### BRICKFIELD BURCHETTE RITTS & STONE, PC

WASHINGTON, D.C. AUSTIN, TEXAS

July 14, 2009

#### VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Ms. Ann Cole, Commission Clerk Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 090009-EI, Nuclear Cost Recovery Clause

Dear Ms. Cole:

Please find enclosed for filing on behalf of White Springs Agricultural Chemicals, Inc. d/b/a PCS Phosphate – White Springs the original and fifteen (15) copies of the *Testimony and Exhibits of Peter A. Bradford* in the above referenced docket.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (202) 342-0800.

Sincerely,

James W. Brew F. Alvin Taylor

JWB:mm

Enclosures: a/s

cc: All Active Parties (via U.S. Mail)

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true copy of the foregoing was served on July 14, 2009 by U.S. Mail to:

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#### BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Nuclear Cost

) Docket No. 090009-EI

Recovery Clause

) Submitted for Filing: July 15, 2009

**TESTIMONY** 

OF

PETER A. BRADFORD

ON BEHALF OF

**PCS PHOSPHATE – WHITE SPRINGS** 

07143 JUL 158

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

#### IN RE: NUCLEAR COST RECOVERY CLAUSE

### FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DOCKET NO. 090009-EI

### DIRECT TESTIMONY OF PETER A. BRADFORD

- 1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND CURRENT POSITION.
- 2 A. My name is Peter A. Bradford. My business address is PO Box 497, Peru,
- Vermont, 05152. I am an adjunct professor at Vermont Law School and
- 4 President of Bradford Brook Associates.
- 5 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF UTILITY
- 6 **REGULATION.**

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7 I was a utility regulatory commissioner almost continuously from 1971 until Α. 8 1995. I chaired the Maine Public Utility Commission (1974-5 and 1982-87) and the New York Public Service Commission (1987-95). During this time, I was 9 10 involved in many rate proceedings determining the prudence of utility 11 construction expenditures, including expenditures on nuclear power plant 12 construction. I was also a commissioner on the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (1977-82) during which time the Commission issued more than 13 14 twenty nuclear power construction permits and operating licenses. I was 15 Maine's Public Advocate in early 1982. Since 1995, I have taught several 16 courses related to energy policy, utility regulation and nuclear power at Yale 17 and at Vermont Law School as well as in seminar programs at the Institute of

Public Utilities and elsewhere. I have also worked with the Regulatory

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1	Assistance Project and have testified before numerous state utility regulate	ory
2	rommissions	

- I have consulted in several countries including China, India, Russia and Indonesia on issues pertaining to utility regulation and to nuclear power.
- 1 was a member of the National Association of Utility Regulatory
  Commissioners ("NARUC") from 1971 until 1995 and served as its president in
  1987. I served on NARUC's Electric, Gas and Communications Committees as
  well as on the Subcommittees on Nuclear Waste and Nuclear Economics. I
  was also the liaison between the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and NARUC
  and have testified before the U.S. Congress at least 50 times on issues relating
  to nuclear power.
- My complete resume is attached as Exhibit PAB-1.

### 13 Q. PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH ECONOMIC REGULATION 14 OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS.

- A. My first experience with regulating rate impacts of nuclear power came when the Maine Yankee nuclear power plant came on line in 1972. Like the operating Florida plants, Maine Yankee was a relatively inexpensive unit, and the impacts were not large. However, early good experiences turned out not to guarantee that later ones would go as well.
  - In New York and Maine, I chaired commissions deciding cases involving rate implications and prudence concerning the Seabrook plant in Maine, Millstone 3 in Connecticut, and the Shoreham and Nine Mile Point II plants in New York. I chaired the New York and Maine commissions when those states disengaged

from the Shoreham and Seabrook plants in ways that resulted in adequate power supplies, improved economic development and produced electric rate impacts lower than would otherwise have occurred. We also decided several proceedings allocating the costs of cancelled plants. I also reviewed proposals to spread the cost of cleaning up the Three Mile Island accident across all nuclear power plants. More recently, I participated in the 2005 National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences panel that evaluated the alternatives to continued operation of the Indian Point nuclear units in New York. I was also a member of the 2007 Keystone Center Nuclear Power Joint Fact Finding project, which identified points of agreement among a broad range of constituencies, including nuclear power plant owners and builders, on issues relating to nuclear power costs and the role of nuclear power in combating climate change. In 2008-2009, I was a member and co-chair of Vermont's statutory Public Oversight Panel that oversaw preparation of a report on the reliability implications of extending the operation of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant for 20 more years beyond 2012. In other countries, I have participated in evaluating the need for new nuclear units as an option in Ukraine for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in evaluating new nuclear power and decommissioning costs in Armenia and in evaluating the regulatory structure that would oversee the operating of the Mochovce nuclear plant in Slovakia.

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#### 1 Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF ARE YOU TESTIFYING IN THIS PROCEEDING?

- 2 A. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of White Springs Agricultural
- 3 Chemicals, Inc. d/b/a PCS Phosphate- White Springs ("PCS Phosphate"). PCS
- 4 Phosphate is a manufacturer of fertilizer products with plants and operations
- 5 located within Progress Energy Florida's ("PEF" or "Progress") electric service
- territory. PCS Phosphate receives service under various PEF rate schedules.
- 7 In the last 12 months, PCS Phosphate has paid tens of millions of dollars for
- 8 electric power purchased from PEF.

#### 9 Q. HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY TESTIFIED IN FLORIDA REGARDING THE

#### 10 PROPOSED LEVY NUCLEAR UNITS?

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- 11 A. Yes. I testified in 2008 in Docket No. 080148 (Progress Energy Florida's
- petition for a Determination of Need for Levy Nuclear Power Units 1 and 2).

#### Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

14 Α. I will show that the feasibility of constructing the Levy units as described by PEF in the certificate of need proceeding has since evaporated. The costs for 15 16 customers will be greater than thought. The economic feasibility of the project nonexistent. 17 may now be The company's filing in this case does not 18 adequately take the changed feasibility into account. Whether the Levy project 19 is to become a major burden on the economy in the PEF service area depends 20 on decisions the Commission will make in this proceeding. Only by insisting 21 that PEF demonstrate the economic feasibility and the reasonableness of

spending money on the Levy units and by establishing adequate customer

protections can the Commission ensure just and reasonable rates for Florida customers, if these units are to be built at all.

