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Environmental Impact Statement

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U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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PUBLIC MEETING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE
DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC TURKEY POINT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

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The Public Meeting met via
Videoconference, at 2:00 p.m. EDT, Lance Rakovan,
facilitator, presiding.

PRESENT

LANCE RAKOVAN, Facilitator

TED SMITH

ALSO PRESENT

MITCHELL DEHMER

BRIANA ARLENE

LEA PADRON

MARK YOO

DAVE GASPERSON

DAISUKE NIO

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AGENDA

	<u>PAGE</u>
Welcome and Introductions	7
Environmental Review Process	10
Environmental Review Findings	14
Public Comments	22
Next Steps and Closing.....	31

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2:01 p.m.

MR. RAKOVAN: All right, I think my first few slides are really just logistics and such, so let's go ahead and kick things off today. Mitchell, if you could go to -- thank you.

So, welcome, everyone. This is an NRC public meeting to discuss the preliminary findings of the environmental review for Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Units 3 and 4 subsequent license renewal. This is a comment-gathering meeting by NRC's definition, meaning our primary reason to be here today is to receive your comments on the draft environmental impact statement or EIS.

Also, I'll go through the agenda momentarily. Well, let's go ahead and bring the agenda up if you would, Mitchell? Thank you. Part of what we want to do here today was to go through those preliminary findings.

So, you'll see that we're going to start out with some opening remarks, introductions and such, then I'll be giving a presentation that will go through some of the process along with some of the preliminary findings from our draft environmental impact statement or, again, EIS. We'll then see if

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anyone on the line has any clarifying questions about our presentation, and then we'll go ahead and get to the main reason that we are here today, which again is to get your public comments on the draft document.

So, let's go ahead and go to slide four, please? I will try to name the slide numbers as opposed to saying next slide because I do see we have at least one person who is on the phone. NRC is actively, as I said, soliciting your comments on the draft EIS today to aid in our review.

Participants will be on mute until we get to the question and comment portion of the meeting. And again, I just want to specify that no regulatory decisions will be made at today's meeting. Again, we are just looking to essentially collect comments. Slide five, please?

So, Jessica Hammock, who is our safety review lead, was unable to be with us today, but we do have Mark Yoo from the safety group who is here in her place. Again, I am Lance Rakovan. I am the environmental review lead and my office is NMSS or the Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards.

John Moses, who is the deputy director of my division, which is the Division of Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Support in NMSS, was not

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able to be here, but my branch chief, Ted Smith, is. Ted, I believe you have some introductory opening remarks that you'd like to give?

MR. SMITH: Yes, thank you, Lance. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Ted Smith. As Lance said, I'm the branch chief for Environmental Review License Renewal in the Environmental Center of Expertise in the Rulemaking, Environmental, and Financial Services Division in the U.S. NRC.

Welcome to today's second public meeting on the draft site-specific supplemental environmental statement or EIS for license renewal for Turkey Point Nuclear Generating Units 3 and 4. The first public meeting was held last Tuesday evening on September 19 as an in-person public meeting near the facility.

The purpose of these meetings is to inform you and seek your input on the agency's assessment and recommendation. Public participation, openness, and transparency are all key to all of NRC's activities, including the licensing of nuclear facilities.

The public comment period on the draft EIS is open for 60 days until November 7, 2023. We included a 60-day public comment period rather than the typical 45-day period since this EIS is the first draft site-specific supplemental EIS under the

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February 2022 Commission orders.

On February 24, 2022, the NRC Commission issued two orders called CLI-22-02 and -03, and staff requirements memorandum SECY-21-0066, Rulemaking Plan for Renewing Nuclear Power Plant Operating Licenses, that impact the subsequent license renewal of Turkey Point Units 3 and 4, among others.

The subsequent renewed licenses for Turkey Point are still in place. The Commission order that the extension dates of these subsequently renewed licenses be reset to the end of the initial period of extended operation. The Commission's direction will hold until the staff completes its reevaluation of generic environmental issues for this subsequent license renewal.

Later in this meeting, we will mention how you can help our review by providing your comments on the agency's draft site-specific environmental impact statement. The agency also opened an opportunity to request an adjudicatory hearing along with the draft EIS.

