



**Florida Keys  
Aqueduct Authority**

1100 Kennedy Drive,  
Key West, Florida 33040

**Monroe County  
The Florida Keys**

1100 Simonton St  
Key West, FL 33040



**Joint Press Release** - 2020-June-04 – For immediate release

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**FCAA Files Petition for Hearing on FPL Pollution Permit, Monroe County Board of  
County Commissioners Support FCAA**

*Florida Keys – June 4, 2020* – On June 4, 2020 the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority (FCAA), in conjunction with the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association, filed a petition for administrative hearing, challenging the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)'s notice of intent to issue a new pollution permit to Florida Power and Light (FPL) to operate the cooling canals located at Turkey Point Nuclear Plant.

The draft permit, which is now proposed almost 10 years after the last permit expired, does not adequately address the current issue of polluted cooling canal water seeping into the areas west and east of the Plant including Biscayne Aquifer and Biscayne Bay. The new permit would allow this water to continue to migrate beyond plant boundaries.

Of concern to FCAA and Monroe County is the continued movement of hypersaline water, attributed to the cooling canals, towards the wellfield that supplies the drinking water for the entire Florida Keys. Failure to halt the current westward movement would eventually lead to contamination of the wellfield and the County's drinking water supply. Eastern movement of the hypersaline water will impact precious natural resources in Biscayne Bay.

In support of FCAA's petition, Monroe County is filing a petition to intervene and join FCAA's legal action. Monroe County is vested in both protection of the Florida Keys' sole drinking water supply and the health of Biscayne Bay.

"We need assurance that the saltwater plume will not compromise our drinking water and wells," said Heather Carruthers, Monroe County Mayor. "This will be a great impact on our residents and our community is highly supportive of making sure we continue to have clean drinking water."

FPL is currently under an enforcement actions via FDEP Consent Order and Miami-Dade County Consent Agreement to retract the hypersaline plume and prevent continued pollution.



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However, there is no evidence to date that the efforts have been or will be successful under that Consent Order.

“The existing Consent Order requires FPL to clean-up pollution it has caused to water quality in the Biscayne Aquifer and in Biscayne Bay,” said Tom Walker, Executive Director of FCAA. “There is no reason to issue a permit to discharge industrial wastewater into the system until FPL has complied with the Order.”