

PRESS RELEASE

NDFC APPROVES DECOMMISSIONING REQUIREMENTS FOR FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT

The Nuclear Decommissioning Financing Committee has issued an order providing preliminary approval of a decommissioning funding program for Florida Power and Light as part of the company's bid to acquire approximately 88% of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Station. Approval from the NDFC is necessary before any company can acquire an ownership interest in Seabrook Station.

The NDFC is responsible for determining how the Seabrook Station will be dismantled and collecting in a decommissioning fund enough money to safely restore the site so it can be used for a non-nuclear purpose. Presently, it is estimated that it will cost approximately \$2.7 billion to decommission Seabrook Station, starting in 2026. Before Seabrook Station can be sold, the NDFC must be satisfied that the new owner will be able to pay for the decommissioning of its portion of the plant.

The NDFC is comprised of state officials and a representative from the Town of Seabrook. The present members are Thomas Getz, Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission, Michael Ablowich, Commissioner of the Treasury, Senator Thomas Eaton, Representative Stephen Sloan, Brook Dupee, Assistant Director of Health and Human Services, Scott Bryer, Department of Safety, Kirk Stone, Governor's Office of Energy, and Willard Boyle, Town of Seabrook.

Under the terms of the NDFC order, FPL will make annual payments into the decommissioning fund, with \$17.5 million being paid in 2003. Also, at the time of sale approximately \$58 million will be added to the decommissioning fund, and FPL will provide assurance that its parent company will pay decommissioning costs, even if Seabrook Station closes prematurely or fails to produce a profit.

"The structure imposed by the NDFC order will protect New Hampshire from having to bear the cost of decommissioning Seabrook Station, no matter how long it runs," stated NDFC Chairman Thomas Getz. FPL Group, a company with over \$17 billion in assets, will secure the payment of decommissioning costs. The Committee members are confident that the decommissioning obligations for Seabrook Station will be met and that the risk to the State will not be increased by permitting FPL to become the majority owner.

The NDFC will issue a final order on this aspect of the FPL acquisition of Seabrook Station after public comments are received at a public hearing in Seabrook on September 4, 2002.