

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 8:15 AM
To: Ellen Plendl
Cc: Ann Cole; Dorothy Menasco
Subject: FW: Email

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION:

Attachments: FW: Please share this with PSC; Re: Gainesville =GRU Biomass plant



FW: Please Re: Gainesville
are this with PS(GRU Biomass p.

Thank you for this information. These attachments have been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EI.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 8:13 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Ann Cole; Dorothy Menasco
Subject: Email

See attached email and response to be placed in correspondence side of Docket No. 090451-EI.

Diamond Williams

From: Governor Charlie Crist [Charlie.Crist@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 1:24 PM
To: Ellen Plendl
Subject: FW: Please share this with PSC

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott, Joni [mailto:Joni.Scott@dep.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 1:17 PM
To: Governor Charlie Crist
Subject: Please share this with PSC

Thanks,
Joni Scott
DEP Public Services

The Department of Environmental Protection values your feedback as a customer. DEP Secretary Michael W. Sole is committed to continuously assessing and improving the level and quality of services provided to you. Please take a few minutes to comment on the quality of service you received. Copy the url below to a web browser to complete the DEP survey:
<http://survey.dep.state.fl.us/?refemail=Joni.Scott@dep.state.fl.us> Thank you in advance for completing the survey.

From: Governor Charlie Crist [mailto:Charlie.Crist@eog.myflorida.com]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 10:05 AM
To: Office of Citizens Services
Subject: FW: Gainesville =GRU Biomass plant

-----Original Message-----

From: Dino schibuola [mailto:dus1945@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 10:04 AM
To: Governor Charlie Crist
Subject: Gainesville =GRU Biomass plant

Dear Governor Crist,
Recently the PSC you appointed basically overturned their previous position and voted to authorize the city of Gainesville to proceed with above project.
Every credible study finds that no expansion is needed for at least 20 years.
The current coal plant could be easily and cheaply expanded when and if the need arise and it benefits from the existing railroad siding and infrastructure while the biomass add-on would re Dino S.

Diamond Williams

From: Randy Roland
Sent: Monday, June 07, 2010 8:09 AM
To: 'dus1945@yahoo.com'
Subject: Re: Gainesville =GRU Biomass plant

Mr. Dino Schibuola
dus1945@yahoo.com

Dear Mr. Schibuola:

The Governor's office forwarded a copy of your email regarding Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) to the Florida Public Service Commission(PSC). The PSC regulates investor-owned electric, natural gas, and telecommunications utilities throughout Florida, and investor-owned water and wastewater utilities in those counties which have opted to transfer jurisdiction to the PSC. You expressed concerns about the joint petition to determine need for Gainesville Renewable Energy Center in Alachua County, by Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC.

On May 27, 2010, the PSC approved the need for a renewable energy plant in Gainesville.

Although the PSC has no rate-making authority over GRU, the PSC must review and approve all building proposals for more than 75 megawatts of steam electrical generation. PSC Commissioners heard GRU customer comments about the proposed plant at a December 9, 2009, customer meeting in Gainesville and at two technical hearings in Tallahassee, where the utility and GREC gave testimony, on May 3, 2010, and May 27, 2010, respectively.

Any rate impact on GRU customers would be the result of Gainesville City Commission policy decisions to pursue additional renewable generation. Environmental impacts and other issues related to the power plant and associated facilities will be considered by those agencies with jurisdiction.

I will add your comments to the correspondence side of Docket No. 090451-EI.

If you have any questions, please contact Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

Randy Roland
Regulatory Program Administrator
Division of Service, Safety & Consumer Assistance Florida Public Service Commission

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 ___Administrative___ Parties Consumer
 DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
 DISTRIBUTION: _____

Ann Cole

090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:45 AM
To: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: MEDIA ADVISORY Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal
Attachments: PSC-GREC-MEDIA ADVISORY.5.27.10.doc

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:16 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: MEDIA ADVISORY Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

Please place this correspondence in Docket No. 090451-EM. Thanks, Ann.

Roberta

Roberta S. Bass
 Chief Advisor to Commissioner Edgar
 Florida Public Service Commission
 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399
 (850) 413-6016 (Office)
 (850) 413-6017 (Facsimile)
 (850) 559-7291 (Mobile)
roberta.bass@psc.state.fl.us

From: Michael Canney [<mailto:alachuagreen@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:04 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Klement; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Stevens
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

MEDIA ADVISORY

Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 27, 2010

Contacts
 Dian Deevey 352 373 0181 diandv@bellsouth.net
 Paula Stahmer 352 222 1063. paulastahmr@aol.com

5/28/2010

Michael Canney 352 278 4031 alachuagreen@gmail.com
 Karen Orr 352 372 8712 karen@energyjustice.net

GAINESVILLE, FL – May 27 As the Florida Public Service Commission convenes today to reach a final decision on permitting a new 100 Megawatt power generation facility in Gainesville, opponents of the project are calling on the PSC commissioners to deny the Certification of Need applied for by Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC (GREC). Citizen Interveners Paula Stahmer and Dian Deevey have presented extensive arguments in opposition to the Petitioners' application, and they are asking the PSC to take a new EPA rule on carbon emissions into account as they evaluate the Petitioners' application.

According to Intervener Dian Deevey, "The City Commissioners and citizens who promoted this biomass plant will be devastated when they fully realize how much ratepayers will suffer and how long the City will be in hock to American Renewables or its successor company." Deevey is an Environmental Scientist and current chair of the Alachua County Environmental Advisory Committee.

Paula Stahmer, Gainesville resident and former Conservation Chair of the Suwannee-St. John's Sierra Club, has questioned both the need for the power plant and the escalated cost. "The highly inflated expense of this unnecessary project will end up costing ratepayers billions over the 30 years of the contract," Stahmer said, "and this huge public investment will be for antiquated technology that is not carbon neutral, despite what plant proponents might claim." Stahmer warns that a new EPA rule released on May 14 calls into question the claim by the Petitioners that woody biomass incineration is "carbon neutral." The interveners have filed a motion asking the PSC to reopen the hearing to consider how this new EPA rule may affect the economic viability of the project.

Citizens have been speaking out in public meetings, writing letters and op-ed articles, and submitting public testimony to the PSC during the hearing process. Local groups expressing opposition to the power plant include the Alachua County Green Party, the Energy Justice Network, Suwannee-St. Johns Group of the Sierra Club (SSJ Sierra Club), the Alachua County NAACP, and Women for Wise Growth. State groups include the Florida League of Conservation Voters (FLCV), the and Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise (FAID)

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President of the Alachua County Branch of the NAACP, says, "The Alachua County Branch of the NAACP does not object to the building of a biomass plant. We object the building of a plant so soon, the size of the plant, and the impact the cost of the plant will have on the bills of members of the low socioeconomic and minority communities, who are already paying rates at the highest tier."

Karen Orr, Chairwoman of the Energy Justice Network, actively opposes the biomass project. Orr says "Biomass incineration is not green, it's not sustainable, it's not healthy, it's not renewable, it's not carbon neutral, it's not environmentally-friendly and it's not ecologically sound."

Tom Bussing, PhD, former mayor of Gainesville, says, "The ratepayers will end up paying for this folly, with jacked up bills and "stranded assets" littering our generation portfolio. All for another 100 megawatts of overcapacity, for power that we do not need." Dr. Bussing calls into question the Gainesville City Commission's process for approving the plant. "It is a mystery to me how the Gainesville City commissioners were able to plan their coordinated and well-orchestrated performances, under the Florida Sunshine Law. The lack of transparency has been scandalous," Bussing said, "Rather than depend upon their factual filings, the Petitioners have orchestrated a political dog-and-pony show for the PSC, in order to pressure the Commissioners to make a decision in their favor."

Michael Canney, co-chair of the Alachua County Green Party and spokesperson for the Green Party of Florida, says his party opposes the GREC biomass project. "Greens have long advocated investment in renewable energy technologies, but this project is not ecologically sound or economically responsible," Canney said. "I was shocked when I saw how GRU and American Renewables hid important information from the public, and how they pulled a 'bait and switch' when the final contract was drawn up." Canney adds, "The City Commission's eagerness to approve a \$500 million dollar boondoggle was extremely disappointing, when the original 'binding contract' called for a \$300 million project and there was no credible justification provided for the radically increased cost. If the Public Service Commission sets politics aside and rules strictly on the merits of this application, they will vote to deny this overpriced and unnecessary project."

References

5/28/2010

PSC Docket No. 090451-EM (all documents filed in case)
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/dockets/cms/docketFilings2.aspx?docket=090451>

GRU/GREC Petition to determine need for 100Mw biomass plant in Alachua County
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/09/09699-09/09699-09.pdf>

Redacted Power Purchase Agreement signed 4/29/09, filed 10/23/09
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/09/10821-09/10821-09.pdf>

Redacted Haddad reports
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/10/04091-10/04091-10.pdf>

Interveners' Amended Joint Emergency Motion to reopen - 04417-10 May 25, 2010
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/10/04417-10/04417-10.pdf>

'Biomass' Fact Sheet <http://www.energyjustice.net/biomass/burning.html>
Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise <http://www.biomeass.net>
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FLCV Op-Ed in the Gainesville Sun: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100414/OPINION03/4141001/-1/OPINION>

Background: Cost of plant rose from \$300 million to \$500 million with no oversight by Gainesville City Commission

In January 2009, GRU hired a private consulting firm to evaluate the escalated cost of the plant. In a report produced in February, Haddad Resource Management stated: " ...the proposed escalator applied to the timeframe that would have affected pricing cannot substantiate a requested 42% cost based increase...." The Haddad report went on to say that "the price for the project in December 2008 should have been 2% less expensive than the original price proposed." Ignoring the information in the Haddad reports, much of which was redacted and hidden from the public, GRU and the Commission signed a final contract with a price increase of \$200 million (about 66% over the original price proposed).

MEDIA ADVISORY

Local citizens call on PSC to deny Certificate of Need for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 27, 2010

Contacts

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Paula Stahmer 352 222 1063. paulastahmr@aol.com

Michael Canney 352 278 4031 alachuaagreen@gmail.com

Karen Orr 352 372-8712 karen@energyjustice.net

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References

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FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE

Ann Cole

090451-EM

Administrative Parties Consumer

DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09

DISTRIBUTION: _____

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:44 AM
To: Bill McNulty
Cc: Cristina Slaton; Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Docket No. 090451-EI Correspondence.

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Bill McNulty
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2010 10:09 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Cristina Slaton
Subject: Docket No. 090451-EI Correspondence.

Ann,

Betty Johnson of Madison, Florida called yesterday to voice her concerns as a Florida citizen about the Commission's vote yesterday on Docket No. 090451-EI (GRU/GREC Need Determination). She stated there was not a genuine need for the plant, the cost impact was too high, and statutory concerns were not met. She indicated she will be contacting the Governor's office to relay these same concerns.

Please place this in the correspondence side of the docket file.

Thank you,

Bill

*Bill McNulty
Chief Advisor to Commissioner Skop
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0855
(850) 413-6028 (office)
(850) 413-6029 (fax)
bmcnulty@psc.state.fl.us*

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 27, 2010

TO: Dorothy E. Meriasco, Chief Deputy Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: *Anna Cole*, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

RE: Request to Place Documents in the Correspondence File

Please place the attached information in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM, as requested by the Office of Chairman Argenziano.

Letter to Chairman Argenziano from Ron Saff, M.D. (with envelope)

Letter to Chairman Argenziano from Karen Orr (with envelope)

Letter to Chairman Argenziano from Monica Cooper (with envelope)

Thank you.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
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DISTRIBUTION: _____		

0910451 EM

Allergy & Asthma

DIAGNOSTIC TREATMENT CENTER

Ronald H. Saff, M.D.
Board Certified Allergy & Immunology
Board Certified Internal Medicine
Certified Clinical Research Investigator ACRP
Certified Physician Investigator AAPP

Christine Stabley, PA-C
Certified Physician Assistant

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
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5/18/2010

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

RE: Gainesville Biomass

Dear Commissioner,

I was the asthma specialist from the Environment and Health Section of the Florida Med Assoc who was the first speaker at the PSC meeting who addressed you about deadly emissions from biomass plants. Many of the same deadly chemicals including benzene and volatile organic compounds present in the Gulf oil spill are the same harmful ones found in biomass plants emissions!(Oil spill may endanger health.doc) Since I spoke, I have found out about other medical and environmental organizations that have raised concerns about these poison producing biomass plants in addition to the Fla Med Assoc, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR_press_release.pdf) and Massachusetts Medical Society (massmed.doc) and American Lung Association that I mentioned. Specifically, the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians is troubled about" the numerous and serious adverse health consequences that can result from human exposure to the components of emissions of biomass burning"(North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians.doc). A letter from Biofuelwatch and the Biomass Accountability Project to the National Sierra Club stated "biomass is dirty energy and should not be promoted as a bridge to a clean energy future and notes that "wood burning biomass releases 1.5X as much carbon dioxide per megawatt as coal."

In short, just like we know the deadly consequences of smoking cigarettes, the medical evidence about the dangers of biomass plant emissions are well known to the medical community and are compelling. That is because cigarette smoke and biomass plant emissions share some of the same lethal chemicals: carbon monoxide and acrolein. I am not sure who this Dr. Cantwell is whose testimony was read to you, but she is not a member of the Florida Medical Association's Env and Health Section, and just like you will find a few kooky scientists who will testify that there is no such thing as global warming, there are a few oddball physicians that are ignorant of the science and will use fallacies rather than facts.

The Scientific American article (A Path to Sustainable Energy.pdf) I provided dismissed biofuel plants as too polluting and stated that we can meet our energy needs from wind, water and solar but the barrier is political. As a PSC Commissioner, you can serve to catalyze the transition to truly clean energy. The American Lung Association has previously pointed out (ALA_national_letter.pdf), in this country of vast technological resources, nobody should be

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10 MAY 27 AM 9:39
COMMISSION
CLERK

forced to sacrifice their health for the production of electricity and they oppose biomass plants. The Gulf spill exemplifies the need for our leaders to protect our health rather than letting polluting industries make decisions that enrich them at the expense of our precious well being. Numerous attachments are above. Thanks, and feel free to call 850-766-7886.

Important points highlighted.

Ron Saff, MD

Member, Environment and Health Section Florida Medical Association
Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

June 24, 2009

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

61 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10006-2701
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 315-8800

www.LungUSA.org

Stephen J. Nolan, Esq.
Chair

Mary H. Partridge
Chair-elect

Bruce A. Herring
Past-Chair

H. James Gooden
Secretary

Terrence L. Johnston
Treasurer

Albert J. Rizzo, MD
Nationwide Assembly
Speaker

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey:

As you consider legislation to address global climate change and energy policy, the American Lung Association urges you to use this opportunity to target widespread pollutants that can both directly harm lung health of millions of Americans and worsen global climate change. At a minimum, we urge you to select mechanisms that prevent increases in ambient air pollution and hazardous air pollutants.

Over 186 million Americans continue to live and breathe in areas with unhealthy air in the United States. The American Lung Association supports aggressive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that maximize co-benefits of reducing criteria pollutants and provide near-term public health benefits. These strategies include ambitious programs to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel combustion and promote cleaner alternative vehicle technologies and fuels. These require real changes: substantial increases in clean renewable energy resources; a transformation of the land use planning process to emphasize smart growth policies that promote alternatives to driving; and, as well, significant reductions in power plant and industrial emissions.

We urge you to consider approaches that target two critical two critical pollutants well within reach—black carbon and ozone. Black carbon, or diesel soot, and ozone not only significantly impact global warming but also endanger public health. Black carbon from diesel, a mixture of 40 different toxic substances, increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Ozone, the most commonly encountered pollutant in America's cities, damages lung capacity and aggravates asthma. Both pollutants send people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases to the hospital and emergency room. Both cut short the lives of thousands of people every year. Because black carbon particles and ozone have significantly shorter life-spans in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, immediate controls can make a near-term difference in the level of global warming, as well has have immediate health benefits.

Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey
June 24, 2009
Page 2

The legislation should support state and local air pollution control efforts and include strong controls on major sources of emissions. Please include stronger controls on coal-fired power plants and other major industrial sources that also reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other toxic air contaminant emissions.

The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

The American Lung Association thanks you for the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Connor".

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO

North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Dee Freeman
Secretary
N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Dear Secretary Freeman:

In recognition of the numerous and serious adverse health consequences that can result from human exposure to the components of emissions of biomass burning, the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians (NCAFP) is issuing a letter of concern regarding the development of biomass burning plants in the State of North Carolina.

Biomass burning of poultry litter and wood wastes creates emissions of particulate matter that research has shown increase the risk of premature death, asthma, chronic bronchitis, and heart disease. (1, 2) This burning process also creates numerous byproducts, including nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that increase smog and ozone, which are known to increase lung disease and mortality (3); sulfur dioxides which also contribute to respiratory disease (4); arsenic which can increase the risk of cancer (5); mercury which can increase the risk of brain and kidney disease and affect the developing fetus (6); and dioxins which may increase the risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes mellitus, developmental delays in children, neurotoxicity, and thyroid disease (7). These health effects would increase disability and death in all age groups, but particularly in the most vulnerable developing fetuses, newborns, children, those with chronic illness, and the elderly. As a result of this increased disability and disease, medical costs in the state will increase.

One of the reasons for encouraging renewable energy through legislation like the North Carolina Clean Smokestack law was to provide cleaner air for citizens. However, there is concern that burning of poultry litter may result in similar or greater emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide to coalburning plants (8). The NCAFP requests that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources strongly consider the potentially harmful consequences to the health and wellbeing of North Carolina citizens when contemplating the permitting of biomass burning plants in the state.

With best regards,

R.W. (Chip) Watkins, MD, MPH
President, NC Academy of Family Physicians

cc: Jeffrey P. Engle, MD, North Carolina State Health Director
Jennifer L. Mullendore, MD, Co-Chair, NCAFP Health of the Public Council
Thomas R. White, MD, Co-Chair, NCAFP Health of the Public Council
Gregory K. Griggs, MPA, CAE, NCAFP Executive Vice President

RETHINKING "HOBBITS"
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS ADVISORY
February 4, 2010**

Contact:

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**PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/PIONEER VALLEY OPPOSE
CONSTRUCTION OF BIOMASS POWER PLANTS IN THE PIONEER VALLEY**

It is the finding of the Physicians for Social Responsibility that the biomass power plants being proposed for several Pioneer Valley locations would contribute to particulate air pollution emissions in a region that already has pollution problems, and therefore we oppose the construction and operation of such plants.

Particulate air pollution is deadly. This has been stated by the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, the World Health Association, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. According to the World Health Association roughly 800,000 people globally die annually from exposure to particulate air pollution.

Since the Stone Age hominids have been dependent on biomass combustion as an energy source for heating, cooking, and even protection from wild beasts. The ancient Roman philosopher Seneca (61 AD) noted the adverse health effects of combustion-related "pestilential vapors and soot". Since medieval times air pollution from combustion has been recognized as a cause of adverse health effects, which lead to the banning of coal burning in London in the 13 century and again during Elizabeth I's reign. Particulate air pollution, specifically, has been recognized a cause of excess mortality since the infamous London Fog episode of 1952 which was responsible for thousands of deaths. Currently, the World Health Organization estimates particulate air pollution to be the 13th leading cause of death globally.

Hundreds more modern epidemiologic studies have described an association between elevated particulate air pollution levels and mortality and other adverse health effects.

In the 1980s many large cross sectional studies observed an association between living in an area with higher particulate air pollution levels and increased mortality rates. Since the 1990s time series studies have consistently shown that when particulate air pollution rises, within a day or two mortality rates increase. Case control studies identified the groups at increased risk of death during these episodes; these are the elderly, and those with chronic heart and lung disease. Since the 1990s prospective cohort studies have followed individuals with defined risk characteristics (for example, smoking, occupation, etc) and found that those living in areas with higher particulate air pollution levels have a higher risk of dying.

Strikingly, these associations have a linear dose response relationship. Thus, as particulate air pollution levels rise, mortality rates rise; as pollution levels drop, mortality rates drop. Studies have consistently not observed a threshold for this effect, in other words, the excess mortality effect is observed down to very low air pollution levels, well below those levels that the US EPA officially considers safe according to their National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Reportedly the EPA is reconsidering those standards to bring them more in line with the scientific data.

The association between particulate air pollution levels and mortality is considered causal; in other words, the scientific research has satisfied the criteria for considering the association proven. This is based on a clear dose response relationship, a remarkable consistency of the results observed by many different investigators using different techniques in different geographic regions, even throughout the world. Furthermore, the association is consistent with findings of many studies which find adverse health effects of particulate air pollution: increased asthma attacks, increased asthma medication use, increased days lost from school and work due to chest illness, increased emergency room use for heart and lung disease, and increased hospitalization rates. Additionally, the biological mechanisms have been clarified in recent years: particulate air pollution causes anginal chest pain, electrocardiogram changes indicating inadequate oxygen supply to the heart, increases in cardiac autonomic instability, increases in cardiac rhythm disturbances, and increases in myocardial infarction (heart attack). Indeed, there is no known component of the unstable cardiac syndrome which is not exacerbated by particulate air pollution continues. This concatenation of findings has led the scientific community to consider the association between exposure to particulate air pollution and increased cardiac and pulmonary mortality to be considered causal.

Most recently, a study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*¹ examined life expectancy in 211 counties associated with 51 United States cities; this study found that a decrease in 10 microgram per cubic meter in air pollution levels was associated with a 0.6 year improvement in life expectancy. Interestingly, Springfield, Massachusetts was a city included in the study. According to the interactive graphic published on the associated web site, from 1978 to 1982 Springfield has a PM2.5 (fine particulate air pollution) level of 17.6 microgram per cubic meter, and from 1997 to 2001, PM2.5 was 11.5 . This drop in air pollution was accompanied by an increase in life expectancy from 74.7 to 77.1 years. Elimination of particulate air pollution would be expected to result in an increase in life expectancy of most of a year. Clearly, any increase in air pollution, as would result from the construction of a major new particulate air pollution source, would result in a lowering of life expectancy, trending to reverse gains made in the last 20 years.

If the proposed biomass power plants are built in the Pioneer Valley, the resulting excess air pollution would exacerbate an already unacceptable public health burden.

¹ Pope CA III, Ezzati M, and Dockery DW. Fine-Particulate Air Pollution and Life Expectancy in the United States. *N Engl J Med* 2009;360:376-86)

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Oil spill may endanger human health, officials say

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By JOHN FLESHER (AP) – May 7, 2010

NEW ORLEANS — With a huge and unpredictable oil slick drifting in the Gulf of Mexico, state and federal authorities are preparing to deal with a variety of hazards to human health if and when the full brunt of the toxic mess washes ashore.

The list of potential threats runs from temporary, minor nuisances such as runny noses and headaches to long-term risks such as cancer if contaminated seafood ends up in the marketplace. While waiting to see how bad things will get, public health agencies are monitoring air quality, drinking water supplies and seafood processing plants and advising people to take precautions.

"We don't know how long this spill will last or how much oil we'll be dealing with, so there's a lot of unknowns," said Dr. Jimmy Guidry, Louisiana's state health director. "But we're going to make things as safe as humanly possible."

Oil has been spewing into the Gulf at a rate of at least 200,000 gallons a day since an offshore drilling rig exploded on April 20, killing 11 people. Little if any has reached land thus far, but shifts in wind speed and direction could propel the slick toward populated areas.

In a possible hint of things to come, a foul stench drifted over parts of southwestern Louisiana last week. The oil probably was the culprit, said Alan Levine, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, whose office heard about dozens of complaints — even from state legislators in New Orleans, some 130 miles from the leaky undersea well.

"Their eyes were burning, they felt nauseated, they were smelling it," Levine said.

Farther up the coast at Shell Beach, marina operator and commercial fisherman Robert Campo said the smell gave him a headache as he collected oysters 20 miles offshore. "It was rotten," he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun round-the-clock air monitoring in Gulf coastal areas and posting online hourly readings for ozone and tiny particles such as soot. Both can cause respiratory problems and are particularly aggravating for people with chronic conditions such as asthma.

Crude oil emits volatile organic compounds that react with nitrogen oxides to produce ozone. Fires being set by the Coast Guard to burn off oil on the water's surface would produce sooty, acrid smoke.

"We don't know what the impacts are going to be yet," said Dave Bary, an EPA spokesman in Dallas. "We don't know in what direction this oil will go."

The potential for unhealthy air quality depends on a variety of factors, particularly the speed and direction of winds that could disperse fumes and determine where they go, said Jonathan Ward, an environmental toxicology professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

With the leaky Gulf well some 50 miles offshore, Ward said much of the oil vapor likely wouldn't reach land, although the potential for air pollution from the slick will remain as long as the leak continues.

Public health agencies in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi advised people near the coast who experience nausea, headaches or other smell-related ailments to stay inside, turn on air conditioners and avoid exerting themselves outdoors.

In addition to air pollution, officials also were guarding against health problems from tainted drinking water and seafood.

Some communities, including New Orleans, get their supplies from the Mississippi River. Its southerly currents will prevent oil from drifting upstream to city intake pipes, and the Coast Guard is making sure that any ships with oil-coated hulls are scrubbed down before proceeding up the river, Guidry said.

Even so, the state health department has ordered testing of municipal water systems near the Gulf for signs of oil.

"It's next to impossible that a high amount would get in," Guidry said. "Even if some got through, more than likely the treatment system would eliminate it."

The department this week began taking samples at seafood processing plants. Officials have ordered a temporary moratorium on fishing in federal waters from the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle, but sampling will provide benchmarks enabling scientists to track any increases in contaminant levels once fishing is allowed to resume.

Louisiana health officials said they believe fish, shrimp and other Gulf delicacies already on the market are safe.

"If we see increases in hydrocarbons or other contaminants, we'd stop the flow of seafood," Levine said.

Even after the immediate crisis passes, risks could linger for years, said Gina Solomon, an associate professor at the University of California-San Francisco medical school and a senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Exposure to some of the chemicals in oil has been linked to cancer," Solomon said. "Those chemicals can get into sediments in the Gulf, build in the food chain and be a long-term problem in fish and shellfish."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with epidemiologists in the Gulf states to develop studies of health repercussions from the oil spill, Guidry said.

