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1	77.07	BEFORE THE
2	FLORI	DA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3		DOCKET NO. 080148-EI
4	In the Matter of:	
5		MINATION OF NEED FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS,
6	BY PROGRESS ENERGY	FLORIDA, INC.
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13	PROCEEDINGS:	PREHEARING
14	BEFORE:	COMMISSIONER KATRINA J. McMURRIAN
15		PREHEARING OFFICER
16	DATE:	Monday, May 12, 2008
17		
18	TIME:	Commenced at 9:30 a.m. Concluded at 10:35 a.m.
19		Concluded at 10:33 a.m.
20	PLACE:	Betty Easley Conference Center Room 148
21		4075 Esplanade Way Tallahassee, Florida
22		Tallanassee, Floriua
23	REPORTED BY:	JANE FAUROT, RPR Official FPSC Reporter (850) 413-6732
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FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

## APPEARANCES:

J. MICHAEL WALLS, ESQUIRE, Carlton Fields Law Firm,
Post Office Box 3239, Tampa, Florida 33601-3239, and R.
ALEXANDER GLENN, ESQUIRE, Progress Energy Service Co., LLC,
Post Office Box 14042, St. Petersburg, Florida 33733-4042,
appearing on behalf of Progress Energy Service Company, LLC.

STEPHEN BURGESS, ESQUIRE, Office of Public Counsel, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 W. Madison St., Room 812, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400, appearing on behalf of the Citizens of the State of Florida.

JAMES W. BREW, ESQUIRE, Brickfield, Burchette, Ritts and Stone, P.C., 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. Eighth Floor, West Tower, Washington, D.C. 20007, appearing on behalf of White Springs Agricultural Chemicals, d/b/a PCS Phosphate - White Springs.

KATHERINE FLEMING, ESQUIRE, CAROLINE KLANCKE,
ESQUIRE, and KEINO YOUNG, ESQUIRE, FPSC General Counsel's
Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida
32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the Florida Public Service
Commission Staff.

1	PROCEEDINGS
2	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: We'll call this prehearing
3	to order.
4	And, Staff, would you please read the notice.
5	MS. FLEMING: Pursuant to notice issued by the
6	Commission Clerk, this time and place has been set for a
7	prehearing conference in Docket 080148-EI.
8	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you, Ms. Fleming.
9	Now we'll take appearances.
10	Mr. Walls.
11	MR. WALLS: Mike Walls with Carlton Fields on behalf
12	of Progress Energy Florida.
13	MR. GLENN: Alex Glenn with Progress Energy Florida.
14	MR. BURGESS: Steve Burgess with the Office of Publi
15	Counsel.
16	MR. BREW: James Brew with Brickfield, Burchette,
17	Ritts, and Stone for PCS Phosphate, White Springs.
18	MR. JACOBS: Leon Jacobs with Williams and Jacobs on
19	behalf of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy.
20	MS. FLEMING: Katherine Fleming, Keino Young, and
21	Caroline Klancke appearing on behalf of the Commission.
22	COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: Thank you.
23	Are there any preliminary matters we need to address
24	before we go through the draft prehearing order?
25	MS. FLEMING: I'm not aware of any at this time.

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. We'll proceed through the draft prehearing order. And I'll identify the sections, and definitely stop me and let me know if there are any corrections or changes to be made. I may lump a few together for brevity.

Sections I through IV, are there any changes or corrections on those? All right.

We will move along to Section V. I think that's on Page 3. With respect to prefiled testimony and exhibits, I wanted to note that parties are able to shorten or dispense with witness summaries as they see fit. Five minutes is provided, but it's definitely not mandatory if you would like to take less time or even waive that. But that is an opportunity, but not a requirement. I just wanted to mention that.

Any other changes or corrections there?

MR. GLENN: Commissioner, on Section IV, the procedure for handling confidential information.

**COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN:** Okay.

MR. GLENN: I do expect there to be some, at the hearing, discussion of potentially confidential information, whether it be vendor pricing or potential discussions with joint owners, and we just need to be mindful of that. If there is a way to facilitate that by any of the parties providing written questions in advance we can have responses to in a

1	confidential folder, we could do it that way, as well. But, I
2	just wanted to give parties an opportunity comment on that.
3	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Maybe I should ask
4	Mr. Glenn.
5	Is there information on that subject that is not
6	confidential, or is everything on that subject confidential?
7	MR. GLENN: As far as joint ownership is concerned,
8	most of it is confidential. Certainly the fact that we have
9	had significant discussions with a number of joint owners is
0 .	public record. The details of those discussions, however, are
1	confidential. We have a response to an interrogatory that
_2	provides detail on that, but certain events have occurred since
L3	then, so there may be additional information.
_4	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Do any other parties want to
.5	comment on that?
-6	MR. BREW: From a PCS perspective, I don't anticipate
.7	asking questions about potential joint ownership. If we do,
.8	then I will contact the company counsel and we can discuss it
. 9	beforehand.
20	MR. JACOBS: If I may, just a clarifying question.
21	The joint ownership has to do with interest by the
22	municipally-owned systems, as well?
:3	MR. GLENN: Commissioner, yes, municipals, electric
24	co-ops, and other investor-owned utilities in the state.
.5	MR. JACOBS: There's one area of interest that

probably it would be best if we just have an off-line conversation with counsel and see if we can work that out. I don't think it will be big -- there is one other interest that we might have there.

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COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. I appreciate that.

