

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**Economic Regulatory Administration****Compliance With the National Environmental Policy Act and Environmental Impact Statement for Powerplant Conversions to Coal in the State of Florida****AGENCY:** Department of Energy.**ACTION:** Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement and notice of scoping meetings.

SUMMARY: The Department of Energy (DOE) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), to analyze the potential for cumulative impacts associated with its proposal to issue prohibition orders affecting up to 31 powerplants (Listed in Attachment A) in the State of Florida under the authority granted the Secretary of the Department of Energy in the Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978 (FUA), as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (OBRA).

The purpose of the statewide document is to determine the cumulative statewide and community impacts likely to result from a number of site specific coal conversions stemming from the DOE actions. DOE intends to pursue site specific NEPA evaluations for each proposed conversion within the jurisdiction of FUA. The statewide EIS will aid Florida state agencies in identifying likely conversion candidates by providing a general framework for site specific environmental analyses that will be done as part of the NEPA compliance requirement.

The public is invited to attend one of the following meetings to express its view on the substantive scope of the statewide EIS and on the significant environmental issues which the document should address. Dates of Scoping Meetings: April 28, 1982 (Tallahassee), April 29, 1982 (Orlando), April 30, 1982 (Miami)

HEARING LOCATIONS:

- (1) Department of Environmental Regulations, Twin Towers Office Building, 4th fl. Conference Rooms B&D, 2600 Blairstone Rd., Tallahassee, Florida 32301
- (2) Chamber of the City Council, City of Orlando, 400 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, Florida
- (3) City Commission Chamber, City of Miami, 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Notification to Attend and Submission of Comments: Those individuals planning to attend one of the scoping meetings should contact Mrs. Ellen Russell at the address printed below. Written comments or suggestions for consideration in connection with the preparation of this EIS should be transmitted to Mrs. Russell by April 12, 1982.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ellen Russell, Office of Fuels Programs, Economic Regulatory Administration, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW., Rm. GA-093, Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 252-2201,

or

Elizabeth V. Jankus, Environmental Compliance Division, Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 252-4606.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Energy is preparing an EIS for the State of Florida to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed conversions of up to 31 powerplants at 15 stations from oil to coal. The cumulative approach is being taken because the geographic relationship of these plants to each other (Attachment B) ¹ indicates that certain individual impacts, rather than being viewed as isolated occurrences, should be viewed collectively to identify any cumulative or interactive effects, in accordance with the CEQ regulations 40 CFR 1508.7 and 1508.25.

I. Nature of the Action

Under FUA, as amended by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, a utility may certify to DOE that it is technically and economically feasible to convert a powerplant from oil to coal. DOE may then issue to the utility a prohibition order, which grants to the utility the status under the Clean Air Act of an existing emission source for the powerplant. DOE issuance of such orders may constitute a major Federal Action under NEPA, and thus requires the appropriate level of NEPA compliance. The statewide EIS described herein will serve as the middle level of a tiered impact assessment between the broader analysis of the Fuel Use Act Programmatic Final Environmental Impact Statement (April 1979) and the future site specific environmental analyses addressing the impacts of individual plant fuel conversions.

II. Details on Site Selection

The 31 Florida powerplants (Attachments A) included in the environmental impact analysis are located in the northwestern, central and southeastern portions of Florida. These 31 plants were selected and submitted to DOE by the Florida Public Service Commission as potential recipients of proposed prohibition orders under the amended FUA. The Commission's initial selection of potential candidates was based on the size and age of the unit. Originally, candidates were units 200 MW or larger constructed after 1970 or units constructed prior to 1970 where another unit at the same site was constructed after 1970. Subsequent to the application of these criteria other utilities indicated interest in coal conversion and were included in the list.

III. Purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement

The purpose of this statewide EIS is to assess the impacts of proposed conversions to coal through the analysis of the cumulative and interactive effects within Florida. The EIS will identify those environmental issues which are of concern to the State of Florida. Currently impacts related to air quality (including long range transport of sulfates and acid rain), water quality, solid waste disposal, transportation of fuel and solid waste, fuel availability, economic growth, and health effects have been identified as major issues and will therefore be addressed in the analysis. Other impacts determined during the public scoping process as being potentially significant will also be addressed. In addition, the EIS will analyze localized effects where interaction between two or more plants proposed for conversion raises questions regarding compliance with applicable environmental standards. Subsequent EISs on proposed individual conversions will analyze site specific impacts.