Yet another hazard is direct contact with oil-saturated water — particularly for cleanup crews and volunteers involved in animal rescue operations.

When the container ship Cosco Busan hit a bridge and released 53,000 gallons of highly toxic bunker fuel into San Francisco Bay in November 2007, officials managing the cleanup ordered volunteers to wear protective suits, gloves and masks that later were discarded at a hazardous waste dump. Some oil fouled beaches, which were closed to prevent danger to the public.

People working around the Gulf spill should be equipped with respirator devices and wear heavy-duty gloves and protective clothing to guard against painful skin rashes, said Solomon, who has treated patients exposed to oil fumes.

"The workers absolutely need to be protected," Solomon said.

Associated Press Writer Jason Dearen contributed to this story from San Francisco.

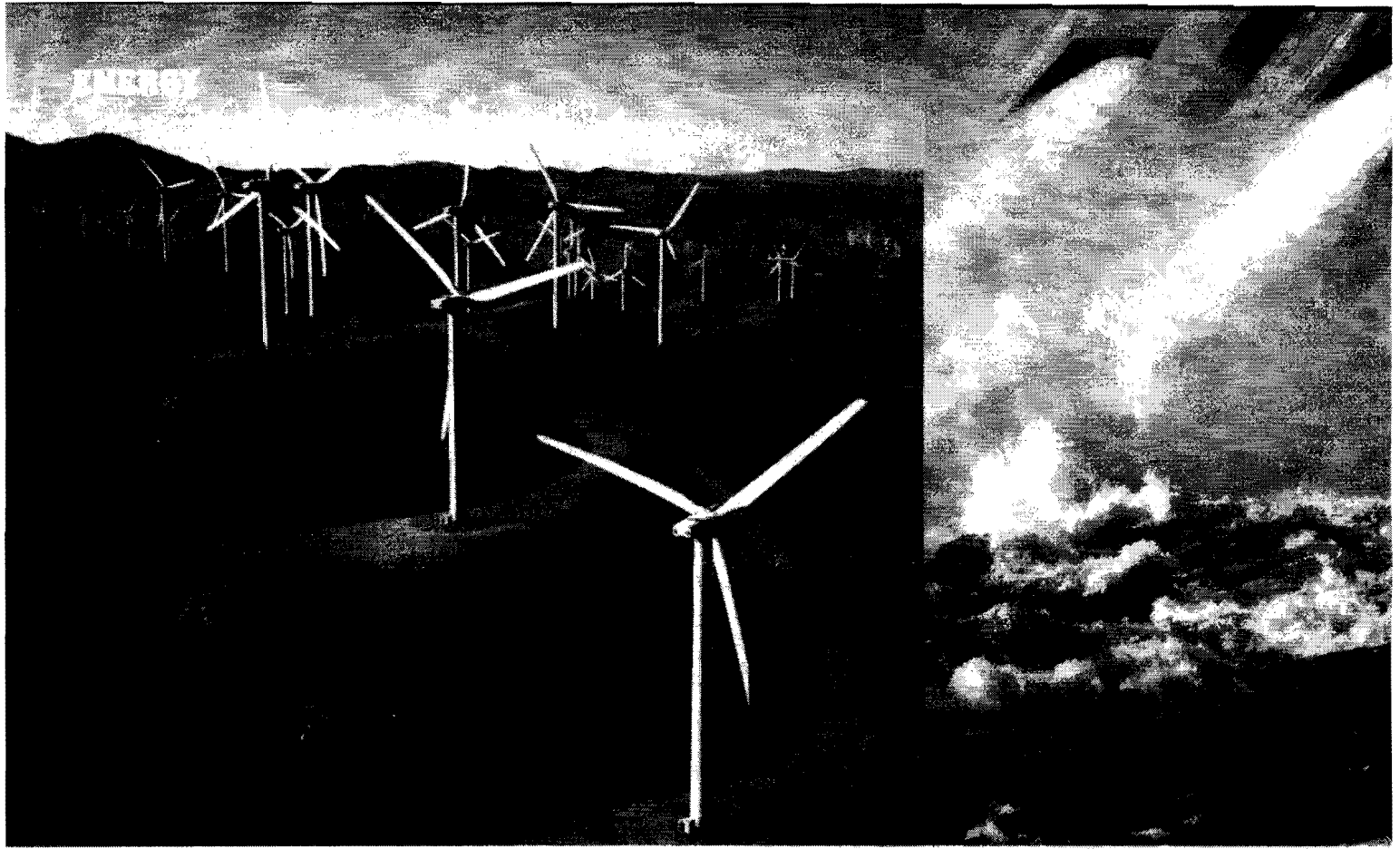
Mass. Medical Society

The press release is at

<http://www.massmed.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home6&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=32777>

Here is an excerpt

“In an effort to reduce air pollution and promote public health, delegates approved a four-point resolution regarding biomass power plants. The resolution stated that the Society (1) urge state government to adopt policies to minimize the approval and construction of new biomass plants; (2) declared Medical Society opposition to the three currently proposed large-scale power plants in the state on the grounds that each facility poses an unacceptable public health risk, (3) urge state and federal governments to remove large-scale biomass electricity generation plants from the list of technologies eligible to receive renewable energy credits, federal stimulus funds, and Mass. Technology Collaborative loans; and (4) urge state government to extend Department of Environmental Protection regulatory authority to small-scale biomass facilities to ensure that the most protective air pollution emissions controls are used.”



A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BY 2030

Wind, water and solar technologies can provide 100 percent of the world's energy, eliminating all fossil fuels. HERE'S HOW

By Mark Z. Jacobson
and Mark A. Delucchi

In December leaders from around the world will meet in Copenhagen to try to agree on cutting back greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come. The most effective step to implement that goal would be a massive shift away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy sources. If leaders can have confidence that such a transformation is possible, they might commit to an historic agreement. We think they can.

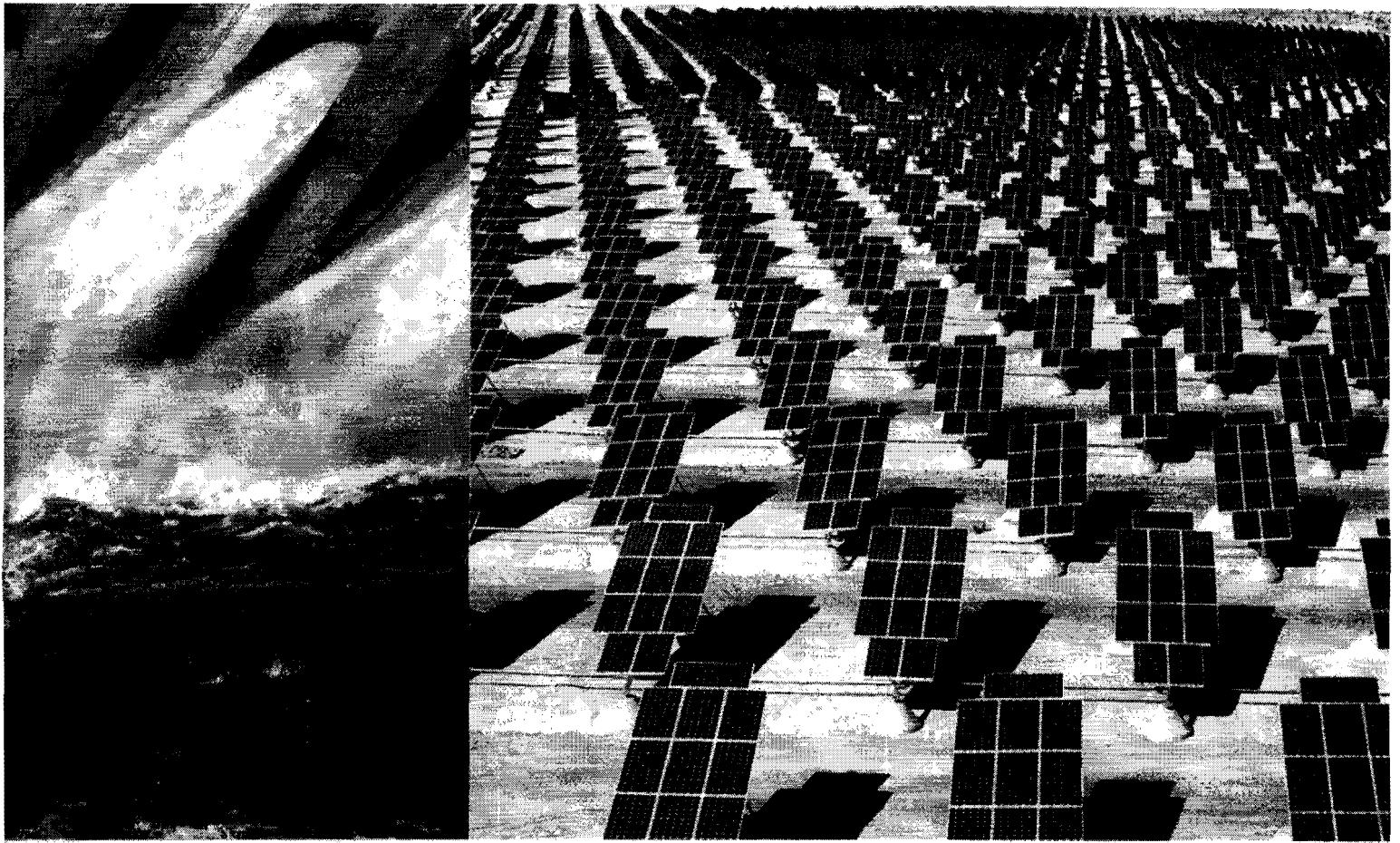
A year ago former vice president Al Gore threw down a gauntlet: to repower America with 100 percent carbon-free electricity within 10 years. As the two of us started to evaluate the feasibility of such a change, we took on an even larger challenge: to determine how 100 percent of the world's energy, for *all* purposes, could be supplied by wind, water and solar resources, by as early as 2030. Our plan is presented here.

Scientists have been building to this moment

for at least a decade, analyzing various pieces of the challenge. Most recently, a 2009 Stanford University study ranked energy systems according to their impacts on global warming, pollution, water supply, land use, wildlife and other concerns. The very best options were wind, solar, geothermal, tidal and hydroelectric power—all of which are driven by wind, water or sunlight (referred to as WWS). Nuclear power, coal with carbon capture, and ethanol were all poorer options, as were oil and natural gas. The study also found that battery-electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles recharged by WWS options would largely eliminate pollution from the transportation sector.

Our plan calls for millions of wind turbines, water machines and solar installations. The numbers are large, but the scale is not an insurmountable hurdle; society has achieved massive

©Darrin J. Austin/Photo Disc/Getty Images; Billie L. Smith/Photo Disc/Getty Images



transformations before. During World War II, the U.S. retooled automobile factories to produce 300,000 aircraft, and other countries produced 486,000 more. In 1956 the U.S. began building the Interstate Highway System, which after 35 years extended for 47,000 miles, changing commerce and society.

Is it feasible to transform the world's energy systems? Could it be accomplished in two decades? The answers depend on the technologies chosen, the availability of critical materials, and economic and political factors.

Clean Technologies Only

Renewable energy comes from enticing sources: wind, which also produces waves; water, which includes hydroelectric, tidal and geothermal energy (water heated by hot underground rock); and sun, which includes photovoltaics and solar power plants that focus sunlight to heat a fluid that drives a turbine to generate electricity. Our plan includes only technologies that work or are close to working today on a large scale, rather than those that may exist 20 or 30 years from now.

To ensure that our system remains clean, we consider only technologies that have near-zero emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants over their entire life cycle, including construc-

tion, operation and decommissioning. For example, when burned in vehicles, even the most ecologically acceptable sources of ethanol create air pollution that will cause the same mortality level as when gasoline is burned. Nuclear power results in up to 25 times more carbon emissions than wind energy, when reactor construction and uranium refining and transport are considered. Carbon capture and sequestration technology can reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants but will *increase* air pollutants and will extend all the other deleterious effects of coal mining, transport and processing, because more coal must be burned to power the capture and storage steps. Similarly, we consider only technologies that do not present significant waste disposal or terrorism risks.

In our plan, WWS will supply electric power for heating and transportation—industries that will have to revamp if the world has any hope of slowing climate change. We have assumed that most fossil-fuel heating (as well as ovens and stoves) can be replaced by electric systems and that most fossil-fuel transportation can be replaced by battery and fuel-cell vehicles. Hydrogen, produced by using WWS electricity to split water (electrolysis), would power fuel cells and be burned in airplanes and by industry.

KEY CONCEPTS

- Supplies of wind and solar energy on accessible land dwarf the energy consumed by people around the globe
- The authors' plan calls for 3.8 million large wind turbines, 90,000 solar plants, and numerous geothermal, tidal and rooftop photovoltaic installations worldwide
- The cost of generating and transmitting power would be less than the projected cost per kilowatt-hour for fossil fuel and nuclear power.
- Shortages of a few specialty materials, along with lack of political will, loom as the greatest obstacles.

—The Editors

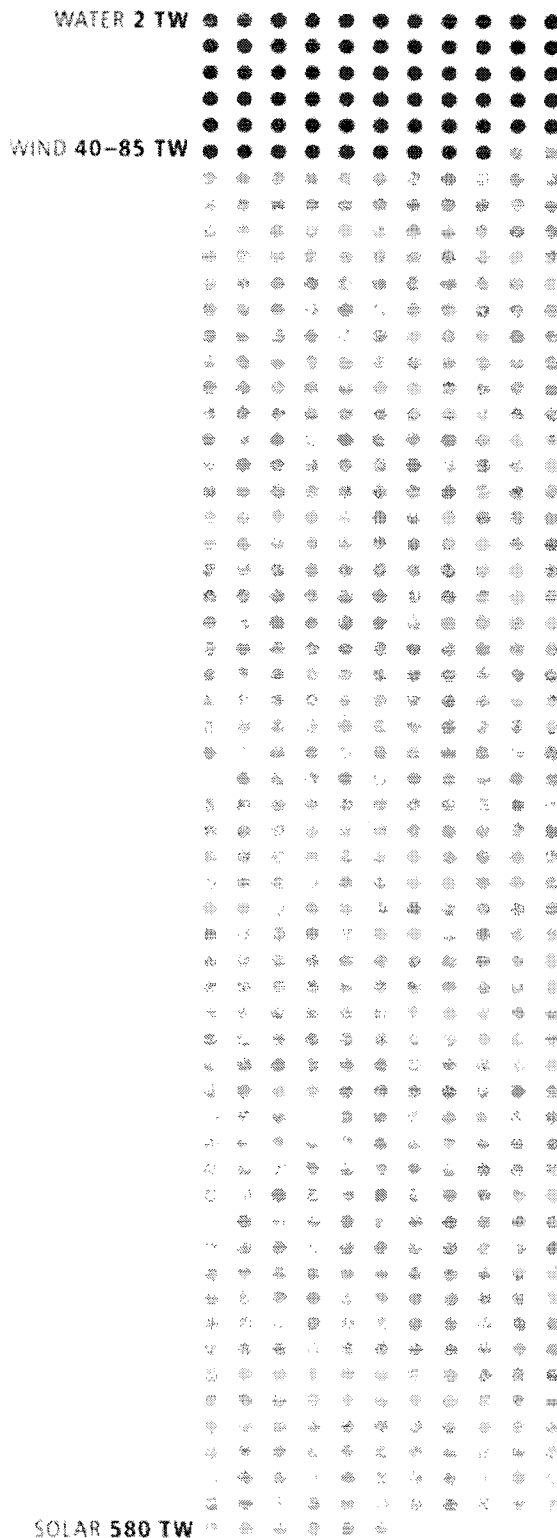
Plenty of Supply

Today the maximum power consumed worldwide at any given moment is about 12.5 trillion watts (terawatts, or TW), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The agency projects that in 2030 the world will require 16.9 TW of power as global population and living standards rise, with about 2.8 TW in the U.S. The mix of sources is similar to today's, heavily dependent on fossil fuels. If, however, the planet were powered entirely by WWS, with no fossil-fuel or biomass combustion, an intriguing savings would occur. Global power demand would be only 11.5 TW, and U.S. demand would be 1.8 TW. That decline occurs because, in most cases, electrification is a more efficient way to use energy. For example, only 17 to 20 percent of the energy in gasoline is used to move a vehicle (the rest is wasted as heat), whereas 75 to 86 percent of the electricity delivered to an electric vehicle goes into motion.

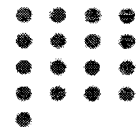
Even if demand did rise to 16.9 TW, WWS sources could provide far more power. Detailed studies by us and others indicate that energy from the wind, worldwide, is about 1,700 TW. Solar, alone, offers 6,500 TW. Of course, wind and sun out in the open seas, over high mountains and across protected regions would not be available. If we subtract these and low-wind areas not likely to be developed, we are still left with 40 to 85 TW for wind and 580 TW for solar, each far beyond future human demand. Yet currently we generate only 0.02 TW of wind power and 0.008 TW of solar. These sources hold an incredible amount of untapped potential.

The other WWS technologies will help create a flexible range of options. Although all the sources can expand greatly, for practical reasons, wave power can be extracted only near coastal areas. Many geothermal sources are too deep to be tapped economically. And even though hydroelectric power now exceeds all other WWS sources, most of the suitable large reservoirs are already in use.

RENEWABLE POWER AVAILABLE IN READILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATIONS

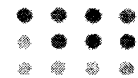


POWER NEEDED WORLDWIDE IN 2030



IF CONVENTIONAL
SUPPLY 16.9 TW

OR



IF RENEWABLE
SUPPLY (MORE
EFFICIENT)
11.5 TW

MW - MEGAWATT = 1 MILLION WATTS
GW - GIGAWATT = 1 BILLION WATTS
TW - TERAWATT = 1 TRILLION WATTS

➔ The Editors welcome responses to this article. To comment and to see more detailed calculations, go to www.ScientificAmerican.com/sustainable-energy

RENEWABLE INSTALLATIONS REQUIRED WORLDWIDE

WATER 1.1 TW
(9% OF SUPPLY)

490,000

TIDAL TURBINES - 1 MW* - <1% IN PLACE
*size of unit

5,350

GEOTHERMAL PLANTS - 100 MW - 2% IN PLACE

900

HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS - 1,300 MW - 70% IN PLACE

3,800,000

WIND TURBINES - 5 MW - 1% IN PLACE

720,000

WAVE CONVERTERS* - 0.75 MW - <1% IN PLACE
*wind drives waves

1,700,000,000

ROOFTOP PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS* - 0.003 MW - <1% IN PLACE
*sized for a modest house; a commercial roof might have dozens of systems

49,000

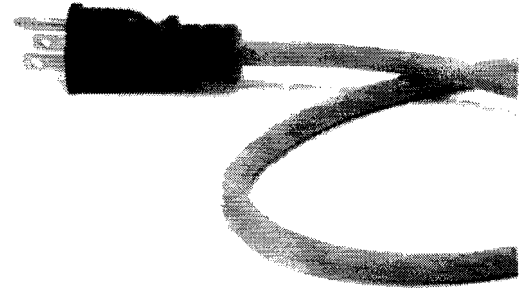
CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER PLANTS - 300 MW - <1% IN PLACE

40,000

PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS - 300 MW - <1% IN PLACE

WIND 5.8 TW
(51% OF SUPPLY)

SOLAR 4.6 TW
(40% OF SUPPLY)



The Plan: Power Plants Required

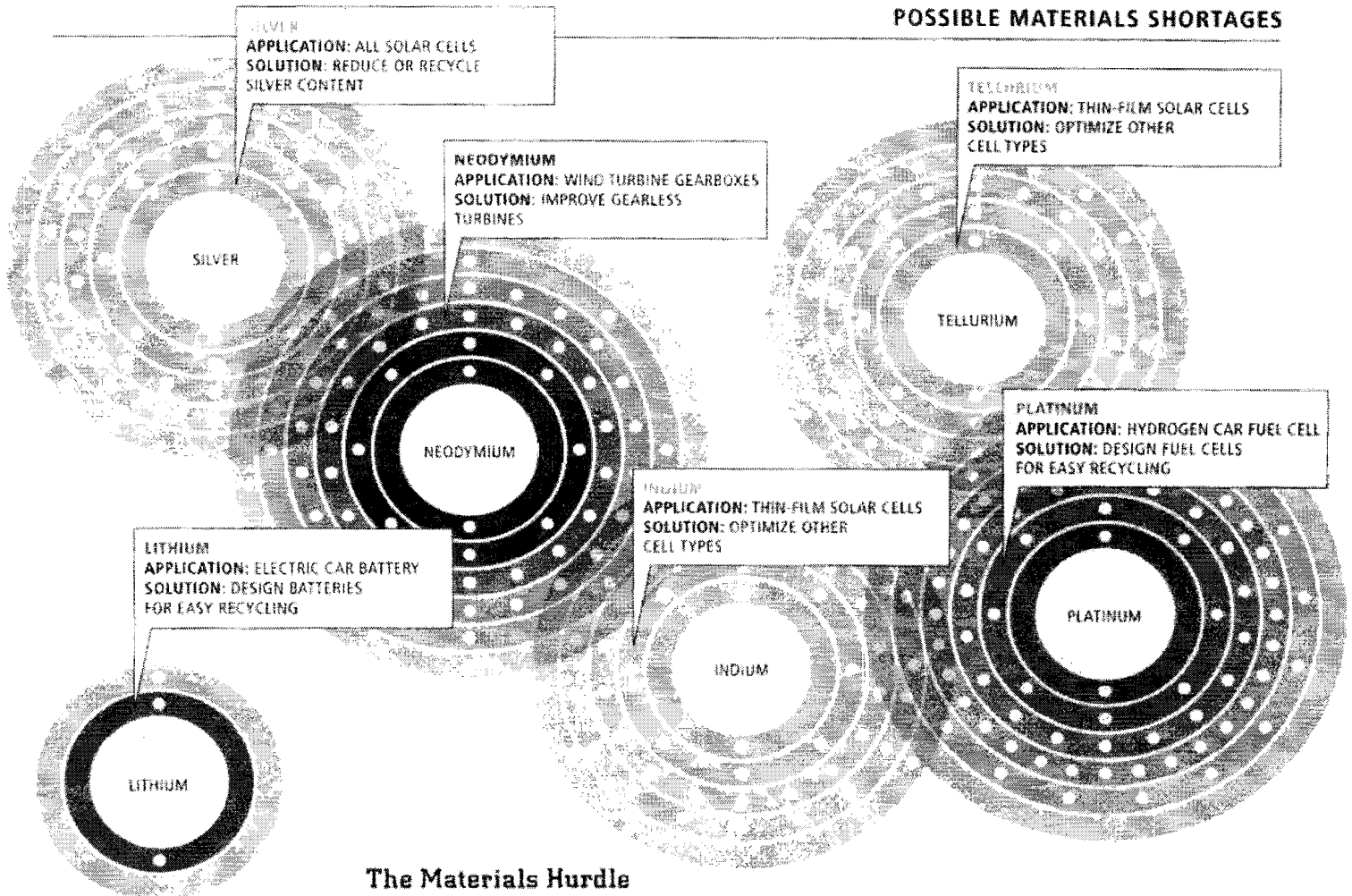
Clearly, enough renewable energy exists. How, then, would we transition to a new infrastructure to provide the world with 11.5 TW? We have chosen a mix of technologies emphasizing wind and solar, with about 9 percent of demand met by mature water-related methods. (Other combinations of wind and solar could be as successful.)

Wind supplies 51 percent of the demand, provided by 3.8 million large wind turbines (each rated at five megawatts) worldwide. Although that quantity may sound enormous, it is interesting to note that the world manufactures 73 million cars and light trucks *every year*. Another 40 percent of the power comes from photovoltaics and concentrated solar plants, with about 30 percent of the photovoltaic output from rooftop panels on homes and commercial buildings. About 89,000 photovoltaic and concentrated solar power plants, averaging 300 megawatts apiece, would be needed. Our mix also includes 900 hydroelectric stations worldwide, 70 percent of which are already in place.

Only about 0.8 percent of the wind base is installed today. The worldwide footprint of the 3.8 million turbines would be less than 50 square kilometers (smaller than Manhattan). When the needed spacing between them is figured, they would occupy about 1 percent of the earth's land, but the empty space among turbines could be used for agriculture or ranching or as open land or ocean. The nonrooftop photovoltaics and concentrated solar plants would occupy about 0.33 percent of the planet's land. Building such an extensive infrastructure will take time. But so did the current power plant network. And remember that if we stick with fossil fuels, demand by 2030 will rise to 16.9 TW, requiring about 13,000 large new coal plants, which themselves would occupy a lot more land, as would the mining to supply them.

COURTESY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

POSSIBLE MATERIALS SHORTAGES



The Materials Hurdle

The scale of the WWS infrastructure is not a barrier. But a few materials needed to build it could be scarce or subject to price manipulation.

Enough concrete and steel exist for the millions of wind turbines, and both those commodities are fully recyclable. The most problematic materials may be rare-earth metals such as neodymium used in turbine gearboxes. Although the metals are not in short supply, the low-cost sources are concentrated in China, so countries such as the U.S. could be trading dependence on Middle Eastern oil for dependence on Far Eastern metals. Manufacturers are moving toward gearless turbines, however, so that limitation may become moot.

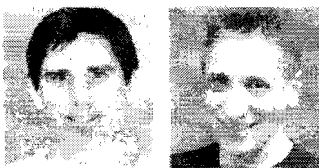
Photovoltaic cells rely on amorphous or crystalline silicon, cadmium telluride, or copper indium selenide and sulfide. Limited supplies of tellurium and indium could reduce the prospects for some types of thin-film solar cells, though not for all; the other types might be able to take up the slack. Large-scale production could be restricted by the silver that cells require, but find-

ing ways to reduce the silver content could tackle that hurdle. Recycling parts from old cells could ameliorate material difficulties as well.