And, Ms. Fleming, is there anything to add on that?

MS. FLEMING: Just to the extent that staff has any questions, we'll try to limit our questions to the nonconfidential information, but we would ask that the confidential documents are available for the Commissioners to look at during the hearing.

**COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN:** Yes, please. Thank you.

Okay. I think that takes us back to Section VI on the order of witnesses. And this is probably the appropriate time to ask if any of the parties are willing to stipulate to any of the witnesses at this point.

MR. BREW: Commissioner, we received an e-mail from Progress late last week inquiring as to that, and I have had some preliminary discussions with Mr. Burnett, and I expect that we will be trying to firm that up over the next day or so. There may be three or four of the company's witnesses that PCS will not cross, but we'll certainly report back to staff once we have had a chance to discuss that further.

commissioner mcmurrian: I'll look to Ms. Fleming and just see -- what kind of time limit do we need to put on that?

What is the existing time limit?

MS. FLEMING: With respect to the stipulation of witnesses, I know that the parties are currently consulting. I think maybe Wednesday would be ideal, because that way the staff can contact the Commissioners and see if those witnesses can, in fact, be stipulated. If none of the Commissioners have questions for those witnesses, then we can attempt to notify the parties by Friday of this week, since the hearing starts next Wednesday.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: And I suppose that parties can -- I said something about a time limit, but I suppose that parties can continue to work on stipulations up until the last minute, it just may not -- it will depend on whether the Commissioners also have questions, too.

MS. FLEMING: That's correct, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Anyone else on the stipulation of witnesses?

Mr. Jacobs.

MR. JACOBS: We received an e-mail, also -- this is Leon Jacobs -- and we are in the same posture. I don't think it will be a problem to have a final answer from us by Wednesday.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. And your suggestion was Wednesday, Ms. Fleming?

MS. FLEMING: Wednesday, yes, that's correct.

And as for staff, just to note for the record, at this point staff could stipulate the following witnesses:
Oliver, Masiello, Niekum, and potentially Kennedy. We have a deposition scheduled for tomorrow of Witness Siphers. And so once that deposition concludes, we can determine whether he could be stipulated as a witness, as well.

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MR. BREW: Commissioner, just to round that out, those are the very same witnesses that PCS has considered waiving, so we should be on track to get back to you by Wednesday on that.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brew.

MR. BURGESS: Commissioner, for our part, we would like to know the witnesses that are intended for stipulation, but I don't think we're going to have any issue with stipulating any of the witness that the other intervenors are willing to stipulate.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Burgess. I think that helps us plan a little bit. And also I wanted to -- before we leave this section, I wanted to confirm with Progress that you do want to take your direct and rebuttal witnesses separately as I understand it, is that correct?

MR. GLENN: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. And we only have one rebuttal witness, Daniel Roderick. Okay.

Anything else on that section? Thank you all.

Now moving on to Section VII and VIII on issues and positions. And perhaps we should discuss Issues 1 through 8 separately from 9 and 10.

MR. BREW: Excuse me, Commissioner. If I could go back to Item Number 6 on the order of witnesses. On the issues listed, just to clarify, Mr. Bradford's testimony will be going to Issues 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 10.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you. And actually Ms. Fleming got that information to us this morning, and thank you for reminding me. I did want to mention that. We will show that in the prehearing order.

Issues and positions. As I understand it, the parties are in agreement on Issues 1 through 8, but I will turn to you all to let me know if there are any changes or corrections on Issues 1 through 8. Hearing none.

I also wanted to note that some of the parties have taken no position on several issues within Issues 1 through 8, and I just wanted to see if anyone wanted to change any of their positions at this time, or wanted to give a date certain of when they would take a position if they plan to?

Mr. Burgess.

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MR. BURGESS: Thank you, Commissioner.

For our part, the position is probably better described as staff's position; that is, if information comes up, well, certainly then we think it is something that the

Commission should consider, and to the extent that we preserve an opportunity to take a position if the issue is still in play, then we would like to not forgo that opportunity.

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So by taking no position I don't want it to indicate that we have no interest nor think that it's not something important for the Commission to consider, but it is just at this point we don't intend to -- we don't go into the hearing with a position on that issue.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. Ms. Fleming, is it perhaps better to show no position at this time for OPC for that reason, or does it really make a difference one way or the other, that under the order establishing procedure I believe they are able to take a position after this point if they show good cause, right?

MS. FLEMING: That is correct, Commissioner.

Pursuant to the order establishing procedure, each party shall take a position by the prehearing conference or such later time as permitted by the prehearing conference for good cause. However, if a party fails to take a position, they shall have waived the entire issue and their position will be reflected as no position. So at this time a party either needs to take a position or show good cause for not taking a position at this time.

MR. BURGESS: So good cause cannot be shown later after this date? I mean, we don't have a position at this

time. So whatever that bodes for us as a legal requirement, that's what we will live with.

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MS. HELTON: There may be circumstances when you can show good cause after this time. If discovery comes in that was an unexpected answer or something comes up at the hearing that was unexpected, but it's unexpected. I mean, if there is a position that he could take today, then the expectation is that the position would be taken by today.

MR. BURGESS: I fully understand that, and am in agreement with that. It is just I don't want to by this forgo the opportunity if in the circumstances just described an issue becomes one that we may want to take a position and we legitimately can demonstrate that it is information that was unexpected, then I would like to make certain that our taking no position at this point is not forgoing forever after the opportunity to take a position.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Anything further?