I'm looking forward to hearing your feedback on the draft EIS. Our goal is to hear from you and collect any comments you may have so that we may fully consider them during our review.

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We thank you in advance for your participation. We also hope to provide useful information on our process and answer any questions on the environmental review that may come up. With that, I will turn this back over to Lance. Thank you.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks, Ted. As you've probably figured out since we are collecting your comments, the meeting is being recorded and we do have a court reporter on the line who is taking an accounting of the meeting. So, if you have any issues with being recorded, you obviously may drop off at any time. Let's go ahead and go to slide number six, please?

So, just quickly, our regulatory role is discussed specifically in 10 Code of Federal Regulations or CFR Part 54. Specifically, our role when it comes to the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA is detailed in 10 CFR Part 51.

Our mission briefly is to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment, which, again, is our focus today. Slide seven, please?

Just a little background on Turkey Point, the operating licenses were issued in 1972 and 1973. The first renewed licenses were issued in 2002.

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Subsequent licenses were issued at the end of 2019. However, due to the Commission orders that Ted discussed, briefly mentioned, the current expiration dates for those renewed licenses are now in 2032 and 2033, respectively.

So, if we were to renew the licenses for the plant, the proposed expiration dates would be July 19, 2052 and April 10, 2053, again looking to potentially renew for an additional 20 years of operation. Slide eight, please?

So, just getting into some of the details about our environmental review, the NRC uses a generic environmental impact statement or GEIS to address environmental issues that are either common to all plants or to a subset of plants. The shorthand would be referencing them as Category 1 issues during the license renewal term, and these are discussed at length, again, in our GEIS or generic environmental impact statement document.

In terms of creating a final supplemental impact statement or an FSEIS, these address site-specific environmental issues, or again the shorthand would be Category 2, during the license renewal term, and also includes any new and significant information regarding the generic or Category 1 issues. Now, an

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FSEIS for Turkey Point subsequent license renewal was issued in October 2019. Slide nine, please?

This site-specific environmental impact statement was necessitated due to the Commission orders when it was directed that the generic environmental impact statement could no longer be applied to subsequent license renewal. So, the site-specific environmental impact statement, the draft document that we're seeking comment on currently, addresses Category 1 or more generic environmental issues during the license renewal term, and also includes any new information that was deemed significant regarding Category 2 or site-specific issues that were addressed in-depth in the previous FSEIS.

Now, again, this draft document was issued at the end of August, and we are providing a 60-day comment period which ends on November 7, which officially kicked off on September 8. Slide ten, please?

This graphic is just meant to demonstrate some of the issues that we look at in terms of our environmental review when it comes to the continued operation the plant, things like aquatic ecology and terrestrial ecology, but also things like visual

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impacts, land use, and human health. So, again, I'll be touching on these briefly as we move forward, specifically when we get a little later in the presentation on preliminary findings detailed in the draft document. Next slide, please?

So, speaking of the draft document, how the impacts are defined: the majority of the topics that are discussed in the document follow the rating system of small, moderate, and large. As you can see on this slide, small are effects that either are not detectable or are so minor that they're not expected to destabilize or really alter any important attributes of the resource.

Moderate would be effects that would expect that, you know, you'd see a change, you'd see a difference, but it would not destabilize important attributes of the resource, and large would be effects that are clearly noticeable and are sufficient to destabilize important attributes of a particular resource.

But not all of the impacts are defined that way. There are a few special cases as discussed in the draft document. For federally listed species and critical habitat, we adopt the Endangered Species Act language for these, and you can see that the way

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that these are rated are that there's no effect, may effect but it is not likely to adversely effect, or may effect and is likely to adversely effect, so it's very similar to the small, moderate, and large.

For Essential Fish Habitat, we adopt the language used in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, again similar except in this case there are four categories, no adverse effects, minimal adverse effects, more than minimal but less than substantial adverse effects, and substantial adverse impacts. Slide 13, please?