Three components could pose challenges for building millions of electric vehicles: rare-earth metals for electric motors, lithium for lithium-ion batteries and platinum for fuel cells. More than half the world's lithium reserves lie in Bolivia and Chile. That concentration, combined with rapidly growing demand, could raise prices significantly. More problematic is the claim by Meridian International Research that not enough economically recoverable lithium exists to build anywhere near the number of batteries needed in a global electric-vehicle economy. Recycling could change the equation, but the economics of recycling depend in part on whether batteries are made with easy recyclability in mind, an issue the industry is aware of. The long-term use of platinum also depends on recycling; current available reserves would sustain annual production of 20 million fuel-cell vehicles, along with existing industrial uses, for fewer than 100 years.

[THE AUTHORS]

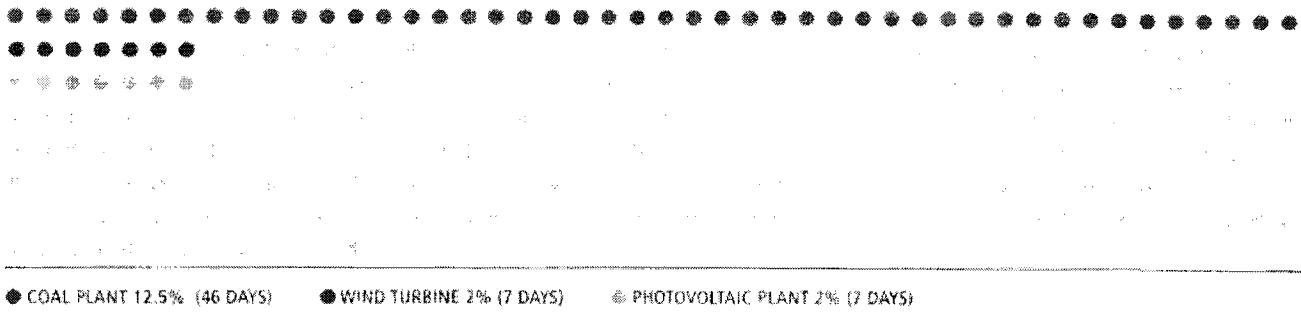
Mark Z. Jacobson is professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University and director of the Atmosphere/Energy Program there. He develops computer models to study the effects of energy technologies and their emissions on climate and air pollution. Mark A. Delucchi is a research scientist at the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis. He focuses on energy, environmental and economic analyses of advanced, sustainable transportation fuels, vehicles and systems.



COURTESY OF MERIDIAN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH; COURTESY OF KAREN DELUCCHI (RIGHT)

AVERAGE DOWNTIME FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

DAYS PER YEAR



Smart Mix for Reliability

A new infrastructure must provide energy on demand at least as reliably as the existing infrastructure. WWS technologies generally suffer less downtime than traditional sources. The average U.S. coal plant is offline 12.5 percent of the year for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. Modern wind turbines have a down time of less than 2 percent on land and less than 5 percent at sea. Photovoltaic systems are also at less than 2 percent. Moreover, when an individual wind, solar or wave device is down, only a small fraction of production is affected; when a coal, nuclear or natural gas plant goes offline, a large chunk of generation is lost.

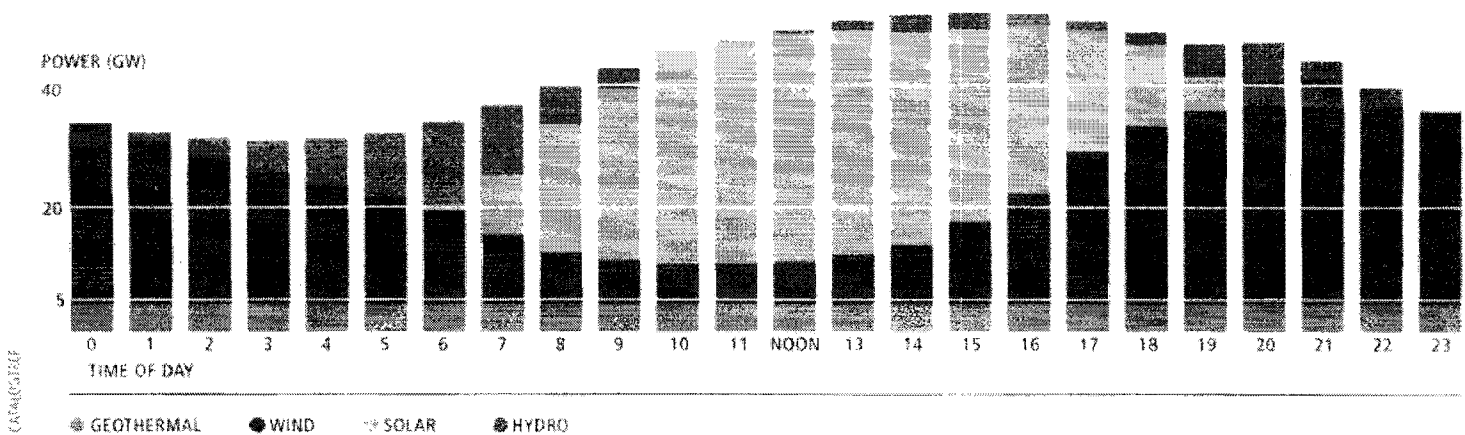
The main WWS challenge is that the wind does not always blow and the sun does not always shine in a given location. Intermittency problems can be mitigated by a smart balance of sources, such as generating a base supply from steady geothermal or tidal power, relying on

wind at night when it is often plentiful, using solar by day and turning to a reliable source such as hydroelectric that can be turned on and off quickly to smooth out supply or meet peak demand. For example, interconnecting wind farms that are only 100 to 200 miles apart can compensate for hours of zero power at any one farm should the wind not be blowing there. Also helpful is interconnecting geographically dispersed sources so they can back up one another, installing smart electric meters in homes that automatically recharge electric vehicles when demand is low and building facilities that store power for later use.

Because the wind often blows during stormy conditions when the sun does not shine and the sun often shines on calm days with little wind, combining wind and solar can go a long way toward meeting demand, especially when geothermal provides a steady base and hydroelectric can be called on to fill in the gaps.

▼ CALIFORNIA CASE STUDY: To show the power of combining resources, Graeme Hodge of Stanford University recently calculated how a mix of four renewable sources, in 2020, could generate 100 percent of California's electricity around the clock, on a typical July day. The hydroelectric capacity needed is already in place.

CLEAN ELECTRICITY 24/7



COURTESY OF CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

As Cheap as Coal

The mix of WWS sources in our plan can reliably supply the residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors. The logical next question is whether the power would be affordable. For each technology, we calculated how much it would cost a producer to generate power and transmit it across the grid. We included the annualized cost of capital, land, operations, maintenance, energy storage to help offset intermittent supply, and transmission. Today the cost of wind, geothermal and hydroelectric are all less than seven cents a kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh); wave and solar are higher. But by 2020 and beyond wind, wave and hydro are expected to be 4¢/kWh or less.

For comparison, the average cost in the U.S.

in 2007 of conventional power generation and transmission was about 7¢/kWh, and it is projected to be 8¢/kWh in 2020. Power from wind turbines, for example, already costs about the same or less than it does from a new coal or natural gas plant, and in the future wind power is expected to be the least costly of all options. The competitive cost of wind has made it the second-largest source of new electric power generation in the U.S. for the past three years, behind natural gas and ahead of coal.

Solar power is relatively expensive now but should be competitive as early as 2020. A careful analysis by Vasilis Fthenakis of Brookhaven National Laboratory indicates that within 10 years, photovoltaic system costs could drop to about 10¢/kWh, including long-distance transmission and the cost of compressed-air storage of power for use at night. The same analysis estimates that concentrated solar power systems with enough thermal storage to generate electricity 24 hours a day in spring, summer and fall could deliver electricity at 10¢/kWh or less.

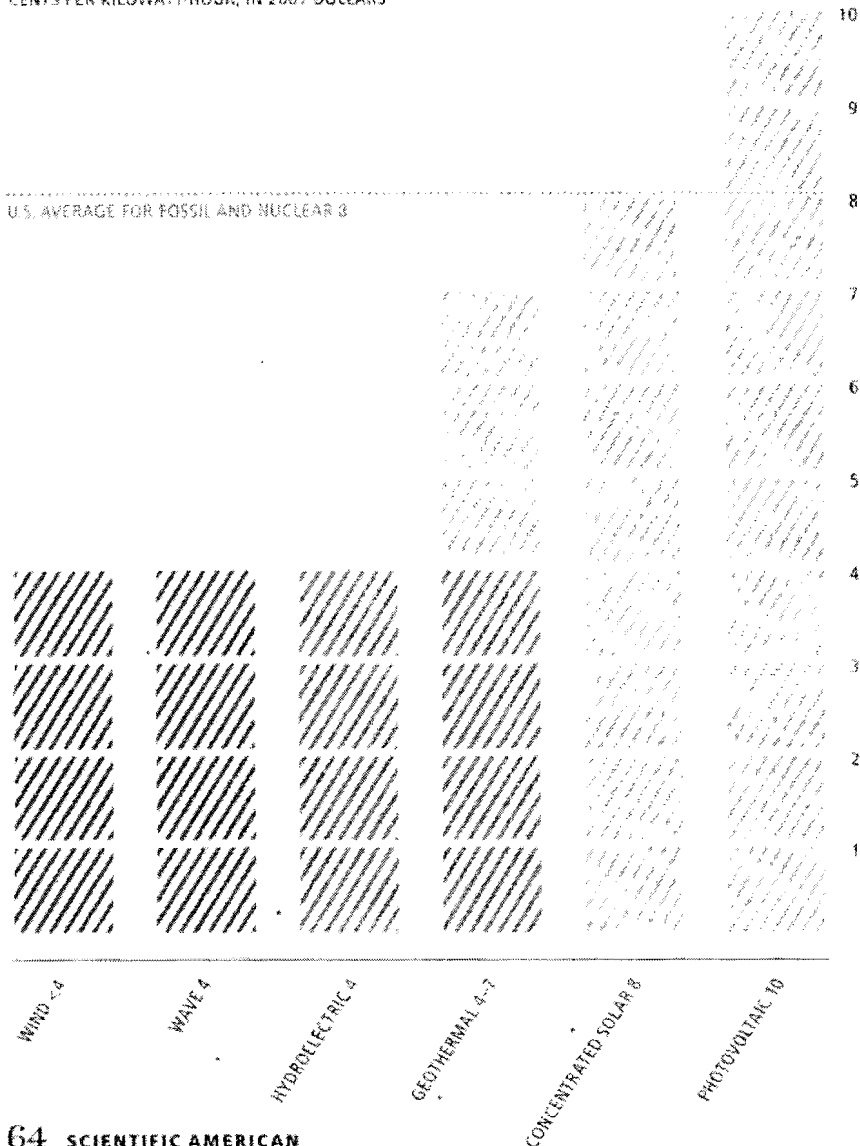
Transportation in a WWS world will be driven by batteries or fuel cells, so we should compare the economics of these electric vehicles with that of internal-combustion-engine vehicles. Detailed analyses by one of us (Delucchi) and Tim Lipman of the University of California, Berkeley, have indicated that mass-produced electric vehicles with advanced lithium-ion or nickel metal-hydride batteries could have a full lifetime cost per mile (including battery replacements) that is comparable with that of a gasoline vehicle, when gasoline sells for more than \$2 a gallon.

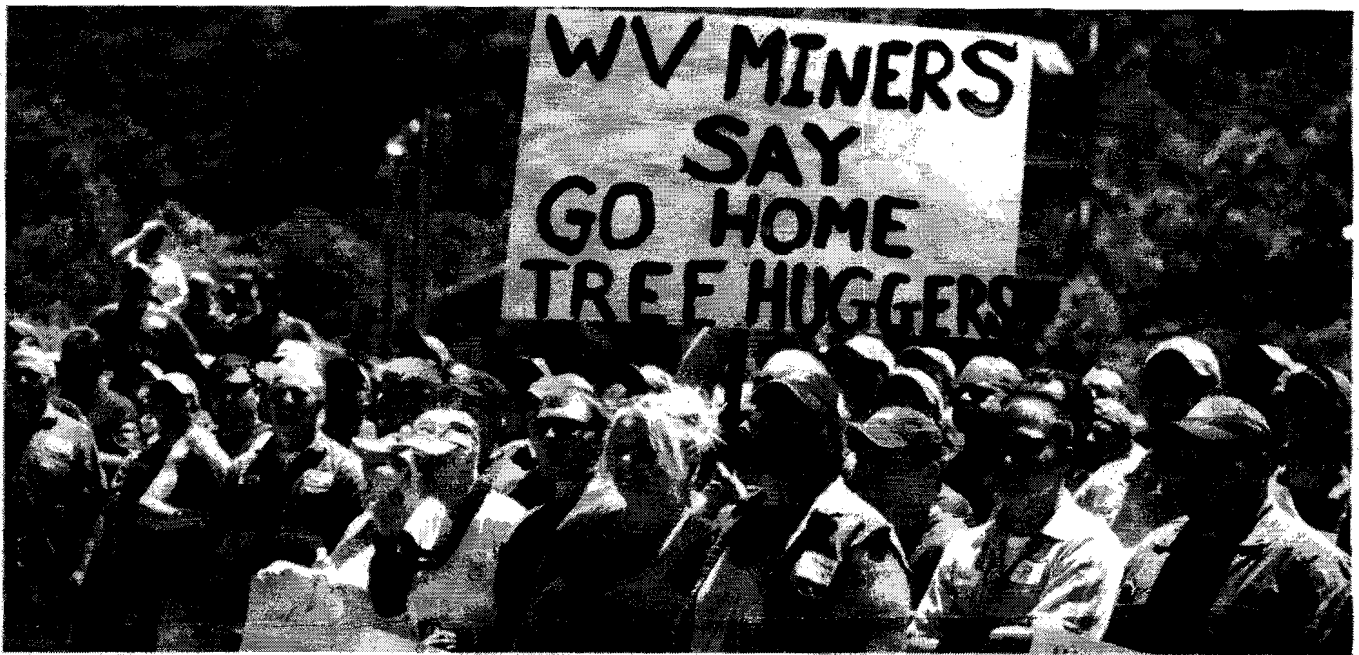
When the so-called externality costs (the monetary value of damages to human health, the environment and climate) of fossil-fuel generation are taken into account, WWS technologies become even more cost-competitive.

Overall construction cost for a WWS system might be on the order of \$100 trillion worldwide, over 20 years, not including transmission. But this is not money handed out by governments or consumers. It is investment that is paid back through the sale of electricity and energy. And again, relying on traditional sources would raise output from 12.5 to 16.9 TW, requiring thousands more of those plants, costing roughly \$10 trillion, not to mention tens of trillions of dollars more in health, environmental and security costs. The WWS plan gives the world a new, clean, efficient energy system rather than an old, dirty, inefficient one.

COST TO GENERATE AND TRANSMIT POWER IN 2020

CENTS PER KILOWATT HOUR, IN 2007 DOLLARS





Political Will

Our analyses strongly suggest that the costs of WWS will become competitive with traditional sources. In the interim, however, certain forms of WWS power will be significantly more costly than fossil power. Some combination of WWS subsidies and carbon taxes would thus be needed for a time. A feed-in tariff (FIT) program to cover the difference between generation cost and wholesale electricity prices is especially effective at scaling-up new technologies. Combining FITs with a so-called declining clock auction, in which the right to sell power to the grid goes to the lowest bidders, provides continuing incentive for WWS developers to lower costs. As that happens, FITs can be phased out. FITs have been implemented in a number of European countries and a few U.S. states and have been quite successful in stimulating solar power in Germany.

Taxing fossil fuels or their use to reflect their environmental damages also makes sense. But at a minimum, existing subsidies for fossil energy, such as tax benefits for exploration and extraction, should be eliminated to level the playing field. Misguided promotion of alternatives that are less desirable than WWS power, such as farm and production subsidies for biofuels, should also be ended, because it delays deployment of cleaner systems. For their part, legislators crafting policy must find ways to resist lobbying by the entrenched energy industries.

Finally, each nation needs to be willing to invest in a robust, long-distance transmission system that can carry large quantities of WWS power from remote regions where it is often greatest—such as the Great Plains for wind and the desert Southwest for solar in

the U.S.—to centers of consumption, typically cities. Reducing consumer demand during peak usage periods also requires a smart grid that gives generators and consumers much more control over electricity usage hour by hour.

A large-scale wind, water and solar energy system can reliably supply the world's needs, significantly benefiting climate, air quality, water quality, ecology and energy security. As we have shown, the obstacles are primarily political, not technical. A combination of feed-in tariffs plus incentives for providers to reduce costs, elimination of fossil subsidies and an intelligently expanded grid could be enough to ensure rapid deployment. Of course, changes in the real-world power and transportation industries will have to overcome sunk investments in existing infrastructure. But with sensible policies, nations could set a goal of generating 25 percent of their new energy supply with WWS sources in 10 to 15 years and almost 100 percent of new supply in 20 to 30 years. With extremely aggressive policies, all existing fossil-fuel capacity could theoretically be retired and replaced in the same period, but with more modest and likely policies full replacement may take 40 to 50 years. Either way, clear leadership is needed, or else nations will keep trying technologies promoted by industries rather than vetted by scientists.

A decade ago it was not clear that a global WWS system would be technically or economically feasible. Having shown that it is, we hope global leaders can figure out how to make WWS power politically feasible as well. They can start by committing to meaningful climate and renewable energy goals now. ■

▲ COAL MINERS and other fossil-fuel workers, unions and lobbyists are likely to resist a transformation to clean energy; political leaders will have to champion the cause.

➔ MORE TO EXPLORE

Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies. S. Pacala and R. Socolow in *Science*, Vol. 305, pages 968–972; 2004.

Evaluation of Global Wind Power. Cristina L. Archer and Mark Z. Jacobson in *Journal of Geophysical Research—Atmospheres*, Vol. 110, D12110; June 30, 2005.

Going Completely Renewable: Is It Possible (Let Alone Desirable)? B. K. Sovacool and C. Watts in *The Electricity Journal*, Vol. 22, No. 4, pages 95–111; 2009.

Review of Solutions to Global Warming, Air Pollution, and Energy Security. M. Z. Jacobson in *Energy and Environmental Science*, Vol. 2, pages 148–173; 2009.

The Technical, Geographical, and Economic Feasibility for Solar Energy to Supply the Energy Needs of the U.S. V. Fthenakis, J. E. Mason and K. Zweibel in *Energy Policy*, Vol. 37, pages 387–399; 2009.

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090451-EM

May 25, 2010

REC'D FPSC

10 MAY 27 AM 9:40

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

COMMISSION
CLERK

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

Re: Docket 090451

Dear Chairwoman Argenziano,

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 that reads "Karen Orr".

Karen Orr
Gainesville

Cc: Public Service Commissioners

Kare Orr
715 NE 2nd St.
Gainesville, FL 32601

GAINESVILLE FL 326

25 MAY 2010 PM 1 T



Chairwoman Nancy Argenziano
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Sherman Oaks Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL

32399+0830

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 Administrative Parties Consumer
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D90451-BM

RECEIVED-FPSC
May 20, 2010

10 MAY 27 AM 9:40

Dear Commissioner Argenziano,

Thank you again for allowing me to speak at the biomass hearing on May 6th. I was honored to be able to speak and express the concern about the immensity of this project which many of my fellow ratepayers in Gainesville share. I would like to add a few comments to my testimony.

As I said, in discussion of current commission policy during the recent Gainesville election there was much talk about the biomass plant. 60% of voters supported a candidate who campaigned against the biomass plant. This was one of our major issues, along with issues of blatant disregard for taxpayer well-being. There has been a pattern with the 2009-2010 commission, who support the biomass plant, of voting for projects that will put an increasing burden on taxpayers, and this continues with another such vote this week. They seem to choose what seems politically correct not what is based in the reality of taxpayers pocketbooks. Even though strongly questioned, they often vote against the majority of citizens. I only mention this because I think it is pertinent to the discussion about their notion of widespread support for the 100 MW biomass plant, which I challenged.

To add to my presentation:

- 1) Prior to the vote, many citizens spoke up to oppose biomass and many ratepayers had thought the chosen contract would be for a much smaller plant with much less regional impact. Once the decision was made to pursue biomass, citizen involvement was reduced considerably;
- 2) There is no need to rush into this project-there are other future options which don't involve committing to a 30 year contract. This plant will reduce the focus on efficiency, conservation, and solar. In fact, with the pressure to sell or use the high priced 100MW, the incentive to reduce consumption is lessened;
- 3) Beyond the initial higher prices charged to GRU customers, there will undoubtedly be competition over the next 15 or 20 years for the 1 million tons of wood fuel needed annually to feed this plant, with other biomass plants proposed. This will put ratepayers in a risky position;
- 4) Legislation requiring carbon taxes has not passed. Without penalties, we lose potential buyers who can purchase cheaper power elsewhere, putting us at further risk;
- 5) Biomass burning is not carbon neutral and the fuel source is not sustainable at the 1 million tons needed annually for this proposed plant. The risk to taxpayers goes beyond our pockets and into our lungs, as medical professionals warn. This is not clean fuel. We need to focus on environmentally clean fuel, which we can do within the next 10-15 years of advancing technologies;
- 6) Gainesville ratepayers do not need this huge risk thrust upon them in these hard economic times. Please vote "No" to the proposed unneeded 100MW biomass plant.

Thank you, s/ Monica Cooper

COOPER

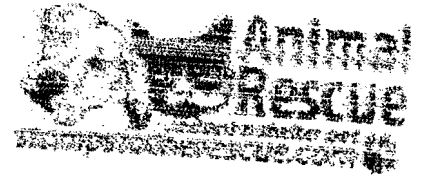
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GAINESVILLE FL 326

21 MAY 2010 PM 1 L



Commissioner Argenziano
PSC
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL

32311+7843

Intelligent Mail Barcode

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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 27, 2010

TO: Ann Cole, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Erik L. Saylor, Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel *ES*

RE: Docket No. 090451-EM – In Re: Joint petition to determine need for Gainesville Renewable Energy Center in Alachua County, by Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC.

Please place the attached email from Joy Towles Ezell into the correspondence side of the Docket file.

ELS/th
Attachment

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

RECEIVED - FPSC
 10 MAY 28 AM 11:13
 COMMISSION
 CLERK

Erik Sayler

From: Jennifer Brubaker
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:53 AM
To: Mary Anne Helton; Curt Kiser; Erik Sayler; Martha Brown
Cc: Cindy Miller; Tim Devlin; Andrew Maurey
Subject: RE: Seeking your help in informing the PSC Commissioners this morning

Perhaps this should go in the docket file?

From: Jennifer Brubaker
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:51 AM
To: Mary Anne Helton; Curt Kiser
Subject: FW: Seeking your help in informing the PSC Commissioners this morning

FYI

From: Cindy Miller
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:42 AM
To: Erik Sayler; Jennifer Brubaker; Tom Ballinger
Subject: FW: Seeking your help in informing the PSC Commissioners this morning

Not sure why this came to me.

From: Joy Towles Ezell [mailto:hopeforcleanwater@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:26 AM
To: Cindy Miller; Andrew Maurey; Tim Devlin
Subject: Seeking your help in informing the PSC Commissioners this morning

To: Tim Devlin, Andrew Maurey, & Cindy Miller, PSC

We fear that the PSC Commissioners may not know about the new EPA Final Tailoring Rule that makes it clear that the EPA does not regard the combustion of woody biomass as carbon neutral.

Because of the new Rule, the GREC project is likely to be subject to carbon regulation that imposes taxes or other controls that will make GREC generated power far more costly than has heretofore been calculated by GRU or the city of Gainesville. They have been insisting that GREC power will come with carbon credits and benefits that would allow GRU to sell that power for extra money to other utilities eager to comply with carbon regulation. They also argue that GREC power would help Gainesville avoid some carbon regulation.

The city and GRU have been insisting that proposed legislation will exempt woody biomass from such regulation. On the basis of speculation about the

5/27/2010

proposed legislation, they have created their make-believe world of projected finances for the GREC project.

Dian Deevey and Paula Stahmer filed a Motion to Reopen the Record and for Official Recognition of the new Rule, which has the effect of law even if some of the details still have to be worked on.

Petitioners have filed their response claiming that the impact of the Rule is speculative, and that we should have raised the issue before. The Final Rule wasn't announced until after the hearing and the briefs were due. Petitioners also had an affirmative duty to bring the Rule to the attention of the PSC themselves because they were under a continuing obligation to inform the PSC of any applicable law. That continuing obligation arose because they were served with interrogatories by the PSC staff asking them to identify all the laws and regulations that were relevant to their application. Under the procedural rules, respondents have a continuing obligation to amend responses later in time, even if their earlier responses were complete at the time provided.

Petitioners are claiming that because the EPA Rule was under consideration beforehand, we should have raised the issue. We think there was no reason to raise the issue because no one knew exactly how the Final Rule would come out and what sort of timeframe would be attached. Furthermore, for them to argue that application of the Rule is speculative even though it has been enacted, is contrary to all their other arguments that rely on the passage of proposed legislation that has been kicking around for a long time.

What does the commission think about the new EPA Rule that says combustion of woody biomass, or biogenic emissions, will be subject to carbon regulation?

The rule was published May 14, 2010. The Petitioners are arguing that GREC will be exempt, grandfathered in, but that is not true. As of July 2013, they will have to apply for a permit. The Rule will apply to stationary sources emitting 1000,000 tons of HGH (greenhouse gases) pollutants annually. GREC will emit 334,000 tons.

That wording is important; Not just the new EPA rule, but the fact that woody biomass will be subject to carbon regulation.

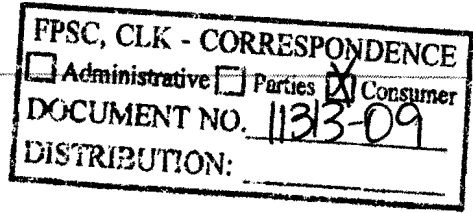
We hope that the Interveners motion will be presented to the *entire* PSC to decide.