I think we are clear, but -- go ahead, Ms. Brubaker.

MS. BRUBAKER: Hopefully this will offer a little additional clarity. The typical situation where a party would show good cause at the prehearing conference would be there is pending discovery, the party knows it's outstanding, they do not know what the answer will be, and so they would note that their good cause is until that discovery comes in I'm unable to take a position on that issue.

1	If I understand Mr. Burgess correctly, he's saying
2	that to the extent something unexpected and untoward happens,
3	he wishes that he would not be foreclosed from the ability to
4	adopt a position at that point. But I would argue that to the
5	extent he is aware of circumstances that may shape his position
6	down the road, he should disclose this at this time.
7	MR. BURGESS: We have nothing to disclose along those
8	lines.
9	COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Burgess.
10	Any other parties that have taken no position on
11	issues?
12	Mr. Brew, I know that there are some for your
13	company.
14	MR. BREW: Commissioner, the current draft of the
15	prehearing order accurately states our position, so those that
16	we currently have no position on other than closing the docket,
17	I don't expect to see a change in, absent something being
18	revealed at the hearing.
19	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Brew.
20	Mr. Jacobs, did you have anything to add?
21	MR. JACOBS: No, Commissioner McMurrian. There is
22	one point that probably would have been better to bring up as a
23	preliminary matter, and that is the synergy between this docket
24	and Docket 080149. It's my understanding that that well,
25	let me ask this. I'm not sure that there is a connection or

how it would play into this proceeding, but if there is a connection, I would have some interest in that because I think some of our positions, particularly in the additional issues, but certainly in some of the main issues, might be pertinent.

But I wasn't clear on that, so if it would be possible to get some kind of feedback on that, that would be a bit helpful.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Ms. Fleming, maybe you can help me recall; 080149, is that the cost-recovery clause docket that has been since renumbered?

MS. FLEMING: I will defer to Mr. Young on that.

MR. YOUNG: Yes, Commissioner.

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COMMISSIONER SKOP: Okay. So with respect to your question, you are trying to -- Mr. Jacobs, you are trying to determine what the interplay is between these two proceedings?

MR. JACOBS: Yes. Is there at all?

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Well, I think there is some, but I guess it depends on exactly what the nature of your question is. Perhaps I should let staff -- perhaps staff is aware, or perhaps I can get you to sort of rephrase your question so I know better what you're asking.

MR. JACOBS: Obviously one of the key issues that is of interest to all the intervenors is the ultimate cost and how that cost will be recovered. And I'm not implying anything, I'm really just looking for clarification. How the docket came open and was created just caused me to have some thoughts that

maybe there was some interplay with how some of the -- and also some of the discussions that we had at our issues ID meeting, that a lot of the issues regarding cost-recovery on this docket were going to be bifurcated.

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What I'm trying to understand is what is the trail that we are going to follow in dealing with those ultimate prudence and cost issues? And if this docket has some connection with that, then I may want to come back and revisit some of my positions in this docket. That is my only inquiry here. If it doesn't and if it won't, then I am okay with the positions as we have stated.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: My personal opinion is those two dockets stand alone, but there is some interplay, but it depends on what happens in this proceeding. Because I think the way the statute is set up, and staff can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe there has to be a determination of need for there to be costs considered in the cost-recovery docket with respect to the proposal for these units.

Let me let Mr. Burgess jump in, and then we will turn back to staff, as well, and perhaps Mr. Walls wants to jump in, I think.

MR. BURGESS: I didn't want to address the issue of the interplay between the dockets, I just wanted to make sure that I understand the dockets correctly. I thought the 149 docket was the discovery docket opened by Progress to allow

parties to gather information for what was originally the 119 docket that was then closed out and renumbered into the 0009 docket. That's what I understood the --

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COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Burgess. I think you are right.

I couldn't remember the exact numbers we had. I know that we changed the cost-recovery clause docket number to 0009. So the 149 docket, and I'm looking toward Mr. Walls and Mr. Glenn, the 080149 docket is the discovery docket that has been opened.

MR. GLENN: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. And, Ms. Fleming, do you want to clarify for Commissioner Jacobs?

MS. FLEMING: Well, I think I would agree with you, Commissioner, the fact that this is a need determination proceeding under 403.519. There is a separate statute for cost-recovery, and that statute contemplates if a need determination is granted, then we will deal with the appropriate cost-recovery mechanisms in that docket.

commissioner mcmurrian: So to the extent 080149 has been opened as a sort of -- in a sense, a clearinghouse for discovery with respect to the cost-recovery portion, if we get to that portion of the proceeding -- or not of the proceeding, but if we get to that next step, then I think that there could be some overlap, but I don't think that the information in that

docket necessarily pertains to this. It depends on what the issues are and how they are laid out.

MR. JACOBS: With that understanding, Commissioner McMurrian, we are prepared to stand with the positions as stated, as previously stated.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. Thank you. I think that brings us to Issues 9 and 10. And thanks to those of you who filed the memorandum on the additional issues. Those were very helpful. And I guess we should take up the two issues separately.

I have reviewed the memos and, again, I appreciate that. With respect to Issue 9, I agree that the parties -- let me step back. Let's have staff clarify what the proposal for Issue 9 was, and perhaps take up their recommendation on Issue 9.

MS. FLEMING: Issue 9 asked the Commission to separately assess the need for each of the proposed generating units using the criteria set forth under 403.519. Essentially, what this issue is asking for is to take the eight core issues and make one for each separate unit, so that would have the Commission looking at 16 separate issues is my understanding.