Also, for the Natural Marine Sanctuary Act, again similarly, it's three categories, no effect, may effect but is not likely to destroy, cause the loss of or injure, or may effect and is likely to destroy, cause the loss of, or injure. Slide 14, please?

A few others before we go ahead and start discussing the preliminary findings. In terms of cultural and historic resources, we adopt the language of the National Historic Preservation Act, which is it would adversely effect or would not adversely effect.

And finally, for Environmental Justice, what we are looking to say is if there is disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects because of the action. Again,

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in this case, the action is the continued operation of Turkey Point's Units 3 and 4 for an additional 20 years. Slide 15, please?

All right, so just to kind of give a kind of high level, if you will, summary, in terms of what is documented in the draft EIS in terms of preliminary findings, all of the categories here on slide 15 are small. I will note for those of you who are looking at the slides in ADAMS, somehow slides 15 and 16 in the document that's in there were swapped.

I have corrected that in the slides that I am currently using. However, again, I do not believe that that correction has been made in the document in ADAMS. So, if you are on the phone or you are looking at the slides as they are presented in ADAMS, slides 15 and 16 have been swapped and I apologize for that.

But on slide 15, you can see all of these categories came up as small impacts. Again, these are things that we see as being very minor and would not destabilize major aspects of these particular resources. Slide 16, please?

So, getting into a few of those special categories that we discussed previously, for historic and cultural resources, our preliminary finding is that the action would not adversely effect known

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historic properties. For environmental justice, the impact of the action is no disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

And in terms of cumulative impacts, it's a little complicated to summarize just by giving a rating, so if you have an interest in cumulative impacts, we just recommend that you go to the FSEIS, which again is the previous final supplementary environmental impact statement that was completed in 2019, and take a look at Section 4.16.

For those of you not familiar with cumulative impacts, it basically looks at the impact of Turkey Point along with other things going on in the general vicinity to see what the impact on the environment will have when you take all of those in consideration. So, again, we just ask that you go ahead and go take a look at the FSEIS document to get information on that. Slide 17, please?

So, this is a kind of in-depth one, but for Special Status Species and habitats, the summary would be that the NRC staff identified no new significant information that would change the conclusions made in the 2019 final supplement environmental impact statement. You can see these

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here.

They include that they are likely to adversely effect American crocodile and eastern indigo snakes, may effect but is not likely to adversely effect the Florida panther and a list of additional animals there, no adverse impacts on essential fish habitat, and no effect on sanctuary resources to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Again, you can find all of these both in the FSEIS document and in the draft document.

Again, these are unchanged because we did not see anything new and significant that had come up between the issuance of that document in 2019 and the document as it stands today. Slide 18, please?

In terms of groundwater resources, again these are a few of the deviations that we saw from a small rating. Specifically, all categories for groundwater resources were found small except for two, groundwater quality degradation, and that's plants with cooling ponds in salt marshes, was found small to moderate, groundwater use conflicts, and that's plants that withdraw more than 100 gallons per minute, was also found small to moderate. Again, all other subcategories for groundwater resources were found small. Slide 19, please?

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In terms of aquatic resources, all categories were rated small for this except for two, impingement and entrainment of aquatic organisms, and again this is plants with once-through cooling systems or cooling ponds was found small to moderate, thermal impacts on aquatic organisms, and again this is plants with once-through cooling systems or cooling ponds was found small to moderate. And again, all other subcategories for aquatic resources were rated small in the draft document. Slide 20, please?

In terms of alternatives that were looked at, no new and significant information was identified involving the alternatives analyzed in the 2019 document. These include new nuclear power, natural gas combined cycle power, and a combination of new natural gas combined cycle and new solar power.

Again, one of the things that we look at when it comes to alternatives is always the no-action alternative. And one thing that I like to specify when we are talking about alternatives is that the NRC are not decision makers when it comes to setting energy policy.

Our role is to regulate, and specifically with this action, our role is to discuss and analyze what would the environmental impact of the continued

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operation be so we can provide that information to energy decision makers. If it's out there, we will regulate it. We do not make the decision whether it continues to operate or not, and that's for others. Slide 21, please?