Joy Towles Ezell hopeforcleanwater@yahoo.com
President, Florida League of Conservation Voters

12677 Josh Ezell Road
Perry, FL 32348
850 584 7087 office & fax
850 843 1574 cell

Susie Caplowe, Director
Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise
susiecaplowe@comcast.net
850 567 2448
Mimosa Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Ann Cole



From: Ann Cole
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 2:18 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: MEDIA ADVISORY Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal
Attachments: PSC-GREC-MEDIA ADVISORY.5.27.10.doc

Thanks, Cristina. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 1:43 PM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: MEDIA ADVISORY Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

Ann,

Please place the e-mail below and the attachment in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM

Thanks,
 Cristina

From: Michael Canney [mailto:alachuagreen@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 11:04 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Klement; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Stevens
Subject: MEDIA ADVISORY Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

MEDIA ADVISORY

Local citizens call on PSC to deny need certification for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 27, 2010

- Contacts
 Dian Deevey 352 373 0181 diandv@bellsouth.net
 Paula Stahmer 352 222 1063. paulastahmr@aol.com
 Michael Canney 352 278 4031 alachuagreen@gmail.com
 Karen Orr 352 372 8712 karen@energyjustice.net

GAINESVILLE, FL – May 27 As the Florida Public Service Commission convenes today to reach a final decision on permitting a new 100 Megawatt power generation facility in Gainesville, opponents of the project are calling on

the PSC commissioners to deny the Certification of Need applied for by Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC (GREC). Citizen Interveners Paula Stahmer and Dian Deevey have presented extensive arguments in opposition to the Petitioners' application, and they are asking the PSC to take a new EPA rule on carbon emissions into account as they evaluate the Petitioners' application.

According to Intervener Dian Deevey, "The City Commissioners and citizens who promoted this biomass plant will be devastated when they fully realize how much ratepayers will suffer and how long the City will be in hock to American Renewables or its successor company." Deevey is an Environmental Scientist and current chair of the Alachua County Environmental Advisory Committee.

Paula Stahmer, Gainesville resident and former Conservation Chair of the Suwannee-St. John's Sierra Club, has questioned both the need for the power plant and the escalated cost. "The highly inflated expense of this unnecessary project will end up costing ratepayers billions over the 30 years of the contract," Stahmer said, "and this huge public investment will be for antiquated technology that is not carbon neutral, despite what plant proponents might claim." Stahmer warns that a new EPA rule released on May 14 calls into question the claim by the Petitioners that woody biomass incineration is "carbon neutral." The interveners have filed a motion asking the PSC to reopen the hearing to consider how this new EPA rule may affect the economic viability of the project.

Citizens have been speaking out in public meetings, writing letters and op-ed articles, and submitting public testimony to the PSC during the hearing process. Local groups expressing opposition to the power plant include the Alachua County Green Party, the Energy Justice Network, Suwannee-St. Johns Group of the Sierra Club (SSJ Sierra Club), the Alachua County NAACP, and Women for Wise Growth. State groups include the Florida League of Conservation Voters (FLCV), the and Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise (FAID)

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President of the Alachua County Branch of the NAACP, says, "The Alachua County Branch of the NAACP does not object to the building of a biomass plant. We object the building of a plant so soon, the size of the plant, and the impact the cost of the plant will have on the bills of members of the low socioeconomic and minority communities, who are already paying rates at the highest tier."

Karen Orr, Chairwoman of the Energy Justice Network, actively opposes the biomass project. Orr says "Biomass incineration is not green, it's not sustainable, it's not healthy, it's not renewable, it's not carbon neutral, it's not environmentally-friendly and it's not ecologically sound."

Tom Bussing, PhD, former mayor of Gainesville, says, "The ratepayers will end up paying for this folly, with jacked up bills and "stranded assets" littering our generation portfolio. All for another 100 megawatts of overcapacity, for power that we do not need." Dr. Bussing calls into question the Gainesville City Commission's process for approving the plant. "It is a mystery to me how the Gainesville City commissioners were able to plan their coordinated and well-orchestrated performances, under the Florida Sunshine Law. The lack of transparency has been scandalous," Bussing said, "Rather than depend upon their factual filings, the Petitioners have orchestrated a political dog-and-pony show for the PSC, in order to pressure the Commissioners to make a decision in their favor."

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References

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<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/dockets/cms/docketFilings2.aspx?docket=090451>

GRU/GREC Petition to determine need for 100Mw biomass plant in Alachua County
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Redacted Power Purchase Agreement signed 4/29/09, filed 10/23/09
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/09/10821-09/10821-09.pdf>

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<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/library/filings/10/04091-10/04091-10.pdf>

Interveners' Amended Joint Emergency Motion to reopen - 04417-10 May 25, 2010
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Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise <http://www.biomeass.net>
Florida League of Conservation Voters 'biomass' page <http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>
FLCV Op-Ed in the Gainesville Sun: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100414/OPINION03/4141001/-1/OPINION>

Background: Cost of plant rose from \$300 million to \$500 million with no oversight by Gainesville City Commission

In January 2009, GRU hired a private consulting firm to evaluate the escalated cost of the plant. In a report produced in February, Haddad Resource Management stated: " ...the proposed escalator applied to the timeframe that would have affected pricing cannot substantiate a requested 42% cost based increase...." The Haddad report went on to say that "the price for the project in December 2008 should have been 2% less expensive than the original price proposed." Ignoring the information in the Haddad reports, much of which was redacted and hidden from the public, GRU and the Commission signed a final contract with a price increase of \$200 million (about 66% over the original price proposed).

MEDIA ADVISORY

Local citizens call on PSC to deny Certificate of Need for Gainesville's GREC biomass project, citing a myriad of problems with the proposal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - May 27, 2010

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FLCV Op-Ed in the Gainesville Sun: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100414/OPINION03/4141001/-1/OPINION>

Background: Cost of plant rose from \$300 million to \$500 million with no oversight by Gainesville City Commission

In January 2009, GRU hired a private consulting firm to evaluate the escalated cost of the plant. In a report produced in February, Haddad Resource Management stated, "...the proposed escalator applied to the timeframe that would have affected pricing cannot substantiate a requested 42% cost based increase...." The Haddad report went on to say that "the price for the project in December 2008 should have been 2% less expensive than the original price proposed." Ignoring the information in the Haddad reports, much of which was redacted and hidden from the public, GRU and the Commission signed a final contract with a price increase of \$200 million (about 66% over the original price proposed).

State of Florida

090451



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 - PSC, Office of Commission Clerk
FROM: Cristina Slaton, Executive Secretary to Commissioner Skop *CS*
RE: Docket Correspondence

Ann,

Please place the attached correspondence sent to the Office of Commissioner Skop in the
 correspondence folder for docket number 090451-EM. The first letter is from Karen *CS* of
 Gainesville, FL and the second letter and attachments is from Ron Saff, M.D. of Tallahassee, FL.
 Thank you.

RECEIVED FPSC
 MAY 27 AM 9:38
 COMMISSION
 CLERK

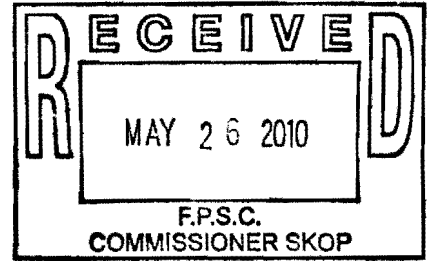
FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

090451

RECEIVED-FPSC

May 25, 2010

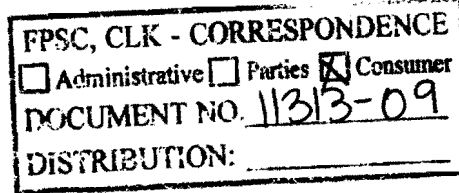
10 MAY 27 AM 9:38



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

COMMISSION
 CLERK

Re: Docket 090451



Dear Commissioner Skop,

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

090451

Allergy & Asthma

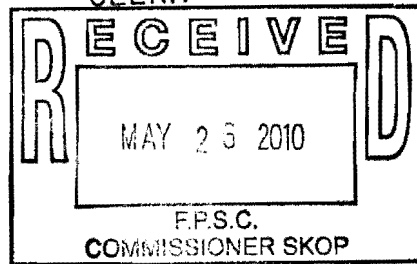
DIAGNOSTIC TREATMENT CENTER

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MAY 27 AM. 9:38

Christine Stabley, PA-C
Certified Physician Assistant

COMMISSION
CLERK



Ronald H. Saff, M.D.

Board Certified Allergy & Immunology
Board Certified Internal Medicine
Certified Clinical Research Investigator ACRP
Certified Physician Investigator AAPP

5/18/2010

Commissioner Nathan A. Skop
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RE: Gainesville Biomass

Dear Commissioner,

I was the asthma specialist from the Environment and Health Section of the Florida Med Assoc who was the first speaker at the PSC meeting who addressed you about deadly emissions from biomass plants. Many of the same deadly chemicals including benzene and volatile organic compounds present in the Gulf oil spill are the same harmful ones found in biomass plants emissions!(Oil spill may endanger health.doc) Since I spoke, I have found out about other medical and environmental organizations that have raised concerns about these poison producing biomass plants in addition to the Fla Med Assoc, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR_press_release.pdf) and Massachusetts Medical Society (massmed.doc) and American Lung Association that I mentioned. Specifically, the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians is troubled about" the numerous and serious adverse health consequences that can result from human exposure to the components of emissions of biomass burning"(North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians.doc). A letter from Biofuelwatch and the Biomass Accountability Project to the National Sierra Club stated "biomass is dirty energy and should not be promoted as a bridge to a clean energy future and notes that "wood burning biomass releases 1.5X as much carbon dioxide per megawatt as coal."

In short, just like we know the deadly consequences of smoking cigarettes, the medical evidence about the dangers of biomass plant emissions are well known to the medical community and are compelling. That is because cigarette smoke and biomass plant emissions share some of the same lethal chemicals: carbon monoxide and acrolein. I am not sure who this Dr. Cantwell is whose testimony was read to you, but she is not a member of the Florida Medical Association's Env and Health Section, and just like you will find a few kooky scientists who will testify that there is no such thing as global warming, there are a few oddball physicians that are ignorant of the science and will use fallacies rather than facts.

The Scientific American article (A Path to Sustainable Energy.pdf) I provided dismissed biofuel plants as too polluting and stated that we can meet our energy needs from wind, water and solar but the barrier is political. As a PSC Commissioner, you can serve to catalyze the transition to truly clean energy. The American Lung Association has previously pointed out (ALA_national_letter.pdf), in this country of vast technological resources, nobody should be

forced to sacrifice their health for the production of electricity and they oppose biomass plants. The Gulf spill exemplifies the need for our leaders to protect our health rather than letting polluting industries make decisions that enrich them at the expense of our precious well being. Numerous attachments are above. Thanks, and feel free to call 850-766-7886.

Important points are highlighted.

Row Saff, MD
Row Saff, MD

Member, Environment and Health Section Florida Medical Association
Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

June 24, 2009

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

61 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10006-2701
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 315-8800

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Terrence L. Johnston
Treasurer

Albert J. Rizzo, MD
Nationwide Assembly
Speaker

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey:

As you consider legislation to address global climate change and energy policy, the American Lung Association urges you to use this opportunity to target widespread pollutants that can both directly harm lung health of millions of Americans and worsen global climate change. At a minimum, we urge you to select mechanisms that prevent increases in ambient air pollution and hazardous air pollutants.

Over 186 million Americans continue to live and breathe in areas with unhealthy air in the United States. The American Lung Association supports aggressive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that maximize co-benefits of reducing criteria pollutants and provide near-term public health benefits. These strategies include ambitious programs to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel combustion and promote cleaner alternative vehicle technologies and fuels. These require real changes: substantial increases in clean renewable energy resources; a transformation of the land use planning process to emphasize smart growth policies that promote alternatives to driving; and, as well, significant reductions in power plant and industrial emissions.

We urge you to consider approaches that target two critical two critical pollutants well within reach—black carbon and ozone. Black carbon, or diesel soot, and ozone not only significantly impact global warming but also endanger public health. Black carbon from diesel, a mixture of 40 different toxic substances, increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Ozone, the most commonly encountered pollutant in America's cities, damages lung capacity and aggravates asthma. Both pollutants send people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases to the hospital and emergency room. Both cut short the lives of thousands of people every year. Because black carbon particles and ozone have significantly shorter life-spans in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, immediate controls can make a near-term difference in the level of global warming, as well as have immediate health benefits.

North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Dee Freeman
Secretary
N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Dear Secretary Freeman:

In recognition of the numerous and serious adverse health consequences that can result from human exposure to the components of emissions of biomass burning, the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians (NCAFP) is issuing a letter of concern regarding the development of biomass burning plants in the State of North Carolina.

Biomass burning of poultry litter and wood wastes creates emissions of particulate matter that research has shown increase the risk of premature death, asthma, chronic bronchitis, and heart disease. (1, 2) This burning process also creates numerous byproducts, including nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that increase smog and ozone, which are known to increase lung disease and mortality (3); sulfur dioxides which also contribute to respiratory disease (4); arsenic which can increase the risk of cancer (5); mercury which can increase the risk of brain and kidney disease and affect the developing fetus (6); and dioxins which may increase the risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes mellitus, developmental delays in children, neurotoxicity, and thyroid disease (7). These health effects would increase disability and death in all age groups, but particularly in the most vulnerable developing fetuses, newborns, children, those with chronic illness, and the elderly. As a result of this increased disability and disease, medical costs in the state will increase.

One of the reasons for encouraging renewable energy through legislation like the North Carolina Clean Smokestack law was to provide cleaner air for citizens. However, there is concern that burning of poultry litter may result in similar or greater emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide to coalburning plants (8). The NCAFP requests that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources strongly consider the potentially harmful consequences to the health and wellbeing of North Carolina citizens when contemplating the permitting of biomass burning plants in the state.

With best regards,

R.W. (Chip) Watkins, MD, MPH
President, NC Academy of Family Physicians

cc: Jeffrey P. Engle, MD, North Carolina State Health Director
Jennifer L. Mullendore, MD, Co-Chair, NCAFP Health of the Public Council
Thomas R. White, MD, Co-Chair, NCAFP Health of the Public Council
Gregory K. Griggs, MPA, CAE, NCAFP Executive Vice President



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS ADVISORY
February 4, 2010**

Contact:

Dr. Henry Rosenberg
(413) 586-9781
hwr5@columbia.edu

**PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/PIONEER VALLEY OPPOSE
CONSTRUCTION OF BIOMASS POWER PLANTS IN THE PIONEER VALLEY**

It is the finding of the Physicians for Social Responsibility that the biomass power plants being proposed for several Pioneer Valley locations would contribute to particulate air pollution emissions in a region that already has pollution problems, and therefore we oppose the construction and operation of such plants.

Particulate air pollution is deadly. This has been stated by the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, the World Health Association, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. According to the World Health Association roughly 800,000 people globally die annually from exposure to particulate air pollution.

Since the Stone Age hominids have been dependent on biomass combustion as an energy source for heating, cooking, and even protection from wild beasts. The ancient Roman philosopher Seneca (61 AD) noted the adverse health effects of combustion-related "pestilential vapors and soot". Since medieval times air pollution from combustion has been recognized as a cause of adverse health effects, which lead to the banning of coal burning in London in the 13 century and again during Elizabeth I's reign. Particulate air pollution, specifically, has been recognized a cause of excess mortality since the infamous London Fog episode of 1952 which was responsible for thousands of deaths. Currently, the World Health Organization estimates particulate air pollution to be the 13th leading cause of death globally.

Hundreds more modern epidemiologic studies have described an association between elevated particulate air pollution levels and mortality and other adverse health effects.

In the 1980s many large cross sectional studies observed an association between living in an area with higher particulate air pollution levels and increased mortality rates. Since the 1990s time series studies have consistently shown that when particulate air pollution rises, within a day or two mortality rates increase. Case control studies identified the groups at increased risk of death during these episodes; these are the elderly, and those with chronic heart and lung disease. Since the 1990s prospective cohort studies have followed individuals with defined risk characteristics (for example, smoking, occupation, etc) and found that those living in areas with higher particulate air pollution levels have a higher risk of dying.

Strikingly, these associations have a linear dose response relationship. Thus, as particulate air pollution levels rise, mortality rates rise; as pollution levels drop, mortality rates drop. Studies have consistently not observed a threshold for this effect, in other words, the excess mortality effect is observed down to very low air pollution levels, well below those levels that the US EPA officially considers safe according to their National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Reportedly the EPA is reconsidering those standards to bring them more in line with the scientific data.

Some communities, including New Orleans, get their supplies from the Mississippi River. Its southerly currents will prevent oil from drifting upstream to city intake pipes, and the Coast Guard is making sure that any ships with oil-coated hulls are scrubbed down before proceeding up the river, Guidry said.

Even so, the state health department has ordered testing of municipal water systems near the Gulf for signs of oil.

"It's next to impossible that a high amount would get in," Guidry said. "Even if some got through, more than likely the treatment system would eliminate it."

The department this week began taking samples at seafood processing plants. Officials have ordered a temporary moratorium on fishing in federal waters from the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle, but sampling will provide benchmarks enabling scientists to track any increases in contaminant levels once fishing is allowed to resume.

Louisiana health officials said they believe fish, shrimp and other Gulf delicacies already on the market are safe.

"If we see increases in hydrocarbons or other contaminants, we'd stop the flow of seafood," Levine said.

Even after the immediate crisis passes, risks could linger for years, said Gina Solomon, an associate professor at the University of California-San Francisco medical school and a senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Exposure to some of the chemicals in oil has been linked to cancer," Solomon said. "Those chemicals can get into sediments in the Gulf, build in the food chain and be a long-term problem in fish and shellfish."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with epidemiologists in the Gulf states to develop studies of health repercussions from the oil spill, Guidry said.

Yet another hazard is direct contact with oil-saturated water — particularly for cleanup crews and volunteers involved in animal rescue operations.

When the container ship Cosco Busan hit a bridge and released 53,000 gallons of highly toxic bunker fuel into San Francisco Bay in November 2007, officials managing the cleanup ordered volunteers to wear protective suits, gloves and masks that later were discarded at a hazardous waste dump. Some oil fouled beaches, which were closed to prevent danger to the public.

People working around the Gulf spill should be equipped with respirator devices and wear heavy-duty gloves and protective clothing to guard against painful skin rashes, said Solomon, who has treated patients exposed to oil fumes.

"The workers absolutely need to be protected," Solomon said.

Associated Press Writer Jason Dearen contributed to this story from San Francisco.

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SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

November 2009

www.ScientificAmerican.com

The Long-Lost
Siblings of
OUR SUN
page 40



A Plan for a Sustainable Future

How to get all energy from
wind, water and solar power
by 2030

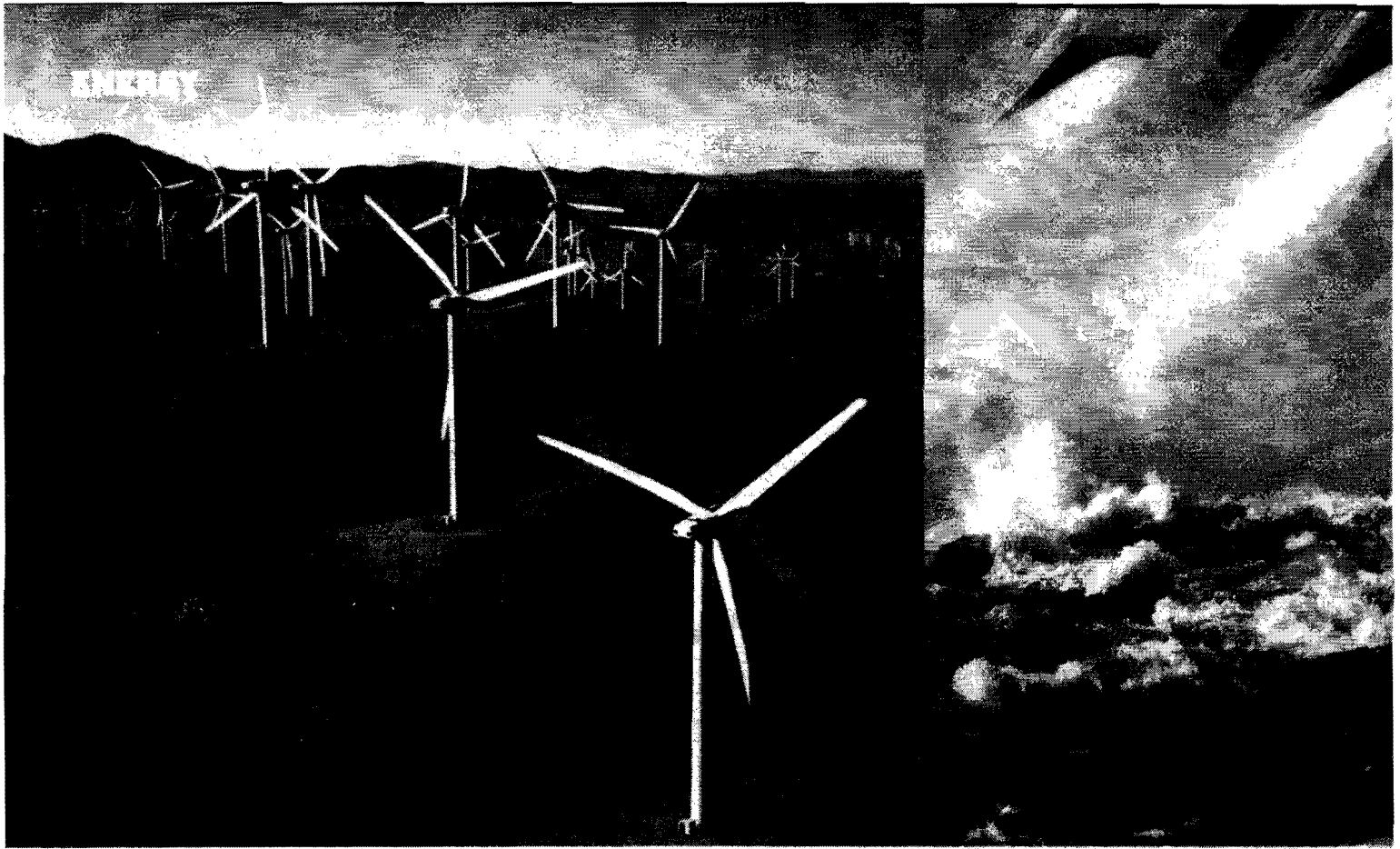
Chronic Pain
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A PATH TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BY 2030

Wind, water and solar technologies can provide 100 percent of the world's energy, eliminating all fossil fuels. HERE'S HOW



By Mark Z. Jacobson
and Mark A. Delucchi

In December leaders from around the world will meet in Copenhagen to try to agree on cutting back greenhouse gas emissions for decades to come. The most effective step to implement that goal would be a massive shift away from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy sources. If leaders can have confidence that such a transformation is possible, they might commit to an historic agreement. We think they can.

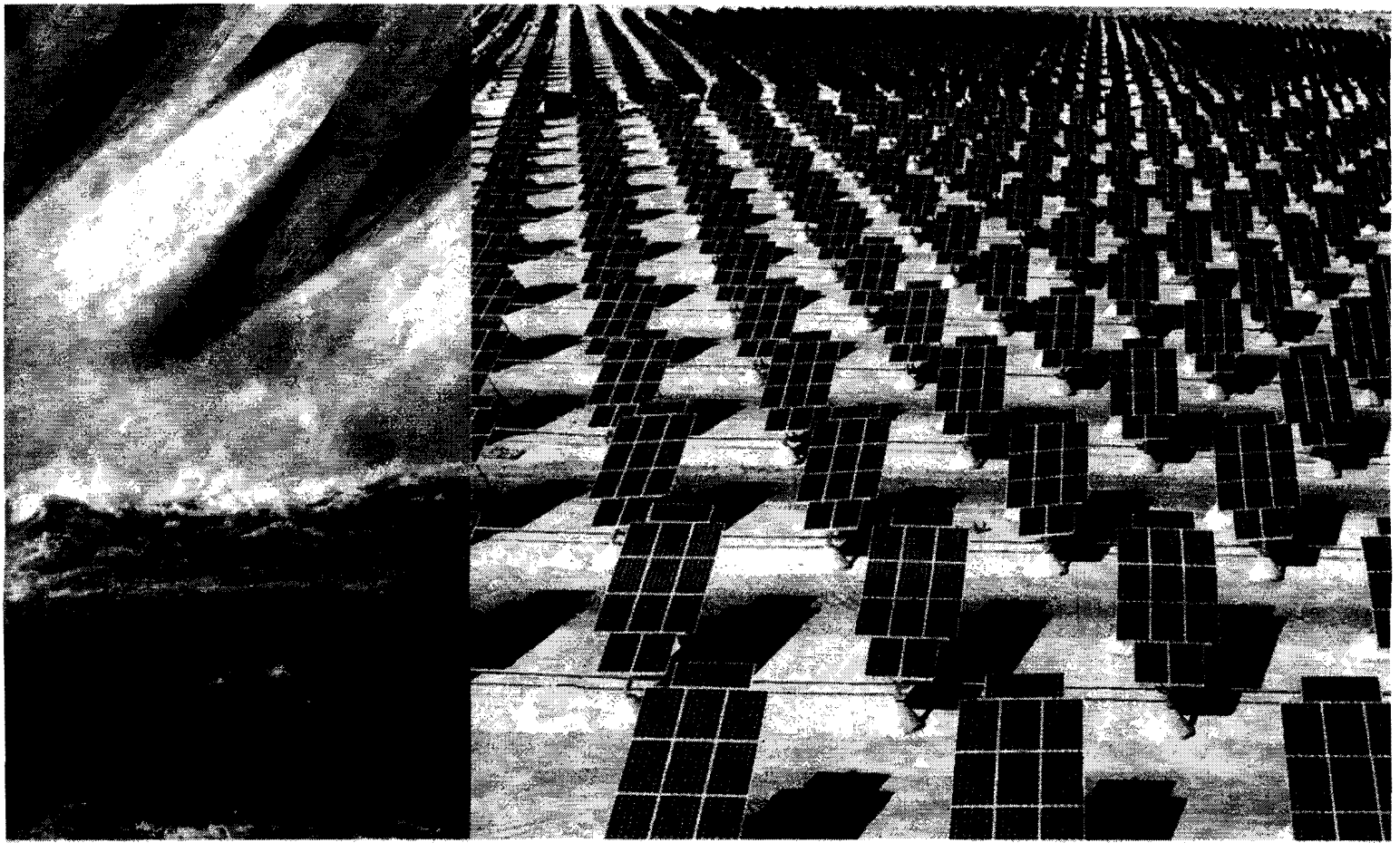
A year ago former vice president Al Gore threw down a gauntlet: to repower America with 100 percent carbon-free electricity within 10 years. As the two of us started to evaluate the feasibility of such a change, we took on an even larger challenge: to determine how 100 percent of the world's energy, for *all* purposes, could be supplied by wind, water and solar resources, by as early as 2030. Our plan is presented here.