This docket is the Commission's first opportunity to assess the prudence and reasonableness of PEF expenditures relating to its nuclear construction program under the nuclear cost recovery rule. It is also the Commission's first chance to evaluate the on-going feasibility of the Levy nuclear units since the issuance of the determination of need. The prudence and reasonableness of several key PEF decisions and actions need to be examined in detail. The magnitude of the changes in circumstances that have occurred in the past year has a direct bearing on the on-going feasibility of the Levy units

### 11 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE MAIN POINTS THAT YOU WILL MAKE IN 12 YOUR TESTIMONY.

- A. The rule governing the cost recovery for nuclear power plant construction requires that Progress Energy establish the prudence of its past expenditures and the reasonableness of those that it is proposing in future. The rule further requires that PEF provide a "detailed analysis of the long term feasibility of completing the power plant".
  - Given the magnitude of the changes in the last 12 months, Progress has not performed a review adequate to comply with the Commission's rule. In fact, the basic cost and schedule assessments necessary to a review of project feasibility are not available and apparently have not yet been done.
- Furthermore, Progress' filing in this proceeding does not provide an adequate basis to "determine the reasonableness of projected preconstruction

expenditures" as required by the Nuclear or Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Power Plant Cost Recovery Rule, Rule 25-6.0423, F.A.C. The Commission should decline to issue such a determination and should decline to permit recovery of costs incurred in the absence of such a determination because such expenditures made without such a determination would be imprudent as well as unreasonable.

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# Q. WOULD SUCH AN ACTION BY THE COMMISSION UNDERMINE FLORIDA'S INTENTION TO PROMOTE ELECTRIC UTILITY INVESTMENT IN ECONOMICALLY JUSTIFIED NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS?

No. The Commission, by requiring periodic reviews of feasibility and reasonableness of utility plans, has shown that it understands the clear difference between promoting investment and granting a blank check. The very strength of the incentives to new nuclear investment – rapid reviews, early cost recovery, repeal of the used and useful requirement for cost recovery and attenuated prudence reviews – underlines the need for the Commission to be diligent in establishing the reasonableness of PEF's potentially immense construction expenditures in this, the one forum that exists to review them.

Two decades ago, when nuclear cost overruns led to customer revolt against the resulting rate increases, the National Regulatory Research Institute ("NRRI"), the research arm of the nation's utility regulators, correctly noted that

"In applying the standard of reasonableness under the circumstances,

commissions, in some instances of high risk projects, have required a higher-

than-normal standard of care to compensate for the high risks associated with

project decisions.....the public has the right to demand the use of superior tools and techniques to build nuclear generating facilities at the lowest reasonable costs. When the risk of harm to the ratepayer is greater, the standard of care expected from a reasonable person is higher" (NRRI, "The Prudent Investment Test in the 1980s", p. 59).

### Q. WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING WHETHER PLANS FOR THE LEVY UNITS REMAIN REASONABLE AND FEASIBLE?

A. The Florida Commission is charged by Section 366.06 of the Florida statutes with assuring that Florida electric rates are "fair, just and reasonable". In terms of Florida Commission jurisdiction, economic feasibility must therefore be the overriding concern. The technical feasibility of the project is largely the responsibility of Progress Energy and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC"). The Florida Commission has little technical jurisdiction because of the preemptive features of the federal Atomic Energy Act.

Economic feasibility is not simply a matter of determining that enough money

can somehow be extracted from PEF customers to pay for the plant. The term has to mean what it would for any comparable commercial undertaking, namely that the product of the facility will not cost more than other ways of meeting the same customer needs. If it does cost more than this, it will violate the Commission's duty to set reasonable rates and will therefore not be economically feasible. Costing no more than other ways of meeting the same customer needs is, of course, necessarily the standard for a new paper mill or

- refinery or computer chip plant if it is to be commercially feasible. It is also the standard that a new nuclear power plant must meet if it is being built in a state (such as Texas or Maryland) where the output must be sold into a competitive power generation market.
- Q. DO ACTIONS BY OTHER APPLICANTS FOR NRC LICENSES TO
  CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS PROVIDE A
  BASIS BY WHICH TO ASSESS THE PRUDENCE, REASONABLENESS AND
  FEASIBILITY OF THE LEVY UNITS?
- 9 A. Yes. Nine of the seventeen entities with NRC applications docketed have. 10 according to a Moody's Investor Services report issued in June 2009. maintained only a "low" level of activity in pursuit of their projects in the last 6-12 11 12 months. One of these is Progress Energy in North Carolina. Three others. 13 including PEF, have a "medium" level. Five others have a level of effort rated 14 "high". Two of the applicants rated as "low" by Moody's (Exelon and Ameren) have in 2009 announced suspension or cancellation of their projects. None of 15 16 the applicants proceeding at a "low" or a "medium" rate other than PEF is 17 currently requiring its customers to pay for the plant.
- 18 Q. DOES THE MOODY'S REPORT PROVIDE OTHER REASONS FOR
  19 CONCERN AS TO REASONABLENESS AND FEASIBILITY?
- A. The Moody's Report states "We view new nuclear generation plans as a 'bet the farm' endeavor for most companies, due to the size of the investment and length of time needed to build a nuclear power facility. While we continue to view operating nuclear units positively, we increasingly sense that none of the issuers

2 their balance sheets.

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- 3 "In order to defend existing ratings, or to limit negative rating actions, we will
- 4 look for investor-owned utilities to:
- create strategic partnerships, to share costs and risks;
- 6 increase reliance on equity as a component to financing plans;
- 7 moderate their dividend policies to retain cash flow; and
- adopt a "back-to-basics" focus on core electric utility operations, posing less
   distraction for management"

### Q. HOW ARE THE CONCERNS THAT YOU HAVE EXPRESSED CONNECTED TO THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES FACING THE LEVY PROJECT?

Completing the Levy units on the terms proposed by Progress one year ago is no longer feasible. A year ago, Progress hoped to be near the head of various regulatory and vendor queues. The Company also insisted that substantial overall project cost savings could be realized by constructing the two units on schedule such that Levy Unit 2 would be completed in 2017, within 18 months of Unit 1, even though this course would create substantial excess generating capacity at that time.

These crucial assumptions are no longer valid. Today, Progress cannot state how far the Levy project has fallen behind schedule, whether PEF can (or should) maintain its queue position for critical long lead time items, whether Unit 2 can be completed within 18 months of Unit 1 (or even if the second unit can be justified at all), or what the cost consequences to customers would be if

the second unit is further deferred. Neither can Progress provide answers in this docket to many other related questions.

At the same time, declining growth in customers and load have pushed both units to the fringes or beyond PEF's ten year resource planning horizon, the cost of natural gas-fired alternatives has significantly declined, and both renewable energy and energy efficiency resources are more likely to expand pursuant to federal law.

The fact that PEF has not provided, and apparently does not yet possess, essential updated expected in-service dates and total project cost undermines the justification for continuing the extraordinary measure of charging this project to customers many years before it can possibly be of any use to them. PEF's request for the Commission to approve \$446 million in nuclear spending for cost recovery, approve the prudence of such amounts, and defer roughly \$300 million to be amortized over five years cannot be reconciled with either the Commission's overarching obligation to require fair, just and reasonable rates or the requirements of the nuclear cost recovery rule.

### 17 Q. WHAT SHOULD THE COMMISSION DO TO ADDRESS THESE 18 CONCERNS?

- A. This project is showing symptoms of the same failure to respond to major changing circumstances that caused Forbes magazine to proclaim nuclear power "the largest managerial disaster in business history" in 1985.
- 22 I recommend the following measures:

 The Commission should admonish PEF to the effect that its current filing does not meet the standards of thoroughness expected of a utility undertaking a project with multi-billion dollar impacts on Florida customers.

