals, cleaners, detergents and other household chemicals, as well as viruses and bacteria (which can grow inside the cooling towers themselves as bacterial slime). Impacts on the human environment as well as on dozens of endangered and threatened species in the vicinity are largely unknown.

In 1992, the two existing nuclear reactors at Turkey Point took a direct hit from Hurricane Andrew. According to the NRC's own report: "The onsite damage included loss of all offsite power for more than 5 days, complete loss of communication systems, closing of the access road, and damage to the fire protection and security systems and warehouse facilities...the high water tank collapsed onto the fire water system, rendering the fire protection system inoperable. In addition, the storm threatened safety-related equipment (e.g., potential collapse of the damaged Unit 1 chimney onto the diesel generator building)." In other words - South Florida dodged a very big bullet in 1992. There is no need to build more risk in this hurricane-prone location.

The low-lying wetlands which surround Turkey Point contain some of the lowest elevations in South Florida. Even a half foot of sea level rise will be enough to inundate the 5,000 acres of canals used to cool the two reactors currently operating at this location. They are filled with hot and extremely salty water - as well as chemicals used to kill a recent algae outbreak in the canals. With scientists measuring ever-increasing sea level rise from the melting of our planet's remaining ice in addition to thermal expansion due to increased temperatures, those 6 inches of sea level rise are a virtual certainty. New nuclear reactors in this location will be sitting on islands in Biscayne Bay - quite possibly in the not so distant future.

In addition to the highly dangerous nuclear fuel in then reactor cores - thousands of pounds of spent fuel rods (nuclear waste) have already piled up on the shores of Biscayne Bay. There is no long term safe storage on the horizon. With the two new reactors having a much larger power capacity than the existing ones, increasing amounts of spent nuclear fuel containing uranium-235, plutonium, and other dangerous radioactive materials will be accumulating in a flood and hurricane prone location for many years to come. The tragedy of Fukushima should have been the last word on building nuclear plants in vulnerable coastal locations like this one.

Thank you,
Denise James

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