

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-79

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MARATHON, FLORIDA SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO SEEK A COMMITMENT FROM FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT TO DISCONTINUE USE OF THE COOLING CANAL SYSTEM AT THE TURKEY POINT NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND NOT INJECT RADIOACTIVE WASTEWATER INTO THE BOULDER ZONE BENEATH THE FLORIDAN AQUIFER; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The Florida Power and Light Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant, located in south Miami-Dade County, utilizes a cooling canal system which consists of a network of approximately 5,900 acres of unlined canals; and

WHEREAS, The Florida Power and Light Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant is the only facility in the world that uses a cooling canal system instead of mechanical draft cooling towers; and

WHEREAS, water from this cooling canal system communicates with the surrounding groundwater, and long-term monitoring data has shown that a hypersaline plume of water from the cooling canals has been migrating into and contaminating the groundwater, beyond the boundaries of the cooling canals; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County took action to address this issue, including, but not limited to issuing a Notice of Violation in 2015 to Florida Power and Light for certain water quality violations in the groundwater, and requiring, through an administrative consent agreement, the Florida Power and Light take certain remedial actions to retract and contain the hypersaline ground water plume; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the issues were focused on the westward migration of the hypersaline ground water plume from the cooling canals, more recent water quality sampling has detected exceedances of water quality standards in certain surface water locations in or connected to Biscayne Bay, adjacent to and east of the cooling canal system; and

WHEREAS, this Council, the residents of Marathon and members of the general public are concerned about these recent discoveries and potential impacts on Card Sound, Biscayne Bay, and the Florida Keys' drinking water supply, and such discoveries serve to highlight the challenges posed by the continued operation of the cooling canal system; and

WHEREAS, Florida Power and Light has a license from the federal government to operate the Turkey Point Power Plant units that use the cooling canal system until 2033; and

WHEREAS, Florida Power and Light wishes to expand Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant with two new reactors; and

WHEREAS, Florida Power and Light has permission from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to inject radioactive wastewater from their nuclear reactors into the Boulder Zone below

the Biscayne and Floridan aquifers that supply drinking water for all of South Florida and the Keys; and

WHEREAS, this plan to inject radioactive wastewater into the Boulder Zone could leak carcinogens such as cesium, strontium 90, and tritium right into the drinking-water aquifers; and

WHEREAS, this Council is seeking a commitment from Florida Power and Light to discontinue the use of the cooling canal system in favor of a more modern mechanical draft cooling tower system that would remove all future interactions with ground water and make use of Miami-Dade County's reuse water; and

WHEREAS, this Council is seeking a commitment from Florida Power and Light to not inject radioactive wastewater into any areas near the aquifers that supply all South Florida and the Keys with drinking water.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF MARATHON, FLORIDA THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City Council of Marathon, Florida seeks a commitment from Florida Power and Light to discontinue the use of the cooling canal system at its Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant, as soon as possible, in favor of mechanical draft cooling towers.

Section 3. The City Council of Marathon, Florida seeks a commitment from Florida Power and Light not to inject radioactive wastewater into any areas near the aquifers that supply all South Florida and the Keys with drinking water.

Section 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA THIS 26th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2017.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA


Dr. Daniel Zieg, Mayor

AYES: Bartus, Coldiron, Cook, Senmartin, Zieg
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST:



Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**



David Migut, City Attorney