So, speaking of those decision makers, I will say this as it's written and then I'll try to say it in less government-speak English, if you will. The preliminary recommendation from the draft site-specific EIS is that the adverse environmental impacts of subsequent license renewal for Turkey Point for an additional 20 years beyond the current expiration dates are not so great that preserving the option of subsequent license renewal for energy planning decision makers would be unreasonable.

In other words, what we're saying is that we do not believe that the environmental impacts of the continued operation of Turkey Point would be any reason to not allow the plant to continue to operate.

Again, this is just our recommendation. We don't make the decision whether the plant should continue to operate or not. That is for others to decide. Slide 22, please?

So, just to go through some of the milestones involved with this particular action, again

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as I noted earlier, the draft environmental impact statement was published at the end of August. The official start of the comment period was September 8.

We had our public meeting in Homestead, Florida last week on the 19th, and we have our virtual meeting going on right now. The end of the 60-day comment period will be November 7, and our goal, barring any delays, would be to issue the final environmental impact statement in March of next year. Slide 23, please?

So, there's a few ways that you can obtain the draft environmental impact statement or take a look at it. If you are a local, you can go to the Naranja Branch of the library. We just dropped off one or two copies of the draft document there, so if you'd like to look at a hard copy, you can go there and take a look at it.

You can go to the Turkey Point Project public website, which the link is right here, or you can go to the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System or ADAMS. The accession number for the draft EIS is ML22321A323. Slide 24, please?

Just a little more additional information.

The link here is for the project website for Turkey Point subsequent license renewal. You're going to

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find information there, including links to documents such as the original application and supplements, including the environmental report, schedule, contacts, et cetera. There's also a link here that you can use to find additional correspondence involving Turkey Point. Slide 25, please?

So, to submit comment, obviously we are moments away from accepting your comments here when we open the floor. However, there are several other ways that you can provide your comments if you don't wish to do so today.

If you are a fan of snail mail, you can send hard copies of your comments to our Office of Administration at this address. It's essentially U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

The website regulations.gov, if you go there, you can do a search for the docket ID NRC-2022-0172 and provide your comments that way, or you can send your comments to the email address TurkeyPoint34Environmental@nrc.gov. Again, that's TurkeyPoint34Environmental@nrc.gov.

Again, we ask that you provide your comments by November 7, 2023. Any comments that we receive after that, we will attempt to take into account depending on if our processes will allow.

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Slide 26, please?

Okay, so I think that pretty much covers what I was looking to accomplish, so I'm going to go ahead and see... I'll ask if anyone has any clarifying questions involving my presentation.

By clarifying questions, I mean something that I discussed that you didn't think was entirely clear or would like to get a little additional information on. Again, our primary goal here today is to listen to you, so I don't want to spend too much time on questions, but we just want to make sure that you all understood what was discussed before we move onto comments.

If you do have a question, or once we move to comments, if you do have a comment, we ask that you use the raise my hand button if you are on Teams. You can find that on your bar. There should be a little hand there that says raise. Also, if you're on the phone, you can do the same thing by pressing *5.

Once I call upon you, and I'll get folks in order by how they raise their hand, you'll still need to unmute once I call and allow your microphone to be used. In MS Teams, again that would be the unmute button.

On the phone, you could either press the

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unmute button, or if you run into trouble, that's *6.

We have a few tricks that we can try if folks do run into problems, if they're having unmuting, but at this point, I will just open the floor again to see if anyone had any clarifying questions on the materials that I covered, and I'll pause for a moment.

Okay, seeing none, let's go ahead and open it up to comments. Again, we're specifically looking for comments on the draft document. Again, if you have a comment that you'd like to provide, please raise your hand on Teams using the raise my hand button.

I'll take the comments in the order that I see them, and I will allow folks to be able to use their microphone. After I enable your microphone though, you will still need to unmute in order to speak, so you can use the unmute button, or again if you're on the phone, that's either the unmute button or *6.

Mitchell, can you back it up to slide 25?

Thanks. And again, this is certainly not the only time or only way that you can provide comments. You can do it by snail mail by sending your comments to the Office of Administration at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. You can go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

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and search for docket ID NRC-2022-0172, or you can send an email to TurkeyPoint34Environmental@nrc.gov.