Scientists have been building to this moment

for at least a decade, analyzing various pieces of the challenge. Most recently, a 2009 Stanford University study ranked energy systems according to their impacts on global warming, pollution, water supply, land use, wildlife and other concerns. The very best options were wind, solar, geothermal, tidal and hydroelectric power—all of which are driven by wind, water or sunlight (referred to as WWS). Nuclear power, coal with carbon capture, and ethanol were all poorer options, as were oil and natural gas. The study also found that battery-electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles recharged by WWS options would largely eliminate pollution from the transportation sector.

Our plan calls for millions of wind turbines, water machines and solar installations. The numbers are large, but the scale is not an insurmountable hurdle; society has achieved massive

JOHN LEE/ARND BRONKHORST/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM



transformations before. During World War II, the U.S. retooled automobile factories to produce 300,000 aircraft, and other countries produced 486,000 more. In 1956 the U.S. began building the Interstate Highway System, which after 35 years extended for 47,000 miles, changing commerce and society.

Is it feasible to transform the world's energy systems? Could it be accomplished in two decades? The answers depend on the technologies chosen, the availability of critical materials, and economic and political factors.

Clean Technologies Only

Renewable energy comes from enticing sources: wind, which also produces waves; water, which includes hydroelectric, tidal and geothermal energy (water heated by hot underground rock); and sun, which includes photovoltaics and solar power plants that focus sunlight to heat a fluid that drives a turbine to generate electricity. Our plan includes only technologies that work or are close to working today on a large scale, rather than those that may exist 20 or 30 years from now.

To ensure that our system remains clean, we consider only technologies that have near-zero emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants over their entire life cycle, including construc-

tion, operation and decommissioning. For example, when burned in vehicles, even the most ecologically acceptable sources of ethanol create air pollution that will cause the same mortality level as when gasoline is burned. Nuclear power results in up to 25 times more carbon emissions than wind energy, when reactor construction and uranium refining and transport are considered. Carbon capture and sequestration technology can reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants but will *increase* air pollutants and will extend all the other deleterious effects of coal mining, transport and processing, because more coal must be burned to power the capture and storage steps. Similarly, we consider only technologies that do not present significant waste disposal or terrorism risks.

In our plan, WWS will supply electric power for heating and transportation—industries that will have to revamp if the world has any hope of slowing climate change. We have assumed that most fossil-fuel heating (as well as ovens and stoves) can be replaced by electric systems and that most fossil-fuel transportation can be replaced by battery and fuel-cell vehicles. Hydrogen, produced by using WWS electricity to split water (electrolysis), would power fuel cells and be burned in airplanes and by industry.

KEY CONCEPTS

- Supplies of wind and solar energy on accessible land dwarf the energy consumed by people around the globe.
- The authors' plan calls for 3.8 million large wind turbines, 90,000 solar plants, and numerous geothermal, tidal and rooftop photovoltaic installations worldwide.
- The cost of generating and transmitting power would be less than the projected cost per kilowatt-hour for fossil fuel and nuclear power.
- Shortages of a few specialty materials, along with lack of political will, loom as the greatest obstacles.

—The Editors

Plenty of Supply

Today the maximum power consumed worldwide at any given moment is about 12.5 trillion watts (terawatts, or TW), according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The agency projects that in 2030 the world will require 16.9 TW of power as global population and living standards rise, with about 2.8 TW in the U.S. The mix of sources is similar to today's, heavily dependent on fossil fuels. If, however, the planet were powered entirely by WWS, with no fossil-fuel or biomass combustion, an intriguing savings would occur. Global power demand would be only 11.5 TW, and U.S. demand would be 1.8 TW. That decline occurs because, in most cases, electrification is a more efficient way to use energy. For example, only 17 to 20 percent of the energy in gasoline is used to move a vehicle (the rest is wasted as heat), whereas 75 to 86 percent of the electricity delivered to an electric vehicle goes into motion.

Even if demand did rise to 16.9 TW, WWS sources could provide far more power. Detailed studies by us and others indicate that energy from the wind, worldwide, is about 1,700 TW. Solar, alone, offers 6,500 TW. Of course, wind and sun out in the open seas, over high mountains and across protected regions would not be available. If we subtract these and low-wind areas not likely to be developed, we are still left with 40 to 85 TW for wind and 580 TW for solar, each far beyond future human demand. Yet currently we generate only 0.02 TW of wind power and 0.008 TW of solar. These sources hold an incredible amount of untapped potential.

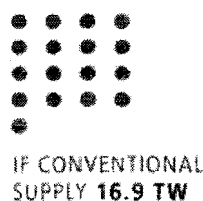
The other WWS technologies will help create a flexible range of options. Although all the sources can expand greatly, for practical reasons, wave power can be extracted only near coastal areas. Many geothermal sources are too deep to be tapped economically. And even though hydroelectric power now exceeds all other WWS sources, most of the suitable large reservoirs are already in use.

MW = MEGAWATT = 1 MILLION WATTS
 GW = GIGAWATT = 1 BILLION WATTS
 TW = TERAWATT = 1 TRILLION WATTS

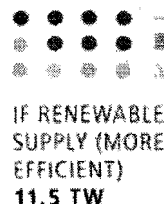
RENEWABLE POWER AVAILABLE IN READILY ACCESSIBLE LOCATIONS



POWER NEEDED WORLDWIDE IN 2030



OR



➡ The Editors welcome responses to this article. To comment and to see more detailed calculations, go to www.ScientificAmerican.com/sustainable-energy

RENEWABLE INSTALLATIONS REQUIRED WORLDWIDE

WATER 1.1 TW
(9% OF SUPPLY)

490,000

TIDAL TURBINES - 1 MW* - <1% IN PLACE
*size of unit

5,350

GEOTHERMAL PLANTS - 100 MW - 7% IN PLACE

900

HYDROELECTRIC PLANTS - 1,300 MW - 70% IN PLACE

3,800,000

WIND TURBINES - 5 MW - 1% IN PLACE

720,000

WAVE CONVERTERS* - 0.75 MW - <1% IN PLACE
*wind drives waves

1,700,000,000

ROOFTOP PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS* - 0.003 MW - <1% IN PLACE
*sized for a modest house; a commercial roof might have dozens of systems

49,000

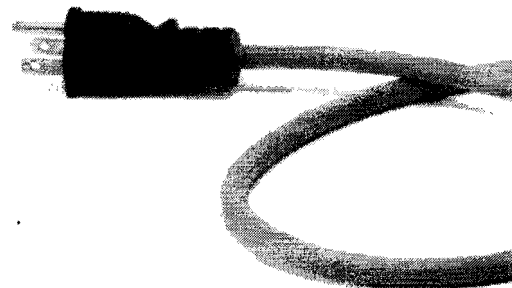
CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER PLANTS - 300 MW - <1% IN PLACE

40,000

PHOTOVOLTAIC POWER PLANTS - 300 MW - <1% IN PLACE

WIND 5.8 TW
(51% OF SUPPLY)

SOLAR 4.6 TW
(40% OF SUPPLY)



The Plan: Power Plants Required

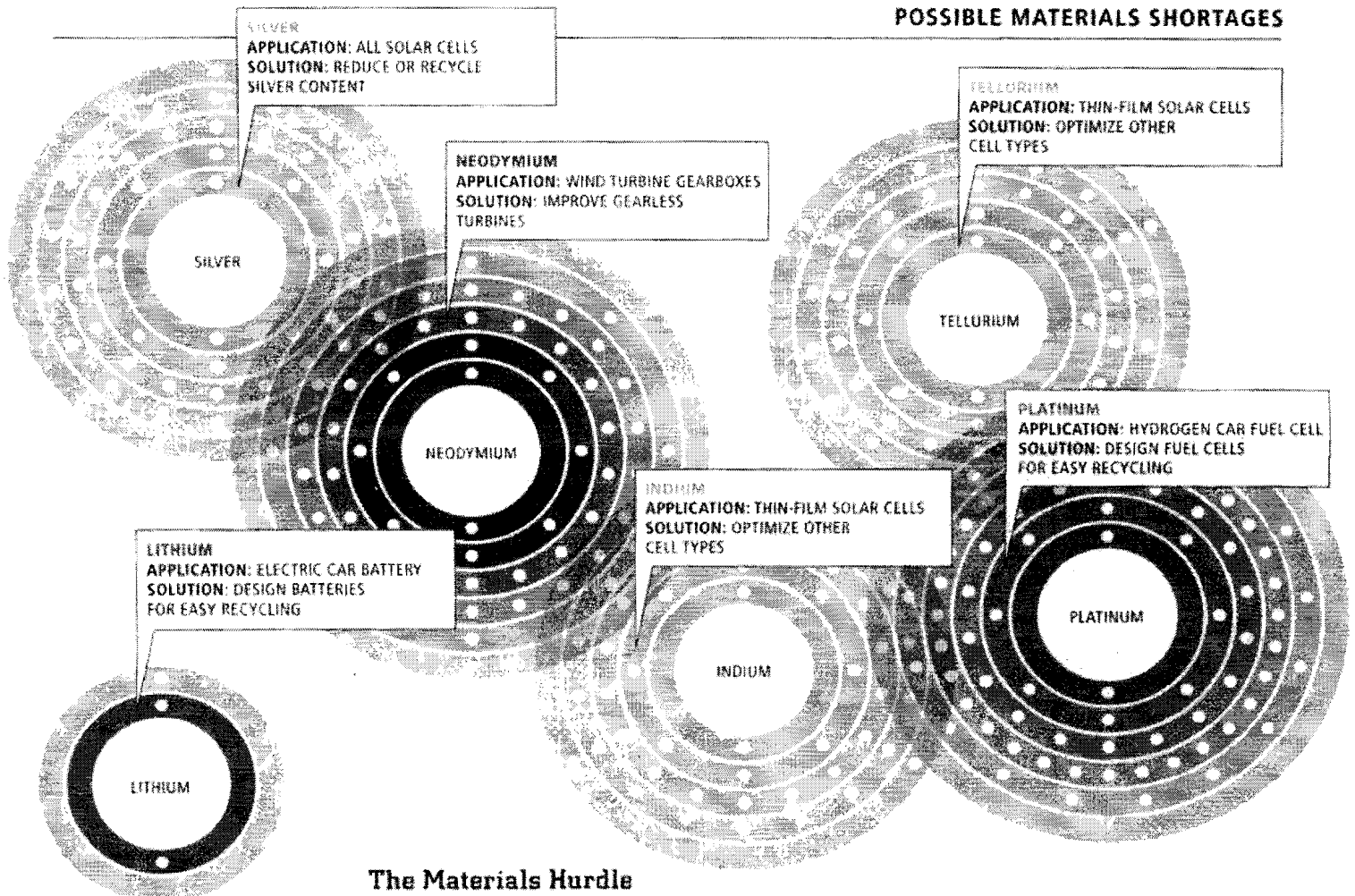
Clearly, enough renewable energy exists. How, then, would we transition to a new infrastructure to provide the world with 11.5 TW? We have chosen a mix of technologies emphasizing wind and solar, with about 9 percent of demand met by mature water-related methods. (Other combinations of wind and solar could be as successful.)

Wind supplies 51 percent of the demand, provided by 3.8 million large wind turbines (each rated at five megawatts) worldwide. Although that quantity may sound enormous, it is interesting to note that the world manufactures 73 million cars and light trucks *every year*. Another 40 percent of the power comes from photovoltaics and concentrated solar plants, with about 30 percent of the photovoltaic output from rooftop panels on homes and commercial buildings. About 89,000 photovoltaic and concentrated solar power plants, averaging 300 megawatts apiece, would be needed. Our mix also includes 900 hydroelectric stations worldwide, 70 percent of which are already in place.

Only about 0.8 percent of the wind base is installed today. The worldwide footprint of the 3.8 million turbines would be less than 50 square kilometers (smaller than Manhattan). When the needed spacing between them is figured, they would occupy about 1 percent of the earth's land, but the empty space among turbines could be used for agriculture or ranching or as open land or ocean. The nonrooftop photovoltaics and concentrated solar plants would occupy about 0.33 percent of the planet's land. Building such an extensive infrastructure will take time. But so did the current power plant network. And remember that if we stick with fossil fuels, demand by 2030 will rise to 16.9 TW, requiring about 13,000 large new coal plants, which themselves would occupy a lot more land, as would the mining to supply them.

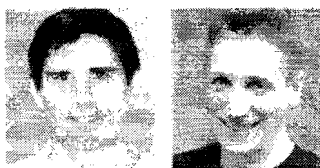
ILLUSTRATION: ANDREW H. BUCKLEY FOR SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

POSSIBLE MATERIALS SHORTAGES



[THE AUTHORS]

Mark Z. Jacobson is professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University and director of the Atmosphere/Energy Program there. He develops computer models to study the effects of energy technologies and their emissions on climate and air pollution. Mark A. Delucchi is a research scientist at the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis. He focuses on energy, environmental and economic analyses of advanced, sustainable transportation fuels, vehicles and systems.



The Materials Hurdle

The scale of the WWS infrastructure is not a barrier. But a few materials needed to build it could be scarce or subject to price manipulation.

Enough concrete and steel exist for the millions of wind turbines, and both those commodities are fully recyclable. The most problematic materials may be rare-earth metals such as neodymium used in turbine gearboxes. Although the metals are not in short supply, the low-cost sources are concentrated in China, so countries such as the U.S. could be trading dependence on Middle Eastern oil for dependence on Far Eastern metals. Manufacturers are moving toward gearless turbines, however, so that limitation may become moot.

Photovoltaic cells rely on amorphous or crystalline silicon, cadmium telluride, or copper indium selenide and sulfide. Limited supplies of tellurium and indium could reduce the prospects for some types of thin-film solar cells, though not for all; the other types might be able to take up the slack. Large-scale production could be restricted by the silver that cells require, but find-

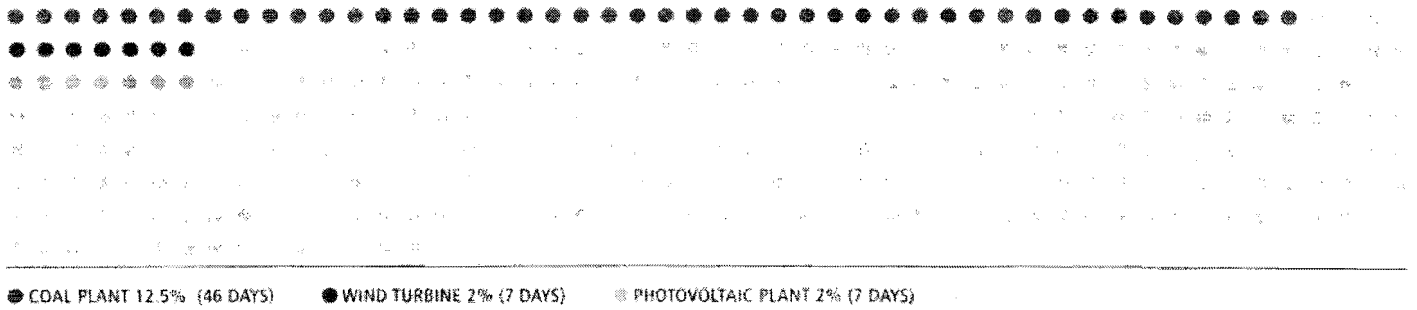
ing ways to reduce the silver content could tackle that hurdle. Recycling parts from old cells could ameliorate material difficulties as well.

Three components could pose challenges for building millions of electric vehicles: rare-earth metals for electric motors, lithium for lithium-ion batteries and platinum for fuel cells. More than half the world's lithium reserves lie in Bolivia and Chile. That concentration, combined with rapidly growing demand, could raise prices significantly. More problematic is the claim by Meridian International Research that not enough economically recoverable lithium exists to build anywhere near the number of batteries needed in a global electric-vehicle economy. Recycling could change the equation, but the economics of recycling depend in part on whether batteries are made with easy recyclability in mind, an issue the industry is aware of. The long-term use of platinum also depends on recycling; current available reserves would sustain annual production of 20 million fuel-cell vehicles, along with existing industrial uses, for fewer than 100 years.

ILLUSTRATION: JACOBSON; COURTESY OF MARK Z. JACOBSON/JACOBSON; COURTESY OF MARK A. DELUCCHI/DELUCCHI

AVERAGE DOWNTIME FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

DAYS PER YEAR



Smart Mix for Reliability

A new infrastructure must provide energy on demand at least as reliably as the existing infrastructure. WWS technologies generally suffer less downtime than traditional sources. The average U.S. coal plant is offline 12.5 percent of the year for scheduled and unscheduled maintenance. Modern wind turbines have a down time of less than 2 percent on land and less than 5 percent at sea. Photovoltaic systems are also at less than 2 percent. Moreover, when an individual wind, solar or wave device is down, only a small fraction of production is affected; when a coal, nuclear or natural gas plant goes offline, a large chunk of generation is lost.

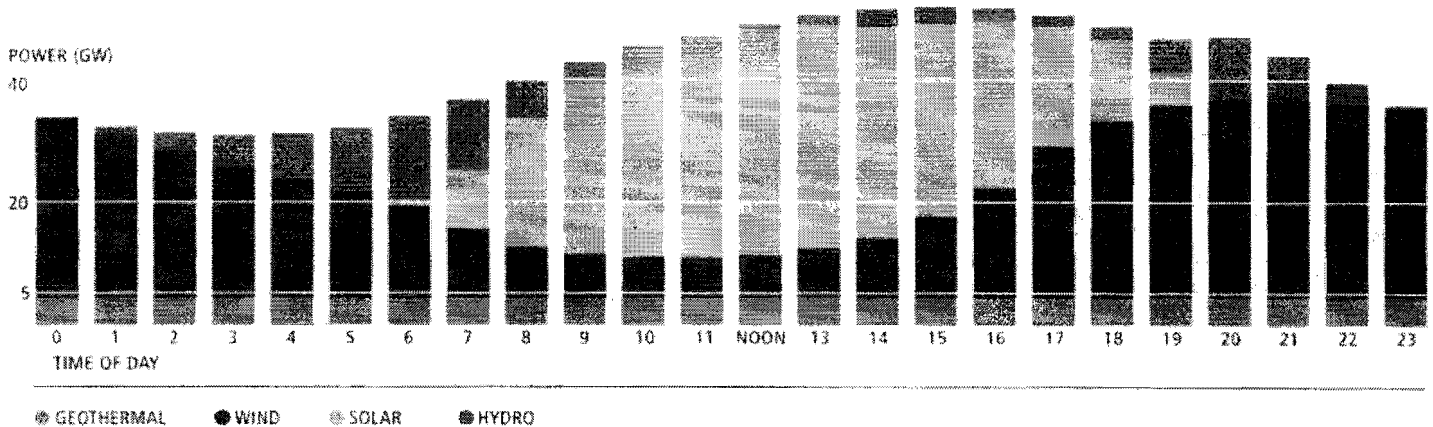
The main WWS challenge is that the wind does not always blow and the sun does not always shine in a given location. Intermittency problems can be mitigated by a smart balance of sources, such as generating a base supply from steady geothermal or tidal power, relying on

wind at night when it is often plentiful, using solar by day and turning to a reliable source such as hydroelectric that can be turned on and off quickly to smooth out supply or meet peak demand. For example, interconnecting wind farms that are only 100 to 200 miles apart can compensate for hours of zero power at any one farm should the wind not be blowing there. Also helpful is interconnecting geographically dispersed sources so they can back up one another, installing smart electric meters in homes that automatically recharge electric vehicles when demand is low and building facilities that store power for later use.

Because the wind often blows during stormy conditions when the sun does not shine and the sun often shines on calm days with little wind, combining wind and solar can go a long way toward meeting demand, especially when geothermal provides a steady base and hydroelectric can be called on to fill in the gaps.

▼ CALIFORNIA CASE STUDY: To show the power of combining resources, Graeme Hodge of Stanford University recently calculated how a mix of four renewable sources, in 2020, could generate 100 percent of California's electricity around the clock, on a typical July day. The hydroelectric capacity needed is already in place.

CLEAN ELECTRICITY 24/7



As Cheap as Coal

The mix of WWS sources in our plan can reliably supply the residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors. The logical next question is whether the power would be affordable. For each technology, we calculated how much it would cost a producer to generate power and transmit it across the grid. We included the annualized cost of capital, land, operations, maintenance, energy storage to help offset intermittent supply, and transmission. Today the cost of wind, geothermal and hydroelectric are all less than seven cents a kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh); wave and solar are higher. But by 2020 and beyond wind, wave and hydro are expected to be 4¢/kWh or less.

For comparison, the average cost in the U.S.

in 2007 of conventional power generation and transmission was about 7¢/kWh, and it is projected to be 8¢/kWh in 2020. Power from wind turbines, for example, already costs about the same or less than it does from a new coal or natural gas plant, and in the future wind power is expected to be the least costly of all options. The competitive cost of wind has made it the second-largest source of new electric power generation in the U.S. for the past three years, behind natural gas and ahead of coal.

Solar power is relatively expensive now but should be competitive as early as 2020. A careful analysis by Vasilis Fthenakis of Brookhaven National Laboratory indicates that within 10 years, photovoltaic system costs could drop to about 10¢/kWh, including long-distance transmission and the cost of compressed-air storage of power for use at night. The same analysis estimates that concentrated solar power systems with enough thermal storage to generate electricity 24 hours a day in spring, summer and fall could deliver electricity at 10¢/kWh or less.

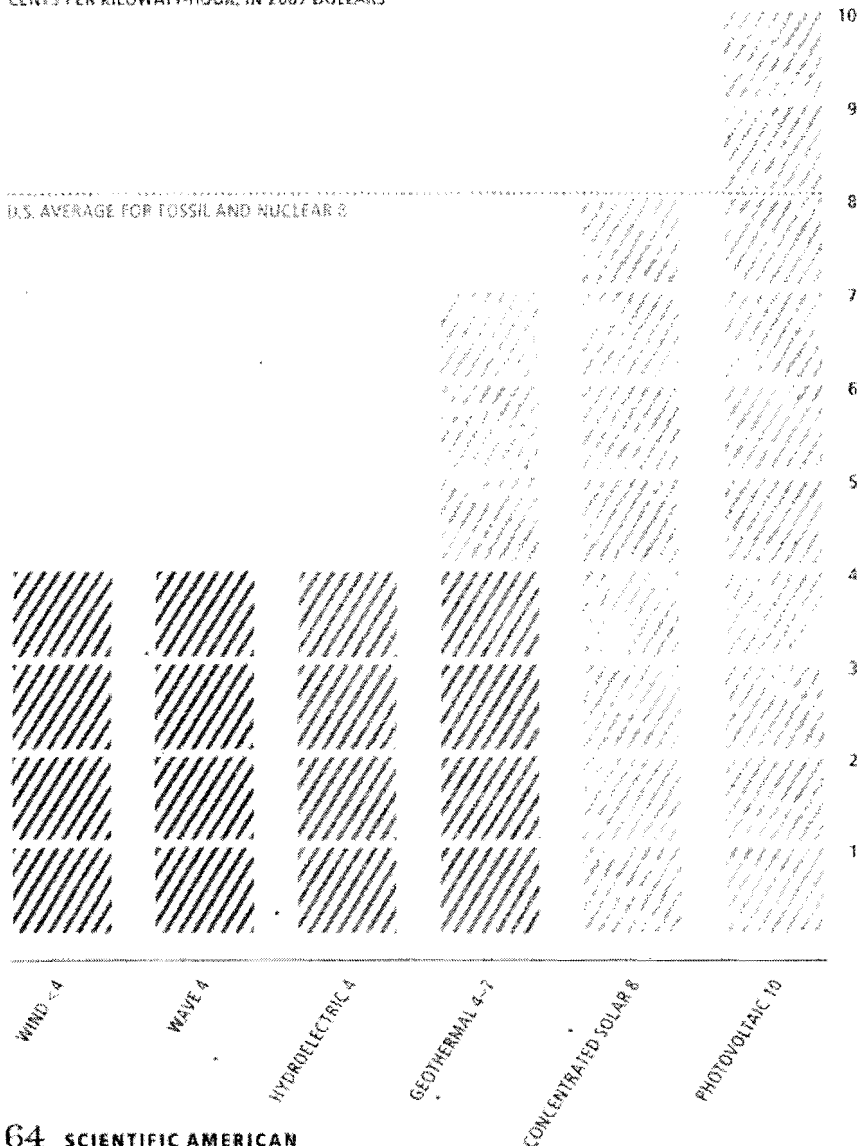
Transportation in a WWS world will be driven by batteries or fuel cells, so we should compare the economics of these electric vehicles with that of internal-combustion-engine vehicles. Detailed analyses by one of us (Delucchi) and Tim Lipman of the University of California, Berkeley, have indicated that mass-produced electric vehicles with advanced lithium-ion or nickel metal-hydride batteries could have a full lifetime cost per mile (including battery replacements) that is comparable with that of a gasoline vehicle, when gasoline sells for more than \$2 a gallon.

