

FPL DEIS PUBLIC MEETING

FIU

11310 SW 17th Street

Miami, Florida 33199

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

5:30 p.m. - 8:29 p.m.

1 MRS. ZALDIVAR: MY name is Polly,
2 P-O-L-L-Y. Last name Zaldivar with a Z,
3 Z-A-L-D-I-V-A-R. I'm with the Florida Trail
4 Association, FTA.

5 I'm voting for the number two alternate.
6 I feel very strongly about it so that's why we
7 schlepped over here tonight.

8 MS. MARTIN: My name is Gayle Martin.
9 G-A-Y-L-E M-A-R-T-I-N. I'm from Broward
10 County.

11 I am a concerned citizen. I would just
12 like to say the fact that they want to ruin the
13 national parks, which belong to everybody in
14 this country, and kill the panthers, and kill
15 the wood storks is absolutely disgusting.

16 And the fact that FP&L wants to run high
17 tension, all those big poles through there and
18 ruin the landscape in Biscayne Bay, is a
19 disgrace. If that's what they need to keep up
20 their nuclear power plant, then we ought to
21 close the nuclear power plant. But I think the
22 animals and the endangered species need to be
23 protected, because they cannot be replaced and
24 FP&L can be replaced.

25 MS. BERNABEI: My name is Jessica

1 Bernabei. J-E-S-S-I-C-A B-E-R-N-A-B-E-I. I'm
2 a member of the Sierra Club.

3 So I just came to speak out against FP&L
4 and what they are planning to do. I think it's
5 wrong to add power lines within a national
6 park. Not only is it bad for the environment
7 but for the animals. It's sore on the eyes.
8 It is not a good thing for tourism.

9 I have a young daughter now. I came here
10 three years ago when they had the first
11 hearing, and now I have a daughter, and I want
12 her to appreciate the beauty of the Everglades
13 without all of these, you know, manmade
14 eyesores. But besides that, it just really
15 definitely will destruct the flora and fauna
16 and, like, mating habits of animals in there.

17 We really just don't need the power. I
18 think we are moving more towards, you know,
19 solar power and wind power. My husband and I
20 are looking into getting a solar panel onto our
21 roof and that's more the way of the future. We
22 do not need another nuclear plant, definitely
23 not.

24 But with FP&L, I just really think they
25 should at least stay out of the national park.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. BERNABEI: I am Kaatje Bernabei. I'm
3 a special needs teacher and I am with the
4 Sierra Club. I'm an outings leader for many,
5 many years for the Sierra Club. I take people
6 out in the Everglades, Big Cypress, camping and
7 canoeing and it is a very beautiful place.

8 Originally I am from Belgium. Now I am a
9 American citizen since 2000, but I bring all my
10 family and friends, like Sacha will speak next
11 to the Everglades.

12 Most tourists come here for our natural
13 parks; not for Disney World, but for our
14 national parks, because that's the treasure of
15 our wonderful country, the United States of
16 America, so the Everglades needs to be
17 protected and needs to survive. It is very
18 endangered right now and what we don't need is
19 power lines through the Everglades.

20 It would be a great gesture of FP&L to
21 donate their corridor, their lane to the parks.
22 I am for Alternative 2, where the parks -- FP&L
23 will donate the land. That would be the
24 gracious thing to do. We are all taxpayers and
25 we pay to FP&L for our electricity. But

1 otherwise, the parks should be able to buy the
2 lands and have a nice beautiful park, because
3 this is also example for the Grand Canyon, for
4 all the other national parks. If we start
5 making it look like trash -- we already
6 polluting enough our oceans, our planet as it
7 is.

8 We need to do an effort for future
9 generations. My granddaughter is here. My
10 daughter just spoke. We owe it to them. We
11 don't inherit the planet. We just borrow it
12 from our children, as our Native Americans tell
13 us to do. That's my statement. Thank you.

14 MS. CARLIN: Sacha Carlin. S-A-C-H-A
15 C-A-R-L-I-N. I currently live in Holland. I
16 was born in Miami actually, and I always went
17 to the Everglades frequently. One of the --
18 the most things that impressed me the most this
19 last this time is that the vast space without
20 anything there. It is just gorgeous, all the
21 sea grass, and it would totally be ruined if
22 power lines came in between there.

23 I'm also an engineer, so I know that once
24 they start to place these power lines in a wet
25 area they are going to have to do a lot of work

1 in order to even get those supports there. It
2 is going to disrupt everything around it, and
3 it is going to forever change the way the
4 Everglades is in that area.

5 So what I would like is that FP&L does not
6 put that there and that they donate the land to
7 the national parks. Thank you.

8 MS. BERNABEI: Jessica Bernabei and the
9 Sierra Club. I just wanted to add that as a
10 working mother, I came out of my day here
11 because I think it is really important to be
12 the voice of our children, and also the voice
13 of those who cannot speak, such as animals and
14 a voice of the environment basically, because
15 the earth itself cannot speak, but we are
16 destroying it. It is not right to take and
17 take from the planet. All right. Thank you.

18 MR. KIMBALL: Good evening, everyone. My
19 name is Dan Kimball and I'm the superintendent
20 of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks.
21 And I'd like to welcome all of you to tonight's
22 public meeting regarding the draft
23 environmental impact statement, the acquisition
24 of Florida Power & Light's land in East
25 Everglades area of Everglades National Park.

1 I would like to thank all of you for
2 taking the time out of your busy schedule to
3 come here to FIU to attend tonight's meeting.

4 As the first order of business, I would
5 like to recognize a couple of elected officials
6 that are here and their representatives.
7 First, Kyle Schulberg, who is the deputy
8 district director for Congressman Joe Garcia.
9 Thanks for coming tonight, Kyle.

10 I would also like to recognizing Mayor
11 Phil Stoddard -- thank you for coming
12 tonight -- of South Miami. Thank you very much
13 and congratulations on your recent election.
14 Thank you everybody for coming.

15 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to
16 provide information and gather formal public
17 comment on this draft environmental impact
18 statement. And we have two principal
19 objectives this evening; one is to provide some
20 opportunities for you to learn about the EIS
21 and this project. We hope to do that in a
22 couple of ways.

23 One, we have a great layout here of
24 posters and banners, and we've had an
25 opportunity for some one on one with the Park

1 Service staff and some of our very good
2 consultants.

3 And then we are also going to have a
4 presentation that our project manager Brien
5 Culhane will provide here in just a second on
6 the project to provide a good overview of the
7 EIS and what this effort is all about.

8 Our second objective is an opportunity to
9 hear from you, for you to speak in a public
10 form, and we are going to do it a hearing
11 style. We call it town hall style, and so
12 those are our two objectives for this evening.

13 This acquisition of the Florida Power &
14 Light land is important. As you'll hear
15 tonight, it relates to bringing more water into
16 the park in Northeast Shark River Slough and
17 taking advantage of our substantial investment
18 on the Tamiami Trail, including the new
19 one-mile bridge that I trust many of you have
20 driven over and, by the way, it is a great
21 view, vantage point into the park.

22 Before I turn the podium over to Ben West
23 and Ben West is our chief of the planning and
24 compliance division. He's the fellow that's
25 been giving you the warning messages about when

1 we will start. Ben is going to serve as our MC
2 for this evening. But before Ben comes up
3 here, I would like to take a minute and if the
4 Park Service staff and our consultants with
5 Louis Berger Group could just identify
6 themselves, so after the meeting you can get a
7 better idea of who they are and what their
8 specialty is, so maybe we'll start with Tylan.

9 MR. DEAN: Hi. I'm Tylan Dean. I'm a
10 biologist for Everglades National Park.

11 MR. CASTRO: Joffre Castro. I'm an
12 environmental engineer for the Everglades
13 National Park and I deal with water quality
14 issues.

15 MR. KIMBALL: I think we have some of our
16 lands office people in the back.

17 MR. COOK: Good evening. My name is Joe
18 Cook in the land resources for the National
19 Park Service.

20 MR. COLEMAN: Brian Coleman with lands
21 resources, Naples, Florida.

22 MR. KELLER: My name is Todd Keller. I'm
23 also with land resources.

24 MR. KIMBALL: Do we have any more? That
25 is the pilot group from Everglades National

1 Park and okay. Let's go to this side of the
2 room, Park Service folks. Fred, why don't we
3 start and go this way.

4 MR. HERLING: Good evening. I'm Fred
5 Herling, park planner, Everglades and Dry
6 Tortugas National Park.

7 MR. KIMBALL: Ben West.

8 MR. WEST: Ben West. I'm from Atlanta and
9 our regional office of the Park Service there.

10 MR. KIMBALL: Jimi.

11 MR. SADLE: Jimi Sadle for Everglades and
12 Dry Tortugas National Parks.

13 MR. SONENSHEIN: Roy Sonenshein,
14 hydrologist, Everglades National Park.

15 MS. VAN DYKE: Nancy Van Dyke. I'm with
16 the Louis Berger Group contract that is helping
17 with this project.

18 MS. SADLE: Hi. I'm Addy Sadle. I'm an
19 environmental protection specialist for
20 Everglades and Dry Tortugas.

21 MS. BYRON: I'm Rudi Byron. I'm also with
22 the Louis Berger Group as an environmental
23 planner.

24 MS. BENDER: I'm (unintelligible) Bender
25 National Park Service project manager.

1 MS. PLUMB: Mary Plumb, public affairs
2 Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Park.

3 MR. CULHANE: Good evening. I'm Brien
4 Culhane. I'm chief of planning and compliance
5 for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks.

6 MR. KIMBALL: Did we miss anybody with the
7 Park Service team? We have volunteers over
8 there.

9 MS. ALBRIDGE: I'm D.A. Albridge. I'm a
10 volunteer at the park.

11 MS. TOWERY: Samantha Towery. I'm law
12 enforcement with the park and I'm here as a
13 volunteer tonight.

14 MR. KIMBALL: Thank you so much again for
15 coming.

16 What we would like to do tonight is we are
17 going to have some presentations and we are
18 going -- I would like Ben West to now come up
19 and lay out the rules of the road and our plan
20 for this evening. Ben has been on this project
21 for two years plus, and he's a great leader for
22 us in Atlanta for the Park Service. So I will
23 turn it over to our MC, Ben.

24 MR. WEST: Thank you, Dan. So really
25 tonight is about sharing information with you.

1 You had an opportunity to learn something
2 through the open house. Brien is going to
3 spend the next 20, 25 minutes going through a
4 presentation. This is it, so if you can't see
5 it or you are in the back, you need to come
6 forward. There is plenty of seats up front, if
7 you would like to see it.

8 At the conclusion of that we are going to
9 go straight into the public comment period and
10 that's the other part for tonight, to learn
11 something and hear from you in writing, as well
12 as verbally on the microphone. Some of you
13 took the chance to speak to the court reporter.
14 There is a lot of different ways. There is a
15 comment card that should be in the package of
16 material that you got.

17 We would love for you to take some time,
18 after you hear the presentation, maybe you hear
19 some of the public comments tonight. The
20 spirit moves you to write some things out for
21 us. We'd love for you to leave a comment card
22 with us or certainly fold it over and mail it
23 in. I believe all those comment cards are
24 postage paid, so you can just drop it in the
25 mail after the next couple of days. If

1 something strikes you, please fill it out and
2 send it into us.

3 That's going to be the flow of the
4 evening. Hopefully, around 7 o'clock or maybe
5 a tad after, start the public comment period.
6 Hopefully when you came in you signed up. If
7 you didn't sign up when you came in we would
8 love to know you are here to get a sense of
9 numbers and keep you aware of the project.

10 There was also a list to sign up to speak
11 later when Brien is done. Hopefully, if you
12 wanted to speak tonight at the microphone then
13 you took the opportunity to sign up. If you
14 didn't, through the course of the presentation,
15 you hear something that makes you want to
16 speak, then please, I will ask maybe go back to
17 the sign-in table and let them write your name
18 down so that I can be sure and call you up when
19 the time is right for that.

20 Hopefully we'll have enough time -- we do
21 have a lot of people who signed up this
22 evening, so we are going to need to move
23 through that fairly quickly in the interest of
24 time in allowing everybody the chance to get
25 out some of their thoughts and comments on the

1 project.

2 Honestly, without further ado I'll go
3 through some of that again when Brien is done.
4 Again, let me introduce Brien Culhane, the
5 chief of planning and compliance at the
6 Everglades National Park. He's going to go
7 through the presentation from here.

8 MR. CULHANE: Thanks, Ben. Good evening
9 everybody. Thanks for coming out tonight. We
10 appreciate your taking the time to participate
11 in this important decision affecting your
12 national park.

13 I'm going to give a general overview of
14 the following topics; the project background,
15 our land acquisition authorities, some related
16 federal and state actions, the purpose and need
17 for acquiring FP&L's property in the park, the
18 acquisition alternatives under consideration,
19 some of the key impacts that these alternatives
20 and the next steps in the EIS process.