The Fuel Use Act mandates that all facilities undergoing conversion meet all applicable environmental requirements. The impacts of the proposed plant conversions that are in proximity to each other may be interactive and their impacts must be considered collectively when assessing compliance with environmental standards. One major criterion for assessing the reasonableness of proposed subsets of conversions are the provisions of the Clean Air Act, as amended (CAA). Under the the CAA the State of Florida (with EPA approval) retains control of the emission levels produced by the

powerplants under consideration. To analyze the effect on air quality of multiple coal conversions, DOE must make assumptions about the actions that the state will take in permitting future coal conversions, particularly with regard to allowable levels of sulfur dioxide.

In order to capture the potential variability in State decisions about emissions limits, DOE proposes to model several scenarios each based on a different emission unit. Based on preliminary meetings with State agencies and utilities and following are currently under consideration: New Source Performance Standards; the State Implementation Plan (SIP) as it applies to the units specified; and limits, other than the SIP, that are currently applied to specific units.

The analysis of the scenarios discussed above (or others that DOE may analyze) may show that stations located in proximity to one another would result in "hot spots," *i.e.*, areas where combined emissions may exceed applicable limits on a subregional basis. In these cases further analysis will be conducted to determine feasible mitigative strategies.

It should be noted that compliance with each of the emission scenario implies the use of different types of coals and different types of pollution control technologies. The environmental impacts associated with these combinations will be considered in the impact statement. The public is encouraged to recommend other air quality scenarios that it feels should be assessed.

The public is also encouraged to recommend methodologies for establishing reasonable "subsets" of alternatives among plants so affected. The air quality scenarios associated with the EIS will only examine the use of coal, since from an environmental perspective the use of this fuel represents a worst case. Other fuels (such as refuse derived fuel) can only be

assessed realistically at the site specific level, and will be addressed in detail in site specific NEPA documents.

However, the use of other alternative fuels will be addressed at the individual sites on a qualitative basis, and constraints on their use at this scale will be identified. Other alternatives beyond the immediate program authorities of FUA (e.g., conservation) which could help achieve the goal of reduced oil usage will also be addressed in the EIS. The public is encouraged to comment on the nature and scope of such alternatives.

The EIS will be prepared in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Upon completion of the draft EIS, its availability will be announced in the Federal Register and comments will be solicited.

IV. Purpose of Scoping Meeting

DOE desires to know what the public considers to be the major environmental issues associated with the potential conversion of the 31 powerplants in Florida from oil to coal. The meetings in Tallahassee, Orlando, and Miami will be held to receive comments on the structure of the EIS, anticipated energy/environmental problems, actions that might be taken to address them, and reasonable alternatives that should be considered.

Comments on the feasibility of converting the sites are not appropriate for this meeting and should be reserved for the forum provided by the administrative process which will follow in reaching a decision on specific orders. That process will provide ample opportunity for public discussion and comment on those individual site decisions.

The meetings are scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and will continue until all persons wishing to speak have had an opportunity to do so.

If possible, those planning to present information at the meeting should notify

Mrs. Russell. Participants are encouraged to submit to Mrs. Russell, in advance, their intent to participate and copies of any written material. However, public participation is encouraged even without advance submission of written material. Attendees at the meeting will be asked to register. All comments or suggestions made at the meeting as well as written material submitted until then will be carefully considered during the preparation of the draft EIS.

Questions regarding the meeting should be addressed to Mrs. Russell at (202) 252-2201.

Issued at Washington, D.C., on March 31, 1982.

