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COMMISSION CLERK

County Administration

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Florida Public Service Commission
Blanca S. Bayo, Director
Division of the Commission Clerk
And Administrative Services
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RE: Docket No. 040278-GU

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Palm Beach County is currently developing a project known as the Biotechnology Research Park. The primary focus of the project is to provide an eastern seaboard home for The Scripps Research Institute.

This project is the anchor of the State of Florida's highest priority economic development project. The State and Palm Beach County together have invested over \$500 million in capturing the significant economic activity that surrounds Scripps science.

The target date for Scripps Florida to open its doors, set by the Governor, is October 2006. Needless to say, this is a very aggressive schedule. A major task in meeting this schedule is the provision of a reliable, high-volume source of natural gas to both Scripps and to the other R&D tenants in the park.

It is critical, therefore, that the Florida Public Service Commission move quickly to resolve the territorial dispute before it between the Florida Public Utilities Company (FPUC) and Peoples Gas System (PGS). It is also of highest concern to the County that the selected provider be the one which is able to best meet our demanding schedule with a reliable source of natural gas.

Palm Beach County respectfully suggests that the PSC consider among other criteria, the relative distance that service must be extended to our site and the permitting issues involved in the extension. It is important to note that extension of service from the South can proceed along currently owned and constructed right of way. Extensions from the North require right of way along the portion of Seminole Pratt and Whitney Road that is currently not constructed nor permitted. Extensions from the East require right of way along the extension of PGA Blvd. West of the Bee Line Highway that is not yet available and will pose significant permitting challenges not easily resolvable in a short time period.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. Should you have any questions regarding the Scripps Project, feel free to give me a call at 561/355-2428 or email me at [bbeaudet@co.palm-beach.fl.us](mailto:bbeaudet@co.palm-beach.fl.us).

Sincerely,

  
Bevin A. Beaudet, P.E.  
Scripps Program Manager

cc: Verdenia Baker, Deputy County Administrator  
Audrey Wolf, Director, Facilities, Development & Operations  
Jim Mize, Assistant County Attorney  
Ms. Cheryl Bulecza-Banks  
Mr. Wayne Makin  
Mr. Ed Mills