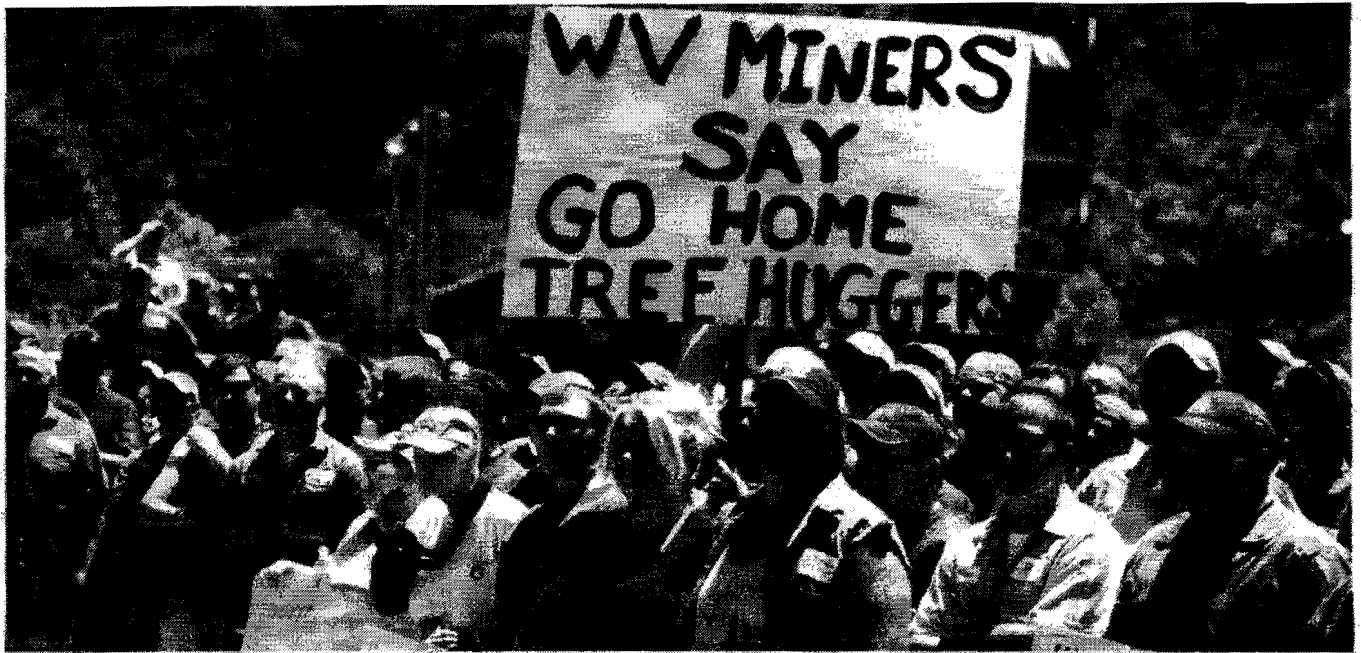
When the so-called externality costs (the monetary value of damages to human health, the environment and climate) of fossil-fuel generation are taken into account, WWS technologies become even more cost-competitive.

Overall construction cost for a WWS system might be on the order of \$100 trillion worldwide, over 20 years, not including transmission. But this is not money handed out by governments or consumers. It is investment that is paid back through the sale of electricity and energy. And again, relying on traditional sources would raise output from 12.5 to 16.9 TW, requiring thousands more of those plants, costing roughly \$10 trillion, not to mention tens of trillions of dollars more in health, environmental and security costs. The WWS plan gives the world a new, clean, efficient energy system rather than an old, dirty, inefficient one.

COST TO GENERATE AND TRANSMIT POWER IN 2020

CENTS PER KILOWATT-HOUR, IN 2007 DOLLARS





Political Will

Our analyses strongly suggest that the costs of WWS will become competitive with traditional sources. In the interim, however, certain forms of WWS power will be significantly more costly than fossil power. Some combination of WWS subsidies and carbon taxes would thus be needed for a time. A feed-in tariff (FIT) program to cover the difference between generation cost and wholesale electricity prices is especially effective at scaling-up new technologies. Combining FITs with a so-called declining clock auction, in which the right to sell power to the grid goes to the lowest bidders, provides continuing incentive for WWS developers to lower costs. As that happens, FITs can be phased out. FITs have been implemented in a number of European countries and a few U.S. states and have been quite successful in stimulating solar power in Germany.

Taxing fossil fuels or their use to reflect their environmental damages also makes sense. But at a minimum, existing subsidies for fossil energy, such as tax benefits for exploration and extraction, should be eliminated to level the playing field. Misguided promotion of alternatives that are less desirable than WWS power, such as farm and production subsidies for biofuels, should also be ended, because it delays deployment of cleaner systems. For their part, legislators crafting policy must find ways to resist lobbying by the entrenched energy industries.

Finally, each nation needs to be willing to invest in a robust, long-distance transmission system that can carry large quantities of WWS power from remote regions where it is often greatest—such as the Great Plains for wind and the desert Southwest for solar in

the U.S.—to centers of consumption, typically cities. Reducing consumer demand during peak usage periods also requires a smart grid that gives generators and consumers much more control over electricity usage hour by hour.

A large-scale wind, water and solar energy system can reliably supply the world's needs, significantly benefiting climate, air quality, water quality, ecology and energy security. As we have shown, the obstacles are primarily political, not technical. A combination of feed-in tariffs plus incentives for providers to reduce costs, elimination of fossil subsidies and an intelligently expanded grid could be enough to ensure rapid deployment. Of course, changes in the real-world power and transportation industries will have to overcome sunk investments in existing infrastructure. But with sensible policies, nations could set a goal of generating 25 percent of their new energy supply with WWS sources in 10 to 15 years and almost 100 percent of new supply in 20 to 30 years. With extremely aggressive policies, all existing fossil-fuel capacity could theoretically be retired and replaced in the same period, but with more modest and likely policies full replacement may take 40 to 50 years. Either way, clear leadership is needed, or else nations will keep trying technologies promoted by industries rather than vetted by scientists.

A decade ago it was not clear that a global WWS system would be technically or economically feasible. Having shown that it is, we hope global leaders can figure out how to make WWS power politically feasible as well. They can start by committing to meaningful climate and renewable energy goals now. ■

▲ COAL MINERS and other fossil-fuel workers, unions and lobbyists are likely to resist a transformation to clean energy; political leaders will have to champion the cause.

➔ MORE TO EXPLORE

Stabilization Wedges: Solving the Climate Problem for the Next 50 Years with Current Technologies. S. Pacala and R. Socolow in *Science*, Vol. 305, pages 968–972; 2004.

Evaluation of Global Wind Power. Cristina L. Archer and Mark Z. Jacobson in *Journal of Geophysical Research—Atmospheres*, Vol. 110, D12110; June 30, 2005.

Going Completely Renewable: Is It Possible (Let Alone Desirable)? B. K. Sovacool and C. Watts in *The Electricity Journal*, Vol. 22, No. 4, pages 95–111; 2009.

Review of Solutions to Global Warming, Air Pollution, and Energy Security. M. Z. Jacobson in *Energy and Environmental Science*, Vol. 2, pages 148–173; 2009.

The Technical, Geographical, and Economic Feasibility for Solar Energy to Supply the Energy Needs of the U.S. V. Fthenakis, J. E. Mason and K. Zweibel in *Energy Policy*, Vol. 37, pages 387–399; 2009.

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:09 AM
To: Cristina Slaton
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Message to add to docket

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Cristina Slaton
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 3:49 PM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: Message to add to docket

Ann,

I received a call today from Monica Cooper (352-373-5295) advising that the interveners on docket no. 090451-EM made a motion today regarding an EPA ruling that she hopes will be considered during tomorrow's special agenda and given official recognition. Please add this message to the correspondence folder of the docket. This message has not been shared with Commissioner Skop.

Thank you,
Cristina

I am totally against the proposed biomass plant in Gainesville, Florida. There is no pressing need, since we have enough power until 2023, and newer technology is sure to change the whole decision. This plant will need 100 tons of wood to fuel it per year, which would damage the forests, and the 170 trucks needed daily would further damage our already fragile roadways. For these reasons and many others, I feel this idea needs to be voted down.

H. John

George Johnson
P.O. Box 90158
Gainesville, FL 32607
352) 375-6978

090451-EM

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
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cc/ Commissioners

RECEIVED-FPSC
10 MAY 26 AM 9:15
COMMISSION
CLERK

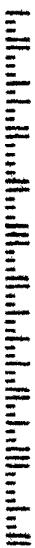
By Informant
P.O. Box 90158
St. Petersburg, FL
32607



(Blank)

P.S.D.
2570 Shumard Ave Blvd
Tampa, FL 32301

32311+7843



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-

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE

Administrative Parties Consumer

DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09

DISTRIBUTION: _____

DATE: May 24, 2010
TO: Ann Cole, Commission Clerk - PSC, Office of Commissioner Skop
FROM: Cristina Slaton, Executive Secretary to Commissioner Skop
RE: Docket Correspondence

Ann,

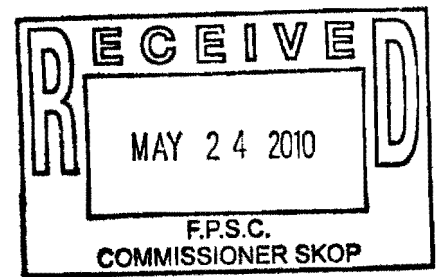
Please place the attached correspondence sent to the Office of Commissioner Skop in the correspondence folder for docket number 090451-EI. This letter is from Ms. Monica Cooper of Gainesville, FL. I believe Ms. Cooper sent this correspondence in email form as well; however, this is the original letter received. Thank you.

RECEIVED-FPSC

10 MAY 25 PM 12:01

COMMISSION
CLERK

May 20, 2010



Dear Commissioner Skop,

Thank you again for allowing me to speak at the biomass hearing on May 6th. I was honored to be able to speak and express the concern about the immensity of this project which many of my fellow ratepayers in Gainesville share. I would like to add a few comments to my testimony.

As I said, in discussion of current commission policy during the recent Gainesville election there was much talk about the biomass plant. 60% of voters supported a candidate who campaigned against the biomass plant. This was one of our major issues, along with issues of blatant disregard for taxpayer well-being. There has been a pattern with the 2009-2010 commission, who support the biomass plant, of voting for projects that will put an increasing burden on taxpayers, and this continues with another such vote this week. They seem to choose what seems politically correct not what is based in the reality of taxpayers pocketbooks. Even though strongly questioned, they often vote against the majority of citizens. I only mention this because I think it is pertinent to the discussion about their notion of widespread support for the 100 MW biomass plant, which I challenged.

To add to my presentation:

- 1) Prior to the vote, many citizens spoke up to oppose biomass and many ratepayers had thought the chosen contract would be for a much smaller plant with much less regional impact. Once the decision was made to pursue biomass, citizen involvement was reduced considerably;
- 2) There is no need to rush into this project-there are other future options which don't involve committing to a 30 year contract. This plant will reduce the focus on efficiency, conservation, and solar. In fact, with the pressure to sell or use the high priced 100MW, the incentive to reduce consumption is lessened;
- 3) Beyond the initial higher prices charged to GRU customers, there will undoubtedly be competition over the next 15 or 20 years for the 1 million tons of wood fuel needed annually to feed this plant, with other biomass plants proposed. This will put ratepayers in a risky position;
- 4) Legislation requiring carbon taxes has not passed. Without penalties, we lose potential buyers who can purchase cheaper power elsewhere, putting us at further risk;
- 5) Biomass burning is not carbon neutral and the fuel source is not sustainable at the 1 million tons needed annually for this proposed plant. The risk to taxpayers goes beyond our pockets and into our lungs, as medical professionals warn. This is not clean fuel. We need to focus on environmentally clean fuel, which we can do within the next 10-15 years of advancing technologies;
- 6) Gainesville ratepayers do not need this huge risk thrust upon them in these hard economic times. Please vote "No" to the proposed unneeded 100MW biomass plant.

Thank you, s/ Monica Cooper

COOPER
412 N 2 13 AVE
Gainesville FL
32601

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chief Advisor to Commissioner Edgar

Roberta S. Bass

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard ♦ Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0854

Phone: (850) 413-6016 Fax: (850) 413-6017

E-mail: rbass@psc.state.fl.us

Ann -

*Please place the
attached in Docket
No. 090451-EM.*

Thank you,

Roberta
Advised by Roberta Bass
to scan correspondence and
place in docket, consumer corr.

090451-EM

David and December McSherry
15212 SW 79th Avenue
Archer, Florida 32618

RECEIVED-FPSC

10 MAY 25 PM 12: 02

May 20 2010
COMMISSION
CLERK

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DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

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

Re: **Docket 090451**

Dear Chairwoman Argenziano, *Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar*

We are farmers near Archer, Florida. We have been living on and working our farm since 1974. We are customers of Clay Electric Co-op, as such, we are customers of Gainesville Regional Utilities.

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

Please vote no to this unnecessary and unaffordable proposal.

This proposed new plant will likely result in the forced shutdown of power plants representing considerable investment by the ratepayers. The contract with GREC requires GRU to buy 100% of the production of the wood burner, absent the ability of GRU to sell this power out of town, the local customers will be required to buy this expensive electricity and shutdown perfectly capable plants. These perfectly capable plants represent large and historic public investment.

Customers are using much less energy than expected, a new power plant is not needed.

GRU has experienced sharp declines in electric sales the last few years due to economic factors High vacancy rates in apartments, commercial buildings and homes continue upward. Foreclosure rates are skyrocketing in our community.

The lower sales and resulting decreased revenues, are requiring the Electric System to draw significantly upon its Rate Stabilization reserves. In FY09, Gainesville withdrew \$11.5 million and in FY10, \$8.0 million.

The primary electric power source Deerhaven Unit 2, a 228 MW coal burner, is only twenty-eight years old and provides 74.1% net power generation. This is young for this type of power plant. With reasonable and proficient maintenance this plant can efficiently operate for another thirty years.

Ratepayers have recently invested millions of dollars to bring Deerhaven Unit 2 Power Plant into compliance with federal air quality pollution standards.

Construction of the \$141 million air quality control system (AQCS) was completed in May, 2009 to meet regulatory requirements. The new emissions control system includes a selective catalytic reduction system (SCR), dry flue gas desulfurization and a fabric filter. This system is designed for a greater than 95% SO₂ removal efficiency. The SCR system is designed to achieve 90% NO_x removal efficiency.

Ratepayers have made expensive investments to replace components parts for seven combustion turbines.

These improvements will provide additional continuous capacity.

A total project budget of \$14.9 million has been included in fiscal years FY09 thru FY12 for the Deerhaven Unit 2 Turbine Improvement Project. The capital budget includes further plans to replace the boiler drum, waterwalls, superheaters, reheaters, economizer and associated headers.

There needs to be public discussion and investigation to install combined cycle boilers on the Deerhaven plant. This type of investment and construction would provide up to 30 megawatts more electrical power.

The 117 MW Natural Gas J.R. Kelly Generating Station combined-cycle generating unit provides 20% electricity to Gainesville.

Ratepayers have invested significantly to make improvements over the past 15 years. This power plant performs a valuable service diversifying the fuel source of the utility. Gas is produced and supplied by an established industry, well capitalized and innovating constantly. Gas comes through the Florida Gas Transmission interstate pipeline. Customers are paying 36% less for this natural gas fuel with the reduced purchased gas adjustment.

In 2007, GRU expanded the plant to allow for load growth for downtown Gainesville. This power plant is efficient, clean and cost-effective. Major overhaul expenditures for JR Kelly plant are also included in FY10-11 capital budget. The expected retirement of this plant is 2051.

This fleet of generators operated by GRU are capable of supplying the customers for at least another thirty to forty years.

The proposed wood fueled power plant is an obsolete technology now, a pollution monster that will be extremely expensive to retrofit with air pollution controls. Expensive pollution controls not currently planned for and will be required by new EPA regulations.

Fresh cut wood yields 2,000 Btu/lb of energy available compared with coal yielding 12,800 Btu/lb. This will make delivery cost/Btu of wood 7 times higher than coal. 200 diesel semi trucks will deliver the 3,250 tons of wood daily, creating smog and making our roads unsafe.

The wood fuel supply system is currently nonexistent; the suggested schemes for supplying fuel poorly thought out and based on wishful thinking. The estimates for the supply of wood available are driven by vague and dubious data. The fuel supply estimates ignored the demands of the current forest products industries. The competition for the dwindling supplies will be fierce.

GRU has not been candid or clear about wood fuel prices/MMBtu, yet GRU documents coal, gas, residual and distillate fuel oil prices. This is unfair and risky for the ratepayers.

Proven generation plants with decades of service life left will very likely become stranded assets under the terms of this proposal.

The market for electricity has been flat or slightly retracting for several years. There is no reason to assume this will change in Florida in the next decade.

Gainesville Regional Utilities has a 62% overcapacity in supply. There is no need for this plant.

The proposal for a new power plant is an expensive risk for ratepayers.

Sincerely,

David M. Sherry
December McSherry
David and December McSherry

cc. Public Service Commissioners

David; December Nisherry
15212 S W 79 Avenue
Archer, FL 32618

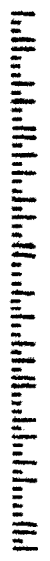
DAVENSVILLE FL 326
20 MAY 2010 PM 1 T



Florida Public Service Commission
COMMISSIONER EDGAR

410782 MAY
Commissioner Fisa Polak Edgar
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

323990850



090451-EM

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 1133-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

May 20, 2010

Dear Commissioner Edgar,

Thank you again for allowing me to speak at the biomass hearing on May 6th. I was honored to be able to speak and express the concern about the immensity of this project which many of my fellow ratepayers in Gainesville share. I would like to add a few comments to my testimony.

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To add to my presentation:

- 1) Prior to the vote, many citizens spoke up to oppose biomass and many ratepayers had thought the chosen contract would be for a much smaller plant with much less regional impact. Once the decision was made to pursue biomass, citizen involvement was reduced considerably;
- 2) There is no need to rush into this project-there are other future options which don't involve committing to a 30 year contract. This plant will reduce the focus on efficiency, conservation, and solar. In fact, with the pressure to sell or use the high priced 100MW, the incentive to reduce consumption is lessened;
- 3) Beyond the initial higher prices charged to GRU customers, there will undoubtedly be competition over the next 15 or 20 years for the 1 million tons of wood fuel needed annually to feed this plant, with other biomass plants proposed. This will put ratepayers in a risky position;
- 4) Legislation requiring carbon taxes has not passed. Without penalties, we lose potential buyers who can purchase cheaper power elsewhere, putting us at further risk;
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- 6) Gainesville ratepayers do not need this huge risk thrust upon them in these hard economic times. Please vote "No" to the proposed unneeded 100MW biomass plant.

Thank you, #/ Monica Cooper

000842
412 NE 13 Ave
Gainesville FL
32601

GAINESVILLE FL 326

21 MAY 2010 10:11



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MAY 21 2010

Florida Public Service Commission
3000 G. W. PHIPPS BLVD
TALLAHASSEE, FL 32300-9999

Commissioner Edgar

Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Blvd

Tallahassee, FL

32300/9999



Ann Cole

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
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DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 7:59 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Docket 090451 Please deny new Gainesville power plant
Attachments: Commissioner Klement.docx

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Klement
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 7:32 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Docket 090451 Please deny new Gainesville power plant

Please add to docket #090451.

Thanks.

From: LMcshe2001@aol.com [mailto:LMcshe2001@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: re: Docket 090451 Please deny new Gainesville power plant

*David and December McSherry
 15212 SW 79th Avenue
 Archer, Florida 32618*

May 20, 2010

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

Re: Docket 090451 No need for Gainesville power plant

Dear Commissioner Klement,

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

5/26/2010

Please vote no to this unnecessary and unaffordable proposal.

This proposed new plant will likely result in the forced shutdown of power plants representing considerable investment by the ratepayers. The contract with GREC requires GRU to buy 100% of the production of the wood burner, absent the ability of GRU to sell this power out of town, the local customers will be required to buy this expensive electricity and shutdown perfectly capable plants. These perfectly capable plants represent large and historic public investment.

Customers are using much less energy than expected, a new power plant is not needed.

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Sincerely,

s/ David and December McSherry

cc. Public Service Commissioners

5/26/2010

David and December McSherry
15212 SW 79th Avenue
Archer, Florida 32618

May 20, 2010

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

Re: **Docket 090451 No need for Gainesville power plant**

Dear Commissioner Klement,

We are farmers near Archer, Florida. We have been living on and working our farm since 1974. We are customers of Clay Electric Co-op, as such, we are customers of Gainesville Regional Utilities.

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

Please vote no to this unnecessary and unaffordable proposal.

This proposed new plant will likely result in the forced shutdown of power plants representing considerable investment by the ratepayers. The contract with GREC requires GRU to buy 100% of the production of the wood burner, absent the ability of GRU to sell this power out of town, the local customers will be required to buy this expensive electricity and shutdown perfectly capable plants. These perfectly capable plants represent large and historic public investment.

Customers are using much less energy than expected, a new power plant is not needed.

GRU has experienced sharp declines in electric sales the last few years due to economic factors. High vacancy rates in apartments, commercial buildings and homes continue to spiral upward. Foreclosure rates are skyrocketing in our community.

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There needs to be public discussion and investigation to install combined cycle boilers on the Deerhaven plant. This type of investment and construction would provide up to 30 megawatts more electrical power.

The 117 MW Natural Gas J.R. Kelly Generating Station combined-cycle generating unit provides 20% electricity to Gainesville.

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cc. Public Service Commissioners

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
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Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:55 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 3:49 PM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Ann,

Please place the e-mail below in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM

Thanks,
Cristina

From: James Barker [mailto:brack154@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 2:32 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Office of Commissioner Skop; Commissioner.Stevans@psc.state.fl.us; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Dear PSC Chairwoman Nancy Argenziano,
and Commissioners ~Skop, Stevens, Edgar and Klement,

The below press release from March 13th is being submitted for the record reference the Gainesville Regional Utilities and GREC biomass plant under your consideration for Gainesville, Florida.

Thank you,
Brack Barker
SSJ Chair

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group votes to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

Press Release, March 13, 2010

Contact Brack Barker, Conservation Chair, phone # 352-215-4396

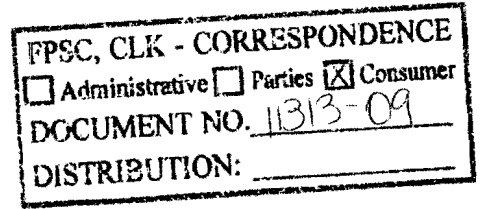
The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group, which represents 14 counties in North Central Florida including Alachua county, has voted to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

- * A new power plant is not needed; GRU currently has 62% overcapacity
- * Competition for increasingly scarce biomass fuel will be too expensive and a burden on the ratepayers
- * We reject more massive air pollution and major water withdrawals
- * The City of Gainesville needs to expand their energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption. This will create many new jobs that will benefit the community and region. For these reasons the Suwannee/St.John's group opposes a new power plant.

Brack Barker Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group Conservation Chair

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 12:59 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451



Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 9:42 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 9:31 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 090451

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 8:06 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]

Sent: Friday, May 21, 2010 6:52 AM

To: Webmaster

Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: William Kelley

Company:

Primary Phone:

Secondary Phone:

Email:

Response requested? No

CC Sent? No

Comments:

No to biomass plant, its too expensive.

090451

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 12:29 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Docket 090451 Please deny Gainesville proposed new power plant
Attachments: Commissioner Skop.docx

Thanks, Cristina. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 12:20 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Docket 090451 Please deny Gainesville proposed new power plant

Ann,

Please place the e-mail below and in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM. The attachment appears to be the same as the e-mail.

Thanks,
Cristina

From: LMcshe2001@aol.com [mailto:LMcshe2001@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:30 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Subject: Docket 090451 Please deny Gainesville proposed new power plant

*David and December McSherry
15212 SW 79th Avenue
Archer, Florida 32618*

May 20, 2010

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

Re: Docket 090451 No need for Gainesville power plant

Dear Commissioner Skop,

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

Please vote no to this unnecessary and unaffordable proposal.

This proposed new plant will likely result in the forced shutdown of power plants representing considerable investment by the ratepayers. The contract with GREC requires GRU to buy 100% of the production of the wood burner, absent the ability of GRU to sell this power out of town, the local customers will be required to buy this expensive electricity and shutdown perfectly capable plants. These perfectly capable plants represent large and historic public investment.

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cc. Public Service Commissioners

5/24/2010

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15212 SW 79th Avenue
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May 20, 2010

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2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
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FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 12:28 PM
To: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Docket 090451 Please deny Gainesville new power plant

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 11:08 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Docket 090451 Please deny Gainesville new power plant

Please place this correspondence in Docket No. 090451-EM. Thank you.

Roberta

Roberta S. Bass
 Chief Advisor to Commissioner Edgar
 Florida Public Service Commission
 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399
 (850) 413-6016 (Office)
 (850) 413-6017 (Facsimile)
 (850) 559-7291 (Mobile)
roberta.bass@psc.state.fl.us

From: LMcshe2001@aol.com [mailto:LMcshe2001@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:32 AM
To: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Subject: re: Docket 090451 Please deny Gainesville new power plant

David and December McSherry
 15212 SW 79th Avenue
 Archer, Florida 32618

May 20, 2010

Florida Public Service Commission
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 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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5/24/2010

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5/24/2010

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Sincerely,

5/24/2010

s/ David and December McSherry

cc. Public Service Commissioners

5/24/2010

Ann Cole

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 1131-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 6:40 AM
To: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:39 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

Please place this correspondence in Docket No. 090451-EM. Thank you.

Roberta

Roberta S. Bass
 Chief Advisor to Commissioner Edgar
 Florida Public Service Commission
 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399
 (850) 413-6016 (Office)
 (850) 413-6017 (Facsimile)
 (850) 559-7291 (Mobile)
roberta.bass@psc.state.fl.us

From: Ed Brown [mailto:edbrown325@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:37 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com; Ed Brown
Subject: Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

May 19, 2010

TO: Florida Public Service Commissioners
 CC: Governor Charlie Christ

I am writing to you today about the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center project.

I am apposed to building the proposed biomass power plant because of the negative impact this power plant will have on my community. My community has some significant challenges that require large financial investments. Spending hundreds of millions of dollars on additional power generating capacity we dont need is fiscally irresponsible and morally wrong.