I see we do have one hand, Mr. Peter England. Give me a second. That's interesting. All right, Mr. England, you should be able to unmute. Mr. England, are you with us? You should be able to unmute if you'd like to make a comment, sir.

All right, Mitchell, can you go to slide 27, please? There you go. Okay, in case you are having audio technical issues, one easy thing that you can do is drop off and come back on. Oh, there you are. Peter, there you are.

MR. ENGLAND: Thank you. I finally found the microphone. Please excuse my --

MR. RAKOVAN: Very good.

MR. ENGLAND: -- technological incompetence. Yeah, thank you for the opportunity to speak. I'm Peter England. I'm the chief strategy officer for the Economic Development Council of South Miami-Dade County and I wish to speak in support of the continuation of the licenses for Turkey Point 3 and 4 for Florida Power and Light.

We are charged with the economic prosperity of South Miami-Dade County, and FPL and Turkey Point is an integral part of that. With more

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than 20,000 businesses and 600,000 residents, Turkey Point has provided completely reliable energy to this area for the last 50 years. With over 400 employees, annual economic impact of \$1.5 billion, our local economy thrives as a result of the presence of Turkey Point.

And very short, and I will not take up too much of your time since I've already commented in the in-person public meeting, as a region of the United States, we could not afford the devastation that would occur should we lose the economic impact and the reliable power source of Turkey Point, so we are urging the NRC to grant them a continuation of the licenses for Turkey Point 3 and 4, and I do thank you for your time.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you, sir. I see next we have Madison Schroder.

MS. SCHRODER: Yes, hello, can you hear me?

MR. RAKOVAN: We can. Please continue.

MS. SCHRODER: Great. My name is Madison Schroder and I'm representing Generation Atomic. I'd like to first thank the NRC for the opportunity to address the Commission today concerning the environmental impact statement for the potential

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license extension of Turkey Point.

I also want to echo the sentiments of the gentleman before me. The findings from this EIS revealing negligible environmental impacts are a testament to the responsible and sustainable nature of nuclear power.

We wholeheartedly support the renewal of Turkey Point's license, and eagerly anticipate many more years of reliable, carbon-free energy production in Florida. So, thank you for your time and, yeah, have a great day.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you. Okay, I see that we have Danielle Torres. Danielle, you should be able to unmute.

MS. TORRES: Yeah, good afternoon. Can everyone hear me?

MR. RAKOVAN: I believe so.

MS. TORRES: My name is Danielle Torres. I'm the area director of sales for the Hampton, Courtyard, and TownePlace here in Homestead. Thank you so much for allowing me to speak.

The reason for my comments are on behalf of the support in the continued licensure of the nuclear units at Turkey Point, and the reason why I want to voice my opinion is because of the local area

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economic impact that these units provide to local businesses such as our hotels. As you can imagine, there's sometimes 1,000, sometimes 3,000 people that come into the local area or that come in to work on these outage routine maintenance projects for Units 3 and 4, and they are an enormous revenue generator for our hotels.

All, well, not all, but a significant number of these people do come in to work at the, during the outages, and they require accommodations. So, over the years, and I've been with these hotels for 15 years here in Homestead, and since day one, they have been a significant impact to our revenues at these hotels.

So, the loss of the extensions would be absolutely devastating to, not only our hotels, but I think to the local area economy, both with lodging, restaurants, retail. So, I just want it to be heard that our hotels here, the Hampton, the Courtyard, and the TownePlace are all in support of this extension, and thank you so much. I appreciate the time to speak.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you. All right our next speaker I have only as Sydne. Sydne, you should be able to unmute.

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MS. CARTWRIGHT: Hi, are you able to hear me?

MR. RAKOVAN: Yes, please continue.

MS. CARTWRIGHT: Okay, so thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is Sydne Cartwright. I'm with Miami Waterkeeper. And I again want to say thank you for the opportunity to be able to have this dialogue with the NRC and for allowing, you know, the public to be able to weigh in on this very important issue.

So, my particular comment would be to extend the November 7 deadline primarily as Florida Power and Light salinity plume remediation report will not be available until a week after the comments have closed.

