

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: May 26, 2010
TO: Ann Cole, Commission Clerk
FROM: Mark Long, Assistant to Commissioner Klement *ML*
RE: Docket #090451-EM - Joint Petition to Determine Need for Gainesville Renewable Energy Center in Alachua County, by Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC.

This office has received the attached letter from Karen Orr regarding the above-noted docket.

The letter has not been viewed or considered in any way by Commissioner Klement and by virtue of that fact, the letter does not constitute an ex parte communication. Please place a copy of the correspondence in the record of the above-referenced docket.

ML/ba

Attachment

DOCUMENT NUMBER: DATE
04436 MAY 26 2010
FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

May 25, 2010

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket 090451

Dear Commissioner Klement,

My husband and I have been residents of Gainesville and customers of Gainesville Regional Utilities since 1978.

We are asking the Public Service Commissioners to deny the certification of need applied for by GRU/GREC.

Please vote no to this unnecessary and unaffordable proposal.

Gainesville does not need more electric power; it currently has a 62 percent reserve for the next two decades. The existing power plants are reliable and have been enhanced recently with expensive pollution controls and upgrades.

The proposed 100 MW tree burning "biomass" power plant would burn two tons of wood per minute and would spew almost twice as much carbon dioxide as the coal plant. The estimated 2 billion pounds of CO₂ every year would accelerate global warming.

An estimated 1,225 large diesel trucks delivering wood weekly would add very serious air pollution, cause traffic problems and be a financial burden for taxpayers to maintain local roads.

The Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases are a danger to public health and welfare. Gainesville should not add pollution to our air or deplete our potable water resources.

Burning wood increases the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. Cutting down trees reduces the amount of CO₂ absorbed by trees and taken out of the atmosphere.

We have less than a decade to rein in the increasing levels of CO₂ to prevent serious global consequences. Biomass burning power plants will only accelerate climate change.

The EPA recently announced that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced from burning wood to produce electricity will be treated like emissions produced by burning fossil fuels.

GRU has based its strategy on the false idea that biomass is carbon neutral. GRU managers imagine they can reap large profits with carbon credits under a number of yet-to-be enacted state and federal laws.

GRU's imagined profits of between \$5 and \$20 for each of the 334 thousand tons of CO2 that the proposed biomass plant will emit every year are illusory.

GRU's proposed wood burning "biomass" power plant is an obsolete technology. It will be extremely expensive to retrofit with air pollution controls. Expensive pollution controls are not currently planned for and will be required by new EPA regulations.

GRU's proposal for a wood burning "biomass" plant is an unnecessary and expensive risk for the ratepayers. Please vote to deny the petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Orr".

Karen Orr
Gainesville

Cc: Chairwoman Argenziano and Public Service Commissioners

Karen Ann
715 NE 2nd St.
Gainesville, FL 32601

GAINESVILLE FL 326

25 MAY 2004 PM 11



Commissioner David Herant
Florida Public Service Commission
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