- 2. The Commission should state that PEF's filings must establish the economic reasonableness and feasibility of each Levy unit;
- 3. The Commission should suspend Levy Project nuclear cost recoveries in 2010 until PEF completes its assessment of project schedule options, negotiates whatever changes the utility deems necessary to its EPC agreement with Westinghouse/ SSW, files a detailed updated feasibility assessment, based on a current cost estimate as well as a realistic estimate of future natural gas prices, demonstrating the continuing costeffectiveness of each Levy unit compared to alternative supply and demand resources (subject to further hearings), and receives findings of on-going feasibility and reasonableness from the Commission.
- 4. The Commission should schedule a separate prudence proceeding on costs related to the issues identified at pages 15-16 as well as the prudence of downsizing the planned 1,200 MWs of new combined cycle capacity at Suwannee to some 380 MWs of peaking turbines. Recovery of actual Levy costs in the nuclear capacity recovery clause for 2010 should be limited to costs actually incurred in 2008 and should be subject to final determination in the prudence docket.

5. The Commission should indicate that failure of PEF to live up to the standards to be expected of an entity undertaking construction of projects of this magnitude will result in appointment of a special master empowered to take all necessary measures to assure PEF customers of the prudence and reasonableness of PEF decision-making with regard to each Levy unit.

# Q. WHICH "EVENTS SINCE THE CONCLUSION OF THE LAST PROCEEDING" HAVE CALLED THE CONTINUING FEASIBILITY AND REASONABLENESS OF THE LEVY UNITS INTO QUESTION?

A. Five events are particularly important.

First, Progress Energy has announced a delay of at least 20 months in the construction schedule, which will require revised cost estimates. At this point, the magnitude of the delay, the respective schedules of Units 1 and 2, and project cost impacts have not been determined, and, PEF maintains, will be determined in part by necessary renegotiation of the EPC contract executed at the end of 2008. Even a two year delay, which seems the minimum likely under the circumstances that PEF has described, pushes Unit 2 beyond PEF's ten year planning horizon. Further delays, which are likely, will take Unit 1 beyond the normal planning horizon as well. Similarly, the project delays also postpone and extend the time necessary for Florida ratepayers to realize any net savings even according to PEF cost-benefit calculations.

Second, the sharp drop in demand for electricity that has accompanied the

national recession has postponed PEF's need for baseload generating capacity

1	by s	several	years.	Considered	in	tandem	with	the	Levy	project	delay,	the
2	reas	onabler	ness of o	completing e	ithe	er unit at a	all is i	n qu	estion.			

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- Third, the dramatic fall in natural gas prices and the accompanying rise in gas supply projections have increased the rate impacts to consumers of proceeding with the Levy Units relative to other supply alternatives. In this regard, PEF's decision, announced in its most recent Ten Year Site Plan, to downsize its planned 1,200 MWs of new combined cycle capacity at Suwannee to roughly 380 MWs of peaking turbines seems particularly perplexing.
- Fourth, the availability and cost of capital on the scale required to build the plants is less foreseeable in light of the turmoil in U.S. and world capital markets.
- Finally, changes affecting Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing of the AP13 1000 nuclear power plant design have introduced greater uncertainty into the
  14 licensing schedule for the Levy units.

## 15 Q. HAVE ANY EVENTS FAVORABLE TO THE FEASIBILITY OF THE LEVY 16 UNITS OCCURRED SINCE THE NEED PROCEEDING?

17 A. Yes. Some decline in the cost of materials such as steel and concrete will have 18 occurred. This reverses a trend that had driven the cost estimates for new 19 nuclear plants up so rapidly in the years before 2008.

- 1 Q. HAVE OTHER EVENTS OCCURRED WITH IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
- 2 FEASIBILITY OF COMPLETING THE LEVY UNITS ON REASONABLE
- 3 TERMS?

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4 Yes. The progress of climate change legislation through the U.S. Congress is 5 important. This legislation recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives 6 in a form containing requirements to increase energy efficiency and renewable 7 energy production that were not reflected in the Progress petition for a 8 certificate of need. It also contained measures to mitigate the rate impact of 9 utility carbon cap and trade compliance actions. This legislation may also result 10 in a charge for green house gas emissions that will favor nuclear power relative 11 to fossil fuels, though not in relation to other low carbon sources. But, as the 12 legislation now stands, the efficiency and renewable requirements are relatively clear. The carbon price impact for nuclear is quite uncertain. 13

### 14 Q. DO ANY OF THESE EVENTS HAVE PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE FOR 15 THE CONSTRUCTION OF UNIT 2?

Yes. In its Need filing in Docket No. 080148 and its 2008 Ten Year Site Plan, Progress showed a capacity reserve margin of 33% in 2017 once Unit 2 is in service. PEF's justification of that expensive excess capacity has been that Unit 2 needed to be completed within 12 to 18 months of Unit 1 in order to realize significant capital cost savings that helped keep the original total project cost estimate below \$20 billion. With the dramatic decline in demand and the project delay, completing Unit 2 within 18 months of Unit 1 may no longer be reasonable or economically feasible. In that case, not only will the substantial

savings associated with Unit 2 not be realized, but the composite costs of the two units together will rise significantly, conceivably undermining the feasibility of Unit 1 as well. If both units are deferred far enough into the future, the reasonableness of charging today's customers any part of their costs will be open to question. Clearly, the Commission needs a detailed Levy project update to be able to assess these matters. Imposition of project costs on customers should be kept to a minimum until that can be accomplished.

A.

### Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LEVY PROJECT DELAY IN MORE DETAIL.

The project delay undermines PEF's objective of controlling project costs by being an "early mover." PEF needs to demonstrate both that it can maintain its place in long lead time equipment queues as a result of these delays, and that it is reasonable to do so even if it is contractually possible. The actual extent of the project delay, at this juncture, has not been determined (or at least disclosed) by Progress. This raises project feasibility questions that cannot be answered on this record. The reasonableness of building the second Levy unit slips from tenuous toward non-existent given the delay and the absence of joint owners to support the project. Captive customers should not be expected to fund in current rates a project that may be 12 years or more from entering commercial service, especially in today's difficult economy.