In my community (Alachua County), 20% of the people live below the poverty line, a percentage that is 60% higher than the national average of 12.5%. Many of these people purchase their electricity directly or indirectly from Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU). GRU says rates will increase if this new power plant is built. My neighbors living below the poverty line will be financially devastated by these higher

5/20/2010

rates.

As the economic contraction continues and we experience more layoffs and foreclosures, more people in my community will fall below the poverty line and join the ranks of the working poor. Spending resources to build an unnecessary power plant that will negatively impact the poor in this community is wrong.

My community needs to reduce power consumption, not build more power generating capacity. Climate change, peak energy production and the economic crisis require us to cut back on energy consumption. We need to invest in energy conservation and energy efficiency programs, not a \$500M power plant. German communities are reducing their energy demand by 50% and then investing in wind and solar to meet this reduced demand. This is a strategy all Floridians should be embracing conserve, reduce consumption using energy efficiency and then invest in clean and renewable energy.

My community needs more and better public transportation! All of the liquid fuels we use for transportation are imported from outside Florida. Access to these fuels is important to our economic success. As liquid fuel prices rise and supply falls, demand for public transportation will increase. Where will the financial resources come from to build more public transportation if we build an unnecessary \$500M power plant?

My community needs a local, sustainable and resilient food system! Over 95% of the food consumed in my community comes from outside the community. This food is grown, fertilized, stored, processed and transported using non-renewable fuels and natural resources that are in production decline.

You may have heard the statistic that a typical American meal travels 1,500 miles from the farm gate to our dinner plate. A high percentage of the food we eat in my community travels much further than 1,500 miles. The Central Valley of California, which produces 50% of the fruits, vegetables, nuts and berries consumed in the US and Canada (340M people) is located 2,500 miles from Alachua County. As fuel prices rise, food prices will rise significantly, as they did in 2008. We need to grow more of our own food.

My community needs more farms and farmers, more commercial kitchens, more food processing facilities, a slaughter house, a food transportation network, more farmers markets, more food co-ops and more food and gardening education for our community. How will we build this expensive and extensive food system with the majority of our available community resources tied up in a power plant we dont need?

My community is heavily dependent of two institutions for much of its economic success. The University of Florida (UF) and Shands HealthCare provide over 27,000 jobs in my community and UF brings over 50,000 students to Gainesville every year. Both of these institutions are reliant on the state of Florida for funding. Recent state budget cuts have impacted UF and Shands and the future promises more budget cuts for Shands and UF as state revenues decline and budget deficits grow.

My community needs to reduce its heavy reliance on institutions that are dependent on state funding. My community needs to invest in new local businesses to create a robust and resilient economy. Businesses, local government and individuals need money to invest in this local economy. Building a \$500M power plant we dont need will drain our community of the investment dollars we need to build this local economy.

It is clear to me that the traditional business model of building power plants that burn carbon-based fuels to generate electricity and tax revenue is not prudent. But, GRU and the Gainesville City Commission dont get it. The old posters on the walls at GRU headquarters that read Burn to Earn reveal their bias toward burning fuels to earn money.

Burning biomass to generate power will generate more expenses not more earnings. The recent EPA Greenhouse Tailoring Rule does not exempt biomass power producers from greenhouse gas (GHG) permitting requirements. So, electricity generated using biomass will be even more expensive than we have been told by GRU.

My community needs the financial resources that GRU and Gainesville City Commissioners are planning to spend on a biomass plant we dont need. Please reject this biomass power plant proposal and help my community maintain the investment funds it needs to prosper in a future that promises to be

very challenging

Best Regards,

Ed Brown

Former Member, Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission

Gainesville, FL

352-359-7666

edbrown325@gmail.com

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2010 6:39 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 1313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Klement
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 3:30 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

Please add to docket 090451.

From: Ed Brown [mailto:edbrown325@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 2:37 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com; Ed Brown
Subject: Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

May 19, 2010

TO: Florida Public Service Commissioners
 CC: Governor Charlie Christ

I am writing to you today about the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center project.

I am apposed to building the proposed biomass power plant because of the negative impact this power plant will have on my community. My community has some significant challenges that require large financial investments. Spending hundreds of millions of dollars on additional power generating capacity we dont need is fiscally irresponsible and morally wrong.

In my community (Alachua County), 20% of the people live below the poverty line, a percentage that is 60% higher than the national average of 12.5%. Many of these people purchase their electricity directly or indirectly from Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU). GRU says rates will increase if this new power plant is built. My neighbors living below the poverty line will be financially devastated by these higher rates.

As the economic contraction continues and we experience more layoffs and foreclosures, more people in my community will fall below the poverty line and join the ranks of the working poor. Spending resources to build an unnecessary power plant that will negatively impact the poor in this community is wrong.

My community needs to reduce power consumption, not build more power generating capacity. Climate change, peak energy production and the economic crisis require us to cut back on energy consumption. We need to invest in energy conservation and energy efficiency programs, not a \$500M power plant. German communities are reducing their energy demand by 50% and then investing in wind and solar to meet this reduced demand. This is a strategy all Floridians should be embracing conserve, reduce consumption using energy efficiency and then invest in clean and renewable energy.

5/20/2010

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Best Regards,

Ed Brown

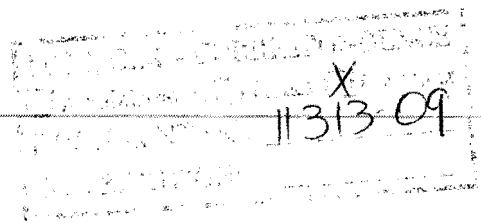
Former Member, Alachua County Energy Conservation Strategies Commission

Gainesville, FL

352-359-7666

edbrown325@gmail.com

Ann Cole



From: Ann Cole
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:55 AM
To: Cristina Slaton
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Docket Correspondence - GRU
Attachments: Fla Med Assoc Dr. on Gainesville Biomass; Gainesville doesn't need GREC

Thank you for this information. The first e-mail listed, along with its 5 attachments has already been printed, received from Melanie Shanks, and will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM. I have printed the second attachment, which will also be placed in this *Docket Correspondence* file.

From: Cristina Slaton
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:09 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: Docket Correspondence - GRU

Ann,

Please place the attached e-mails in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM

Thanks,
Cristina

Ann Cole

From: Tom Bussing [tombussing@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 10:33 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Subject: Gainesville doesn't need GREC

Commissioner Nathan A. Skop

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

May 17, 2010

Commissioner Skop,

The reopened evidentiary hearing on the GREC/GRU proposal (Docket 090451-EM) did not change the facts. The proposal remains an unnecessary and expensive risk for the ratepayers.

The 100 megawatts of new generation capacity are not needed. GRU claims that the capacity *will* be needed by 2023 at the earliest. Even then, that “need” would not be justified. It would demonstrably be “manufactured” by GRU failing to bring on filler units and more cost-effective upgrades to existing units.

Our utility’s ratepayers would be saddled with the massive costs of these artificially stranded assets, as existing generators are taken off-line.

The Net Present Value analysis for the proposal shows the project to be a loser in the first decades of operation. A rosy GRU projection describes a possible eventual advantage, but only in hazy and imprecise “forecasts” far into the future, the uncertainty exacerbated by the experimental technology and lack of a market record for this novel fuel.

What the reopened hearing *did* add to the process was a baldly political power play by GRU. Rather than depend upon their factual filings, they orchestrated an overtly political dog-and-pony show in order to pressure the Florida Public Service Commissioners to make a decision in their favor.

It is a mystery how our City Commissioners were able to plan their coordinated and well-orchestrated performances, under the Florida Sunshine Law.

One can only wonder how such a performance

would have been viewed, had the applicant been an Investor Owned Utility. If this is a creative precedent for future PSC dockets, and if IOU's see advantage in duplicating the effort, the future looks dark for Florida ratepayers.

The statutory language that directs the PSC in these regulatory decisions is broad, and can bring up conflicting findings for and against a proposal. In adjudicating these matters, I would urge you to return to the primary role that underlies your authority, above the statutory detail. That is to provide competent protection for Florida ratepayers, who are inherently held hostage to these monopolistic utility systems.

The GREC proposal will only be coming before the PSC ***this one time***. There will be no opportunity to monitor or amend the terms of this contract. With the heavy redactions in the public version of the contract, the ratepayers will never be able to see whether the agreement is met.

The current dreamy City Commissioners who so desperately wish to be certified as "carbon neutral," ***at any price***, will be long gone.

Please do not hand over our energy future to this faulty and politically driven plan.

Please vote to deny the petition.

Yours truly,

Thomas D. Bussing, PhD
Former Mayor, City of Gainesville

www.Gators-R.US/SolarInfo

cc: FPS Commissioners

11313-09

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:27 AM
To: Melanie Shanks
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Fla Med Assoc Dr. on Gainesville Biomass
Attachments: PSR_press_release.pdf; ALA_national_letter.pdf; massmed.doc; North_Carolina_Academy_of_Family_Physicians.doc; Oil spill may endanger health.doc

Thanks, Melanie. The five attachments have been printed and will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Melanie Shanks
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 8:58 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Fla Med Assoc Dr. on Gainesville Biomass

Ann,

Please place in Correspondence for Docket #090451- Consumers and their Representatives.

Thank you,
Melanie

From: ronsaff@aol.com [mailto:ronsaff@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 8:28 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Subject: Fla Med Assoc Dr. on Gainesville Biomass

Dear Commissioners,

I was the asthma specialist from the Environment and Health Section of the Florida Med Assoc who was the first speaker at the PSC meeting who addressed you about deadly emissions from biomass plants. Many of the same deadly chemicals including benzene and volatile organic compounds present in the Gulf oil spill are the same harmful ones found in biomass plants emissions!(Oil spill may endanger health.doc) Since I spoke, I have found out about other medical and environmental organizations that have raised concerns about these poison producing biomass plants in addition to the Fla Med Assoc, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR_press_release.pdf) and Massachusetts Medical Society (massmed.doc) and American Lung Association that I mentioned. Specifically, the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians is troubled about" the numerous and serious adverse health consequences that can result from human exposure to the components of emissions of biomass burning"(North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians.doc). A letter from Biofuelwatch and the Biomass Accountability Project to the National Sierra Club stated"biomass is dirty energy and should not be promoted as a bridge to a clean energy future and notes that" wood burning biomass releases 1.5X as much carbon dioxide per megawatt as coal."

In short, just like we know the deadly consequences of smoking cigarettes, the medical evidence about the dangers of biomass plant emissions are well known to the medical community and are compelling. That is because cigarette smoke and biomass plant emissions share some of the same lethal chemicals: carbon monoxide and acrolein. I am not sure who this Dr. Cantwell is whose testimony was read to you, but she is not a member of the Florida Medical Association's Env and Health Section, and just like you will find a few kooky

scientists who will testify that there is no such thing as global warming, there are a few oddball physicians that are ignorant of the science and will use fallacies rather than facts.

The Scientific American article (A Path to Sustainable Energy, November 2009) dismissed biofuel plants as too polluting and stated that we can meet our energy needs from wind, water and solar but the barrier is political. As a PSC Commissioner, you can serve to catalyze the transition to truly clean energy. The American Lung Association has previously pointed out (ALA_national_letter.pdf), in this country of vast technological resources, nobody should be forced to sacrifice their health for the production of electricity and they oppose biomass plants. The Gulf spill exemplifies the need for our leaders to protect our health rather than letting polluting industries make decisions that enrich them at the expense of our precious well being. Numerous attachments are above. Thanks, and feel free to call 850-766-7886.Thanks.

Ron Saff, MD
Member, Environment and Health Section Florida Medical Association
Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Oil spill may endanger human health, officials say

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By JOHN FLESHER (AP) – May 7, 2010

NEW ORLEANS — With a huge and unpredictable oil slick drifting in the Gulf of Mexico, state and federal authorities are preparing to deal with a variety of hazards to human health if and when the full brunt of the toxic mess washes ashore.

The list of potential threats runs from temporary, minor nuisances such as runny noses and headaches to long-term risks such as cancer if contaminated seafood ends up in the marketplace. While waiting to see how bad things will get, public health agencies are monitoring air quality, drinking water supplies and seafood processing plants and advising people to take precautions.

"We don't know how long this spill will last or how much oil we'll be dealing with, so there's a lot of unknowns," said Dr. Jimmy Guidry, Louisiana's state health director. "But we're going to make things as safe as humanly possible."

Oil has been spewing into the Gulf at a rate of at least 200,000 gallons a day since an offshore drilling rig exploded on April 20, killing 11 people. Little if any has reached land thus far, but shifts in wind speed and direction could propel the slick toward populated areas.

In a possible hint of things to come, a foul stench drifted over parts of southwestern Louisiana last week. The oil probably was the culprit, said Alan Levine, secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, whose office heard about dozens of complaints — even from state legislators in New Orleans, some 130 miles from the leaky undersea well.

"Their eyes were burning, they felt nauseated, they were smelling it," Levine said.

Farther up the coast at Shell Beach, marina operator and commercial fisherman Robert Campo said the smell gave him a headache as he collected oysters 20 miles offshore. "It was rotten," he said.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has begun round-the-clock air monitoring in Gulf coastal areas and posting online hourly readings for ozone and tiny particles such as soot. Both can cause respiratory problems and are particularly aggravating for people with chronic conditions such as asthma.

Crude oil emits volatile organic compounds that react with nitrogen oxides to produce ozone. Fires being set by the Coast Guard to burn off oil on the water's surface would produce sooty, acrid smoke.

"We don't know what the impacts are going to be yet," said Dave Bary, an EPA spokesman in Dallas. "We don't know in what direction this oil will go."

The potential for unhealthy air quality depends on a variety of factors, particularly the speed and direction of winds that could disperse fumes and determine where they go, said Jonathan Ward, an environmental toxicology professor at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

With the leaky Gulf well some 50 miles offshore, Ward said much of the oil vapor likely wouldn't reach land, although the potential for air pollution from the slick will remain as long as the leak continues.

Public health agencies in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi advised people near the coast who experience nausea, headaches or other smell-related ailments to stay inside, turn on air conditioners and avoid exerting themselves outdoors.

In addition to air pollution, officials also were guarding against health problems from tainted drinking water and seafood.

Some communities, including New Orleans, get their supplies from the Mississippi River. Its southerly currents will prevent oil from drifting upstream to city intake pipes, and the Coast Guard is making sure that any ships with oil-coated hulls are scrubbed down before proceeding up the river, Guidry said.

Even so, the state health department has ordered testing of municipal water systems near the Gulf for signs of oil.

"It's next to impossible that a high amount would get in," Guidry said. "Even if some got through, more than likely the treatment system would eliminate it."

The department this week began taking samples at seafood processing plants. Officials have ordered a temporary moratorium on fishing in federal waters from the Mississippi River to the Florida Panhandle, but sampling will provide benchmarks enabling scientists to track any increases in contaminant levels once fishing is allowed to resume.

Louisiana health officials said they believe fish, shrimp and other Gulf delicacies already on the market are safe.

"If we see increases in hydrocarbons or other contaminants, we'd stop the flow of seafood," Levine said.

Even after the immediate crisis passes, risks could linger for years, said Gina Solomon, an associate professor at the University of California-San Francisco medical school and a senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Exposure to some of the chemicals in oil has been linked to cancer," Solomon said. "Those chemicals can get into sediments in the Gulf, build in the food chain and be a long-term problem in fish and shellfish."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with epidemiologists in the Gulf states to develop studies of health repercussions from the oil spill, Guidry said.

Yet another hazard is direct contact with oil-saturated water — particularly for cleanup crews and volunteers involved in animal rescue operations.

When the container ship Cosco Busan hit a bridge and released 53,000 gallons of highly toxic bunker fuel into San Francisco Bay in November 2007, officials managing the cleanup ordered volunteers to wear protective suits, gloves and masks that later were discarded at a hazardous waste dump. Some oil fouled beaches, which were closed to prevent danger to the public.

People working around the Gulf spill should be equipped with respirator devices and wear heavy-duty gloves and protective clothing to guard against painful skin rashes, said Solomon, who has treated patients exposed to oil fumes.

"The workers absolutely need to be protected," Solomon said.

Associated Press Writer Jason Dearen contributed to this story from San Francisco.

North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians

April 19, 2010

The Honorable Dee Freeman
Secretary
N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Dear Secretary Freeman:

In recognition of the numerous and serious adverse health consequences that can result from human exposure to the components of emissions of biomass burning, the North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians (NCAFP) is issuing a letter of concern regarding the development of biomass burning plants in the State of North Carolina.

Biomass burning of poultry litter and wood wastes creates emissions of particulate matter that research has shown increase the risk of premature death, asthma, chronic bronchitis, and heart disease. (1, 2) This burning process also creates numerous byproducts, including nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds that increase smog and ozone, which are known to increase lung disease and mortality (3); sulfur dioxides which also contribute to respiratory disease (4); arsenic which can increase the risk of cancer (5); mercury which can increase the risk of brain and kidney disease and affect the developing fetus (6); and dioxins which may increase the risk of cancer, heart disease, diabetes mellitus, developmental delays in children, neurotoxicity, and thyroid disease (7). These health effects would increase disability and death in all age groups, but particularly in the most vulnerable developing fetuses, newborns, children, those with chronic illness, and the elderly. As a result of this increased disability and disease, medical costs in the state will increase.

One of the reasons for encouraging renewable energy through legislation like the North Carolina Clean Smokestack law was to provide cleaner air for citizens. However, there is concern that burning of poultry litter may result in similar or greater emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide to coalburning plants (8). The NCAFP requests that the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources strongly consider the potentially harmful consequences to the health and wellbeing of North Carolina citizens when contemplating the permitting of biomass burning plants in the state.

With best regards,

R.W. (Chip) Watkins, MD, MPH
President, NC Academy of Family Physicians

cc: Jeffrey P. Engle, MD, North Carolina State Health Director
Jennifer L. Mullendore, MD, Co-Chair, NCAFP Health of the Public Council
Thomas R. White, MD, Co-Chair, NCAFP Health of the Public Council
Gregory K. Griggs, MPA, CAE, NCAFP Executive Vice President

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The press release is at

<http://www.massmed.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home6&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=32777>

Here is an excerpt

“In an effort to reduce air pollution and promote public health, delegates approved a four-point resolution regarding biomass power plants. The resolution stated that the Society (1) urge state government to adopt policies to minimize the approval and construction of new biomass plants; (2) declared Medical Society opposition to the three currently proposed large-scale power plants in the state on the grounds that each facility poses an unacceptable public health risk, (3) urge state and federal governments to remove large-scale biomass electricity generation plants from the list of technologies eligible to receive renewable energy credits, federal stimulus funds, and Mass. Technology Collaborative loans; and (4) urge state government to extend Department of Environmental Protection regulatory authority to small-scale biomass facilities to ensure that the most protective air pollution emissions controls are used.”

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

June 24, 2009

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

61 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10006-2701
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 315-8800

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey:

www.LungUSA.org

As you consider legislation to address global climate change and energy policy, the American Lung Association urges you to use this opportunity to target widespread pollutants that can both directly harm lung health of millions of Americans and worsen global climate change. At a minimum, we urge you to select mechanisms that prevent increases in ambient air pollution and hazardous air pollutants.

Stephen J. Nolan, Esq.
Chair

Over 186 million Americans continue to live and breathe in areas with unhealthy air in the United States. The American Lung Association supports aggressive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that maximize co-benefits of reducing criteria pollutants and provide near-term public health benefits. These strategies include ambitious programs to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel combustion and promote cleaner alternative vehicle technologies and fuels. These require real changes: substantial increases in clean renewable energy resources; a transformation of the land use planning process to emphasize smart growth policies that promote alternatives to driving; and, as well, significant reductions in power plant and industrial emissions.

Mary H. Partridge
Chair-elect

Bruce A. Herring
Past-Chair

H. James Gooden
Secretary

Terrence L. Johnston
Treasurer

We urge you to consider approaches that target two critical two critical pollutants well within reach—black carbon and ozone. Black carbon, or diesel soot, and ozone not only significantly impact global warming but also endanger public health. Black carbon from diesel, a mixture of 40 different toxic substances, increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Ozone, the most commonly encountered pollutant in America's cities, damages lung capacity and aggravates asthma. Both pollutants send people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases to the hospital and emergency room. Both cut short the lives of thousands of people every year. Because black carbon particles and ozone have significantly shorter life-spans in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, immediate controls can make a near-term difference in the level of global warming, as well as have immediate health benefits.

Albert J. Rizzo, MD
Nationwide Assembly
Speaker

Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey

June 24, 2009

Page 2

The legislation should support state and local air pollution control efforts and include strong controls on major sources of emissions. Please include stronger controls on coal-fired power plants and other major industrial sources that also reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other toxic air contaminant emissions.

The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

The American Lung Association thanks you for the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "CD Connor".

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS ADVISORY
February 4, 2010**

Contact:

Dr. Henry Rosenberg
(413) 586-9781
hwr5@columbia.edu

**PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY/PIONEER VALLEY OPPOSE
CONSTRUCTION OF BIOMASS POWER PLANTS IN THE PIONEER VALLEY**

It is the finding of the Physicians for Social Responsibility that the biomass power plants being proposed for several Pioneer Valley locations would contribute to particulate air pollution emissions in a region that already has pollution problems, and therefore we oppose the construction and operation of such plants.

Particulate air pollution is deadly. This has been stated by the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association, the World Health Association, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. According to the World Health Association roughly 800,000 people globally die annually from exposure to particulate air pollution.

Since the Stone Age hominids have been dependent on biomass combustion as an energy source for heating, cooking, and even protection from wild beasts. The ancient Roman philosopher Seneca (61 AD) noted the adverse health effects of combustion-related "pestilential vapors and soot". Since medieval times air pollution from combustion has been recognized as a cause of adverse health effects, which lead to the banning of coal burning in London in the 13 century and again during Elizabeth I's reign. Particulate air pollution, specifically, has been recognized a cause of excess mortality since the infamous London Fog episode of 1952 which was responsible for thousands of deaths. Currently, the World Health Organization estimates particulate air pollution to be the 13th leading cause of death globally.

Hundreds more modern epidemiologic studies have described an association between elevated particulate air pollution levels and mortality and other adverse health effects.

In the 1980s many large cross sectional studies observed an association between living in an area with higher particulate air pollution levels and increased mortality rates. Since the 1990s time series studies have consistently shown that when particulate air pollution rises, within a day or two mortality rates increase. Case control studies identified the groups at increased risk of death during these episodes; these are the elderly, and those with chronic heart and lung disease. Since the 1990s prospective cohort studies have followed individuals with defined risk characteristics (for example, smoking, occupation, etc) and found that those living in areas with higher particulate air pollution levels have a higher risk of dying.

Strikingly, these associations have a linear dose response relationship. Thus, as particulate air pollution levels rise, mortality rates rise; as pollution levels drop, mortality rates drop. Studies have consistently not observed a threshold for this effect, in other words, the excess mortality effect is observed down to very low air pollution levels, well below those levels that the US EPA officially considers safe according to their National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Reportedly the EPA is reconsidering those standards to bring them more in line with the scientific data.

The association between particulate air pollution levels and mortality is considered causal; in other words, the scientific research has satisfied the criteria for considering the association proven. This is based on a clear dose response relationship, a remarkable consistency of the results observed by many different investigators using different techniques in different geographic regions, even throughout the world. Furthermore, the association is consistent with findings of many studies which find adverse health effects of particulate air pollution: increased asthma attacks, increased asthma medication use, increased days lost from school and work due to chest illness, increased emergency room use for heart and lung disease, and increased hospitalization rates. Additionally, the biological mechanisms have been clarified in recent years: particulate air pollution causes anginal chest pain, electrocardiogram changes indicating inadequate oxygen supply to the heart, increases in cardiac autonomic instability, increases in cardiac rhythm disturbances, and increases in myocardial infarction (heart attack). Indeed, there is no known component of the unstable cardiac syndrome which is not exacerbated by particulate air pollution continues. This concatenation of findings has led the scientific community to consider the association between exposure to particulate air pollution and increased cardiac and pulmonary mortality to be considered causal.

Most recently, a study in the New England Journal of Medicine ¹ examined life expectancy in 211 counties associated with 51 United States cities; this study found that a decrease in 10 microgram per cubic meter in air pollution levels was associated with a 0.6 year improvement in life expectancy. Interestingly, Springfield, Massachusetts was a city included in the study. According to the interactive graphic published on the associated web site, from 1978 to 1982 Springfield has a PM_{2.5} (fine particulate air pollution) level of 17.6 microgram per cubic meter, and from 1997 to 2001, PM_{2.5} was 11.5 . This drop in air pollution was accompanied by an increase in life expectancy from 74.7 to 77.1 years. Elimination of particulate air pollution would be expected to result in an increase in life expectancy of most of a year. Clearly, any increase in air pollution, as would result from the construction of a major new particulate air pollution source, would result in a lowering of life expectancy, trending to reverse gains made in the last 20 years.

If the proposed biomass power plants are built in the Pioneer Valley, the resulting excess air pollution would exacerbate an already unacceptable public health burden.

¹ Pope CA III, Ezzati M, and Dockery DW. Fine-Particulate Air Pollution and Life Expectancy in the United States. *N Engl J Med* 2009;360:376-86)

Other sources:

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (2004); Air quality criteria for particulate matter; US Environmental Protection Agency;

American Thoracic Society (1996); Health effects of outdoor air pollution. Committee of the Environmental and Occupational Health Assembly of the American Thoracic Society; *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 153(1): 3-50

R. D. Brook, et al (2004); Air pollution and cardiovascular disease: a statement for healthcare professionals from the Expert Panel on Population and Prevention Science of the American Heart Association.; *Circulation* 109(2655-2671

C. A. Pope, 3rd, M. Ezzati and D. W. Dockery (2009); Fine-particulate air pollution and life expectancy in the United States; *N Engl J Med* 360(4): 376-86

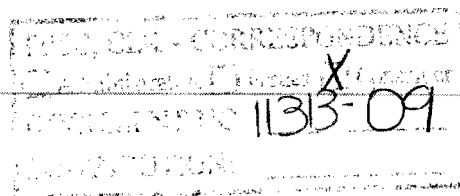
C. A. Pope, 3rd (2007); Mortality effects of longer term exposures to fine particulate air pollution: review of recent epidemiological evidence; *Inhal Toxicol* 19 Suppl 1(33-8

C. A. Pope, 3rd (2000); Epidemiology of fine particulate air pollution and human health: biologic mechanisms and who's at risk?; *Environmental Health Perspective* 108 Suppl 4(713-23

J. H. Dickey (2000); Part VII. Air pollution: overview of sources and health effects; *Dis Mon* 46(9): 566-89

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 9:25 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Stevens
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Gainesville doesn't need GREC



Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Melanie Shanks **On Behalf Of** Office of Commissioner Stevens
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2010 8:51 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Gainesville doesn't need GREC

Ann,

Please place in Docket Correspondence #090451 - Consumers and their Representatives.