William A. Vaughan,

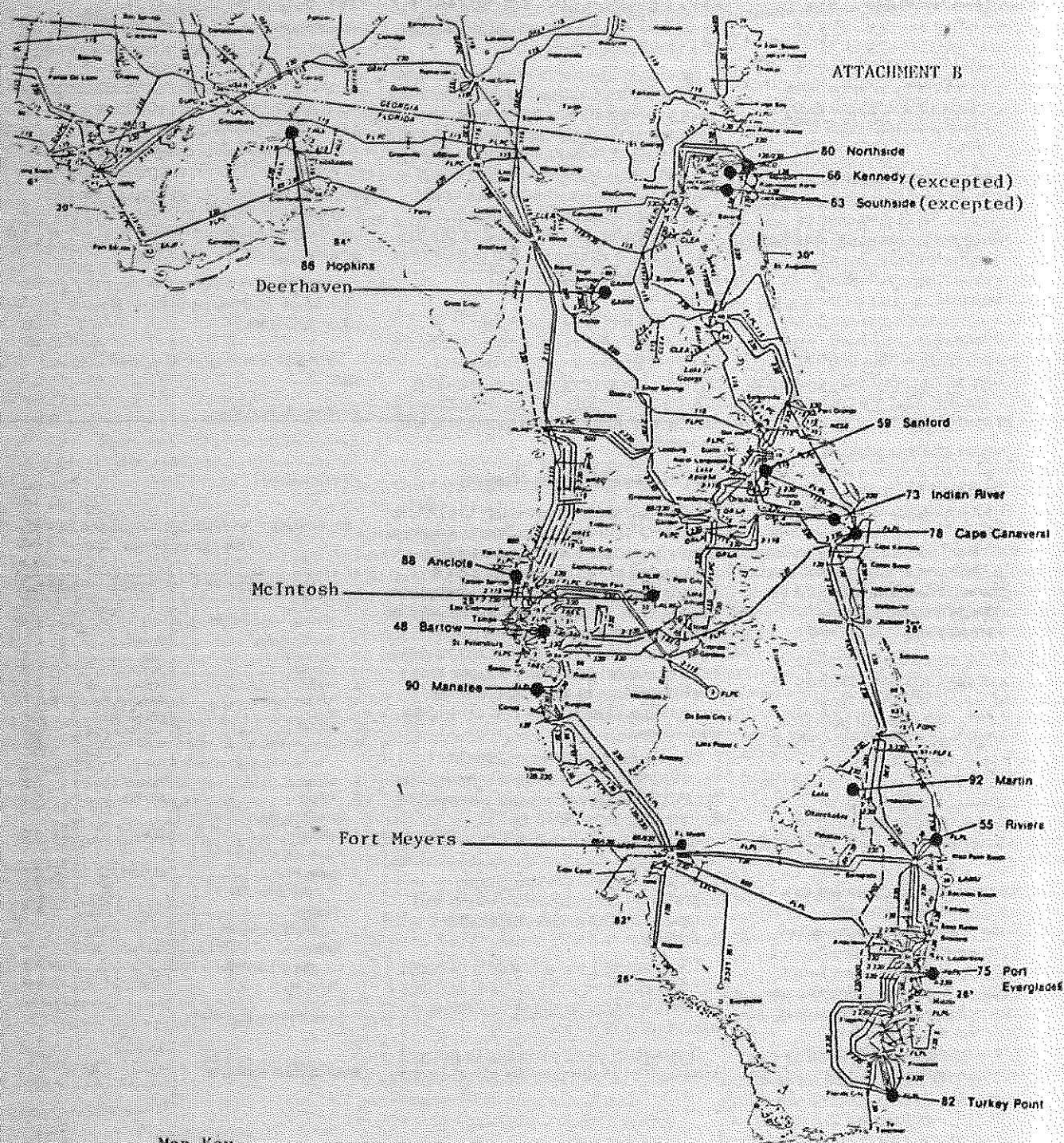
Assistant Secretary, Environmental Protection, Safety, and Emergency Preparedness.

ATTACHMENT A—FACILITIES INCLUDED IN THE CUMULATIVE STUDY

Company plant	County	Unit No.
Florida Power & Light		
1. Cape Canaveral	Brevard	1, 2
2. Fort Meyers	Lee	2
3. Manatee	Manatee	1, 2
4. Martin	Martin	1, 2
5. Port Everglades	Broward	1, 2, 3, 4
6. Riviera	Palm Beach	3, 4
7. Sanford	Volusia	4, 5
8. Turkey Point	Dade	1, 2
Florida Power Corp.		
1. Andote	Pasco	1, 2
2. Bartow	Pinellas	2, 3
Jacksonville Electric Authority		
1. Northside	Duval	1, 2, 3
Orlando Utilities Commission		
1. Indian River	Brevard	2, 3
Tallahassee, City of		
1. Hopkins	Leon	2, 1
City of Gainesville		
1. Deerhaven	Alachua	2
City of Lakeland		
1. McIntosh	Polk	1, 2

31 powerplants, 15 stations.

BILLING CODE 6450-01-M



Map Key

Stations ●

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BILLING CODE 6450-51-C