Finally, there are several Progress decisions and actions that led to the schedule delay that require a detailed prudence evaluation before cost recovery

is authorized by the Commission. At a minimum, the Commission should investigate the following:

- 1. Did Progress reasonably manage its request for the Limited Work Authorization ("LWA") upon which the project schedule (and therefore economics) vitally depended?
- 2. Was it reasonable and prudent for PEF to execute its EPC contract with Westinghouse/ Shaw Stone & Webster at the end of 2008 in light of the NRC's expressed concerns and the importance of receiving an LWA to maintain project schedule?
- 3. Was it reasonable and prudent for Progress to file its request for a Need determination and COLA in advance of securing joint ownership for the excess capacity associated with two 1,100 MWs generating units at Levy? In the present proceeding, the Commission need only determine the prudence of the actual construction costs incurred in 2008. As a result, the Commission does not need to determine costs associated with Progress' decision to enter into the EPC agreement prior to the receipt of the LWA, as the contract was not executed until the end of 2008. For this issue, the Commission should conduct a detailed examination of the EPC execution in view of the known and reasonably expected ramifications of an unfavorable NRC reaction to the LWA request.
- PEF's expectation that it would secure one or more joint owners for the Levy County units, and its failure to do so to this point, have become critical issues relating to this project. With the project delays and inevitable cost increases that

1	will result, the Levy project not only will create more generating capacity than
2	PEF requires, but it will impose a major cost burden on its captive customers
3	and their economy. This burden may prove particularly unfair if some part of
4	the capacity for which the customers are paying is to be sold to someone else,
5	who will not have paid their share of the construction cost.

Progress already deferred \$198 million of 2009 nuclear cost recovery to mitigate near term rate impacts, and has proposed in this docket a five year amortization of roughly \$300 million of the costs it claims are eligible for recovery in 2010. Of course, the deferrals eventually have to be paid, with interest, while new nuclear recovery charges are added each year. The Commission needs to reserve judgment as to the prudence of PEF's actions regarding joint ownership of the project.

## Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DECLINE IN DEMAND IN MORE DETAIL.

- 15 A. The national recession has dramatically affected the demand for electricity.
  16 Florida businesses and consumers certainly are using less electricity as a
  17 result. Progress now expects substantially slower long term growth in load. As
  18 shown in its 2009 Ten Year site Plan:
  - PEF has reduced its long term customer growth assumption to 1.5 % from 2.0%.
  - PEF has reduced its forecasted growth in net Energy for Load to 1.5% from 2.2%.
  - PEF has reduced its forecasted growth in summer peak demand to 1.4% from 1.9%.

- With these revised forecasts Progress is unlikely to need 2,200 MWs of new baseload nuclear capacity in its normal resource planning horizon.
- Furthermore, there is no certainty that the recession has hit bottom or that,
  once it does, electricity demand will grow at nearly the rates that PEF now
  projects. While PEF in the Need proceeding drew repeated assurance from the
  fact that "no party has challenged" the forecasts which it put forward, it must
  now contend with the fact that reality has challenged them more devastatingly
  than any party could have.
- 9 Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
  10 DECLINE IN NATURAL GAS PRICES IN MORE DETAIL.
- The NYMEX price for natural gas today is roughly one-third the level seen 11 Α. 12 during the Levy Need determination hearings last year. Scarcely a year from the date that PEF assured this Commission that "the likelihood of the low fuel 13 14 price forecast occurring at all in the future is improbable" (PEF post-hearing 15 brief in Docket No. 080148-El, p. 25), the low fuel price forecast in fact now 16 seems too high. Gas can now be purchased at prices that are close to, or 17 below, the PEF low fuel price forecast for years into the future. Moreover, long 18 term estimates of gas supply and price are being adjusted as well. The March 19 2009 Long Term Energy Outlook released by the Energy Information 20 Administration shows a substantial decline in projected natural gas prices through 2030 in all five scenarios studied. See Exhibit PAB-2. 21
- Astonishingly, PEF's updated fuel price forecast in this docket (Exhibit GM-1) fails to take into account this major shift in price and perhaps supply. The

1 Commission should require Progress to provide a current update to its fuel 2 price forecasts with its updated feasibility analysis.

## Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHANGE IN CAPITAL MARKETS IN MORE DETAIL.

5 A. As to new nuclear reactors, Moody's recent report observed that

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- recent broad market turmoil calls into question whether new liquidity is even available to support such capital-intensive projects...Moody's is considering applying a more negative view for issuers that are actively pursuing new nuclear generation. History gives us reason to be concerned about possible significant balance-sheet challenges, the lack of tangible efforts today to defend the existing ratings, and the substantial execution risk involved in building new nuclear power facilities.
- Lower debt ratings mean higher costs of capital, all other things being equal.

  Higher capital costs were a major cause of nuclear delays and cost overruns in

  the past and could easily be again, especially when combined with falling costs

  of alternatives.

## 17 Q. PLEASE DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 18 UNCERTAINTIES IN THE NRC LICENSING PROCESS IN MORE DETAIL.

Correspondence between the NRC and Westinghouse in April 2009 indicates that the schedule for completion of the review of the pending design amendment for the AP-1000 has slipped to August 2011. See Exhibit PAB-3. This means that the design that PEF intends to reference will not be finally approved much in advance of the date that PEF hopes to receive its license for the Levy units. Clearly the potential for delay is much larger than PEF acknowledged when it assured the Florida Commission in the need proceeding

that it was using "a standard design that the NRC has already approved"

(Roderick prefiled testimony in Docket No. 080148-El, page 16, line 6).

than PEF anticipated in its testimony just a year ago.

A further indication of uncertainty in the rollout of the AP-1000 design has been the decision to shift the reference plant designation from Bellefonte to Vogtle. While this decision may be sensible in itself, it suggests that the AP-1000 consortium's best laid plans remain subject to much more substantial changes

Progress has relied heavily on the NRC's meeting of its announced schedules despite the facts a) that the revised licensing process is untested and b) that the industry has presented the NRC with a consistently changing profile rather than the firm commitment to certified designs on which those schedules have been based. Reasonableness criteria require that a considerable degree of uncertainty be attached to these schedules and reflected in decisions to make commitments having large implications for customer rates. The fact that Florida law largely assures that customers will pay for the consequences of these decisions heightens rather than diminishes the degree of prudence that Progress owes to its customers.

### Q. PLEASE SET FORTH ANY ASPECTS OF YOUR PRIOR TESTIMONY THAT ARE RELEVANT TO THIS PROCEEDING.

A. In my testimony a year ago, I expressed concern that Progress was underestimating well known nuclear construction risks that it was seeking to shift onto its customers. Events have borne this out. Significant delays in the Levy project have occurred at the outset that will have material cost

consequences. The "streamlined" NRC licensing process also is not going as planned. The NRC has run into difficulties as the standard designs - as yet unbuilt in the U.S. - have fallen behind the individual license applications for projects that will use those designs, so much so that Chairman Jaczko has indicated that the industry as a whole would benefit if the NRC slowed down some individual applications to focus on completing the generic design reviews. Any problems in coordinating completion of these reviews could affect the Levy project timetable. My previous testimony noted the risks in relying on an "Economic Benefits Assessments" that treated construction costs and schedules as if they were etched in stone in comparing them to speculative projections of natural gas and CO2 compliance costs in the years 2040 and beyond. Of course, the construction schedule has indeed slipped, while natural gas costs have fallen dramatically. Yet Progress has reduced its future gas generation while insisting on continuing to expose its customers to nuclear costs that it cannot now Adherence to a pre-determined path in the face of changed estimate. circumstances was a hallmark of troubled nuclear projects in the past, and remains a red flag today. I also cautioned that the year-by-year prudence reviews set in motion by the certificate of need would largely insulate Progress from the large consequences of any imprudent decisions, because the consequences would reveal themselves years after the decisions had been made. PEF's decisions