21 Okay. So to get oriented, this is a map
22 of the park here. Okay. Here we go.

23 This is Everglades National Park within
24 the green boundary here, South Florida. Here
25 is Downtown Miami. Here's Homestead. Here's

1 Tamiami Trail going along the northern boundary
2 of the park here. The area in the yellow box
3 is the study area, so the environmental impact
4 statement. It includes the East Everglades
5 expansion area of the Everglades National Park
6 in this black boundary right here. It also
7 includes lands adjacent to the park to the
8 north to the east and then to the south as
9 well.

10 So a little background. Many of you know
11 since the 1960s, early 1970s Florida Power &
12 Light, and I will just say FP&L just to be
13 short and NPS for the National Park Service as
14 I go through my program.

15 FPL has owned about 320 acres of land
16 mostly in fee title. About 20 acres of that is
17 an easement, which is now located within
18 Everglades National Park and it this strip of
19 land that you see right here in yellow on the
20 map. This is the Tamiami Trail, here's the
21 park boundary, and the eight and a half square
22 area right here.

23 The property is the strip of land and it's
24 about 330 to 370 feet wide. It is
25 approximately seven and a half miles in length

1 from the Tamiami Trail down here to the
2 boundary at the eight and a half square mile
3 area.

4 In 1989 Congress expanded Everglades
5 National Park by 109,500 acres to include the
6 Northeast Shark River Slough and the East
7 Everglades area within the park boundary. That
8 boundary is this area marked in black that I'm
9 highlighting right here. And you can see from
10 the shapes of the tree islands that this is the
11 Northeast Shark River Slough, the main flow way
12 of water coming into Everglades National Park.

13 The purpose of the expansion, as stated in
14 the act, is to increase the level of protection
15 and to enhance the ecological values and the
16 natural hydrologic conditions, and public
17 enjoyment of the Northeast Shark River Slough,
18 and the East Everglades. So this area in
19 general is called the East Everglades here and
20 Northeast Shark River Slough right here.

21 The act also authorized the Secretary of
22 the Interior to acquire lands and interest in
23 lands in the East Everglades Expansion Area or
24 the EEEA, as you'll see it abbreviated, by
25 purchase, donation or exchange. Florida Power

1 and Light's property, which I showed you a
2 moment ago, was one of about 8,000 private
3 parcels that were included in the expansion
4 area and runs through this area right here.

5 The act also directed the Army Corps of
6 Engineers to modify the water delivery system
7 here to improve and restore natural hydrologic
8 conditions in the expansion area and the park.

9 So in 1996 the Park Service began
10 negotiations with Florida Power & Light for the
11 properties in the expansion area. The National
12 Park Service needs the Florida Power & Light
13 land or a flowage easement on it to implement
14 higher water levels planned from the modified
15 water delivery project and other ecosystem
16 restoration projects.

17 Florida Power & Light needs this property
18 or alternate replacement property for
19 construction of proposed transmission lines.

20 To date, the Park Service and FP&L have
21 been unable to reach an agreement on the direct
22 acquisition of FPL's property.

23 As a result, beginning in about 2007/2008,
24 the Park Service and other agencies, the Water
25 Management District, Corps of Engineers,

1 Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2 began discussions and considered corridor
3 replacement alternatives, and identified for
4 the potential for a land exchange on lands
5 within Everglades National Park.

6 Over here on the map -- again, the yellow
7 land is the Florida Power & Light property 320
8 acres here. The potential lands for exchange
9 are shown in red on this map. It's a thin
10 strip of land about 330 feet wide along
11 six-and-a-half miles of the east park boundary
12 right here. So if we couldn't acquire the
13 property, then perhaps an exchange might be
14 appropriate trading these lands for the FP&L
15 property, which is deeper into the Shark River
16 Slough.

17 In 2008, when planning was underway for
18 the Tamiami Trail One Mile Bridge FP&L
19 conditioned negotiations of the Corps of
20 Engineers for the easements needed for the
21 one-mile bridge on obtaining agreements from
22 all these agencies to support a potential land
23 exchange. And those agreements were completed
24 and they are in appendix C of the EIS if you
25 would like to take a look at those.

1 In 2009 Congress passed the Omnibus Public
2 Lands Management Act. This act authorized, but
3 did not mandate the Secretary of the Interior
4 to exchange that 280 tract along the eastern
5 park boundary for the FP&L property, the 320
6 acres farther to the west in Shark River
7 Slough.

8 It also authorized the Park Service to
9 convey a perpetual easement to FP&L for exotic
10 vegetation management on Park Service lands
11 that are adjacent to that exchange corridor.

12 This decision was left to the Secretary of
13 the Interior discussion. It is not a mandate.
14 And it would be subject to terms and conditions
15 necessary to protect park resources and values.

16 There are several related federal and
17 state actions underway that have a bearing on
18 the NPS land acquisition decision and the two
19 main ones are the ongoing Everglades
20 restoration projects and Florida Power &
21 Light's proposed expansion of its Turkey Plant
22 power facility adjacent to Biscayne National
23 Park on Biscayne Bay.

24 So in restoration the NPS and a -- quite a
25 variety of state and federal agencies are

1 currently engaged in multi-billion dollar
2 projects to restore natural water flows into
3 the park.

4 The three key projects are the modified
5 water delivery project I mentioned a moment
6 ago, the Tamiami Trail Next Step Project, and
7 the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
8 and a related piece called The Central
9 Everglades Plan.

10 All of these projects have as their aim,
11 improving the delivery of higher volumes of
12 clean water needed to restore the Everglades.

13 The photo at the bottom, this is a major
14 milestone just completed last year, this
15 one-mile bridge along Tamiami Trail. It was
16 constructed and then a mile of the old Tamiami
17 Trail created a new flow way into the park,
18 which these restoration flows can come into the
19 park. The Next Steps Project is planning to
20 construct five more miles of bridging along
21 Tamiami Trail. This bridge, by the way, also
22 gives a spectacular new vista into the East
23 Everglades area as you drive across it.

24 Well, in order to implement the
25 restoration flows from these projects several

1 things need to be completed. One of them is
2 the acquisition of fee title or flowage
3 easements on several properties within the park
4 boundary. They are of course the FP&L
5 property, which I just mentioned, but we also
6 have to acquire flowage easements fee title to
7 the three commercial airboat tour facilities
8 along Tamiami Trail; Cooper Town, Gator Park
9 and Everglades Safari. And also on two A.M.
10 radio tower properties within the park as well.

11 In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of
12 Engineers needs to acquire a flowage easement
13 on the Airboat Association of Florida property,
14 which is external to the park boundary here
15 south of Tamiami Trail.

16 In addition to that the Corps of Engineers
17 is planning to develop a new water operations
18 and control plan that will manage the canals
19 and structures to implement the restoration
20 flows for these projects and that is projected
21 to be completion in 2018 time frame.

22 Turkey Point expansion, as many of you
23 know, FP&L is currently seeking state and
24 federal permits to construct two new nuclear
25 generating units six and seven at it's Turkey

1 Point facility here adjacent to Biscayne
2 National Park. It also proposes two new
3 corridors of transmission lines, which will be
4 needed to connect those generating units into
5 the FPL transmission system. There is a
6 western corridor, which is the focus in this
7 EIS. There's also an eastern corridor running
8 up along US-1 that many of you are familiar
9 with.

10 Several key approvals are needed for this
11 project and are pending. The first is a
12 Nuclear Regulatory Commission combined license
13 for the proposed nuclear units. The Nuclear
14 Regulatory Commission is currently doing
15 environmental and safety reviews for that
16 project. We are a cooperating agency in the
17 NRC'S EIS for that project.

18 The State of Florida site certification is
19 needed for the nuclear units and the
20 transmission lines. That proceeding has been
21 underway for some time and is awaiting a siting
22 board hearing sometime in the next few months.

23 Thirdly, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
24 section for a Florida wetlands fill permit
25 would be required for both the power plants,

1 and the transmission lines. And the Corps of
2 Engineers will be reviewing the application for
3 that permit in concert with the NRC
4 environmental impact statement.

5 Now focusing in on the western
6 transmission corridor, it is shown on this map
7 here this yellow tract and it begins at the
8 Turkey Point Power Plant here adjacent to
9 Biscayne National Park. It then moves west by
10 Homestead and Florida City and turns north and
11 comes up to the boundary of Everglades National
12 Park right here.

13 At this point you can see it divides into
14 two routes. The yellow route goes to the east
15 and then north, FP&L calls the west preferred
16 corridor. And this is the route that will run
17 on the potential exchange lands that are
18 currently inside the park boundary.

19 The other route marked in orange here is
20 FP&L's west secondary corridor, and this is the
21 piece where the transmission lines would come
22 up through the expansion area on FP&L's
23 existing property and then northeast to the
24 conservation area and joined here and onto the
25 Levee substation.

1 Whether in one or the other of these
2 routes FP&L proposes to construct two
3 500-kilovolt transmission lines and one
4 230-kilovolt transmission line and the
5 associated roads and fill pads and towers that
6 would be up to 150 feet tall.

7 Details about this from the application
8 are in Appendix F of the EIS. So within this
9 State of Florida site certification proceeding
10 that has been underway this year there has been
11 some important new developments. Two of the
12 parties to that process, the National Parks
13 Conservation Association and the Miami-Dade
14 Limestone Products Association filed alternate
15 western transmission corridors for
16 certification. This was back in the beginning
17 of 2013. They were reviewed and all of them
18 were deemed suitable for certification by FP&L
19 and the Florida Department of Environmental
20 Protection.

21 There was a certification proceeding and
22 this summer and late this year FP&L and the
23 Limestone Products Association agreed to
24 support -- I should say these are shown on this
25 map right here and that map is on a poster back

1 there to. So for orientation this is the FP&L
2 west secondary corridor here shown in violet
3 coming up on FP&L's property. This is the west
4 preferred corridor here in yellow and their
5 site certification application. And these
6 routes further to the east, but west of the
7 urban development boundary, are the routes
8 submitted by the NPCA shown in the red
9 boundaries. And the ones in orange by the
10 Limestone Products Association.

11 Late this year FP&L and the Limestone
12 Products Association agreed to support one of
13 these alternate routes called the West
14 Consensus Corridor, as FP&L's new preferred
15 western transmission corridor. And that has
16 come up along the west preferred corridor and
17 then diverts to the east right here and then
18 along the eastern side.

19 FP&L has modified its site certification
20 application to include that as its new west
21 preferred alternative, but also it has formally
22 withdrawn this west secondary corridor from its
23 application for site certification and the
24 Corps of Engineers wetlands fill permit.

25 This means in effect that the Florida

1 Power & Light is no longer seeking federal and
2 state permits to construct transmission lines
3 on the land that it owns within Everglades
4 National Park.

5 And the last remaining step in that
6 proceeding is the governor and cabinet
7 certification hearing, which is anticipated
8 sometime in the next several months, in which
9 the governing cabinet, sitting as the siting
10 board, will make a decision on which of these
11 corridors to certify for potential transmission
12 lines. Details of all this is in appendix D of
13 the EIS.

14 So with all that background, now we come
15 to the purpose and need of our action. The
16 proposed federal action that's being evaluated
17 in our environmental impact statement is the
18 National Park Service Acquisition of FP&L's
19 property within the park.

20 The purpose of acquiring FP&L's land or
21 flowage easement on it is to facilitate the
22 hydrologic and ecologic restoration of the
23 around the Everglades ecosystem.

24 This action is needed to support the
25 mission of the National Park Service and

1 Everglades National Park and support the goals
2 of restoring the Northeast Shark River Slough
3 and achieve the purposes of the Mod Waters
4 Project, Tamiami Trail Next Step and the
5 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan to
6 restore the natural hydrologic conditions
7 within the park.

8 The draft EIS describes five alternatives
9 for acquiring FP&L's property in the park or
10 flowage easement on the property.

11 The first is no action, which if we take
12 no action there are two scenarios associated
13 with that; one with and one without
14 transmission line construction both 1(a) and
15 1(b).

16 Alternative 2 is fee acquisition by direct
17 purchase or eminent domain of FP&L's land in
18 the park.

19 Alternative 3 would be a fee title for fee
20 title land exchange with conditional
21 requirements.

22 Alternative 4 is an easement for fee land
23 exchange with conditional requirements.

24 And Alternative 5 is acquisition of
25 flowage easement on the FP&L property.

1 At this time the National Park Service has
2 not identified a preferred alternative for
3 implementation.

4 So as you have seen, the draft EIS
5 evaluates the potential impacts from the
6 acquisition of FP&L's land and the indirect
7 effects of the subsequent construction and
8 operation of transmission lines that could be
9 built inside or outside of the park depending
10 on the NPS action taken.