Staff's recommendation is that we believe that the parties can adequately address the need for either Levy Unit 1 or 2 within each of the eight core issues.

COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: Thank you. And, again,

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having reviewed the memos on those additional issues, I agree with staff that I believe the parties can adequately address the need for each unit within those existing issues. In fact, it appears that some parties have already done that on certain issues. So, therefore, proposed Issue 9 will be excluded as unnecessary, but I think when we get to the discussion of the brief page limit, we can discuss whether or not parties may be interested in having an additional page limit. If you want to address with respect to each of the issues that you are taking a position on, if you want to address those need issues separately for each unit. Okay.

We'll move on to Issue 10.

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MS. FLEMING: Issue 10 states, "Should the Commission require, as a condition of granting a determination of need for the proposed units, that Progress Energy Florida, Inc., implement contractual and other strategies required to effectively manage the units' construction costs and schedule and the risk to consumers associated with cost overruns and project delays."

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. And, Ms. Fleming, I think on this one I would like to give the parties a chance to at least respond to each other's memos. And, of course, I realize there are parties who didn't file memos, and you are also able to give some input on Issue 10 if you would like. So I guess should we start with --

MS. FLEMING: Staff would recommend that we start 1 with PCS since this was their intended issues, and follow SACE, 2 3 OPC, and Progress. COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: And if we could keep 4 comments to about five minutes each, I think that that would be 5 6 enough. 7 Mr. Brew. 8 MR. BREW: Yes, thank you. I'm just --COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: Go ahead and take your time. 9 10 MR. BREW: -- quickly reference the company's memo. 11 (Pause.) 12 COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: In fact, you can use that 13 five minutes however you would like, but I think it would be 14 most helpful -- I did review each of the memos in detail, and I thought it would be the best use of time to perhaps respond to 15 the response to the issue that they gave. 16 MR. BREW: And I appreciate that. I'm trying to 17 avoid repeating what we've already said. 18 The key point on Issue 10 is that, first, the 19 additional criteria that are in the statute on Section 519 20 21 don't limit the Commission's jurisdiction, because it also says the Commission needs to consider anything within its 2.2 jurisdiction that's relevant. The second is that there is no 23 issue that is more relevant in building new nuclear 2.4 25 construction than how to manage the costs and schedule, since

that's the reason why we haven't built a nuclear plant in 25 years in this country.

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In the context of the need criteria to get to -- I mean, certain of the questions from our perspective are easy. If you are looking for base-load capacity with no greenhouse gas emissions and relatively low fuel costs, the need criteria for a nuclear plant or pretty straightforward. And I won't get to the Issue 9 issues on the second unit, but the hard issues are how is the project going to be managed to control those costs and schedule issues. But you have got a timing problem because the company wants to get in line to order both the ultra-large forgings for the reactor vessels, and who knows what.

So you are being asked to make a determination of need before you really have what is really essential information. And so this does not go to prudence, which in any context is a post hoc review or close in term, which is what did you spend last year, what do you project to spend next year. This is how is the project set up to manage the costs and schedules so that you have some basis that -- you have some confidence in the projected costs and schedules so you can make a determination as to whether or not it's in the best interest of consumers.

Our perspective is that this is a very large gap that has to be filled, and it's not addressed in the other criteria

listed in the issues. And so the question then is in the context of making a determination of need is for a project that's going to take this long, involve this cost, and for which costs and schedule are so uncertain, what's being done to manage that. And that's a distinct issue from is this particular expenditure prudent.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Brew.

Mr. Jacobs.

MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Commissioner McMurrian.

The fundamental point raised by the company objecting to this is that the Commission's authority here is limited. I think that's absolutely not the case. The Commission has very broad jurisdiction under these statutes, and the Commission has exercised that jurisdiction in very innovative ways. One particular way the Commission has exercised that jurisdiction is to issue conditional need determinations. Here, I don't see any distinguishing factor. In fact, quite the contrary, I see incredible numbers of flags, red flags that the Commission ought to have very clear -- give very clear attention to as it makes its decisions.

But, if you, just to get to the core of the matter here, you will make, this Commission will make a firm decision with clear findings of facts. The question, the fundamental public policy question becomes is the evidence in this docket supportive of those firm findings of facts. I won't try and

prejudge that issue for you, but I highly encourage you that you ought to have that discussion. To simply say don't have that discussion, when I would argue to you that the facts in this case overwhelmingly suggest you have got to have that discussion is, in my mind, a dangerous position to take. We must have the discussion as to whether or not you have adequate support to make clear final findings of fact when you render this decision. Have the discussion and see what comes out.

Thank you.

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## COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you.

Mr. Burgess, would you like to --

MR. BURGESS: Well, obviously since we didn't file, it's not an issue that we are affirmatively looking for the Commission to incorporate into this docket. Where we are is that if the Commission considers this to be an issue relevant to its determination, then our position is as stated in the prehearing order. If the Commission determines that this determination is one of the on-going questions that it will deal with in the 0009 docket, and its successor dockets, then we will be taking our position on that throughout that process.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: Thank you, Mr. Burgess.

Mr. Walls or Mr. Glenn. Mr. Walls.

MR. WALLS: Thank you.

I will try to address my responses first to the

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

responses from White Spring PCS and SACE, and then sort of generally conclude where we were in our brief.