So, because of technical reasons and the importance of this report on the effects of the Biscayne Bay Aquifer, as well as the hypersalinity plume spreading and salinizing the water, the groundwater for the Miami Dade area, it's particularly important to have a vital opportunity to read through the document and be able to offer constructive comments on this matter, and then also be able to integrate that and tie that into comments for the NRC regarding the site-specific EIS for Turkey Point, so

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we're asking an extension of the deadline.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you. I can tell you that Ms. Siu came to the meeting last week and we received that comment as well. I don't know that we will be extending the comment period.

However, as I said, you know, if we do receive comments or I should have said additional information after the commenting period that we believe is important to hear or to look at as part of our review, we will certainly take that into account.

So, I think that is definitely on our radar and I appreciate that your organization provided that comment and that alert to us.

MS. CARTWRIGHT: All right, thank you.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you. Okay, so again, if you would like to provide a comment, if you are on Teams, you can use the raise my hand feature, but again, once I allow your microphone, you will still need to unmute, and we've got a few tricks that we can try if that doesn't work. It looks like our next hand belongs to Joseph Padron. Joseph, give me a second. You should be able to unmute, sir.

MR. PADRON: Yeah, can you hear me okay?

MR. RAKOVAN: Yes, please continue.

MR. PADRON: Okay, good afternoon,

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everyone. My name is Joseph Padron. I am a former employee of Florida Power and Light who spent 20 years at Turkey Point, and I'd like to attest and support the license renewal for Turkey Point.

Based on what I saw in more than 20 years of working there, the culture of the employees always puts the safety of the community and the environment first, so I just wanted to voice that opinion as a former employee who spent more than 20 years there.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thank you, sir. All right, I don't see any hands right now, so I will just pause.

Again, if you are looking to provide a comment at today's meeting, you can raise your hand, or if you're on the phone, you can press *5, which will raise your hand as well. If you don't wish to provide your comment at today's meeting, there are other ways that you can do so. Mitchell, can you back up to slide 25, please?

Again, you can send hard copies to our Office of Administration at U.S. NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555. You can provide them through the regulations.gov website. Just search for docket ID NRC-2022-0172, or you can provide them by email at TurkeyPoint34Environmental@nrc.gov. So, I will pause to see if we have anyone else that wishes to provide a

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comment at this time.

(Pause.)

MR. RAKOVAN: All right, I'm not seeing any takers. Mitchell, why don't you go ahead and move onto the final slide? So, what I'll be doing with the meeting transcript that I get from this meeting and the previous transcript is putting together a summary that will incorporate what happened for both meetings, if you will. That will include participation lists and the transcripts, again for both meetings.

Per my previous slide, we are looking to issue the final document next spring. So, if you would like to receive a copy of that document, you can email me at my email address which is lance.rakovan, R-A-K-O-V-A-N, @nrc.gov. I'll pause just a little longer just to see if anyone wanted to raise their hand and provide a comment, but again, we've gone through the various ways that you can provide your comments after this meeting.

Again, we ask that you provide them, if at all possible, by November 7, but we will take into account comments received late or other sources of information that may be received or may happen after that date if it is deemed important to the work that we're doing. Ted, I'm not seeing any hands. Did you

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have a few moments that you would like to make before we close?

MR. SMITH: Sure, Lance, I can make some closing comments just very briefly. Good afternoon again. On behalf of the staff, I want to thank everyone for taking the time to attend today's virtual public meeting and for your comments.

I'd like to briefly summarize our next steps. We're in the midst of the public comment period, and as Lance has indicated, we will accept your comments until November 7.

Our team is going to gather the comments that we heard today, as well as the comments that we received from the previous meetings, and from regulations.gov at the docket ID NRC-2022-0172, which is, I think, on the slide, by email and postal mail letters.

We anticipate issuing the final environmental impact statement in the spring of 2024.

We appreciate today's comments and the sharing of perspectives. Thank you all. Have a good afternoon.

MR. RAKOVAN: Thanks, everyone. And with that, we are closed.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 2:41 p.m.)

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