11 Each of the acquisition alternatives has
12 several potential outcomes or scenarios from
13 where transmission lines can be constructed.
14 These scenarios are possible consequences of
15 the acquisition alternative. They are not part
16 of the alternatives themselves. I just wanted
17 to make that clear. To avoid repetition and
18 confusion, each alternative has been assigned
19 one potential transmission line construction
20 scenario that's fully described in the EIS.

21 So here we go. A brief description of the
22 alternatives. 1(a) under this alternative NPS
23 would not take action to acquire the FP&L
24 property or a flowage easement on it. There
25 would be no change in ownership of the FP&L or

1 NPS land in the park.

2 The result of this would be that the Park
3 Service will continue to lack flowage easements
4 needed to restore the water flows into the
5 park.

6 Transmission line scenario with this
7 alternative assumes that FP&L would not
8 construct transmission lines on the west
9 secondary corridor, it's land in the park, the
10 west preferred corridor, the exchange corridor
11 here, or in any land outside the park.

12 This alternative is the status quo
13 baseline alternative, represents the
14 continuation of existing conditions. The
15 impacts that the other alternatives are
16 compared in the EIS to the impacts of this
17 alternative.

18 Alternative 1(b) is the version of no
19 action. Under this scenario, again, we would
20 take no action to acquire the FP&L property or
21 flowage easement. No change in ownership or
22 land in the park boundary.

23 Again, we continue to lack the flowage
24 easement we need for implementing restoration
25 flows.

1 The transmission scenario associated with
2 this one assumes that FP&L could obtain permits
3 to construct transmission lines, fill pads and
4 access roads within the west secondary
5 corridor, the land that it owns inside the park
6 boundary.

7 Now this scenario is unlikely, based on --
8 FP&L's withdrawal of the west secondary
9 corridor from its application for state and
10 federal permits, but we've retained it in the
11 EIS to show what the possible environmental
12 consequences of that alternative would be if it
13 occurred.

14 Alternative 2, NPS acquisition of FP&L
15 land. Under this alternative we will acquire
16 fee title to FP&L's property by purchase or, as
17 a last resort, by eminent domain. The lands we
18 would acquire would remain in a natural and
19 undeveloped condition. There would be a net
20 gain of 320 acres of NPS land within the
21 authorized boundary.

22 The transmission scenario associated with
23 this alternative assumes that FP&L will require
24 a replacement corridor east of the existing
25 park boundary and this cross-hatched area that

1 we call the area of possible relocated
2 corridor, and that's the area in which the
3 alternate corridors have been proposed in the
4 site certification proceeding, and that
5 transmission lines, fill pads and access roads
6 would then be built in one of those routes
7 outside of the park boundary or partially
8 outside of the park boundary.

9 Alternative 3 is the fee for fee land
10 exchange. Under this alternative the FP&L
11 property would be acquired in fee. In
12 exchange, Park Service would give FP&L fee
13 title ownership of the exchange corridor here,
14 along the eastern boundary of the park, and a
15 90-foot wide exotic vegetation management
16 easement on the contiguous NPS lands that are
17 this thin red line just to the west of the
18 exchange corridor.

19 Upon this exchange, the lands conveyed to
20 FP&L would be deleted from Everglades National
21 Park and the park boundary would shrink by 260
22 acres. NPS would gain 320 acres from the
23 acquisition of the FPL property, but it would
24 lose 260 acres that we currently own, because
25 of the exchange and the removal of these lands

1 to the national park. It would be a net gain
2 of 60 acres of NPS lands owned in the expansion
3 area.

4 Transmission scenarios assumes that FP&L
5 could construct transmission lines, pads and
6 access roads all in the exchange corridor in
7 the lands that would be acquired by exchange,
8 which again is called FP&L's west preferred
9 corridor.

10 Alternative 4 is an easement for fee
11 exchange. Under this alternative FP&L's
12 property would be acquired in fee. In exchange
13 the Park Service will give FP&L a utility
14 easement on the NPS land in the exchange
15 corridor and a 90-foot wide exotic vegetation
16 management easement on the adjacent land.
17 Terms and conditions would be established for
18 this alternative to protect parks resources and
19 values, and also for the fee for fee
20 alternative as well.

21 Park service will retain the ability to
22 implement restoration projects on this land.
23 We would still own the land. NPS would gain
24 320 acres from acquiring FPL property. There
25 would be no decrease in the area within the

1 boundary of the park.

2 The transmission scenario for this
3 alternative assumes FP&L will construct
4 transmission lines, pads and roads on the
5 utility easement within the exchange corridor
6 along the eastern boundary in the park. The
7 same with Alternative 3, except the NPS would
8 retain ownership of the underlying land.

9 So both of the exchange alternatives have
10 draft terms and conditions associated with
11 them. These terms and conditions, their
12 purpose would be to avoid and minimize and
13 reduce the adverse impacts of a potential
14 construction of transmission lines or use of
15 these exchange lands.

16 So they are pretty much the same with one
17 important difference. Under Alternative 3 the
18 fee for fee easement we would retain a
19 perpetual flowage easement on the lands
20 conveyed to FP&L.

21 The future uses under these draft terms
22 and conditions is one place where they differ.
23 Under this alternative the future uses would be
24 conservation or a utility related facilities,
25 which could include transmission lines, but

1 perhaps also pipelines and communication
2 facilities.

3 Resources stewardship plans, best
4 management practices would be employed to
5 minimize adverse impacts on the park's
6 resources and values. NPS would have a right
7 of first refusal, should FP&L indicate it
8 wanted to sell its interest in the property.
9 Details of these are in Appendix G.

10 For the easement for fee again, we would
11 retain the perpetual flowage easement on the
12 easement area. The main difference is future
13 uses would be limited to conservation or just
14 electric transmission facilities, but not other
15 kinds of utility facilities. Again, we would
16 have resource stewardship plans and best
17 management practices, right of first refusal,
18 and details of these draft and conditions are
19 in Appendix H.

20 Now, again, these are drafts. They are
21 not finalized. They are not agreed to by FP&L.
22 If the NPS were to select one of these two
23 alternatives to implement for this project,
24 after a decision is signed we would enter into
25 a negotiation of an exchange agreement with

1 FP&L, and then the terms and conditions for
2 that exchange would be finalized in that
3 process. So it would come after the conclusion
4 of the NEPA process.

5 Lastly, Alternative, 5 this is the
6 acquisition of the perpetual flowage easement
7 on FP&L's property. NPS would acquire a
8 perpetual flowage easement on FPL's land in the
9 park by purchase, condemnation or donation by
10 FP&L. Flowage easement would provide the
11 minimum interest that we need for implementing
12 the Everglades restoration projects that I
13 described earlier. The Park Service would
14 retain the current long-term goal of acquiring
15 this property over the long run in a full fee
16 title.

17 The transmission scenario with this
18 assumes FP&L could construct transmission
19 lines, pads and roads in the west secondary
20 corridor, the same as alternative 1(b), except
21 we would have an underlying flowage easement.

22 Again, this scenario is unlikely we feel,
23 based on FP&L's withdrawal of the west
24 secondary corridor from its applications for
25 state and federal permits.

1 All right. So that's a walk-through of
2 the alternatives themselves. Now what I want
3 to do is give you a brief overview of some of
4 the major conclusions in the EIS about the
5 environmental impacts of these alternatives.

6 So going back to 1(a), no NPS action and
7 no FP&L construction. If implemented this
8 alternative would result in major long-term
9 adverse impacts on the park due to the
10 inability to increase water levels in the
11 expansion area, and complete the planned
12 ecosystem restoration projects.

13 In the long run, this would adversely
14 impact most natural resources, visitor use and
15 experience and wilderness character to a major
16 level. We would also have a major outburst
17 impact because of the conflict of existing NPS
18 land use policies relating to the acquisition
19 of the FP&L corridor.

20 For 1(b) FP&L constructs in the park.
21 This alternative would have the same adverse
22 effects on natural resources as 1(a), due to
23 the inability to increase the water levels in
24 the park.

25 In addition, the construction of operation

1 of transmission lines in the FP&L corridor
2 within the expansion area, if permitted, would
3 result in long-term major adverse impacts on a
4 whole variety of park resources and values;
5 hydrology, water quality, soils, vegetation and
6 wetlands, special status species, visual
7 resources, visitor use and experience,
8 wilderness character and adjacent land uses and
9 policies.

10 Construction of transmission lines in that
11 location would also present high risk to avian
12 species, in particular the Everglades snail
13 kite and wood stork, due to proximity of the
14 lines to nesting and foraging locations in the
15 expansion area.

16 Alternative 2 and the direct acquisition.
17 This acquisition alternative would have
18 long-term benefits to most resources and
19 values, because it would allow for increase
20 water levels in the expansion area and
21 completion of the plan to ecosystem restoration
22 projects.

23 Transmission lines will be built in an
24 area outside of the park east of its boundary.
25 Therefore, the impacts on park resources and

1 values would be eliminated or reduced. Impacts
2 in the area outside the park would vary based
3 on the location of the corridor that was
4 selected, but many impacts that are considered
5 as major adverse in the park would be reduced
6 to a moderate or less intensity in the corridor
7 outside of the park.

8 No major impacts were identified from this
9 alternative except for a potential conflict
10 with adjacent land uses and policies that would
11 depend on the location of the corridor, but
12 with good planning, we think most of those
13 could be avoided and reduced to a minor or
14 moderate level.

15 Impacts of the two exchange alternatives
16 are somewhat similar. Both alternatives three
17 and four would have the same long-term benefits
18 as Alternative 2, because of the ability to
19 increase water levels and proceed with the
20 planned ecosystem restoration projects.

21 Construction and continued presence of
22 transmission lines within the expansion area in
23 the exchange corridor along the easement area
24 would result in long term major adverse impacts
25 on a variety of park resources, soils,

1 vegetation and wetlands, wildlife, special
2 status species, visual resources, adjacent land
3 use and policies.

4 Construction under both alternatives would
5 be guided by terms and conditions developed to
6 provide for resource protection. As I
7 mentioned under Alternative 3, the terms and
8 conditions would allow for other
9 utility-related facilities pipelines and
10 communication facilities, while Alternative 4
11 would not allow other utility-related uses.

12 Lastly, the impacts of Alternative 5
13 perpetual flow of easement would provide the
14 same long-term benefits as Alternative 2 the
15 direct acquisition, because it would provide
16 for the ability to put increased water levels
17 and to proceed with the planned Everglades
18 restoration projects. Impacts of transmission
19 line construction, if permitted, would be the
20 same as described for Alternative 1(b).

21 And again, the construction and operation
22 of transmission lines in the FP&L corridor
23 would result in long-term major adverse impacts
24 in all these same research projects that I
25 described for Alternative 1(b).

1 So after looking at the available data and
2 comparing the relative impacts of the
3 alternatives, it was clear to our team that
4 Alternative 2, the direct acquisition of FP&L's
5 property, is the alternative that would cause
6 the least damage to the biological and physical
7 environment and best protects, preserves and
8 enhances the historical, cultural and natural
9 resources of the park.

10 As I mentioned earlier, the NPS does not
11 have a preferred alternative at this time. We
12 want to obtain your comments and the comments
13 from the general public, agencies and tribes on
14 the alternatives under consideration to help
15 inform us on this important decision.

16 Additionally, the site certification
17 process is nearing its completion and we will
18 use any new information from the final
19 certification decision by the state contained
20 in that record to assist us in identifying the
21 NPS preferred alternative.

22 A preferred alternative will be identified
23 in the final environmental impact statement.

24 So here are the remaining steps. We are
25 here in the public review and comment period

1 which will end on March the 18th.

2 After that we will carefully review and
3 respond to all the substantive comments that
4 we receive and prepare a final environmental
5 impact statement, which will be available for
6 public review later this summer or in the
7 autumn.

8 Then after a 30-day waiting period the
9 National Park Service will issue a record
10 decision documenting a decision that will be
11 made by Stan Austin, who is our regional
12 director in Atlanta, for which alternative will
13 be selected for implementation. Our schedule
14 anticipates that record decision in
15 approximately December of this year.

16 We look forward to your comments. There
17 is a variety of ways that you can give them to
18 us. You have the comment form. You can leave
19 it here tonight or mail it in to us. You can
20 provide verbal comments in the public hearing
21 that's coming up. You can submit them
22 electronically on the web page for this
23 project; it's in all the notices that we sent
24 out. And you can submit written comments to us
25 by mail, if you want to write us a letter, and

1 the address for that is on the comment form.

2 Thank you for your patience in bearing
3 with me going through all of this. And now we
4 look forward to your comments. I'm going to
5 hand it back to Ben West, who is going to open
6 the public hearing. Thank you.