regarding the LWA, the decision to sign an EPC last December, and the

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circumstances regarding PEF's pursuit of joint owners are concrete examples of this. No prudence review of those decisions has been conducted. Such reviews are needed before final cost recovery is permitted. However, even if imprudence were found, the dollar consequences are likely play out over many years, years during which they may not be subject to commission review at all unless protections are put in place now. In the need docket, I concluded that "To protect customers, and restore some of Progress' incentive to control project cost and schedule, the Commission should establish reasoned limits or conditions on its finding of need for the Levy units". That remains my view as to Commission findings of the reasonableness of PEF's future plans. The NRRI publication that I cited above notes that such limits were established not only in New York, as I testified in 2008, but twice in Connecticut and in New Jersey (pp. 76-78). They were also part of a settlement at Diablo Canyon in California. Both the customers and the utility require a clear statement as to the highest acceptable price for the power from the Levy units. Finally, I indicated that new nuclear power was not necessarily an essential part of a least cost strategy to combat climate change. The changes discussed above tend to confirm this point. They increase the likelihood that measures

such as efficiency, renewables and grid enhancement will be able to shoulder

the burden in the electric sector for years to come, especially given the lower

cost projections for natural gas as a swing fuel. However, the more committed

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Progress becomes to both Levy units, the less willing it becomes to consider competing solutions.

#### 3 Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR CONCLUSIONS AS TO MEASURES THAT

#### 4 FLORIDA REGULATORS SHOULD ADOPT IN THIS PROCEEDING.

5 A. My conclusions are as follows:

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- The Commission should confine the scope of any prudence determination to costs actually incurred in 2008.
- The Commission should conduct separate prudence hearings on the LWA
   and EPC contract issues discussed above.
- The Commission should reserve a prudence determination on PEF's pursuit
  of joint owners for the Levy project for an appropriate time and make all cost
  recoveries subject to the outcome of that review.
  - The Commission should limit or suspend all future Levy project cost recovery
    pending receipt and public review of a detailed updated project
    reasonableness and feasibility analyses that contain updated total project
    cost and schedule evaluations and a thorough cost-effectiveness
    demonstration.
- The Commission should admonish PEF to the effect that its current filing does not meet the standards of thoroughness expected of a utility undertaking a project with multibillion dollar impacts on Florida customers.
- The Commission should state that PEF's filings must establish the economic reasonableness and feasibility of each Levy unit.

- The Commission should indicate that failure of PEF to live up to the standards
  to be expected of an entity undertaking construction of projects of this
  magnitude will result in appointment of a special master empowered to take
  all necessary measures to assure PEF customers of the prudence and
  reasonableness of PEF decision-making with regard to each Levy unit.
  - Finally, to reassert a point that I made a year ago, the Florida Commission faces a crucial need to avoid commitments to costs that are open-ended and unlimited. Investors have proven unwilling to shoulder such exposure. Regulators should be clear as to the limits on the amounts that can be charged to the customers, and those limits should not exceed the costs of the next best alternatives. By setting and enforcing such limits, the Commission will be benefiting both customers and utility investors as well as the Florida economy.

#### 14 Q. DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

15 A. Yes.

## EXHIBIT 1

Docket No. 090009-EI Résumé of Peter A. Bradford Exhibit PAB-1, Page 1 of 8

PETER A. BRADFORD P.O. BOX 497 PERU, VERMONT 05152 (802) 824-4296

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

March 1998 - present - Adjunct Professor, Vermont Law School

Teaching course on "Nuclear Power and Public Policy" and other classes; participating in VLS Energy Law Center programs

March 1996- present - consultant on energy and utility regulatory policy

Advising and teaching utility regulation, restructuring, nuclear power and energy policy in the U.S. and abroad. Has been a visiting lecturer in energy policy and environmental protection at Yale University. Served as a member and co-chair on Vermont's 2008-9 Public Oversight Panel on the Comprehensive Reliability Audit of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant; Served on a 2007 Keystone Center fact finding collaboration on nuclear power and a 2006 National Academy of Sciences panel evaluating the alternatives to continued operation of the Indian Point nuclear power plants in New York. Also affiliated with the Regulatory Assistance Project, which provides assistance to state and federal energy regulatory commissions regarding economic regulatory policy and environmental protection.

Has advised on restructuring issues and has testified on aspects of electricity and telecommunications restructuring in many U.S. states. As to nuclear power, he advised the Internal Revenue Service in a successful proceeding related to taxation of Maine Yankee fuel expenditures, testified on behalf of Wiscasset, Maine in a 2004-05 property tax proceeding on the value of spent fuel storage and advised the Vermont Legislature on issues pertaining to the taxation of Maine Yankee. He testified before the U.S. Congress on the renewal of the Price-Anderson Act.

International - Taught and/or advised abroad on energy (including nuclear power) and water issues and electric restructuring in China, Armenia, Russia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Canada, St. Lucia, Kosovo, South Africa, Georgia, Trinidad and Tobago and Samoa.

Member, Policy Advisory Committee of the Packard Foundation's China Sustainable Energy Project. Served as one of two U.S. representatives on international panel advising European Bank for Reconstruction & Development on least cost alternatives in Ukraine to continued operation of the Chernobyl Nuclear Station (1996-97) and on an international expert panel assessing the safety of the Mochovce Nuclear Power Station in Slovakia (1998);

FPSC-COMMISSION OLERK

#### February 1995 - March 1996 Fellow, Regulatory Assistance Project

Project funded by the U.S. Dept. of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency and foundations to provide assistance to state and federal regulatory commissions on energy and environmental matters.

June 1987- January 1995 Chairman, New York State Public Service Commission, Albany, New York

CEO of state agency charged with overseeing \$29 billion annual revenues of New York utilities. Responsible for developing and implementing consumer and environmental protection policies, transitions from monopoly to competition in energy and telecommunications industries. 700 employees, \$65 million budget.

July 1982- June 1987 Chairman, Maine Public Utilities Commission, Augusta, Maine

CEO of state agency charged with overseeing \$2 billion annual revenues of Maine utilities. Responsible for developing and implementing consumer and environmental protection policies, including competitive bidding for independent power production and energy conservation services as well as adjusting to the break-up of AT&T. 60 employees, \$4 million budget.

March 1982-June 1982 State of Maine Public Advocate

First full-time Maine public advocate; intervened on consumers' behalf in telephone and electric cases; oversaw staff of 6; prepared briefs; cross-examined witnesses.

Aug. 1977-March 1982 Commissioner, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C.