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I guess the first thing I would say is to Mr. Brew comments that there are additional criteria that need to be considered, and he places that within the context of what the Commission deems relevant. Well, the Commission through its staff deemed relevant the eight issues that were identified and which we have been proceeding forward on and no further issues were deemed relevant that the time. Also, Mr. Brew seems to contemplate that the legislature left some kind of gapping hole in the legislation dealing with new nuclear power plants and the need determinations for them, which we believe doesn't exist.

If the legislature believed that there was something seriously left out of the statute that it considered relevant, I'm sure they would have contemplated including it. There is also, I believe, an inconsistency here in White Springs argument for this, quote, additional criteria and the statute itself. The statute speaks of a need determination for nuclear and IGCC plants proceeding forward based on a nonbinding cost estimate. By inclusion of the reference to a nonbinding cost estimate for both the parties and the Commission to proceed forward with the issues to determine a need, by definition the legislature understood that there was no ability at that time to have a binding cost estimate, and that nevertheless the need

determination could proceed forward and be decided.

In fact, if there is a decision based on a nonbinding cost estimate as the Florida Legislature contemplated, by definition then the legislature understood that those costs might change somewhat in the future. But, nevertheless, the legislature decided that the need determination could be decided on that basis. So, the additional criteria that they are talking about with respect to cost certainty, we believe the legislature certainly contemplated, understood that there were issues about certainty of costs, and recognized that in this situation there simply wasn't going to be absolute certainty before you could proceed with a need determination for a nuclear power plant. That's why they said the company and the parties could rely on a nonbinding cost estimate.

The concern about how the costs are going to be managed we believe is a concern that is one that exists for any utility power project, and certainly any significant utility power project, and it's one that the company is going to take seriously as its responsibility to proceed forward managing the costs. That is the company's job. It's not the Commission's job or the parties job to come in and manage the costs for the company, but the Commission and the parties will have an opportunity to judge how effectively the Commission managed its costs when it comes to the prudence review and cost-recovery.

At that time, as the Commission does in reviewing

other costs that the company seeks recovery for, they have the opportunity to look and see if under the circumstances that existed at the time the company undertook these costs, did the company engage in what were prudent business practices under the circumstances. And if they decide that the company did not, they can deny cost-recovery to those elements at that point in time.

SACE spoke to the Commission's broad authority under the statutes, and I would say that generally under Chapter 366 there is broad authority, but here we are talking about 403.519, where the legislature specifically set out the criteria to evaluate a determination of need. And you will not find in that statute any specific authority to impose cost conditions or any other type of conditions on a determination of need.

What the legislature required was that the Commission evaluate the company's petition for a determination of need under the criteria set forth under that statute and grant the need or deny it. There's no discussion in the statute, there's no indication that the legislature contemplated that a need could be granted based on certain future occurring conditions. In fact, we would think that would be detrimental to both the company and the regulators, because a conditional need is, in effect, no need at all.

If we go forward with a determination of need with

conditions that have to be met at some point in the future, and we go to DEP and NRC, what do we tell them we have? If we go to the financial markets and tell them that we have a need determination with certain conditions that have to be met in the future, what do we tell them we have? We don't have finality; we don't have certainty; and that pretty much will kill this project. And I believe the legislature contemplated that and they didn't include such conditions.

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Finally, and I think it's important to note that through all of this discussion about conditions, or ceilings, or cost caps, or adequate safeguards, no one in this case has specifically identified what those are, and what the company is supposed to do to meet these, quote, safeguards or cost ceilings or caps. Not even Mr. Brew's witness identified a specific cost ceiling and, in fact, in his testimony he talks about one that can be adjusted from time to time. Well, that's not a cost ceiling at all.

So as it stands right now, telling the company that they need to proceed forward based on conditions of contract management strategies and cost ceilings that are not specific gives the company no information at all as to how to proceed, and that is a serious error. And it is one which we can't even respond to, because we don't know what these specific conditions or strategies are to even respond to them in this proceeding.

For all of those reasons, we feel that this is an unnecessary issue and one that can lead to more trouble than it's worth, including in this need determination proceeding, and we would recommend that it not be included. And that is our position. Thank you.

## COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: Thank you all.

I have a couple of questions, and I guess the first one is probably best directed to you, Mr. Walls. Can you speak to whether if you remove the part of the issue that talks about making it conditional on this requirement, can you speak to whether the requirement, that requirement that's framed in that issue exists already? If you need me to clarify, I can.

MR. WALLS: If you are asking me does the company have an obligation to effectively manage construction projects already, yes, the answer is yes. And that's what I was trying to speak to before. I believe the company always has that obligation and that the Commission and the parties will have an opportunity to test that obligation at a later time in the later docket in the cost-recovery review.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: And Mr. Brew, Mr. Jacobs, and Mr. Burgess, would you all like to speak to that, as well?

MR. BREW: The short answer is yes. Certainly, the utility always has an obligation to address those issues. And the fact that the statute allows for nonbinding estimates doesn't really get to the issue we're talking about, because we

are talking about the risks. Everybody acknowledges those costs will change. The question is how do you manage those risks.

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And this gets to my earlier point about the timing the Commission find itself in. If you were sitting here with an application that included an EPC contract and you knew how they were going to deal with vendors, and you had better information on who among the vendors was simply providing cost and materials contracts, or you had other indications as to how the project was going to be managed, who's in control of the schedule, those would be -- that is a different set of issues from what you are being asked to address now on this record.