7 MR. WEST: Someone turn the lights on.
8 Thank you. Testing one, two, three. Is this
9 working okay? Those that are coming up just
10 step on the base and tip it up and down.
11 Hopefully that ought to work okay. If that
12 will work for you. Thank you, Brien, very
13 much.

14 A ton of information, so it is a
15 walk-through. Certainly something we struggle
16 with all along is how to boil down a very
17 complicated project into a large document and a
18 presentation here, but hopefully you stuck with
19 us.

20 And now again, the primary purpose of this
21 evening is to allow you guys the chance to
22 comment, provide comments to us directly via
23 the microphone. There has been a lot of people
24 who have signed up. The way we are going to
25 organize the evening was hopefully when you

1 signed up you got a number, so I'm going to be
2 calling folks by number, instead of trying to
3 butcher your names. But when you do come up to
4 the mic, if you wouldn't mind. We do have a
5 court reporter; she's sitting over there and
6 she's taking down all the comments down for the
7 record. Brien didn't really mention this.

8 Some people don't -- again, public
9 speaking is not their thing. There's no
10 difference if you stand up at the mic and tell
11 us things, you send it in the mail. It's all
12 the same. There's no higher weight given to
13 something tonight on the microphone. I trust
14 that whether it is through e-mail -- all of
15 those are equally considered through the
16 process.

17 So I'm going to call out a number and
18 obviously if you are after because we have a
19 lot of people to go through tonight. We are
20 going to need to try to limit your comments to
21 three minutes. I'm assisted ably by Morgan
22 Elmer, who's over here. Morgan is sitting over
23 here for those of you to maybe keep an eye out.
24 We've used the soccer analogy in the past.
25 She's going to give you the yellow card, when

1 you have about a minute to go in your comment.
2 And when you get to the end of the line you'll
3 get the red card. And, of course, no one wants
4 to get the red card.

5 So please try to wrap up your comments
6 when you see the red card or obviously when you
7 get to yellow to get close to that.

8 I think that's it. If I didn't say it,
9 I'm going to say it again. State your name and
10 if you have an affiliation, please provide that
11 again for the court reporter to transcribe it.
12 Okay. Enough said.

13 Number one. Number one already gave their
14 comments to the court reporter, so number two
15 come on down and state your name. Just tilt it
16 down.

17 MS. SHERWOOD: Is the mic on?

18 MR. WEST: It is on. You might have to
19 get really close though.

20 MS. SHERWOOD: Can everyone hear me?

21 MR. WEST: No, it is not on. It is on.
22 Get as close as you can.

23 MS. SHERWOOD: I'm practically kissing it.

24 MR. WEST: Let's see if we can keep going.
25 Tell us your name.

1 MS. SHERWOOD: My name is Staci-Lee
2 Sherwood and I work for FWC with endangered
3 species, so I'm very concerned about what's
4 going on within our parks and wildlife refuge,
5 and also the encroachment that's going on. So
6 that's why I'm here today, to give a brief
7 statement regarding the utility corridor, which
8 FP&L owns inside the boundaries of the park.

9 I of course do not support development of
10 any kind within the borders of the park or
11 wildlife refuge. I believe that violates the
12 very essence and intent of having such
13 protected areas and appear to remind the Park
14 Service they have a moral and legal obligation
15 to protect the park and to not engage in any
16 questionable deals involving usage,
17 development, construction or land swaps.

18 I strongly support Alternative 2, as it is
19 the best resolution and least amount of damage
20 to the park's fragile ecosystem, which is
21 highly stressed.

22 Furthermore, in the omnibus bill in 2009,
23 which you referenced under 7107 land exchanges,
24 where it talks about the exchange of land
25 between the park and FP&L. I believe that the

1 determination and evaluation is flawed, because
2 you can't compare apples to lettuce.

3 Therefore, the land swap is not of equal
4 value, because the pristine land that FPL would
5 get would be forever polluted and further
6 encroached on an already stressed ecosystem,
7 while adding to their profit margin and
8 including three massive power lines that go
9 through the park.

10 The lands that the parks would get is
11 already within their boundaries that can be
12 taken by eminent domain, which I actually
13 support. How is this beneficial for the park
14 or wildlife? I don't think it is. The Park
15 Service is not under any obligation to engage
16 in such arrangements, as it defies the purpose
17 of having protected areas in the first place.

18 The language in the bill, which you have
19 already mentioned, only says authorizes, which
20 is not the same mandate. Again, the Park
21 Service is not under any obligation to accept a
22 bad deal, which most of this is.

23 So one must question the wisdom of this
24 deal and why Florida is not a leader in solar
25 power is another question. That would be

1 another alternative which no one even
2 mentioned. We are going in the wrong
3 direction. We shouldn't be fracking and
4 drilling. It should be solar.

5 In closing, I would like to reiterate to
6 Superintendent Dan Kimball that the best
7 solution for the park and its ecosystem is what
8 should be the priority here; not the best
9 financial deal for FP&L, or the easiest one to
10 make.

11 If the Park Service can't and won't see
12 that Alternative 2 is the best solution here
13 then perhaps doing nothing at all is perhaps
14 better than making a terrible mistake which you
15 can never repeal.

16 And lastly, the New Times has an article
17 about this proposal in today's paper. And the
18 picture of the panther that was used was
19 actually taken from inside the park on the east
20 side, where FP&L will be building the power
21 lines, so this is a critically endangered
22 species habitat we would be throwing away.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. WEST: Thank you, Ms. Sherwood. Thank
25 you very much. Testing one, two, three. Is

1 there any chance we can get this one? Testing
2 one, two, three. Oh, that's much better. It
3 wasn't on.

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Court reporter, were you
5 able to catch all of her?

6 THE REPORTER: Yes.

7 MR. WEST: Number three, come on down.

8 MR. MALAGODI: My name is Steven Malagodi.
9 That's M-A-L-A-G-O-D-I.

10 MR. WEST: Thank you, Steven.

11 MR. MALAGODI: I live in Boca Raton. I'm
12 a 40-year resident of Miami-Dade.

13 I want to thank the National Park Service
14 for making this opportunity possible, and for
15 the great presentation, but it's really
16 unfortunate that we have to go through this
17 tonight. Just looking at the 1991 document
18 issued by the National Park Service, 1991,
19 right? It is 2014 now.

20 In 1991 the National Park Service document
21 said this project is integral to the
22 restoration of the hydro-period and chief flow
23 of the Shark River Slough. In order to enhance
24 and restore the ecology of the East Everglades
25 and Shark River Slough, it would be necessary

1 to acquire ownership of the entire 107,000
2 acres. In the long term no private use of land
3 will be compatible with this goal. All lands
4 within the boundary are considered essential
5 for restoration purposes. All lands.

6 The summary indicates that to comply with
7 the congressional intent to ensure the
8 enhancement and restoration of the wetland
9 ecosystem to the restoration of natural
10 hydrologic conditions, and to manage the area
11 to maintain natural abundance, diversity,
12 ecological integrity of an entire ecosystem, it
13 would be necessary to acquire all lands within
14 the addition, the land we are talking about.

15 NPS intends to move -- this is 1991. NPS
16 intends to move ahead with acquisition and
17 restoration efforts as quickly as possible and
18 to establish NPS presence in the expansion
19 area. The legislature for the park expansion
20 clearly states the intent of Congress to add
21 all of these lands to the Everglades National
22 Park to be managed as a park.

23 The issues of compatible and incompatible
24 uses, i.e. agriculture, private residences,
25 recreational vehicles, hunting, et cetera, and

1 this would include power lines, were discussed,
2 considered and eliminated in the passage of
3 public law PL101229.

4 I support Alternative 2. It is the only
5 one that makes any sense. The hindrance of
6 high-tension power lines to particularly the
7 birds and panthers in the area is unquestioned.

8 The other thing though is that when you
9 talk about acquiring for a fee this land in
10 1996 it was stated by the NPS that you intended
11 to either acquire the land through good faith
12 negotiations or failing that, eminent domain.
13 Eminent domain is the appropriate path. Any
14 acquisition of this land is just going to be
15 another handout of public money to Florida
16 Power & Light. Thank you.

17 MR. WEST: Thank you, Steven. Thank you
18 for your comments. Steven, something for your
19 consideration, and not specific to you, Steven.
20 But Steven was reading something. Obviously,
21 our court reporter is doing her very best to
22 keep up with the comments, but I'm sure that
23 she would appreciate, if you would be willing
24 to, not that you have to, but if you wanted to
25 turn it in at the end of the night, or before

1 leaving home, I'm sure she'd love to have that
2 to transcribe it accordingly.

3 MR. MALAGODI: It is all online on the
4 NPS --

5 MR. WEST: Very good. Thank you, sir.
6 Just for others' consideration. Okay. Number
7 four.

8 MR. JACOBS: Hi. I'm Jared Jacobs with
9 the Tropical Audubon Society. I didn't read
10 those two books, so I'm not that informed, but
11 I do see the Everglades as a very beautiful
12 story. And 30 years from now, when I'm reading
13 version two of the swamp, I'd like to look back
14 on this chapter and have pride and smile about
15 it. I support version two and I think it is
16 the best option.

17 MR. WEST: Thank you very much. Thank
18 you, Jared. Up next is number five.

19 MR. PANNAMAN: Hi. I'm Stan Pannaman from
20 the Broward Group of the Sierra Club.

21 MR. WEST: Thank you, Stan.

22 MR. PANNAMAN: I would like it clearly
23 understood that the Broward Group of the Sierra
24 Club is absolutely against the construction of
25 any power lines in or near Everglades National

1 Park.

2 If constructed, these power lines will
3 create a threat to birds, including the
4 federally endangered wood stork with three
5 known colonies in the area from electrocution
6 and collision. Change the areas natural
7 hydrology with hundreds of concrete pads and
8 miles of access roads. Spread invasion plant
9 species throughout the corridor area and create
10 newly industrialized skyline for the heart of
11 the Shark River Slough, the main beneficiary of
12 multi-billion dollar Everglades restoration
13 program.

14 The Broward group of the Sierra club does
15 not support nuclear expansion at Turkey Point
16 nor do we support a new transmission corridor.

17 Alternative No. 2, acquire the land by
18 purchase, condemnation or donation is what we
19 want. If Alternative No. 2 cannot be
20 accomplished by the National Park Service, we
21 would then support Alternative No. 5. Thank
22 you.

23 MR. WEST: Thank you, Stan. Thank you
24 very much. Up next is number six.

25 MR. SCROGGS: Good evening. Hello? Steve

1 Scroggs from Florida Power & Light. I wanted
2 to acknowledge to Dan and his crew. Not many
3 people understand and appreciate the amount of
4 work you guys have put in. FP&L has been there
5 with you along the way to give you information.
6 We really respect the work that the Park
7 Service and the Park Service team has done to
8 get to this point.

9 As Brien indicated and Ben indicated, this
10 has been a long road. Forty years ago we owned
11 the property. Twenty-five years ago there was
12 an expansion. We've been working very
13 diligently, especially since the 2007/2008 time
14 frame, patiently and creatively to find a way
15 to solve real issues and we have been able to
16 do that, we believe, with the exchange that's
17 codified in a number of agreements in 2008 that
18 is captured in the 2009 Omnibus Land Act and is
19 really spelled out in Alternative 3.

20 That alternative provides the park with a
21 net 60-acre gain, moves FP&L out of the park
22 and does so all at little or no cost, leaving
23 that money available for other environmental
24 projects. We think that is a good deal in a
25 practical world, where you do have to

1 appreciate the realties of land ownership, and
2 landowners' rights and be able to move forward.

3 We have been able to do this in other
4 areas. Many of you may understand the
5 Everglades mitigation bank in South Miami Dade.
6 Thirteen thousand acres is the largest
7 privately owned mitigation bank in the county.
8 FP&L owns and operates that. We're proud to do
9 that and we're proud of our environmental
10 stewardship and we are going to continue that.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. WEST: Thank you, Steve. Thank you
13 very much. Up next is number seven.

14 MR. HANCOCK: I'm Ross Hancock and I'm a
15 devoted user of the parks.

16 MR. WEST: Thank you, Ross.

17 MR. HANCOCK: As a user of the parks, I
18 want to thank the Park Service staff for what
19 you do in making our entire state a better
20 place. We are blessed to have the work that
21 you do, the professionalism that you exhibit,
22 and also the sacrifice that you make to make
23 these parks so wonderful.

24 As a user of the parks, I oppose the
25 wetlands fill permits for Turkey Point. I

1 oppose the permit and licensure for Turkey
2 Point Nuclear Unit 6 & 7.

3 I support Alternative 2. There is
4 something that Alternative 2 has that's missing
5 in other alternatives and that's adverse
6 impacts. I think Alternative 2 is consistent
7 with the mission of the Park Service and it is
8 consistent with the integrity of the Everglades
9 National Park itself.