One of five commissioners of the federal agency whose responsibilities include safety of nuclear power plants and other nuclear facilities; preparing licensing criteria for a nuclear waste repository; licensing exports of nuclear fuel and reactors pursuant to Nuclear Nonproliferation Act; assisted in major upgrades of regulatory and enforcement processes in wake of Three Mile Island accident. 3000 employees, \$250 million budget.

Dec. 1971-Aug. 1977 Commissioner, Maine Public Utilities Commission, Chairman (9/74-7/75).

Sept. 1968- Dec. 1971 Federal-State Coordinator, State of Maine

Docket No. 090009-EI Résumé of Peter A. Bradford Exhibit PAB-1, Page 3 of 8

Responsible for many oil, power, environmental and housing matters. Assisted in preparation of landmark Maine laws relating to oil pollution and industrial site selection. Staff Director, Governor's Task Force on Energy, Heavy Industry and the Coast of Maine.

Aug. 1964-June 1965 Athens College, Greece, Teaching Fellowship

#### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

1999-present - Member, Policy Advisory Committee, China Sustainable Energy Project (funded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the Energy Foundation).
1998-2002 - Member, Advisory Council, New England Independent System Operator Nov. 1986-Nov. 1987 President, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

1977-1995 NARUC positions, Member, Executive Committee; Member, Electricity Committee (1977-1989); Member, Gas Committee (1989-1993); Member, Communications Committee (1975-1977); Board of Directors, National Regulatory Research Institute (1985-1987).

1975-1977, 1982-1986. Advisory Council, Electric Power Research Institute

1987-1995, Member of New York State Energy Planning Board

1987-1995, Member, Board of Directors, New York State Energy Research and Development Administration

1987-1995, Member, New York State Environmental Board;

1987-1995, Chair, New York State Energy Facilities Siting Board

1992-1994, State co-chair, New York State Task Force on Telecommunications Policy

Vice-chair, Board of Directors, Union of Concerned Scientists

#### **EDUCATION:**

1964 B.A. History, Yale University, New Haven, CT

1968 L.L.B., Yale University School of Law, New Haven, CT

#### **PUBLICATIONS of Peter A. Bradford**

#### **Books**

Fragile Structures: A Story of Oil Refineries, National Security and the Coast of Maine, 1975, Harpers Magazine Press.

#### Law Review

Maine's Oil Spill Legislation, <u>Texas International Law Journal</u>, Vol.7, No.1, Summer 1971, pp.29-43.

#### Other Published Work

Three Mile Island: Thirty Years of Lessons Learned, Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety, U.S. Senate, March 24, 2009;

Nuclear Power and Presidential Politics, Blue Ridge Press, October, 2008

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Contribution to New York Times Forum "Choking on Growth: China and the Environment", New York Times Online, November 20, 2007,

http://china.blogs.nytimes.com/2007/11/20/answers-from-peter-bradford/#more-24;

Contributions to the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists online forum on Nuclear Power and Climate Change, (with Amory Lovins and Stephen Berry),

http://www.thebulletin.org/roundtable/nuclear-power-climate-change/, March-August, 2007; *The Economics of Nuclear Power* (with Steven Thomas, Antony Froggatt, and David Millbrow) for Greenpeace International, May, 2007;

Assessing Iran's Nuclear Power Claim, (Proliferation Analysis, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, January, 2007;

http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=18951&prog=zgp&proj=znpp);

Nuclear Power's Prospects in the Power Markets of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, for the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center, February, 2005;

China's National Energy Plan: Some Energy Strategy Considerations, (with Thomas Johansson) The Sinosphere Journal, Spring 2004;

Some Environmental Lessons from Electric Restructuring, IUCN Colloquium on Energy Law for Sustainable Development, Shanghai, Winter 2004;

Where Have All the Safeguards Gone? Foreword to "Financial Insecurity: The Increasing Use of Limited Liability Companies and Multi-Tiered Holding Companies to Own Nuclear Power Plants" The Star Foundation August 7, 2002

Nuclear Power after September 11, OnEarth, December 2001.

The Unfulfilled Promises of Electric Restructuring, Nor'easter, summer 2001.

Docket No. 090009-EI Résumé of Peter A. Bradford Exhibit PAB-1, Page 5 of 8

Considerations Regarding Recovery of Strandable Investment, <u>PUR Utility Quarterly</u>, December, 1997.

Ships at a Distance: Energy Choice and Economic Challenge, <u>The National Regulatory</u> Research Institute Quarterly Bulletin, Volume 18, Number 3, Fall, 1997, p. 287 (Originally the 1997 George Aiken Lecture at the University of Vermont).

Book Review: The British Electricity Experiment - Privatization: the Record, the Issues, the Lessons, Amicus Journal, June, 1997.

Gorillas in the Mist: Electric Utility Mergers in Light of State Restructuring Goals, The National Regulatory Research Institute Quarterly Bulletin, Spring, 1997.

Til Death Do Us Part or the Emperor's New Suit: Does a Regulatory Compact Compel Strandable Investment Recovery?, PUR Utility Quarterly, October, 1996.

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Book Review: Power Struggle: The Hundred Year War Over Electricity, Amicus Journal, Winter 1987, pp. 46-47;

Wall Street's Flawed Evaluation of State Utility Regulation, <u>Bangor Daily News</u>, Sept. 3, 1984; Reflections on the Indian Point Hearings, <u>New York Times</u>, 1/83;

Paradox and Farce: Trends in Federal Nuclear Energy Policy Los Angeles Times, June 6, 1982; Keeping Faith with the Public, Nuclear Safety, March-April, 1981;

Regulation or Reassurance, Washington Post, August 16, 1979;

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Report of the Public Oversight Panel on the Comprehensive Reliability Audit of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, (coauthor), March 19, 2009;

CWIP and Subprime Power Plants: Who Will Underwrite a Nuclear Renaissance? IEER forum, Washington, D.C., February 25, 2009;

Nuclear Power's Place in New York's Energy Future, paper for the NY Chapter of the Conservation Law Foundation, New York, December 7, 2008;

Nuclear Power: Are the \$tar\$ Aligned? Harvard Electricity Policy Group, Cambridge, Mass, May 29, 2008;

Nuclear Power, Energy Security, and Climate Change, Center for Energy and Environmental Security, University of Colorado Law School, Boulder, Colorado, February 1, 2008;

Of Risks, Resources, Renaissances and Reality, Institute of Public Utilities, Charleston, South Carolina, December 4, 2007;

Nuclear Power and Climate Change; Chicago Humanities Festival; November 10, 2007 Risks, Rewards, Resources, Reality; Briefing on the Loan Guarantee Provisions of the 2007 Energy Legislation; Environmental and Energy Study Institute; Washington, D.C., October 30, 2007

Fool Me Twice? Rules for an Unruly Renaissance: Carnegie International Nonproliferation Conference, Washington D.C., June 26, 2007

Regulation, Reality and the Rule of Law: Issues for a Nuclear Renaissance: Washington and Lee University, June 23, 2007.