And, so, from our perspective, the Commission has to at least ask how are you going to manage the project, how are you going to address these issues, and if the answer is we don't know yet, then, there should be a requirement for a subsequent filing once you have that information. What we are saying is based on the record now, you don't have anything in the record about managing the cost risks.

And just to be very brief on it, the reason you are seeing a renaissance in nuclear now is all the parties to the process have gotten smart from what they learned 30 years ago. The NRC has changed its process, the vendor designers have changed their reactor designs, they preapproved the reactor designs. We have got federal loan guarantees. We have got the

Florida Statute now. But they don't change the basic risks that we experienced 30 years ago, and costs and schedules, schedule slipping and costs going out of control.

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So the cost recovery process with prudence raises a different set of issues from what we are talking about here. And I have one quick example, if I may. Twenty-five years ago when Long Island Lighting Company was doing startup testing for its Shorum units (phonetic), it connected its emergency diesel generators to the system and all three of them broke. Two of the crankshafts cracked and one of them severed. Now, the prudence case revealed that they were simply under-designed, but the diesels had been ordered, examined and installed, you know, years before the flaw became evident through the start-up testing, which is the very point of start-up testing.

Under the cost-recovery rule, it is my understanding you can't go back and look at that question if you have already addressed the costs up to that point. And so in order for the Commission to have addressed the exposure of consumers to that type of issue, which, incidentally, added about \$800 million to the cost of the unit, that's something that has to be addressed up front in the need determination because you're not going to get to it in the subsequent prudence cases.

**COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Mr. Jacobs.** 

MR. JACOBS: Thank you, Commissioner.

I would raise two points briefly. Number one, a

fundamental dividing line in this discussion is whether or not the need determination forevermore will anticipate a clear understanding of the risk that consumers are undertaking in approving this project.

If I understand the argument here, what we are doing is we're pushing the line for need determination to say there really is no understandable defining line of what the costs can be for a nuke plant before consumers are asked to take that risk. That's what the regulator does.

The second point. One of the fundamental ways this project will work is when the municipalities, municipally-owned systems become co-owners. Once the need determination is made, they go to FERC and they get those determinations made. Their customers have no further opportunity to challenge the prudence. They will live with those costs. If that's how we want this process to work, it can. I suggest to you it may not be the best way.

Thank you.

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**COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN:** Mr. Burgess, did you want to speak to that?

I think I wanted to follow up on Mr. Brew's point about the situation with Long Island Lighting. And not to try to get too far afield on that, I guess, Mr. Brew, I'll just go ahead and say that it seems to me that in the cost-recovery proceeding when we are discussing prudence that parties can

raise that a company has used bad strategy, bad construction practices, bad design, and that at that point you also can say what they should have done and how the costs would have been less if that were the case.

And I guess I want to make sure that my understanding is consistent with the parties' understanding on that, because to me I see that the issue you have raised, perhaps it doesn't fit squarely in this proceeding or entirely in that proceeding, because I think your issue was a fairly complex one and that it has piece-parts that definitely belong in the discussion here and piece-parts that probably belong in the cost-recovery section. And I haven't forgotten about staff, either. I just wanted to get some of these questions out.

But I wanted to allow everyone to speak to that, particularly Progress, since Mr. Brew has raised that issue. What is your understanding of the cost-recovery phase of the --if we get to the cost-recovery phase, if in 0009 if there has been a need determination granted for one or more units as proposed, can a party such as PCS White Springs raise those issues that they believe that the decisions made by the company, those management decisions made by the company have not been the proper ones and make a case for why that those costs should not be determined prudent?

MR. WALLS: Yes, the short answer is we believe they can. That is the whole purpose of the cost-recovery proceeding

is to address the prudence of the costs incurred. That is not what this proceeding is designed to do. In fact, as I believe staff and you have noted, we don't even get to the cost-recovery proceeding until we have a need determination. So this must come first, and then you have the cost-recovery issues. Can those issues be raised there? Yes, the parties can raise them, and nothing prevents any party from bringing in another engineer or designer to say I want to look at your design and see if they're adequate.

I don't know that I can address Mr. Brew's question today, and I don't know how you would expect the Commission or the parties to address the issue today about whether a particular element such as a diesel generator is going to operate when these plants are built. I don't think any party sitting here is in a position to address that today other than to ask the company to do what it already understands its obligation is to do, which is to manage this project, to supervise the construction, to supervise the design of it, and to be responsible for that. And that's what the company plans to do. And the company certainly has every interest in controlling costs in this instance. This is a major project.

The company well understands the risks that are involved, and those are risks to the company and its shareholders, too. The company has every interest to manage this project well, and they have every intent to do so. And I

believe that Mr. Lyash and Mr. Roderick have testified to that in their direct testimony in this case. But to ask the question of what if something bad happens in the future, will we have a chance to ask about that, the answer is yes, in a separate proceeding. In the cost-recovery proceeding you will have that opportunity.

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COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: And let me follow-up with sort of Part B of my question. Do you think that there are issues in this case which would provide an opportunity for Mr. Brew and the witness that he has provided to speak to some of the concerns that are embedded in proposed Issue 10?

MR. WALLS: Well, I believe that both Mr. Brew and Mr. Bradford are saying they are speaking to that in terms of the cost-effectiveness of the project which, of course, is where that issue lies at this point, which is based on the nonbinding cost estimate that the company has and the risk that exists, and the benefits and rewards if they proceed with this project is -- under the evidence that we have today -- is this project the most cost-effective source of future generation capacity and energy for its customers. That is the issue, and the costs are involved in that determination of that issue.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Mr. Brew, I will let you respond to both of those points, sir.