10 For us this is partly an issue of what you
11 are calling view sheds and how these are going
12 to look in the park and that's major. For us
13 it's view sheds. For the wood storks and the
14 snail kites and the other listed birds it is
15 not just view sheds. This is endangerment.
16 Thank you very -- you know, we have enough big
17 snakes that don't belong in the Everglades
18 already. We don't need this. Thank you.

19 MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Hancock. Thank
20 you very much. Up next is number eight.

21 MS. REYNOLDS: Hi. I'm Laura Reynolds
22 representing the Tropical Audubon Society.

23 MR. WEST: Thank you, Laura.

24 MS. REYNOLDS: I wanted to thank you for
25 elevating this to an EIS first of all. With

1 all the public input that you've received, it
2 was really the right thing to do.

3 Second is I'd like to spend just 30
4 seconds responding to a previous speaker, Steve
5 Scroggs. I would like to just put on the
6 record that why I think Alternative 3 is not
7 appropriate is you have to consider the real
8 value of this land. Would FP&L really be able
9 to gain permits to fill a slough? No. The
10 answer is no. So pennies on the dollar is what
11 we are talking about, so please do not consider
12 the value of this as a concern. You really
13 need to consider the environmental alternative,
14 which is Alternative 2. I think your screen in
15 front of you says it all, because you've got
16 power lines next to wood storks, which is just
17 visibly impossible for me to conceive, and so
18 whoever put this slide together really
19 understood why we are here tonight.

20 We are here tonight to speak for a species
21 that cannot speak for themselves and for the
22 view sheds, which the previous speaker just
23 mentioned that you are mandated to protect.

24 We go to Everglades National Park to enjoy
25 the scenery and the species that are there, so

1 I urge you to push Alternative 2. Alternative
2 2 is the only one that keeps power lines out of
3 Everglades National Park. And frankly, it is
4 FP&L's problem where they end up. We don't
5 want them in our public lands. This sets a
6 national precedent that no American could
7 accept. So thank you.

8 MR. WEST: Thank you Laura. Thank you
9 very much. Up next is number nine. Joana
10 Santana? All right. Number ten.

11 MR. STODDARD: I'm Philip Stoddard. I'm
12 wearing two hats tonight. I came here
13 originally as mayor of South Miami, but I'm
14 also going to wear my FIU hat as well. I've
15 been on the faculty of biology here for 21
16 years and I'll start with that hat, because I
17 take my students every year out to the
18 Everglades. And I take them out to a spot and
19 I point out to them, that if they look in every
20 direction they cannot see the imprint of man.

21 And for the first time in their lives they
22 have been able to look out and see no trace of
23 their own species, other than the spot they are
24 actually standing on themselves. And for that
25 reason alone I don't want to see the skyline of

1 Everglades National Park marred by anything
2 that man created; not transmission lines,
3 nothing.

4 Now I'm going to switch over to being the
5 mayor of South Miami, where we have no
6 particular stake in this western corridor. So
7 not speaking as an ecologist anymore, but
8 speaking as somebody who is speaking for the
9 public interest and my city's interest, we find
10 ourselves cast in a role in a theater of the
11 absurd.

12 And the reason is that the Turkey Point
13 expansion has not yet been granted a green
14 light by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It
15 may never be. If I were there making that
16 decision, I'm not quite sure that I would grant
17 a license to a nuclear plant between two
18 national parks in a hurricane-swept coastline
19 expecting sea level rise.

20 So I don't personally think it is very
21 likely that that's going to get approved by the
22 NRC. And if it's not, then why should relief
23 cost recovery monies, nuclear cost recovery
24 monies, be granted by the ratepayers upfront to
25 pay for this infrastructure.

1 And just as a matter of public education
2 recognize how this works. We, the ratepayers,
3 pay on our utility bills upfront fees for
4 infrastructure planning, legal expenses and so
5 for that include transmission lines. The
6 utility takes those monies and build the
7 infrastructure that would support the
8 transmission lines -- well, support the nuclear
9 plant project, including the transmission
10 lines. They then can say, I guess we didn't
11 get the license for the nukes. We are going to
12 build a combined cycle gas plant, but they own
13 the infrastructure.

14 As soon as they flip the on switch, we pay
15 them 12 percent interest on their base rate,
16 which now includes the transmission lines that
17 we paid for upfront. So it is negative
18 interest that we pay. We give them money.
19 They turn around and charge interest on the
20 money we gave them. Thus we find ourselves in
21 the theater of the absurd. It is the most
22 bizarre system I have ever seen in my life and
23 I thought people ought to know about it. Thank
24 you for your time.

25 MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Stoddard. Thank

1 you very much. Up next is number eleven.

2 MR. CLEVELAND: Good evening. My name is
3 Noel Cleveland.

4 MR. WEST: Thank you.

5 MR. CLEVELAND: And I'm extremely
6 concerned about the proposed expansion of
7 FP&L's transmission lines and their impact on
8 the well being of South Florida. This issue
9 goes beyond the boundaries of the Everglades
10 National Park for several reasons.

11 Construction of any kind in the wilderness
12 that we call the Everglades further jeopardizes
13 the ecosystem and its inhabitants as we
14 continue to encroach into their habitat.

15 People come from all corners of the world
16 to visit South Florida. They don't come to
17 visit FP&L, or transmission lines, or nuclear
18 power plants. They come to swim in the ocean,
19 enjoy the clean air, soak up the sunshine,
20 visit the Everglades, and a host of other
21 activities that give them reasons to come back.

22 The unintended consequences of an
23 Everglades transmission corridor could
24 jeopardize the tourism industry for no good
25 reason. Regardless of how many contingency and

1 fail-safe plans are put in place, there is yet
2 another new accident waiting to happen. Some
3 risks are unavoidable, but this risk can be
4 avoided.

5 Transmission line in the eastern
6 Everglades ends up being an investment in the
7 wrong direction for our future. Statements
8 from FP&L intending to justify this
9 construction project for expansion, or for
10 redundancy to reduce vulnerability to terrorist
11 attacks, et cetera, do not recognize that we
12 need to move away from centralized power and
13 start investing in decentralized power. This
14 will provide a much greater level of redundancy
15 and meet the local power needs without
16 traversing the state with more power lines.

17 If we were making better use of renewable
18 energy at the neighborhood level, then the
19 existing transmission lines would be able to
20 provide the transmission network that FP&L
21 needs for years to come. Other nations around
22 the world have already recognized this fact, so
23 we need to focus our efforts on catching up to
24 the current technology instead of continuing
25 with an obsolete model. The anticipated costs

1 of expanding the nuclear capacity at Turkey
2 Point, which will then justify the need for the
3 added transmission lines, is a poor use of the
4 funds used by FP&L for this project.

5 The early cost recovery funds should be
6 converted to subsidized installation costs for
7 renewable energy, thereby replacing the
8 20-billion-dollar price tag for building two
9 new reactors with an energy source that ends up
10 being virtually free once it's installed. Our
11 investment should be enacted with a long-term
12 vision of the future, and not based on a
13 project manager's timeline for getting their
14 annual bonus.

15 My children and grandchildren live in
16 South Florida and I want to preserve for them
17 the beauty and natural wonder that I grew up
18 with. And I support Alternative 2. Thank you.

19 MR. WEST: Thank you very much. Up next
20 is number 12.

21 MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon. Thank you for
22 having us. Thank you for elevating this to the
23 EIS level.

24 MR. WEST: Tell us your name.

25 MR. GOMEZ: My name is Albert Gomez.

1 MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Gomez.

2 MR. GOMEZ: I'm with the South Florida
3 Resilience System, a subset system of the U.S.
4 Resilience System based in D.C.

5 I personally, as a citizen of Miami-Dade
6 County, I submitted a limited appearance
7 statement during the hearing at the NRC for the
8 COLA reactor license request.

9 One thing that was stated in that
10 agreement, which I will submit to the National
11 Park Service, is that there was some egregious
12 management in chronology of the original
13 environmental agreements that were put in place
14 for the foraging extensions to be put forth.
15 It was quite egregious in that it was not
16 completed before they gave FP&L the right to
17 initiate their secondary EIS for the COLA.

18 And that chronology is just wrong and
19 legally wrong, and I think that will be one of
20 the ultimate sticking points that won't allow
21 the COLA to go through. Hence, here we are
22 talking about all these what ifs and putting a
23 lot of negotiation, which rightfully you have
24 to have in place with FP&L, but we still
25 haven't decided on the reactor and the reactor

1 is the motive for the transmission lines.

2 With that said, our group is currently
3 working on a National Park Service centennial
4 vision for the next year -- 100 years of the
5 national park. And one of the things that
6 we've noticed -- a recent speech in D.C. was
7 wildlands and threatened cities of conflict --
8 is that there is a direct separation between
9 the National Park Service and the outreach to
10 the public.

11 One of the conversations here is a
12 negotiation of putting these power lines on the
13 western corridor and that being a negotiation
14 separating the public from that land with
15 transmission lines. That does not support
16 enjoyment of the public. That does not support
17 outreach.

18 The answer is collectively intelligent
19 distributed grids. That's the way to promote a
20 national park. That's the way to promote the
21 public's interest.

22 One of the things that we want to try to
23 work on is chronology here. Again, we're back
24 to chronology. Let's put things to bed. Let's
25 let the powers that be, the NRC, with your

1 support, decide on existing subject matter that
2 needs to be decided on prior to these actions
3 being taken. There is a little too much
4 collusion going on. It could be called
5 negotiation, it could be called whatever, but
6 we have to work on chronology. Let's put
7 things to bed before we decide other things.

8 MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Gomez. Thank
9 you very much. Up next is number 13.

10 MR. SCHWARTZ: Is that a lucky number?

11 MR. WEST: Absolutely.

12 MR. SCHWARTZ: Matthew Schwartz. I'm
13 executive director of the South Florida
14 Wildlands Association.

15 MR. WEST: Thank you, Matthew.

16 MR. SCHWARTZ: A lot of folks here tonight
17 and I'm sorry that I do know so many of the
18 folks here tonight. I wish there was a lot
19 more people here that I didn't know tonight.

20 This is an important issue for our
21 community, and for South Florida, and for the
22 Everglades, putting six miles of power lines
23 along Everglades National Park.

24 I'm going to subtitle this talk welcome to
25 my nightmare. This is really a nightmare and

1 this is only one part of the nightmare that's
2 going on right now. Folks that follow my page
3 on Facebook, South Florida Wildlands
4 Association, know that we are battling an oil
5 boom in the western Everglades. Collier
6 Company has leased about \$450,000 acres. The
7 seismic testing for direct oil drilling, almost
8 all of it in primary or secondary panther
9 habitat. North of the Big Cypress National
10 Preserve, my friends in FP&L are trying to
11 permit the largest gas-fired power plant in the
12 country in another 3000 acres of Florida
13 panther habitat.

14 On Turkey Point on the shores of Biscayne
15 Bay, right next to Biscayne National Park,
16 they're trying to permit two new gigantic
17 nuclear power plants, which will be pooled by
18 recycled sewage and wastewater. It's not going
19 into those 5,000 acres of mangroves that they
20 destroyed to create canals.

21 And then of course now we're here, the
22 power lines across Everglades National Park.
23 This is one gigantic ecosystem. It is going
24 down the tube quickly.

25 You guys know that there are no mammals

1 left in Everglades National Park, in the
2 southern area of Everglades National Park. I
3 spoke to Frank Mazzotti, the person who wrote
4 the study, which seemed to imply that the
5 mammals were dying because the Burmese python.
6 He said, no, it's just circumstantial evidence.
7 Burmese pythons are there. There's no mammals.
8 Maybe it's the Burmese pythons; maybe it's not.
9 Maybe it's something else. But the fact
10 remains when you go to the Everglades National
11 Park there is no mammals left. Go camping down
12 there. There is no raccoons. There's nothing.
13 Why? We don't know.

14 So we're going to embark on another
15 experiment here and put miles and miles of
16 massive power lines across the eastern edge of
17 Everglades National Park, inside the park or
18 outside, next to wood stork colonies, across
19 the hiker area, everything, and find out what's
20 going to happen after we build it?

21 Clearly, Alternative 2, the environmental
22 preferred alternative should be the preferred
23 alternative.

24 One last thing I'm going to try to say,
25 there are people here who are not here today

1 who should be. Bill Nelson is not here today
2 nor is Mel Martinez. Those are the two
3 senators who came up with the Everglades swap
4 that eventually became the public law that
5 authorized this swap to take place.

6 There are many, many properties inside the
7 park that haven't been acquired that stand in
8 the way of flowage, as Brien pointed out.
9 Three private airboat commercial operations;
10 not working under any concession contract, just
11 running people out to Everglades National Park,
12 taking the money and saying, thanks for coming.
13 Two radio towers, nothing has been acquired.