The Future of Nuclear Energy, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists Conference; University of Chicago, November 1, 2006

Nuclear Power and Climate Change, Society of Environmental Journalists, Burlington, Vermont, October 27, 2006

Nuclear Power, Climate Change and Public Policy, National Conference of State Legislatures, April, 2006.

Electric Restructuring after Ten Years: Surprises, Shocks and Lessons, State Legislative Leaders' Foundation, November, 2005;

Nuclear Power's American Prospects, Presentation to the California Energy Commission Nuclear Issues Workshop, August, 2005;

Decommissioning Financing: Alternatives and Policies, Conference on the Future of the Medzamor Nuclear Power Plant, Yerevan, Armenia, June 2005;

The Value of Sites Capable of Extended Storage of High Level Nuclear Waste, Report for the Town of Wiscasset, Maine, December 2004 (supplemental report, January, 2005);

Did the Butler Really Do It? The Role of Nuclear Regulation in Raising the Cost of Nuclear Power, Cato Institute, Washington D.C. March 2004;

China's Energy Regulatory Framework China Development Forum, Beijing, November 17, 2003;

Repeating History: Nuclear Power's Prospects in a Carbon-Conscious World Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Leadership Council Meeting, October 24, 2003;

Docket No. 090009-EI Résumé of Peter A. Bradford Exhibit PAB-1, Page 7 of 8

What Nuclear Power Can Learn from Electric Restructuring, and Vice Versa, Aspen Institute, July 5, 2003;

Renewal of the Price Anderson Act Testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation, Infrastructure and Nuclear Safety, January 23, 2002;

Events Now Long Past: The 20-Year Road from Three Mile Island to Electric Utility Restructuring TMI 20th Anniversary Commemoration, National Press Club, Washington D.C., March 22, 1999;

Preparing Nuclear Power for Competition NARUC Conference on "Nuclear Power in a Competitive Era: Asset or Liability?" January 23, 1997;

Call Me Ishmael: Reflections on the Role of Obsession in Nuclear Energy Policy, NARUC annual meeting, November 13, 1989;

Nuclear Power and Climate Change; Harvard Energy and Environmental Policy Center, January 13, 1989;

Somewhere between Ecstasy, Euphoria and the Shredder: Reflections on the Term Pro-Nuclear Symposium on Nuclear Radiation and Public Health Practices and Policies in the Post-Chernobyl World, Georgetown University, September 18, 1987;

Searching the Foreseeable Past: Nuclear Power, Investor Confidence and Reality Public Utilities Institute, East Lansing Michigan, July 30, 1987;

Where Ignorant Armies Clash by Night: Relationships Among Nuclear Regulators and Regulated NARUC/INPO Seminar on Nuclear Power Plant Safety and Reliability, January 22, 1987; Why Do We Have a Nuclear Waste Problem Conference on Nuclear Waste, Naples, Maine, March 22, 1986;

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A Perspective on Nuclear Power, The Groton School, January 15, 1982;

Reasonable Assurance, Regulation and Reality ALI-ABA Course of Study on Atomic Energy Licensing and Regulation, September 24, 1980;

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Condemned to Repeat It? Haste, Distraction, Rasmussen and Rogovin, Risks of Generating Electricity, Seventh Annual National Engineers' Week Energy Conference, February 21, 1980; Lightening the Nuclear Sled; Some Uses and Misuses of the Accident at Three Mile Island Seminar on the Problems of Energy Policy, New York University, November 21, 1979; The Nuclear Option: Did It Jump or Was It Pushed? NARUC Regulatory Studies Program, August 2, 1979;

How a Regulatory View of Nuclear Waste Management is Like a Horse's Eye View of the Cart 90<sup>th</sup> NARUC Annual Convention, November 15, 1978;

Sentence First: Verdict Later: Some Thoughts on the Level of Acclaim Thus Far Afforded the Nuclear Siting and Licensing Act of 1978 ALI-ABA Course of Study, September 28, 1978; Some Observations on Recent and Proposed Changes in Nuclear Regulatory Commission Jurisdiction Atomic Industrial Forum Workshop on Reactor Licensing and Safety, April 5, 1978;

Docket No. 090009-EI Résumé of Peter A. Bradford Exhibit PAB-1, Page 8 of 8

#### **Other Papers**

The Nexus between Energy Sector Reform and Democracy & Governance (co-lead author), for USAID, February, 2005;

Public Interaction in the Georgian Energy Regulatory Process: Case Study for the USAID Project on the Nexus between Democratic Governance and Energy Sector Reform, April, 2004; Report on the Establishment of the State Energy Regulatory Commission of China (with David Moskovitz, Richard Weston and Wayne Shirley) for the Energy Foundation and the World Bank, January, 2003;

A Plan of Action for a Multisector Regulatory Commission in Armenia, for USAID, February 2003.

Economic Regulatory Issues in the Armenian Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment Sectors, for USAID, January 2003;

Some Potential Approaches to the Enforcement of License Conditions and Regulatory Orders in Armenia, for USAID, June 2002

The Process of Auditing Utilities: A Primer for the Energy Regulatory Commission of Armenia, for USAID, June 2002

Some Potential Approaches to the Difficulties of Enforcement of License Conditions and Regulatory Orders in Georgia and Other NIS Countries, for USAID, December 2000. Public Interaction in the Georgian Energy Regulatory Process, for USAID, September 2000. Regulatory Policy and Energy Efficiency: Considerations for Tariff Setting and Licensing, for USAID, April 2000.

Public Interaction in the Armenian Regulatory Process, for USAID, July 1999.

The License as an Instrument for Regulation and the Furtherance of Competition in the N.I.S., for USAID, September, 1998.

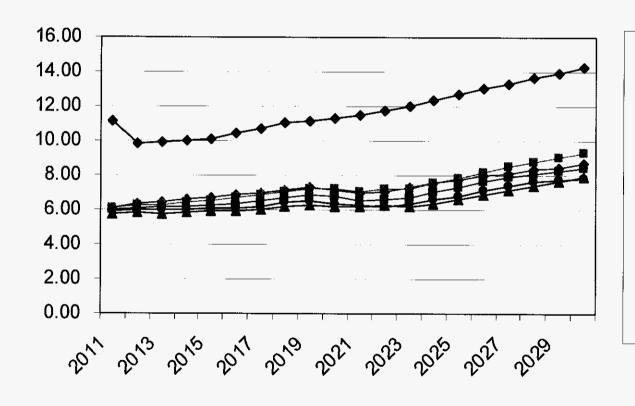
Applicability of U.S. Administrative Law Concepts to Regulatory Systems in the Newly Independent States, for USAID, June 1998.

Performance-Based Regulation in a Restructured Electric Industry, (with Bruce Biewald, Paul Chernick, Susan Geller, Jerrold Oppenheim and Tim Woolf) for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, November 1997.