MR. BREW: Actually, if I could be a little bit informal in terms of just maybe a little dialogue on this. I'm

not trying to argue Issue 1 right now. What the company is saying is that if something were revealed, for example, during start-up testing relating to costs that had previously been addressed in prior annual cost-recovery reviews, that I would not be time barred from raising those as a prudence issue, then that's altogether different from what I have understood before. Is that their position?

MR. WALLS: I believe our position is, is whatever the nuclear cost-recovery statute provides and the rule provides we will follow it.

Mr. Brew. The way I understand it, and, again, I expect someone to correct me if I'm wrong, is that it will depend on the time period at issue. Is that with respect to the cost-recovery clause proceedings that we will be determining prudence on the actual period, so with respect to the current year or the projected year, I believe those costs would be reviewed again in the next year's proceeding. And until those costs have been determined on an actual basis to be prudent or not, I don't think those have entirely been disposed of. But, perhaps I should look to Ms. Fleming or Mr. Young to give clarification of that.

MS. FLEMING: Thank you, Commissioner.

It is my understanding with respect to the cost-recovery clause the Commission has an annual prudence

review process, and Ms. Brubaker may want to jump in, but it is my understanding the prudence is determined year-to-year. So when the Commission does make a prudence determination of its own costs, I think there is the issue of administrative finality.

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was an argument to be made that the prudence is on an annual basis that is how it has been set up in the statute and more specifically in the rule. However, there is always an overarching issue of -- not cost-effectiveness, what is the term I am looking for -- the feasibility of the project, and that is an ongoing overarching principle when it comes to the cost-recovery process itself.

The statute and rule specifically do spell out that costs associated with the plant are recoverable. That is how the legislature set it up for us. However, there is also a test of prudence that must be looked at, and it was looked at on an annual basis.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Mr. Brew, I don't know if that helps, and I know we are getting -- I don't intend for this to be a prehearing on the cost-recovery clause docket, but I'm hoping that some of this discussion may be helpful.

MR. BREW: Actually it has been, because it really does get to the point that Mr. Bradford was addressing in his testimony, which was given the nature and limits of the

cost-recovery rule and the annual prudence process, it's particularly critical that you address the cost management strategies in the need case. So I'm sort of back to what Mr. Bradford summarized in his testimony.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: And that brings me back to the second question, and I will ask Mr. Walls. It seems to me that in reviewing the draft prehearing order that there are certain sections within this docket that there is an opportunity to make that case.

MR. BREW: I wouldn't disagree that given sufficient allowance in the briefing pages that we could address those risk issues in Issue 1 under cost-effectiveness, or Issue 4.

Our point is that the management of the risk was a sufficiently distinct issue that that needed to be addressed on its own.

MS. BRUBAKER: Commissioner McMurrian, may I? I hope this will offer some aid.

We said it before, the Commission has said it before, nuclear is different. It's different than the typical need determination that comes before us, in part, because nuclear has such a long lead construction period associated with it.

Details that might be more certain with other types of plant are often simply not known or knowable at the time the need comes before us. And, of course, the need determination is only part of a multi-step process with nuclear. It has reviews and it has time periods associated with it that are

issue. Can you even look at those in the context of a nuclear proceeding at the need determination itself.

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There is some comfort to be had, I believe, with the cost-recovery process that the legislature has established for us to assure that those costs are going to be reviewed and that the overall feasibility of the project is going to be looked at as that plant becomes constructed and approaches being put on-line.

There are actually two avenues for addressing, I think, some of the concerns. The first is actually in this proceeding itself when you look at the cost-effectiveness issue. If there are arguments to be made that there is something in the risk management issues associated with this plant that renders the plant not cost-effective, it can certainly be addressed in that issue. And, again, as we said before, the nuclear cost-recovery proceeding also affords the prudence associated with the plant.

## COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you.

And, Mr. Jacobs, I promised I was going to let you have a chance to respond to the questions I asked the company earlier, so if you would like to add anything.

MR. JACOBS: If I may, very briefly. It sounds like a wonderful place we have set up in the cost-recovery docket.

Let me just suggest to you that we are putting a whole bunch of

eggs in that basket. In this case you will have to deal with external regulatory proceedings, i.e., the NRC. Are those things going to impact the cost here? The staffing issue; the design issues; we are asking that basket to be pretty big, and I know that it can't happen.

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What I am suggesting to you is that this is a process, and would it be better for us to get all of those things lined up, get clarity on them, and then look at the need. Or do we want to go off on the need and then we are going to have this on-going prolific process where we are going to be looking very extensively at very technical issues supposedly in a prudence review. And I think it is a fundamental question, a management question that you can make. I mean, a management decision that you can make. We can do it that way, but I suggest to you it's going to be a pretty interesting process.

**COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN:** Mr. Burgess, did you want to add anything to those?

MR. BURGESS: No, thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. I think with that I will move back to Ms. Fleming, and I think Ms. Brubaker sort of addressed a recommendation of sorts, but I will ask you what is your recommendation on Issue 10.

MS. FLEMING: Well, Commissioner, while staff recognizes that there is a lot of uncertainty with respect to

this need determination, the Commission does always deal with uncertainties in any type of need determination. We don't have a crystal ball at this juncture. We can't determine what the price or the cost of items are going to be three, four, even ten years down the road.