14 FP&L, which received an order in 1996
15 saying, we are going to offer you 110 grand for
16 your property. Here's the form you filled out.
17 Hand it over or we'll take it by eminent
18 domain. That was when the National Park
19 Service needed to meet, needed to do its
20 statutory obligations, fulfill the Organic Act,
21 the Redwood Act, the enabling legislation of
22 the park, the enabling legislation, the
23 expansion area, every bit of legislation.

24 Did anybody in the National Park Service
25 tell Senator Nelson and Senator Martinez what

1 you are proposing violates National Park
2 Service law? That's a question for the
3 National Park Service. When they brought this
4 bill to you, did you tell them it was violating
5 every bit of National Park Service law that was
6 meant to protect this land, manages this park.
7 And I'm demanding right now that you do that
8 and I will expect nothing less from this
9 National Park Service. Thank you.

10 MR. WEST: Thank you, Matthew. Thank you
11 very much. We really appreciate those
12 comments. Up next is number 14.

13 MR. STARK: Attorney Brad Stark speaking
14 for myself.

15 MR. WEST: Thank you, Brad.

16 MR. STARK: When Walt Disney built
17 Disneyland he had roads going right next to the
18 park and he said, my God, this was a huge
19 mistake. The next time I build a park I'm
20 building a big cushion around it, because it is
21 such an integral part of the experience of the
22 park goer. That's exactly what he did and
23 Disney World dwarfs Disneyland.

24 So here we are after 1989, 8,000
25 landowners were bought out, except for a few.

1 Guess who else? It's been a 40-year shakedown.
2 That's what it's been, a shakedown by FP&L to
3 make money.

4 If you look at the Mather studies, it
5 estimates that birdwatchers contribute \$3.6
6 billion a year, and I think that's 2004 money,
7 to the local economy. Those people aren't
8 coming to look at power lines.

9 So what FP&L is really saying is, hey,
10 we've got this land. We've been shaking you
11 down for 40 years. We've been holding onto it,
12 figuring the longer we hold, if we are the last
13 person out, the more money we will get for it.
14 There is another word for that. It's called
15 extortion.

16 Let me read the legal definition of
17 extortion. Obtaining money or property by
18 threat to a victim's property or intimidation.
19 It's really environmental extortion. That's
20 what we have here.

21 So FP&L speaks a language, the language is
22 money. That's all it is. Money. Forget
23 stewardship. Scroggs said stewardship. You've
24 got to be kidding. I mean that's -- come on.
25 Let's speak their language of money.

1 70 percent of the 434,000,000 shares of
2 FP&L's stock are owned by institutions. I urge
3 my fellow ratepayers to contact those owners of
4 the stock, the pension funds, the green funds,
5 the socially responsible funds that are buying
6 next year of bonds and stocks, supposedly
7 because it's an environmental steward
8 conscious, concerned company, and tell them
9 divest, sell, sell. Tell them what's going on
10 down here. Thank you.

11 MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Stark. Okay.
12 Up next is number 15.

13 MS. KAPP: Hi there.

14 MR. WEST: Hi there.

15 MS. KAPP: My name is Kara Kapp. I'm the
16 Everglades program manager with the National
17 Parks Conservation Association. Thank you so
18 much for having us here tonight. I want to
19 thank Dan Kimball and the entire team. I was
20 in this room a few years ago when we were
21 asking for an EIS, and I think it's clear,
22 based on the results that have come forward
23 that moving forward with the EIS process is
24 necessary and appropriate, and we are really
25 glad to have this information.

1 After carefully considering all the
2 management alternatives presented in the EIS,
3 NPCA has decided to support Alternative 2.
4 It's the only option that accomplishes the
5 project's objective of acquiring the land, and
6 does so without detrimental impacts to the
7 park's ecosystem or visitor experience, which
8 is incredibly important to NPCA, our mission
9 and our supporters.

10 I do want to say that we thought about all
11 of the alternatives. We sat down with our
12 policy teams, looked at the pros and cons and
13 it's clear that Alternatives 1 and 5 just don't
14 accomplish the mission. They don't acquire the
15 land and so they can't have our support.

16 Alternatives 3 and 4 have major adverse
17 impacts to everything from wetlands, soil
18 quality, hydration, all the way down the line,
19 and so Alternatives 1, 3, 4 and 5 are just not
20 viable in our opinion.

21 It's also important to note that
22 Alternative 2 is the only option compatible
23 with the power line corridor, completely
24 outside of current park boundaries. That's not
25 park boundaries, if we give a parcel away and

1 then remove it. It's current park boundaries
2 as proposed by NPCA, which remains a viable
3 option, as we await the state's final
4 determination about the corridor certification.

5 We would like to move forward with the
6 preferred alternative that assumes the power
7 line corridor within current park boundaries,
8 presupposes that state decision, and opens the
9 park up to numerous detrimental impacts that
10 really may not be necessary.

11 In accordance with congressional
12 discretion, the objective of NPS is to acquire
13 and manage lands in the expansion area for
14 restoration, and now is the time to acquire
15 those lands.

16 We feel really strongly that it would not
17 be appropriate to remove Alternative 2 as a
18 viable option before we see a current cost
19 valuation of that land, so we really know
20 what's on the table.

21 All of the lands in the expansion area are
22 deemed critical. This isn't an either/or. We
23 can't swap one area for another. All of the
24 lands in national park boundaries have to
25 remain in public ownership. That's our

1 responsibility and our legacy as Americans.

2 We fear that if NPS were to move forward
3 with any alternative other than two, it would
4 set a really dangerous precedent that our
5 national parks are open for business at the
6 discretion of for-profit utilities. And giving
7 up publicly owned lands for development as an
8 acceptable management outcome, which it
9 certainly is not.

10 So we again appreciate the fact that NPS
11 put this EIS together. We look forward to
12 submitting detail written comments for your
13 consideration. And again, I thank you for the
14 opportunity tonight.

15 MR. WEST: Thank you very much. Okay. Up
16 next is number 16.

17 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Hello. Good evening.

18 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: My name is
19 (unintelligible). I'm a student here at FIU.
20 I think I would like to do a little more
21 reading before I submit my comments. So I will
22 go ahead and do that by mail, but I'm glad to
23 have attended. Thank you.

24 MR. WEST: Thank you for coming out
25 tonight. We appreciate it very much. Okay.

1 Up next is number 17.

2 MR. GROSSO: Hi. Hello. Good evening.

3 My name is Richard Grosso.

4 MR. WEST: Thank you, Richard.

5 MR. GROSSO: And I'm here representing the
6 Florida Wildlife Federation tonight. I have
7 been a lawyer working on environmental issues
8 here in South Florida for many years, 25 or 30
9 years at least.

10 My perspective on this and Florida
11 Wildlife's perspective is that Alternative 2,
12 the buyout, is by far the preferred
13 alternative. It is by far the most
14 ecologically consistent with the restoration we
15 are trying to bring about. It is by far the
16 most consistent with the law that governs the
17 management plan and the options here. It is by
18 far the option that is consistent with the
19 purposes of the park.

20 It increases the level of ecological
21 function. It maximizes the restoration
22 investment that \$20 billion restoration
23 investment we are already making in this park.
24 It adds 325 -- 320 acres of spatial extent. If
25 you'll remember, increasing the spatial extent

1 of wetlands was job one, when we first started
2 preparing the Everglades Restoration Plan. It
3 by far is the option that maximizes the public
4 enjoyment, and the view shed throughout the
5 park, throughout many portions of park.

6 We are spending so much money to restore
7 the park to undo things like this. When Kara
8 Kapp takes her child out to the Everglades and
9 they walk around and she says, oh, yeah, those
10 canals, we built those 60, 70 years ago, but we
11 are fixing some of them. Tamiami Trail, yeah,
12 we built that a long time ago, but we're
13 elevating that.

14 Oh, but, Mommy, when did we do those power
15 lines? Yeah, we approved those in 2014. We
16 built them in 2020. Does that make the
17 slightest bit of sense that what we are trying
18 to do to Everglades National Park we would now
19 make the affirmative decision to build power
20 lines through any part of the park? It really
21 doesn't.

22 The cost issue is highly questionable.
23 That's why you should condemn the land. The
24 notion that you cannot afford to buy from FP&L
25 important wetlands within a globally imperiled

1 national park, where there is clear
2 alternatives available, and thus they would
3 never qualify for a 404 Army Corps of Engineers
4 wetland permit, the notion that you can't
5 afford that? Condemn them, pay real fair
6 market value, don't speculate about how much it
7 would cost.

8 And we do question, sort of the lack of
9 hard cost data in the EIS, and that's something
10 that ought to be looked at. I strongly suspect
11 there is a land use lawyer with expertise in
12 property rights. That the actual fair market
13 value of this land is nowhere near what some
14 folks might speculate that it is. That's why
15 the land exchange is not justified.

16 The only approach that ought to be taken
17 here is to buy the land. We've heard the word
18 exchange. It's an agreement for exchange.
19 That agreement is subject to federal laws like
20 NEPA, like Federal 404. It was a nice effort.
21 It was maybe a good idea to consider it, but
22 now that you've considered it, and you've run
23 the numbers, and you've looked at the signs,
24 and you've looked at the data, you compare it
25 to the law, clearly the exchange is

1 unjustified.

2 Clearly, the only option, and I will close
3 here, is to buy the land and condemn it for a
4 real fair market value. Thank you very much.

5 MR. WEST: Thank you for your comments.
6 Excellent. Number 18?

7 MR. REGUEIRO: Hello. My name is Rene
8 Regueiro, and I'm here representing 1,000
9 Friends of Florida, and I am a legal intern at
10 Nova Southeastern University Environmental Law
11 and Land Use Clinic, with my professor who just
12 spoke.

13 We are here to just tell you a little bit
14 about the cost. Putting these power lines
15 outside of the Everglades National Park are
16 not -- the land that will go outside it would
17 cost a little bit more. This is true because
18 it is privately owned land; however, the
19 disparagement is not too much, because there
20 are certain factors that were not stated and
21 have not been looked at. These factors are
22 litigation.

23 The fact that they have to sell them to
24 get permits in order to be able to build, and
25 in order to be able to get these within the

1 Everglades National Park.

2 You also have to do the 404, 402. You
3 have to do endangered species. And we have
4 proven wood storks and snail kites are all
5 within that.

6 So within these permitting you must have
7 litigation in order -- and lawyers, in order to
8 try to get these permits done.

9 However there is risk also that some
10 not-for-profit or some type of individual would
11 like to find the findings, if they are found
12 that they should, and the permits are given,
13 that were not properly given. And there is a
14 risk that litigation and a suit might be able
15 to be brought up. That is another cost. Let's
16 say the permits were given; there is a cost of
17 litigation.

18 Litigation would be that -- let's say that
19 in order to get the permit you must also add
20 some extra wetlands. These are extra costs
21 that are added to these corridors that are
22 within Everglades National Park. And these
23 costs are not being seen. These costs should
24 be added to the cost to get away from the
25 disparagement, and see that most of what's

1 going on on the outside is very close.

2 Now I just want to add a little bit more
3 about a different topic, which is Shark Valley.
4 Shark Valley is about 15 miles away from these
5 lines. Shark Valley, a lot of tourists go
6 there for the Everglades, and this is a very
7 tourist heavy area. A lot of young people,
8 like myself, like to bike on Shark Valley.

9 These lines, like I said, create noise.
10 They take away from the natural soundscape of
11 the area and these lines might be visible.
12 They are very, very tall. Now this will
13 change. The tourists will see a difference.
14 Now this effect might lose tourist from the
15 park, and might also affect economy within the
16 Miami-Dade County, or all of the other people
17 who buy bikes that love the recreation. It is
18 a cult. Shark Valley is basically a cultural
19 thing within Miami-Dade County, that we like to
20 bike and we like to do the night bike. So I
21 just wanted to add that in there.

22 Thank you very much for your time and
23 thank you for having me speak.

24 MR. WEST: Thank you for your comments.
25 They were really good. Thank you. Up next is

1 number 19.

2 MR. RING: Hi. My name is Dick Ring.
3 From 1992 to 2000 I was the superintendent of
4 Everglades National Park. I'm here tonight
5 representing a coalition of National Park
6 Service Retirees. It is an organization of
7 about 1,000 members, including many former park
8 superintendents, regional directors, associate
9 and deputy directors of the National Park
10 Service. In all, the coalition represents over
11 30,000 years of National Park Service
12 experience and service.

13 Park Service has correctly identified
14 Alternative 2, the acquisition of the land
15 environmental preferred alternative. We
16 believe also that it is the only alternative
17 identified in the EIS, which fully meets the
18 critical criteria that need to be evaluated
19 here.

20 The public cost of acquisition is a social
21 and economic factor that should be evaluated
22 under the NEPA in the environmental impact
23 statement. It's treated as an unknown in this
24 draft. As a result, there is insufficient
25 information to consider cost as a factor in

1 reaching a decision.