## EXHIBIT 2

Docket No. 090009-EI Natural Gas Prices Comparison Exhibit PAB-2, Page 1 of 1

# PEF Natural Gas Price Forecast and EIA Long-Term Outlook



- → 2009 PEF NCRC Forecast
- EIA 2009 Outlook Reference
- EIA 2009 Outlook
  Low Growth
- → EIA 2009 Outlook High Growth
- EIA 2009 Outlook
  Slow Technology
- EIA 2009 OutlookRapid Technology

## EXHIBIT 3

#### April 3, 2009

Mr. Robert Sisk, Manager AP1000 Licensing and Customer Interface Nuclear Power Plants Westinghouse Electric Company P. O. Box 355 Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Dear Mr. Sisk:

SUBJECT: REVISION TO REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR AP1000 DESIGN CERTIFICATION AMENDMENT (DOCKET 52-006)

As discussed in previous correspondence, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has reassessed the schedule for the AP1000 Design Certification Amendment (DCA) review in light of progress and activities during the last year. Considered in the enclosed schedule (which will also be posted on our public website) was the impact of Westinghouse submitting Design Control Document (DCD) Revision 17 on September 22, 2008 and Westinghouse's past limited ability to make adequate design information available to the staff without the need for supplemental requests for information.

Based on the reassessment, the milestone for the end of last the chapter of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) w/open items (OI) is January 2010. The projected completion date for the final safety evaluation report is December 2010, and for the rulemaking, August 2011. At this time, Chapter 3 of the DCD, in particular the seismic analyses review, is on the critical path. In order to issue a schedule for Phase 2 that includes Chapter 3, the NRC has included steps in the schedule to show the dependency upon timely Westinghouse delivery of design information. If Westinghouse cannot provide the necessary information, such that the staff can reduce these complex technical issues down to specific resolvable OIs, within these allotted times, the chapter date in the schedule may need be extended.

In addition to the critical path sections, other chapters with longer projected completion schedules are Chapters 6 and 9. Delays in these chapters could shift the critical path. Thus, timely and complete response to remaining request for additional information and to Ols for all chapters will also be necessary for the staff to complete the final safety evaluation report on the projected schedule. You are requested to respond to this letter concerning your ability to meet the assumptions for actions that form the basis for the projected schedule.

Docket No. 090009-EI NRC AP1000 Schedule Revision Exhibit PAB-3, Page 2 of 8

R. Sisk -2-

The staff is evaluating the schedules for the combined license applications (COL) that are referencing (the AP1000) design certification; the schedules for some of those COLs will be adjusted as well. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Eileen McKenna at 301-415-7110.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director Division of New Reactor Licensing Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-006

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: see next page

R. Sisk

-2-

The staff is evaluating the schedules for the combined license applications (COL) that are referencing (the AP1000) design certification; the schedules for some of those COLs will be adjusted as well. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Eileen McKenna at 301-415-7110.

Sincerely,

/RA/

David B. Matthews, Director Division of New Reactor Licensing Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-006

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: see next page

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Docket No. 090009-EI NRC AP1000 Schedule Revision Exhibit PAB-3, Page 4 of 8

DC Westinghouse - AP1000 Mailing List cc:

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Ms. Michele Boyd Legislative Director Energy Program Public Citizens Critical Mass Energy and Environmental Program 215 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Barton Z. Cowan, Esquire Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC 600 Grant Street, 44th Floor Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Mr. Jay M. Gutierrez Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP 111 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20004

Ms. Sophie Gutner P.O. Box 4646 Glen Allen, VA 23058

Mr. Ronald Kinney South Carolina DHEC 2600 Bull Street Columbia, SC 29201

Dr. Regis A. Matzie Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer Westinghouse Electric Company 20 International Drive Windsor, CT 06095

Mr. Tom Sliva 7207 IBM Drive Charlotte, NC 28262 (Revised 04/01/2009)

Mr. Ed Wallace General Manager - Projects PBMR Pty LTD P. O. Box 9396 Centurion 0046 Republic of South Africa

Mr. Gary Wright, Director Division of Nuclear Facility Safety Illinois Emergency Management Agency 1035 Outer Park Drive Springfield, IL 62704

#### DC Westinghouse - AP1000 Mailing List

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Your ref. Docket No. 52-006 Our ref. DCP/NRC2439

April 23, 2009

Subject: REVISION TO REVIEW SCHEDULE FOR AP1000 DESIGN CERTIFICATION

**AMENDMENT (DOCKET 52-006)** 

Dear Mr. Mathews:

Westinghouse would like to acknowledge receipt of the AP1000 Design Certification Amendment (DCA) review schedule to accommodate the design enhancements introduced by Rev 17 and issued to the NRC on September 22, 2008.

Westinghouse understands that based on the staff's reassessment the following key milestones have been established:

- Last chapter of the Safety Evaluation Report (SER) with open items (OI) is January 2010;
- Final Safety Evaluation Report is December 2010; and
- Rulemaking is scheduled to be completed August 2011.

Westinghouse also understands that the completion of the Chapter 3 review represents the critical path on this schedule, with Chapter 6 and 9 reviews being near critical path. Westinghouse is prepared to support the NRC's successful completion of these activities through its timely provision of design information to the Staff and timely responses to the Staff requests for additional information.

Westinghouse appreciates the efforts that the NRC has gone to in establishing a review schedule that is realistic, but workable given the near-term construction needs of the early AP1000 COL applicants. However, this schedule could continue to offer schedule challenges in the construction schedule of some applicants. Thus, Westinghouse's goal is to improve this schedule by several months over the next year; and Westinghouse is committed to providing resources to address NRC's issues as required to make that happen. The Staff has indicated that they are also willing to apply resources to support Westinghouse's efforts toward that endeavor.

In particular, Westinghouse is committed to applying resources to support the Staff's seismic and structural review, with the goal of closing out this issue this summer. This is based on the status of Westinghouse's design and our understanding of the Staff's concerns expressed in recent technical interactions between Westinghouse and the Staff. Thus, Westinghouse proposes that this be established as a mutual objective for this review.

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Westinghouse is also focusing on addressing other potential impacts on the schedule, and is working to close out all remaining Staff questions this summer, including those remaining in Chapters 6 and 9. Westinghouse will continue to work to reduce responses to complex technical issues to a resolvable level that the Staff can translate into the safety evaluations. Westinghouse values feedback from the Staff in this regard, consistent with that received during recent technical interactions, and encourages continued interactions and prompt feedback

While it is recognized that due to the timing in the schedule some open items may remain at the time of the initial safety evaluation, Westinghouse's goal is to close issues and minimize the need for open items to the maximum practical extent. Westinghouse's internal goal is to resolve all open items by January 2010.

Westinghouse looks forward to working with the NRC in a manner that will allow us to complete this effort well ahead of schedule. Your support in this endeavor is appreciated.

If the Staff feels that at anytime we are missing an opportunity to accelerate the schedule or if there are any questions please let me know. I can be reached at 412-374-6206.

Very truly yours,

Robert Sisk, Manager

Licensing and Customer Interface Regulatory Affairs and Standardization

E. McKenna (USNRC)

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