



## **Nuclear Information & Resource Service**

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**Mary Olson**

**Southeast Regional Coordinator and Lead License Intervenor, Levy County 1 & 2  
Media Statement on Crystal River, February 5, 2013**

NIRS, and NIRS members near Crystal River congratulate Duke Energy in its decision not to pour more Florida customer money into repairing the failed reactor on the Gulf in the Nature Coast. The question of fixing the cracked Crystal River reactor has been a very real "fiscal cliff" for Duke ratepayers in Florida who would have been on the hook for the tab for \$1 --3 billion (or more) to fix this one problem, with no guarantee there would not be other problems.

"We celebrate the permanent closure of this nuclear reactor," said Mary Olson, NIRS lead intervenor in the challenge to a federal license for the proposed Levy County 1 & 2 COL, "Crystal River stands as a blaring siren warning against any further nuclear development; nuclear is the most expensive way to boil water, and the proposal to build two new reactors pose a tremendous risk of contaminating the crystal clear waters gushing from the freshwater springs of the Nature Coast."

NIRS and the Ecology Party of Florida are awaiting news from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on a challenge to the proposal to build two new reactors in Levy County, FL 9.6 miles from the Crystal River site. The challenge is focused at this point on protection of ground and surface waters from degradation, consumptive use and other direct, indirect and cumulative impacts.

"Billions have been spent on the Crystal River site over the years, and now it poses an enormous radioactive waste challenge. The massive facility will be radioactive to one degree or another which will (eventually) be shipped off the site -- and there are more than 500 tons of highly radioactive fuel rods there, for which even the federal regulator has recently admitted, there is no plan," said Olson.

Any further development of nuclear energy - - in Levy County -- or anywhere in Florida will only occur because the customers will be forced to also be investors. "Crystal River is a case study in bad investment, so why should the legislature, the regulators and most of all Duke Energy force households across Central Florida to make such an investment? They should instead foster the development of regulatory structures that capture the savings from energy efficiency in order to accelerate energy efficiency, reduce dangerous wastes and emissions. Figuring out how to use energy the is currently wasted creates jobs and facilitates the transition to a clean, sustainable energy future" said Olson.

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