2 Even if specific information were
3 included, the cost of acquisition has to also
4 be considered in the context of restoration
5 effort. It's already committed to
6 approximately \$100 million for the East
7 Everglades Land Acquisition, over \$400 million
8 for modified water deliveries to the Everglades
9 National Park, and approximately \$13 billion
10 for the Everglades ecosystem restoration.

11 Further, the exchange alternatives propose
12 to use existing park land as currency in lieu
13 of an unknown amount of public funds to acquire
14 the existing FP&L lands. This is unsupportable
15 in the context of the park and restoration
16 effort that is committed to saving the
17 ecosystem that's already been reduced by over
18 50 percent of its original size.

19 The urgency of this decision is solely to
20 connect the restoration of water flows and
21 levels to the East Everglades. The acquisition
22 of the FP&L lands alone will not allow increase
23 water deliveries to the park. Several other
24 properties have to be acquired or elevated in
25 additional construction and bridging must be

1 completed. The remaining portions of Tamiami
2 Trail elevated, structural changes to the water
3 conversation area is made, and water quality
4 issues resolved, and operations plans agreed
5 to, before delivery of water volumes
6 distribution levels sufficient to restore the
7 ecological function of the East Everglades can
8 be achieved.

9 Incremental improvements of water
10 deliveries will do little or nothing to restore
11 the ecological function of this area. Science
12 has indicated that this will not begin to occur
13 until water deliveries and dynamics reach
14 almost historic levels.

15 The restoration effort is committed to
16 achieving this goal, however it cannot occur
17 until all those pieces are in place. There is
18 time to complete this acquisition, and the
19 context of the other projects and actions that
20 must be completed, before water deliveries can
21 achieve restoration.

22 Finally, the National Park Service has to
23 be guided by its strong statutory obligation to
24 administer and protect Everglades National
25 Park. The Organic Act of 1916 says the

1 National Park Service shall be managed to
2 provide for the enjoyment of the park in such a
3 manner and by such means as will leave them
4 unimpaired for the enjoyment of future
5 generations.

6 The Establishing Act of 1934 of the
7 Everglades National Park said the area shall be
8 permanently preserved as a wilderness, and no
9 development or project plan shall be undertaken
10 which will interfere with the preservation
11 intact of unique flora, fauna and the essential
12 primitive natural conditions now prevailing in
13 the area.

14 In our judgment, the selection of any
15 alternative other than Alternative 2 will
16 constitute impairment of Everglades National
17 Park, an action which the National Park Service
18 is constrained from taking. Each of the other
19 alternatives would result in permanent loss of
20 park land or interest in park lands, create
21 significant intrusion on park lands, create an
22 industrial view shed on the wilderness and
23 natural scenery of the Everglades National
24 Park, and significantly impact unique natural
25 conditions that characterize naturally

1 significant wetland systems.

2 For these reasons we believe that
3 Alternative 2 is the clear choice for the
4 National Park Service. Thank you.

5 MR. WEST: Thank you very much. Up next
6 is number 20.

7 MS. TAPLIN: Kim Taplin with the US Army
8 Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville district. We
9 will be sending you formal written comments,
10 but as partners with the park and Everglades
11 restoration, I thought it was important for us
12 to be here tonight to really express the need
13 to acquire the appropriate real estate interest
14 that we need to start flowing water to
15 Northeast Shark River Slough.

16 We struggle every day, every water year,
17 about how to operate the system, and as you
18 know it's home to 68 threatened and endangered
19 species. And allowing us to utilize the
20 structural improvements that are on the ground
21 today, regarding modified water deliveries, the
22 one-mile bridge, the C-111 South Dade Project,
23 increases our opportunity to have operational
24 flexibility. Not only do we need these
25 illustrated for the modified water deliveries

1 project and the C-111 project that are nearing
2 completion of construction, they are also
3 needed for the future planned projects such as
4 the central Everglades planning project, which
5 we're hoping to send forward to Congress this
6 year for authorization, as well as the next
7 steps after that, the overall comprehensive
8 Everglades Restoration Plan.

9 So we urge the park to continue to move
10 forward in getting the real estate interests
11 that are needed towards our common goals to
12 restoring America's Everglades. Thank you.

13 MR. WEST: Thank you very much. Up next
14 is 21.

15 MR. TEAS: My name is Jim Teas.

16 MR. WEST: Thank you, Jim.

17 MR. TEAS: I represent the Miami Group of
18 the Sierra Club, and the local Dade and Monroe
19 chapter group was founded in 1972 to combat the
20 efforts to build a jetport in the Everglades,
21 and we recognize -- we always -- one of our --
22 one of the things that we hold dear is the
23 Everglades. We try and protect it and we --
24 sorry. Let me read this.

25 We hold it dear. Our members enjoy

1 hiking, canoeing, spending time in the
2 Everglades. We recognizing that it needs a
3 continual flow of water over the surface to
4 maintain the ecosystem and support the species
5 that lives there. We support nutrient removal
6 and increased water flow through the system and
7 recognize the need for expansion in the
8 Everglades National Park to ensure that the
9 flow continues.

10 We do not support the construction of
11 nuclear power plants or transmission lines, but
12 we recognizing that these may happen anyway.
13 As a result, we favor Alternative 2, the
14 National Park Service acquire the FP&L property
15 in the East Everglades expansion area.

16 In the event that Alternative 2 cannot be
17 met, we would favor Alternative 5 as an
18 alternative. Thank you.

19 MR. WEST: Thank you, Jim. Thank you very
20 much. Up next is number 22.

21 MR. HEALEY: It is a little lower now.
22 Good evening. My name is TK Healey and I'm
23 just coming here as a resident. I don't have
24 anything prepared. I'm not from any group. I
25 am a member of the Tropical Audubon Society,

1 and I certainly second everything that our
2 executive director had said.

3 Also I came to Florida in 1965 for
4 college. Florida was a much different place.
5 Basically, we could go about a mile from my
6 campus we could go hunting. Now that's all
7 covered. We certainly couldn't keep guns in
8 our room like we did then because life changes.

9 Florida Power & Light and they have
10 delivered nothing but excellent service, so I'm
11 very happy with Florida Power & Light, but
12 their objectives are different than ours, and
13 they are different from the objectives as I
14 understand it from the national park.

15 I don't believe that Florida Power & Light
16 should be able to get any ownership in this.
17 It should all go to the National Park Service.
18 I don't understand what they are doing with the
19 east corridor. And frankly, I'm glad to see
20 Mayor Stoddard here, because I have been
21 following what he's been saying over time and
22 it's correct.

23 So my feeling is, please, keep the public
24 ownership in the Everglades. We definitely
25 need it. Thank you very much.

1 MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Healey. Thank
2 you very much. All right. Twenty three.

3 MR. ULLMAN: Hi. My name is Jon Ullman.
4 I'm the South Florida Everglades senior
5 organizer for The National Sierra Club based
6 here in Miami.

7 MR. WEST: Thank you.

8 MR. ULLMAN: Well, I will tell you about a
9 little bike trip I took a couple of months ago.
10 The Broward group was nice enough to ask me to
11 go with them on an excellent outing that they
12 hold, where they bike along the Shark Valley
13 slough -- well, the tram route there, and all
14 the way up to the tower and it's a real
15 workout, let me tell you and it's amazing.
16 When I got there the first thing you notice is
17 that there is no place to park in the park.

18 You have to park on the edge, because this
19 area is so popular. I mean, every year it's
20 getting more and more popular. So we go to the
21 tower, and it's not just our group that's up
22 there, but it's all kinds of other people who
23 have finally made that journey, and they are
24 just looking out and saying this is amazing.
25 This is the most incredible view. My purpose

1 was to tell them about the Everglades
2 restoration, the water flow, and all of that
3 good stuff, and Tamiami Trail being elevated.
4 And then I said, oh, by the way, the park is
5 planning on putting power lines on the edge,
6 and you are going to see these power lines all
7 the way across the outer edge of the park along
8 the horizon.

9 And you think this crowd was mad today,
10 okay, they were livid. They could not believe
11 it. I couldn't even believe it, okay. It
12 sounded, like, that's bizarre. The number of
13 people supporting Alternative No. 2 pretty much
14 mirrors the number of people who supported that
15 alternative three years ago when we were here
16 in this fine stadium club.

17 Let me tell you something this crowd,
18 which is emblematic of this community doesn't
19 want this. They don't want the swap. They
20 don't want it in the slough. They don't want
21 the swap. What they want is number two, okay.

22 And Mr. Scroggs said we are here to solve
23 the issue. You want to solve the issue, let's
24 solve the issue. Tomorrow, why don't you
25 donate that land that you own to the people of

1 the United States of America so that we can
2 flow the water and save the Everglades, because
3 I'm telling you this Everglades is dying,
4 seriously dying. It's suffering from drought.

5 We are threatened by climate change, and
6 then this whole process is to build a nuclear
7 power plant in a flood-prone area we know is
8 going to flood. This whole thing makes no
9 sense. I'm going to ask FP&L to donate the
10 land and ask them do you really want to hold up
11 the Everglades restoration? It's in your
12 hands. You can do it. You can donate the land
13 right now.

14 Also, because there was no alternative
15 recommended, public needs an opportunity, once
16 that recommendation comes out, to say what they
17 think. I have a feeling it's going to be the
18 same as all the other times it said what it
19 thinks. But it needs that opportunity. This
20 deal needs to be undone and we are going to do
21 it.

22 MR. WEST: Thank you, John. Thank you
23 very much. Okay. Next is 24. Just as --
24 number 24, sorry, not to impersonalize you.
25 That's all the folks I have got signed up.

1 MR. SKINNER: I'm 24.

2 MR. WEST: No, I know. You don't have to
3 raise your hand. I'm just giving people a
4 heads up that after 24 --

5 MR. SKINNER: I'm the last one?

6 MR. WEST: Probably not. So please.

7 MR. SKINNER: I look like the last one.

8 MR. WEST: Oh, no. Please, state your
9 name, sir.

10 MR. SKINNER: My name is Bob Skinner and I
11 representative the Izaak Walton League, both
12 the Mangrove Chapter in Miami and the Keys
13 Chapter and the 48,000 people who are members
14 nationally.

15 First of all, I want to congratulate Dan
16 Kimball for all the efforts he's done in the
17 Everglades. And I know he's retiring shortly
18 and he's been a great friend to the Everglades.

19 Second, we support Alternative 2. And I
20 would like to say two things about all of this,
21 in addition to my experience over the years at
22 these meetings. I'd like to talk about need
23 and I'd like to talk about example.

24 We knew that they had to have an airport
25 down in Homestead, because they had to have it.

1 It wasn't needed. They had to have an airport
2 out in the Big Cypress 40 years ago. It wasn't
3 needed. They had to have an oil refinery down
4 in Biscayne Bay 50 years ago; now it's Biscayne
5 National Park.

6 And they had to have a power extension
7 facility in Dagny Johnson North Key Largo. It
8 had to be done, because Ocean Reef had to have
9 more power. They didn't get it and they found
10 another way. They found another way to solve
11 the problem. And here all we've heard is,
12 well, now we just have to have this facility.
13 We just have to have these lines. I don't
14 think that's necessary. I don't think it's
15 really needed. That's the first thing.

16 The second thing is, since I don't think
17 it's needed, they are also going into a world
18 class facility. Now this world class facility
19 is honored all over the world for what it is.
20 And every person who stood up here stood up for
21 the same thing, to protect it.

22 And I have been doing this for a long
23 time, and I've heard all these statements about
24 all these needs, and they have to have it, but
25 every time they don't get it it works anyway.

1 In other words, they found an airport;
2 Homestead's cargo airport was not needed. The
3 power facility in North Key Largo was not
4 needed. We got around it. I think this is
5 very important, so I think we should buy it.
6 And if we don't have the money we should take
7 bonds or use cash, but protect the Everglades
8 National Park. This is very important. Thank
9 you for your time.

10 MR. WEST: Thank you, Mr. Skinner. Thank
11 you very much. Like I said, that was all that
12 I had officially signed up. Yes, ma'am? She's
13 got her hand raised. She's running to the
14 front, so please.

15 MS. HEMPHILL: Christine Hemphill.

16 MR. WEST: Christine Hemphill. Thank you.

17 MS. HEMPHILL: I'm a biologist. Thank
18 you. I support Alternative 2. I think that as
19 a biologist, I don't think I can say more than
20 a lot of the other people did. But I do like
21 Jon Ullman's comment, and I think that it would
22 be quite fine if FP&L just manned up and made
23 the donation. They certainly could do some
24 things that might bring some positives, and
25 there is one good idea that's not costing them

1 much. So as a biologist, I'm Alternative 2,
2 plus Jon Ullman's comment. That was great.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. WEST: Thank you Ms. Hemphill. Thank
5 you very much. Okay. Yes, sir?