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With respect to Issue 10, to the extent that this issue goes towards cost-effectiveness, we feel that PCS and SACE can address whatever issues they have with respect to cost-effectiveness under Issue 6, under their position for Issue 6. With respect that this goes to the costs and how we deal with the recovery of the costs and the prudence of these costs, we feel that it is more appropriate to address that in the cost-recovery proceeding that the Commission has a separate docket for.

**COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN:** Thank you, Ms. Fleming.

Consistent with that, I agree with that. Mr. Brew and Mr. Jacobs, I think you can tell some of my thoughts on the issue already, but I believe that the issue, as framed, in a sense attempts to require the company to do something it's already required to do. That's my belief, that it needs to effectively manage these costs and the schedule and the risks associated with those up front. Again, that is just my belief as one Commissioner, and I believe that the company has verified that.

I do agree with staff that I think there is a way to

address some of your concerns in both proceedings. And with respect to -- specifically, it looks to me that Issue 6 on the cost-effectiveness, and perhaps even Issue 4, I see that with respect to your position on Issue 4 it looks like you have noted some of those concerns related to this proposed issue there, as well, and I know that your witness addresses some of these concerns. So I think that it is a combination of both avenues that you can pursue, and I believe that that preserves the Commission's ability, the other Commissioners' ability to consider your arguments in those places.

But I hope that our discussion today has lent some clarity, at least, on what the staff sees the process in place and to you and your client. But with that, I will propose that Issue 10 not be included, and so that will -- Issues 1 through 8 will be our issues list in this proceeding.

Okay. Are there any other issues with respect to the issues in this section of the prehearing order?

MS. FLEMING: Commissioner, I will just note that to the extent any of the parties' positions need to be changed based on the exclusion of Issues 9 and 10 that they notify staff as soon as possible. And with respect to those parties that have taken no position, if they want to change and add a position at this time based on these issues, it would be appropriate to do so.

COMMISSIONER MCMURRIAN: Thank you, Ms. Fleming.

1 Okay. That takes us to Section IX, the exhibit list 2 on Page 15. 3 Ms. Fleming. MS. FLEMING: We would just like to note that we will 4 5 prepare a comprehensive exhibit list which will include the 6 service hearing exhibits, prefiled testimony, and any staff 7 composite exhibits. Staff is in the process of compiling any exhibits that they would like to have entered into the record, 8 and we will provide that to the parties by e-mail to see if the 9 parties can stipulate to staff's exhibit list. 10 COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: And are there any other 11 12 changes to the exhibit list from the parties? 13 Hearing none, we will move on to Section X on Page 20, the proposed stipulations. 14 15 MS. FLEMING: At this time there are no proposed 1.6 stipulations. 17 COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: I thought I would give it a 18 second. 19 Section XI, pending motions, Page 20. 20 MS. FLEMING: There are no pending motions. 2.1 COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Okay. Section XII, pending confidentiality matters. Staff has reminded me there are four 22 23 pending confidentiality requests. I'm not sure if there might 24 have been others since we spoke last week, but they will be 25 addressed by separate order.

1	Section XIII, post-hearing procedures. This is
2	probably the best place to address the length, the page length
3	of the post-hearing briefs. So I'll be glad to take any input
4	on that.
5	Mr. Brew, were you interested in lengthening the
6	number of pages for the post-hearing briefs to perhaps further
7	address the concerns you raised?
8	MR. BREW: Yes, Commissioner. I suggest that it be
9	extended to 75 pages instead of 40.
10	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Mr. Walls?
11	MR. WALLS: We have no opposition to that.
12	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Mr. Jacobs?
13	MR. JACOBS: We concur.
14	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: All right. We will extend
15	that to 75 pages.
16	Ms. Fleming, did you have input on that?
17	MS. FLEMING: No, Commissioner, I do not. Thank you.
18	COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: You're welcome, too. I
19	forgot to ask.
20	Section XIV with respect to rulings. I think here is
21	where we usually discuss the opening statements. And usually
22	we afford ten minutes, and that seems to be sufficient to me,
23	but is there any input from the parties on opening statement
24	length?
25	MR. GLENN: Just that the intervenors get 30 minutes

and we get 10, is that it?

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: I think that's what I'm proposing, but are you suggesting that you need more time to make your --

MR. GLENN: No.

MR. BURGESS: If it will make him feel any better, Commissioner, I won't use all ten minutes of mine.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: I guess this is the point where I should note, again, as I noted earlier, that it's an opportunity. You don't necessarily need to take ten minutes, but if you feel that you need that to make your case, I believe that's what we normally have.

Mr. Brew, did you have thoughts on that?

MR. BREW: Commissioner, I have resisted the urge to ask for half an hour, and I will live with ten.

COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Thank you.

Okay. Are there any other matters that we need to address before we adjourn?

MS. FLEMING: The only thing I would note for the record is that to the extent any positions have changed with respect to Issues 9 and 10, as far as the parties, if they could let staff know by the close of business tomorrow.

And to the extent that the parties can continue to speak about the stipulation of witnesses and they could let staff know by Wednesday so that we can coordinate with the

Commissioners and let them know, and let the parties know by Friday if those witnesses can be stipulated. COMMISSIONER McMURRIAN: Any other matters from any of the parties? Thank you all. I think it was a good discussion today, and I appreciate you being with us. Thank you. This prehearing is adjourned. MR. BURGESS: Thank you, Commissioner. (The prehearing concluded at 10:35 a.m.) 

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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