



Via First Class Mail  
and email at [Lynda@miamidade.gov](mailto:Lynda@miamidade.gov)

**ETHICS COMMISSIONERS**

January 30, 2013

**Dawn Addy, CHAIR**  
**Charlton Copeland, VICE CHAIR**  
**Nelson Bellido**  
**Judge Seymour Gelber**  
**Kerry E. Rosenthal**

County Commissioner Lynda Bell, District 8  
Stephen P. Clark Center  
111 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 220  
Miami, FL 33128

**JOSEPH CENTORINO**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GENERAL COUNSEL

**Re: RQO 12-15**

A Commissioner's participation in hearings and voting on a zoning application related to Florida Power & Light (FPL) when the Commissioner's daughter is employed as a contract worker by FPL. *See* Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (d).

**MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI**  
ADVOCATE

Dear Commissioner Bell:

**MIRIAM S. RAMOS**  
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

IN A PUBLIC MEETING on January 24, 2013, the Miami-Dade Ethics Commission opined that you may participate in and vote on FPL's zoning permit application because you have none of the relationships with FPL enumerated in the County Code that would prohibit you from participating or voting, and you would not, directly or indirectly, profit or be enhanced by the vote.<sup>1</sup>

AS BACKGROUND, FPL is seeking to construct and operate a water treatment facility at Turkey Point. Your daughter is employed by FPL at Turkey Point as an entry-level Fire Watch Rover. This is a temporary contractual position without employee benefits. FPL employs approximately 1,000 permanent fulltime employees at Turkey Point and between 2,000 to 3,000 temporary contractual employees.

You have no financial interests in FPL and no financial or business relationships with FPL, other than being a customer. You do not personally profit financially from your daughter's employment with FPL. Additionally, your daughter has no expectation that her job would be enhanced or affected by the outcome of the pending zoning application.

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<sup>1</sup> Any of the following relationships with the entity coming before you may create a voting conflict—officer, director, partner, of counsel, consultant, employee, fiduciary, beneficiary, stockholder, bondholder, debtor, or creditor. *See* Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (d).

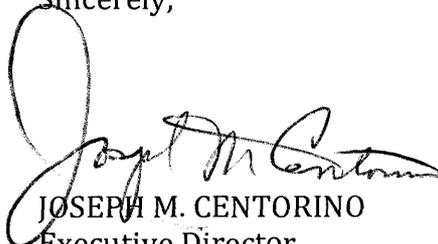
AS PART OF ITS ANALYSIS, the Ethics Commission took into consideration the relatively low-level employment held by your daughter with FPL, as well as the fact that you are one of 13 board members making this decision.

The County Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics provides a minimum standard of conduct for public officials. It does not directly address "appearance of impropriety" issues that should guide the actions of all public servants, nor does it address the subjective mindset of an elected official who, for reasons outside of the Code, does not feel capable of being fair or objective in a particular matter, due to personal or family considerations. Any public servant under such circumstances must use his or her own judgment in determining the proper course of action.

You may also wish to consult with the State of Florida Commission on Ethics to determine if any conflicts exist under state law.

Please feel free to contact me or Victoria Frigo, Staff Attorney, if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH M. CENTORINO  
Executive Director

**RQO 12-15**  
County  
Commissioner  
Lynda Bell

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