6 MR. MARTIN: I'm Drew Martin and I'm here
7 on behalf of the Loxahatchee Group of the
8 Sierra Club. We represent Palm Beach, Martin
9 and St. Lucie counties. We have 3,000 members
10 plus. We are here to support the Sierra's
11 Club's position of Alternative 2.

12 We realize that Alternative 5 also would
13 provide some benefits. We would prefer
14 Alternative 2, and I really think it is
15 important to look at what's going on in South
16 Florida. And as the gentleman mentioned, there
17 have been many ideas that weren't good ideas
18 that didn't happen and we managed to continue
19 to move forward.

20 What is the park all about? What is
21 Everglades National Park? They had the PBS
22 special on the parks and one of the things they
23 said about Everglades National Park is it
24 didn't have mountains and it didn't have
25 canyons. But what it has is the vistas, and

1 the birds, and the vistas of wide-open space.

2 And I remember being up in Wyoming and
3 seeing no power lines anywhere, and that's such
4 a thrill to see that open space, and not see
5 any human-made structures to really feel like
6 you are outdoors. And that's really what a
7 national park is all about, that feeling of
8 what it was like 3- or 400 years ago before all
9 these things were here.

10 So if you take something like Everglades
11 National Park, which is a very flat vista and
12 you put power lines in there, you are going to
13 see that from everywhere. People are going to
14 drive up, they're going to see that.

15 Now we obviously don't want the power
16 lines inside the park, so we think that
17 Alternative 2 is a necessity and that is to
18 purchase. But we also don't want to see them
19 along the edge of the park. We think that the
20 park needs to be maintained. And what we've
21 seen in South Florida is all this development,
22 and it is taking away an entire ecosystem that
23 basically filled up the entire south part of
24 the state. We can't afford to lose any more.
25 That is a great value to us.

1 We are looking at new alternative sources
2 of energy that have going to be distributed
3 power. We probably won't even be using power
4 lines in the next 30 years. So why are we
5 building power lines? It is all technology.
6 We need to look forward to new technology, and
7 we need to look at what the purpose of the
8 Organic Act was.

9 We are also concerned about the fact that
10 there would be no preferred alternative when
11 you come out with these recommendations.

12 I also want to take a moment to thank Dan
13 Kimball. He's done a wonderful job. It's been
14 a pleasure working with you. We are going to
15 miss you.

16 MR. KIMBALL: Thank you.

17 MR. WEST: Thank you very much. Okay. We
18 have a few more minutes. I know we want to try
19 and wrap up by 8:30 if possible, and I know Dan
20 very much wants to wrap up before you leave.
21 Any other comments? Anyone want to offer
22 anything else? Okay.

23 Well, you have been so thoughtful and very
24 respectful tonight, so I thank you very much
25 for that testimony.

1 Dan Kimball, would you like to come back
2 up and close us out?

3 MR. KIMBALL: Sure. A lot of you have
4 been to our meetings on our GMP, and I try to
5 listen really carefully during the course of
6 these meetings, and try to collect my thoughts,
7 as we depart from the meeting, and this has
8 been -- this issue I tell a lot of people
9 who've worked from 1989 until 2013 to build a
10 modified water deliveries project in the
11 Tamiami Trail, and it took a long time to do
12 that. That was a very, very complex
13 undertaking and I think during my tenure at
14 Everglades National Park, and I appreciate the
15 nice comments about thanking me for what we
16 have done here. It's been my good fortune to
17 have a lot of good things happen on my watch.

18 I think that with respect to the
19 complexity of issues, I can't think of a more
20 complex issue than this one right here. The
21 reason I say that is I think mod waters and
22 building the bridge on Tamiami Trail was number
23 one; this is probably number two.

24 I really want to thank all of you for
25 coming tonight. I really appreciate your

1 excellent input. I think as you know this is
2 as I said a very complex project. When you
3 have a chance, take a look at what we call the
4 National Environmental Policy, the NEPA
5 document, these two volumes that are around the
6 tables. They are pretty heavy. You may want
7 to use the CD, but take a look at that, because
8 I'm really proud of what the Park Service team
9 with the help of our consultants were able to
10 put together.

11 I think we did a thorough analysis on
12 that. They got the alternatives as best we
13 could. I think it is a very thorough
14 assessment and there is a lot of good specific
15 information in there, so take a look at that
16 when you have a chance.

17 And I think one thing to remember tonight
18 is Brien said it in his evaluation or his
19 presentation. You know, we don't have a
20 preferred alternative at that point, and the
21 reason we don't is a couple of major things and
22 Brien had it in his presentation, but I will
23 just emphasize it. One is we want to hear from
24 the public and look at our GMP process and what
25 we've gone through. We carefully consider

1 public input.

2 And the other thing we are carefully
3 evaluating is the site certification project
4 that's underway -- a process that's underway
5 with the State of Florida. You know, we
6 want -- that is an important factor in our
7 decision making, to really watch that process.

8 The other thing is this is a land
9 acquisition EIS, and I just want to emphasize
10 to everyone that there is a parallel effort,
11 Brien had it in his presentation. This is an
12 environmental impact statement of which we're a
13 cooperator that the Corps of Engineers and
14 nuclear regulatory commission are looking at
15 the power plant licensing, and the 404 permits
16 related to these transmission lines.

17 I mean, under the National Environmental
18 Policy Act. This is a land acquisition EIS
19 well. Under NEPA, as we have to look at
20 reasonably foreseeable. And the reasonably
21 foreseeable actions on these lands is a
22 transmission line. However, the actual
23 permitting of those -- we've heard tonight,
24 whether it's a 404 permit, for example, that
25 will happen in another NEPA decision process.

1 So I will really recommend that you very
2 closely follow the NEPA process.

3 I understood that there may be some folks
4 here from NRC; I'm not sure they came tonight.
5 But I know Megan Clouser with the Corps of
6 Engineers was here tonight. And they are
7 carefully looking at the permitting decisions
8 that would relate to transmission lines that
9 you heard about tonight.

10 The other thing that I would like to
11 emphasize is we work a lot with Kim Taplin, and
12 she just came up and represented the Corps of
13 Engineers. She's the one who's been
14 advancing -- she's been the lead on the central
15 Everglades planning project, which is really
16 the lifeline for Everglades National Park to
17 bring water down through the center of the
18 system. And I couldn't say it any better than
19 what Kim said earlier is that we are trying to
20 do everything we can to bring water in the
21 park.

22 The National Academy of Sciences does the
23 study every two years and some of their folks
24 have come to me and said, Dan, you better
25 figure out a way to get water in the park. The

1 park is dying of thirst, and it could collapse
2 on your watch and that really struck me. So
3 we've got a bridge. We've got a raised road,
4 but we need to acquire lands. A number of
5 commentators tonight said this wasn't the only
6 park that needed to be acquired. They're
7 exactly right.

8 And our lands team introduced themselves
9 in the back, for National Park Service. They
10 are working very hard day and night to acquire
11 those other five parcels, the three commercial
12 airboat operations and the two AM radio tower
13 sites. So we know that those have to be
14 acquired as well. We are also working on water
15 quality, so we are also working -- I guess I
16 called it the fine print.

17 It is great to go out and cut ribbons and
18 break ground and build bridges, but ultimately
19 you've got to get an operations plan in place,
20 acquire the lands, deal with water quality and
21 those are the fine print things we need to do.

22 I just want to emphasize to all of you
23 that we are working hard on those other parts
24 of this complex puzzle.

25 I think overall we have made this

1 tremendous investment out there, and you heard
2 the comments tonight, close to a half a billion
3 dollars for the Tamiami Trail, the bridge, the
4 road raising, the eight and a half square mile
5 area, and we need to bring the water into the
6 park, and that's why these acquisitions are so
7 important.

8 I would just recommend taking a look at
9 the EIS. Really, the comment period closes,
10 again just to emphasize, on March 18th. Please
11 take a look at the EIS. We are wide open and
12 we want to look at your comments.

13 As I said, we are in the middle of a
14 decision-making process, and what I want to
15 pledge to you is that we will very, very
16 carefully look at those comments and make the
17 best decision we can make on the part of the
18 National Park Service. And I think that it was
19 either Brien or Ben -- I am not the
20 decision-maker here.

21 The park makes a recommendation to our --
22 my boss, Stan Austin, who's the regional
23 director and the decision comes at that level.
24 So we will do a final EIS and that is -- we are
25 looking at the summer of 2014 and a record

1 decision towards the end of the year.

2 So I really want to thank you for coming.
3 I pledge to you that we will carefully evaluate
4 all the comments. And just one final footnote,
5 this is for Matthew Schwartz. I do have
6 another study that was recently done about the
7 reason we are not seeing small mammals, and
8 it's not the best news, but the python was
9 indicted under Frank's study and now it looks
10 like it's been found guilty. Okay. So
11 that's --

12 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Can I ask a different
13 question?

14 MR. KIMBALL: Yes.

15 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: How come you are not
16 allowing another public comment period after
17 the preferred EIS or preferred alternative is
18 identified? I understand that this is it, that
19 we are commenting on a range of alternatives.
20 The Park Service is going to choose a preferred
21 alternative, and you are going to go to a
22 record decision.

23 How come the public is not going to be
24 allowed to comment on the preferred alternative
25 of the National Park Service?

1 MR. KIMBALL: Well, there will be a final
2 EIS. In terms of the comments we will take at
3 that point, Ben or Brien? Brien, can you talk
4 that?

5 MR. CULHANE: That's a good question. In
6 general, from my experience and, Ben, you can
7 jump in here too, if I miss anything.

8 So we'll go ahead and analyze and respond
9 to all substantive comments we will receive.
10 The response to those will be included in the
11 final when the final is complete. It will be
12 announced. Its availability will be announced
13 by news release, notice of availability of the
14 final environmental impact statement.

15 Then we are required by regulation to have
16 a waiting period of at least 30 days before the
17 National Park Service can sign a record
18 decision, so that EIS will identify a preferred
19 alternative.

20 In general, though, I have never seen the
21 Park Service have a formal public comment
22 period when an EIS is released like a public
23 meeting. But by practical experience with
24 other EIS's -- back to general manager plan.
25 One it was available, and within that waiting

1 period, we received over 12,000 more comment
2 letters.

3 MR. KIMBALL: That's what I was going to
4 say. When it comes out, again, most of our
5 EIS's do have preferred alternatives
6 identified. This one -- genuinely there is a
7 lot of information we are seeking, including
8 this input. When that final's released
9 there's --

10 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I don't mean to make it
11 a debate.

12 MR. KIMBALL: No, no there's no debate.
13 We are not going to have another public
14 hearing.

15 MR. CULHANE: We -- the regional director
16 will be happy to receive any comments that
17 anyone would like to submit for the weighing of
18 that decision that'll be made at that time.

19 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: But one way you could
20 have gone is a draft decision, which is what
21 happened at Biscayne National Park.
22 Superintendent Lewis released a draft decision
23 on the general management plan for Biscayne
24 National Park. He received lots of comments.
25 A new superintendent came in and changed the

1 draft decision to a new draft decision, which
2 is currently accepting comments right now.

3 MR. KIMBALL: That's a different question.

4 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: -- operating under two
5 different scenarios where the public was
6 allowed to comment on the draft decision. I'm
7 asking right now that you allow the comment on
8 a draft decision, rather than going to a final
9 EIS, release a draft decision and let us
10 comment on it. I think it's fair.

11 MR. KIMBALL: Okay. Thank you. Okay.
12 With that, Elsa?

13 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I'm here representing
14 Biscayne National Park. I was trying to be
15 incognito, but I can't be incognito. Biscayne
16 National Park did not release a draft decision.
17 In 2011 we released a draft general management
18 plan, and this year it released a supplemental
19 draft environmental impact statement. So the
20 decision has not been made yet, nor has it been
21 proposed.

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Okay. I'll clarify it.
23 They released a draft preferred alternative.
24 What I'm asking for is the National Park
25 Service release a draft preferred alternative

1 and let us comment on your draft preferred
2 alternative before going to a final. That's
3 the request.

4 MR. KIMBALL: Thank you. Heard loud and
5 clear. Thank you so much for coming tonight.
6 We look forward to getting your additional
7 detailed comments and travel safe. Thank you.

8 (Thereupon, the proceedings concluded at
9 8:29 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA:

SS:

COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE:

I DIANA SANTOS, Shorthand Reporter, do hereby
certify that the FPL DEIS PUBLIC MEETING, was had, on
February 19, 2014; and that the foregoing pages, numbered
from 1 - 107, inclusive, constitute a true and correct
transcription of my shorthand report of the proceedings.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the City of
Miami, County of MIAMI-DADE, State of Florida, this 6th day
of March 2014.

Diana Santos

Notary Public - State of Florida

My Commission No. FF 030013

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