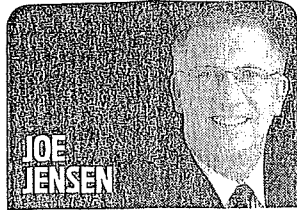


Nuclear plant prepared for storms, sea-level rise, waste

As someone who believes nuclear power plants, along with wind, solar and other low-carbon energy sources, must be part of our energy mix, I was very interested in Eve Samples' Jan. 24 column ("Climate change, fuel storage are serious issues for nuclear plants").

While there is little doubt about the safety and many positive benefits of nuclear power, some of the questions raised in Ms. Samples' column are understandable. Because FPL prides itself on being open, honest and transparent about our activities and operations, I believe it is important to share some information about these issues.

As part of our industry's relentless focus on safety, operators of nuclear plants plan for "worst case" scenarios, including extreme weather events. To this



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end, when St. Lucie was originally constructed, it was purposefully built nearly a half-mile back from the ocean at an elevation of 20 feet to protect against flooding events. Additional elevation and flood protection measures are provided for the buildings that house critical equipment, such as the emergency generators.

In fact, the resiliency of nuclear power plants' design was recently demonstrated during "Superstorm" Sandy. Of the 34 nuclear plants in Sandy's path (some of these plants

are among the oldest in the country), 24 continued to operate reliably through the storm; seven were already shut down for refueling outages and the remaining three efficiently executed their severe-weather plans. Notably, there was no damage or safety issues at any of these plants.

With regard to Ms. Samples' question regarding the potential for sea-level rise over a long period of time, it is likely that it would occur slowly. In fact, the 100-year "worst case" scenarios for sea-level rise would take place long after the plant's licenses expire and the plant would no longer be operating.

Finally, with respect to the long-term storage of used fuel, we fully agree with and support the creation of a federal repository. Despite the fact that the

total amount of used fuel from St. Lucie's entire operational life could fit in a 40-foot by 40-foot room, is safely and securely stored, and that every nuclear plant in the country is using the same approach, we continue to believe that the best solution is for the federal government to meet its responsibility to develop a workable, national approach to this issue.

FPL is proud of its track record of open and honest communication on important subjects. To learn more about nuclear power and FPL's environmental programs we invite readers to visit the Energy Encounter, which is always free to the public and is located adjacent to our St. Lucie Plant on Hutchinson Island.

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