Thank you,
 Melanie

From: Tom Bussing [mailto:tombussing@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 10:46 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Stevens
Subject: Gainesville doesn't need GREC

Commissioner Ben A. Stevens III
 Florida Public Service Commission
 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

May 17, 2010

Commissioner Stevens,

The reopened evidentiary hearing on the GREC/GRU proposal (Docket 090451-EM) did not change the facts. The proposal remains an unnecessary and expensive risk for the ratepayers.

The 100 megawatts of new generation capacity are not needed. GRU claims that the capacity will be needed by 2023 at the earliest. Even then, that "need" would not be justified. It would demonstrably be "manufactured" by GRU failing to bring on filler units and more cost-effective upgrades to existing units.

Our utility's ratepayers would be saddled with the massive costs of these artificially stranded assets, as existing generators are taken off-line.

5/19/2010

The Net Present Value analysis for the proposal shows the project to be a loser in the first decades of operation. A rosy GRU projection describes a possible eventual advantage, but only in hazy and imprecise “forecasts” far into the future, the uncertainty exacerbated by the experimental technology and lack of a market record for this novel fuel.

What the reopened hearing *did* add to the process was a baldly political power play by GRU. Rather than depend upon their factual filings, they orchestrated an overtly political dog-and-pony show in order to pressure the Florida Public Service Commissioners to make a decision in their favor.

It is a mystery how our City Commissioners were able to plan their coordinated and well-orchestrated performances, under the Florida Sunshine Law.

One can only wonder how such a performance would have been viewed, had the applicant been an Investor Owned Utility. If this is a creative precedent for future PSC dockets, and if IOU’s see advantage in duplicating the effort, the future looks dark for Florida ratepayers.

The statutory language that directs the PSC in these regulatory decisions is broad, and can bring up conflicting findings for and against a proposal. In adjudicating these matters, I would urge you to return to the primary role that underlies your authority, above the statutory detail. That is to provide competent protection for Florida ratepayers, who are inherently held hostage to these monopolistic utility systems.

The GREC proposal will only be coming before the PSC ***this one time***. There will be no opportunity to monitor or amend the terms of this contract. With the heavy redactions in the public version of the contract, the ratepayers will never be able to see whether the agreement is met.

The current dreamy City Commissioners who so desperately wish to be certified as “carbon neutral,” ***at any price***, will be long gone.

**Please do not hand over our energy future
to this faulty and politically driven plan.**

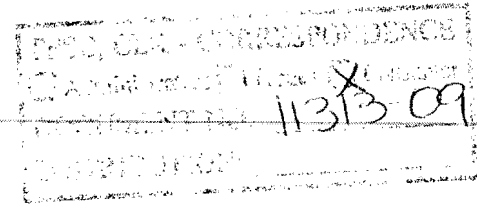
Please vote to deny the petition.

Yours truly,

Thomas D. Bussing, PhD
Former Mayor, City of Gainesville

www.Gators-R.US/SolarInfo

cc: FPS Commissioners



Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 4:54 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Monday, May 17, 2010 4:43 PM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Ann,

Please place the e-mail below in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM

Thanks,
Cristina

From: James Barker [mailto:brack154@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 2:32 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Office of Commissioner Skop; Commissioner.Stevens@psc.state.fl.us; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Dear PSC Chairwoman Nancy Argenziano,
and Commissioners ~Skop, Stevens, Edgar and Klement,

The below press release from March 13th is being submitted for the record reference the Gainesville Regional Utilities and GREC biomass plant under your consideration for Gainesville, Florida.

Thank you,
Brack Barker
SSJ Chair

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group votes to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

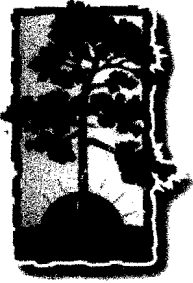
Press Release, March 13, 2010

Contact Brack Barker, Conservation Chair, phone # 352-215-4396

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group, which represents 14 counties in North Central Florida including Alachua county, has voted to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

- * A new power plant is not needed; GRU currently has 62% overcapacity
- * Competition for increasingly scarce biomass fuel will be too expensive and a burden on the ratepayers
- * We reject more massive air pollution and major water withdrawals
- * The City of Gainesville needs to expand their energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption. This will create many new jobs that will benefit the community and region. For these reasons the Suwannee/St.John's group opposes a new power plant.

Brack Barker Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group Conservation Chair



FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

Jeff G. Doran
Executive Vice President

Michael L. Gaff
President

P.O. Box 1696
Tallahassee, FL 32302

402 E. Jefferson St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

p 850.222.5646
f 850.222.6179
e info@forestfla.org
w floridaforest.org

*Promoting the
responsible and
sustainable use of
Florida's forest
resources
since 1923.*

RECEIVED--FPSC

10 MAY 17 AM 8:58

COMMISSION
CLERK

May 11, 2010

Ann Cole, Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

DISTRIBUTION CENTER
10 MAY 17 AM 8:03

Dear Ms. Cole:

Please consider the attached document to be considered in the correspondence file for the following case:

Docket 090451

Joint petition to determine need for Gainesville Renewable Energy Center in Alachua County, by Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC.

The statement represents the official position of the Florida Forestry Association regarding the use of Florida's forests for woody biomass. The statement is provided as supplemental to the testimony of Jeff G. Doran, who testified at the May 3 hearing in Tallahassee.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff G. Doran
Executive Vice President

Doing Energy Right!

POSITION STATEMENT



The Use of Florida's Forests for Woody Biomass

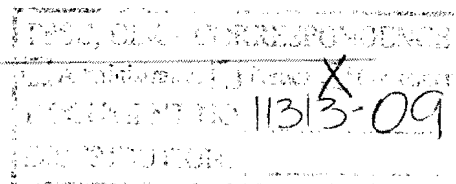
The Florida Forestry Association supports sustainable forestry and the practices that provide well-managed, sustainable forests, which meet today's demands for forest products without jeopardizing the needs of the future.

The Florida Forestry Association is confident that Florida forests can play a significant role in supplying woody biomass for energy solutions. To sustainably achieve renewable energy production from wood sources, logging residues and urban wood waste have to be utilized along with an enhanced reforestation program. Reforestation must at least keep pace with forest harvest removals to keep Florida's forests sustainable. Any government incentive for reforestation or afforestation should not exclude any private landowner.

We contend that free market forces should be the primary stimulant for the use of wood and wood waste as a renewable fuel source and for determining the optimum fuel choices for energy generation. Government should incite the research and development of technology and new tools to collect, harvest and transport logging residues and urban wood waste to help provide the necessary feedstock to fulfill any state or federal RPS mandate.

Where state or federal governments are instituting incentives or mandates for renewable energy, all companies producing woody biomass energy should be eligible for comparable incentives.

Ann Cole



From: Ann Cole
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 3:07 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Your welcome. This information will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Klement
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 2:48 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Please add to docket 090451.

Thanks, Betty.

From: James Barker [mailto:brack154@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 2:32 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Office of Commissioner Skop; Commissioner.Stevens@psc.state.fl.us; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Dear PSC Chairwoman Nancy Argenziano,
and Commissioners ~Skop, Stevens, Edgar and Klement,

The below press release from March 13th is being submitted for the record reference the Gainesville Regional Utilities and GREC biomass plant under your consideration for Gainesville, Florida.

Thank you,
Brack Barker
SSJ Chair

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group votes to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

Press Release, March 13, 2010

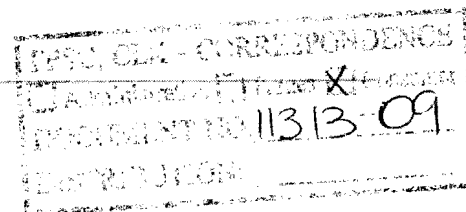
Contact Brack Barker, Conservation Chair, phone # 352-215-4396

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group, which represents 14 counties in North Central Florida including Alachua county, has voted to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

- * A new power plant is not needed; GRU currently has 62% overcapacity
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- * We reject more massive air pollution and major water withdrawals
- * The City of Gainesville needs to expand their energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption. This will create many new jobs that will benefit the community and region. For these reasons the Suwannee/St.John's group opposes a new power plant.

Brack Barker Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group Conservation Chair

090451

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 3:07 PM
To: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Your welcome. This information will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 2:36 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Please place this correspondence in Docket No. 090451-EM. Thank you, Ann.

Roberta

Roberta S. Bass
 Chief Advisor to Commissioner Edgar
 Florida Public Service Commission
 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399
 (850) 413-6016 (Office)
 (850) 413-6017 (Facsimile)
 (850) 559-7291 (Mobile)
roberta.bass@psc.state.fl.us

From: James Barker [mailto:brack154@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, May 14, 2010 2:32 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Office of Commissioner Skop; Commissioner.Stevens@psc.state.fl.us; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: GRU/GREC biomass plant and the PSC record

Dear PSC Chairwoman Nancy Argenziano,
 and Commissioners ~Skop, Stevens, Edgar and Klement,

The below press release from March 13th is being submitted for the record reference the Gainesville Regional Utilities and GREC biomass plant under your consideration for Gainesville, Florida.

Thank you,
 Brack Barker
 SSJ Chair

5/14/2010

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group votes to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

Press Release, March 13, 2010

Contact Brack Barker, Conservation Chair, phone # 352-215-4396

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group, which represents 14 counties in North Central Florida including Alachua county, has voted to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

- * A new power plant is not needed; GRU currently has 62% overcapacity
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Brack Barker Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group Conservation Chair

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5/5/10

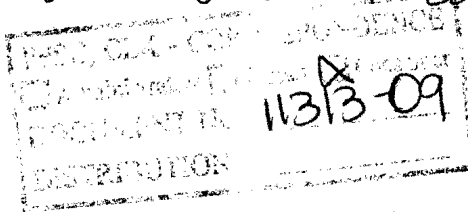
Florida Public Service Commission
Division of SSC

RECEIVED-FPSC

10 MAY 10 PM 3:53

COMMISSION
CLERK

To: Fla Public Service Comm



090451-EM

Sirs:

Regarding proposed biomass power plant
in Gainesville, Fla -

The plan - as I understand it - is to buy
the power generated at more than retail
price - sell $\frac{1}{2}$ to other power companies at
wholesale price and $\frac{1}{2}$ to GRU customers at
normal rates. THINK ABOUT IT.

also

About \$500,000,000. will be borrowed
to build plant - If not financially viable
will GRU, Gainesville or customers have any
obligation to lenders who financed
this plant?

Thank you

Warner W Weseman
3120 NW 34th Trg
GAINESVILLE
FLA
32605

WARNER W. WESEMAN
3120 NW 34th TERR
GAINESVILLE, FLA
32605

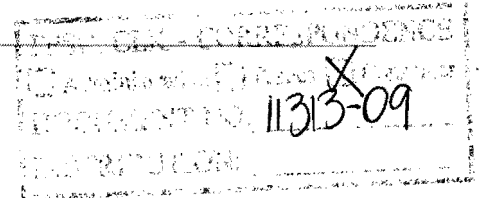
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE



Fla Public Service Comm,
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd
Tallahassee
Fla

32399-0850
32399+0850

Ann Cole



From: Ann Cole
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 2:35 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Stevens
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: GRU Biomass Plant

Thanks, Melanie. This information will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Melanie Shanks **On Behalf Of** Office of Commissioner Stevens
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 2:09 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: GRU Biomass Plant

Ann,

This needs to be placed in docket #090451 - Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives

Thanks!
Melanie

From: Josh Dickinson [mailto:josh.foresttrust@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 11:54 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Stevens
Subject: GRU Biomass Plant

Commissioner Nancy Argenziano, Chair

13, 2010
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

May

Dear Ms. Argenziano,

The PSC should turn down the proposed Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) 100 MW biomass plant. My perspective is that of a forestry professional dedicated to economically viable, environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial forest management in the Southeast.

1. Is the biomass plant needed at this time to meet electricity demand? No, according to GRU new generating capacity is not needed until 2023. This assumes that GRU chooses does not implement an aggressive Demand Side Management (DSM) program. If such energy conservation and efficiency efforts are put in place, the need for new generating capacity can be postponed well beyond 2023.
2. Are biomass resources available to fuel a biomass plant in Gainesville? For a much smaller plant fuel is available from a variety of local sources including right-of-way clearing, wood from clearing for urban sprawl and cleanup after storm events, removal of hardwoods associated with longleaf pine ecosystem

restoration, and thinning of forests in Alachua County. Supplying fuel for a 100 MW plant will put GRU in direct competition with paper and sawmills as well as two proposed biomass plants projecting 155 MW biomass derived electrical generation. In all, there are currently 104 publically announced biomass consuming ventures proposed for the Southeast (forisk.com).

3. Who will benefit from the sale of biomass to GRU? The primary beneficiaries will be large forest owners like the Real Estate Investment Trust, Plum Creek and other companies that purchased paper company lands. They anticipate having contractors scavenge biomass following pulpwood harvest.
4. Will forest owning families benefit from sales of biomass to GRU? It will pay for family forest owners to sell modest volumes of thinnings, either for biomass or pulpwood. This volume would meet only a small percentage of the projected consumption by the proposed 100MW biomass plant. These owners can anticipate earning three to four times as much by selling quality sawtimber and poles. Many unsuspecting forest owners will be victimized by unscrupulous timber buyers who convince them to clearcut their land, with much of the wood going for biomass.
5. Is the biomass harvesting projected by GRU sound from an environmental perspective? Definitively not. Harvest of "waste wood" following pulpwood harvest depletes the nutrient supply of the forest. Meeting competing demands for biomass will require further conversion of diverse natural forests to short rotation plantations, with resultant wildlife habitat loss.

With best regards,

Joshua C. Dickinson

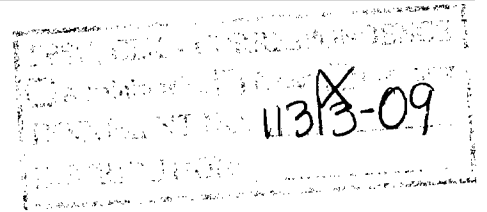
=====

Joshua C. Dickinson, PhD
The Forest Management Trust
6124 SW 30 Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32608
ph:352-373-2377

Diamond Williams

090451

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:54 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451- Response requested



Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:21 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451- Response requested

docket correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:14 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 090451- Response requested

Copy on file, see 942878C. DH

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 11:06 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:48 AM

To: Webmaster

Cc: billyshellservi@bellsouth.net

Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: William Phillips

Company: Billys Shell Service Inc

Primary Phone: 352-372-4249

Secondary Phone: 352-317-0972

Email: billyshellservi@bellsouth.net

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? Yes

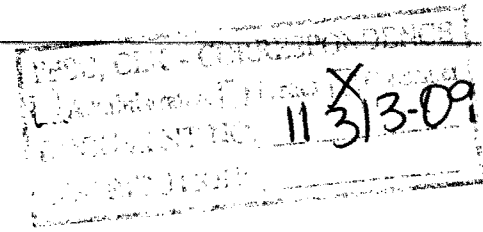
Comments:

I am against the Bio-Mass plant proposal.I think it is too risky and expense at this time.What about giving our landfills a break and burn gargage?

090451-EM

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451 Bio-Mass
Attachments: RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact



Thank you for this information. These attachments have been printed and will be placed in **Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives**, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
 Staff Assistant
 Office of Commission Clerk
 Florida Public Service Commission
 Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
 Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 9:52 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451 Bio-Mass

From: Angie Calhoun
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 9:43 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: Protest to docket 090451 Bio-Mass

5/11/2010

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 4:58 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 4:46 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: alvinctate@gmail.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: ALVIN TATE
Company:
Primary Phone: 352.335.5994
Secondary Phone: 405.562.0174
Email: alvinctate@gmail.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

I urge you to deny the application from Gainesville for the Bio-mass power station! It's would create more problems that it will sure. Thanks of your consideration!

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 6:08 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Charles Felder
Company: none
Primary Phone:
Secondary Phone:
Email:

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:
Vote NO on the Gainesville GRU biomass plant.
Thank you
C G Felder

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 9:06 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: James Folks
Company: none
Primary Phone: 3523764605
Secondary Phone: 3525387826
Email: jjfolks41@cox.net

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:
Please vote no for the BIO-MASS plant for the Gainesville REGIONAL utilities

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 5:36 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Michael Danko
Company:
Primary Phone:
Secondary Phone:
Email: Danko.Michael@gmail.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:
vote NO on the City of Gainesville's biomass.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 12:21 AM
To: Webmaster
Cc: rcflg8tor@cox.net
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Roger Cox
Company:
Primary Phone: 352 372-9044
Secondary Phone:
Email: rcflg8tor@cox.net

Response requested? No
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Vote NO on the Alachua County Biomass Project. It is TOO much of a gamble and there has to be a better way.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 6:22 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Crystal Ladwig
Company:
Primary Phone: 813 293-2969
Secondary Phone:
Email: cladwig2@cox.net

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

Please do NOT proceed with the biomass plant unless and until there are established funds for it. Don't count on future funds. That's how our government has gotten into the mess we're in!

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 8:07 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 10:57 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Ben and Cheryl Breon
Company:
Primary Phone: 377-7616
Secondary Phone: 377-7616
Email: cabinhome1000@yahoo.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

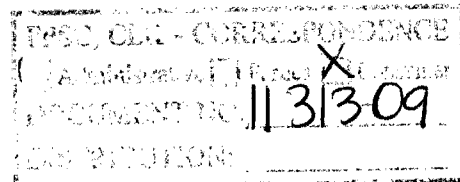
Comments:

Vote "no" on City of Gainesville's Biomass...we don't need any more hikes in our utility bills when it loses exorbitant amounts of money!

090451-EM

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 10:27 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: 090451 - response



Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 9:50 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: 090451 - response

customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 6:58 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: kjb828@yahoo.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Kenneth Bieda

Company:

Primary Phone: 3523711704

Secondary Phone:

Email: kjb828@yahoo.com

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? Yes

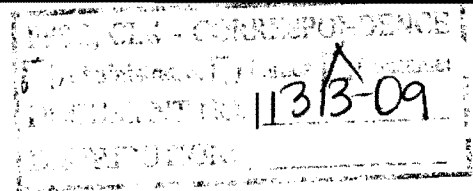
Comments:

Vote "NO" on the bio-mass plant!

090451-EM

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 10:25 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Docket 090451



Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 10:00 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: Docket 090451

customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2010 8:07 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 11:49 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: afn49@mindspring.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Goldie Schwartz

Company: none

Primary Phone: 352 495 3983

Secondary Phone: 352 562 3831

Email: afn49@mindspring.com

Response requested? No

CC Sent? Yes

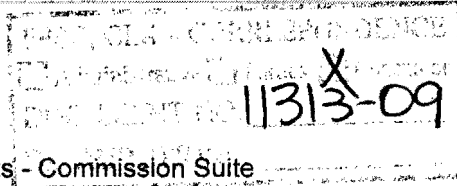
Comments:

I would like to encourage the PSC commission to approve the permit for Gainesville Renewable Energy Center. Based on all the information available the biomass will be able to operate sustainably. There is a cost savings to the consumers because the plant is being built by a private company. It will help GRU utility meet any renewable mandates that likely will be required in the near future.

The concern has been about the adequate supply of biomass and the company that is building plant has done extensive studies and has come to the conclusion that there is 5 times the amount of biomass that is needed within a 75 mile area of plant

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 1:06 PM
To: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant
Attachments: ALA_national_letter.pdf; Attached Message Part



Thank you for this information. The attachment has been printed and will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 10:09 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant

Please place this correspondence in Docket No. 090451-EM. Thank you.

Roberta

Roberta S. Bass
 Chief Advisor to Commissioner Edgar
 Florida Public Service Commission
 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399
 (850) 413-6016 (Office)
 (850) 413-6017 (Facsimile)
 (850) 559-7291 (Mobile)
roberta.bass@psc.state.fl.us

From: Dick Stokes [mailto:rastokes@atlantic.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 08, 2010 7:04 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant

Dear Chairwoman Argenziano, Commissioner Edgar, Commissioner Klement, Commissioner Skop and Commissioner Stevens,

Please vote to deny the city of Gainesville's proposed 'biomass' power plant.

I know you are under great political pressure to approve the expensive, unneeded power plant but please consider the rate payer.

Contrary to statements by Gainesville officials, the rate payers are not aware of the rate hikes they'll be forced to pay if this proposed plant is built.

5/10/2010

The local newspaper has done a very poor job of covering the issue. The 'dozens' of public meetings the City claims to have had on the proposed bio-burner are a mystery. Repeated requests for documentation of these public meetings have been ignored. (The March 18th letter to the City from former Gainesville mayor Tom Bussing requesting a list of public meetings on the bio-burner is at the bottom of the page.)

Based on the public meetings on the proposed bio-burner that actually occurred, the vast majority of the citizens who know about it, are against it.

071159: Video of Evaluation of Biomass-fueled Generation Proposals, May 12, 2008

Citizen comments @ 01:47:40

http://gainesville.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=5&clip_id=319

The Florida League of Conservation Voters has summary documentation on adverse effects of Biomass plants - includes documentation on effects of particulates-PM10 & PM2.5
<http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

Attached is a letter from the National Lung Association

Excerpt from the Lung Association letter:

The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

snip

'Biomass' burning is not green, it's not sustainable, it's not healthy, it's not renewable, it's not carbon neutral, it's not environmentally friendly and it's not ecologically sound.

If built, the proposed Gainesville 'biomass' plant will shackle our citizens with a 30 year debt. Please vote to deny it.

Sincerely,

Dick Stokes
715 NE 2nd Street
Gainesville 32601

Please see letters regarding the proposed bio-burner below

The Gainesville SUN

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100414/OPINION03/4141001/-1/OPINION?p=all&tc=pgall>

Joy Towles Ezell: Biomass plant is a mistake

By Joy Towles Ezell
Special to The Sun

Published: Wednesday, April 14, 2010

The Florida League of Conservation Voters opposes the proposed power plant in Gainesville.

Gainesville does not need more electric power; it currently has a 63 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 Gainesville City Commission needs to be aware of the disastrous effects this proposed incinerator will have on the ratepayers, the environment and the public's health.

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.

Basic forestry truths: There is no waste in nature, and "residual biomass" needs to stay in the woods to replenish the soil.

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.

It's time for the commissioners to acknowledge that they made a terrible mistake and vote to cancel the contract before it's too late.

The city of Gainesville needs to fix the failed solar program, expand energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption.

Doing so would create many new jobs that would benefit the community and region.

For more information, see the Florida League of Conservation Voters summary documentation on adverse effects of biomass plants at <http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

Joy Towles Ezell is president of the Florida League of Conservation Voters. She lives in Perry.

Gainesville SUN - April 13, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100413/OPINION02/100419863/1077/OPINION?p=3&tc=pg>

Biomass is bad for us

In his April 11 Speaking Out, Don Post, a retired professor of forestry, claims that the proposed biomass plant will be good for our forests. What he really means is that it will be good for the forest products industry and for landowners, such as himself, who have destroyed our natural forests and replaced them with biologically destitute tree farms.

Now that the cancer of growth has finally slowed down, industrial foresters have no market for particle board, pulp for junk mail, and other low value products so they are turning to biomass.

Industrial forestry has already degraded vast areas of our state. Future reliance on biomass will be the death knell not only for truly sustainable forestry, but also for nature as we know it.

We should work to restore the vibrant and diverse ecosystems that were once the glory of North Florida.

Bruce Morgan
Archer

The Gainesville Sun - May 4, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100504/OPINION02/100509857/-1/opinion?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-May-4>

A better way

If we are concerned about CO2 and pollution, then GRU's biomass plans are faulty. There is no way you can convince me that letting a piece of wood rot on the ground where it falls has a larger carbon footprint than having two city employees in a big truck pick it up, drive it 40 miles to Deerhaven, and then burn it.

A more logical approach would be to take the same \$500 million and put \$20,000 solar installations (sufficient for an average home) on 25,000 customers' roofs.

GRU's website says they have 90,000 customers including businesses, so the solar approach would become a significant percentage of GRU's output. Not only would this give those customers free or nearly-free electricity for decades, it would alleviate GRU's need to burn coal (or anything else) for them.

Ben Butler,
Alachua

5/10/2010

Gainesville Sun - April 9th

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100408/NEWS/100409427/-1/OPINION?Title=Ronald-Saff-Scrap-the-biomass-plant>

Dr. Saff: Scrap the biomass plant

The City of Gainesville should scrap the proposed unnecessary 100 MW 'biomass' power plant.

Incineration increases green house gases in the atmosphere causing a rise in global temperatures and harmful consequences to human health.

There is evidence for a relationship between air emissions exposure and lung cancer.

Emission of hazardous gases such as carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, and nitrogen oxides. Particulate matter from incineration interferes with normal lung development, reduces lung function, increases episodes asthma, emphysema, pneumonia and bronchitis; aggravates heart disease; chronic obstructive lung disease; chronic bronchitis; and increases the risk of cancer and genetic mutations.

Pregnant mothers exposed to high levels of air pollution give birth to children with an increased risk of stunted IQs.

The Florida Medical Association supports development of comprehensive programs for resource conservation, recycling and composting and the Massachusetts Medical Society called 3 proposed biomass plants there "an unacceptable public health risk". Conservation, efficiency and solar are what we need to protect public health

Ronald Saff, M.D.

Member, Florida Medical Association Environment and Health Section

Dr. Saff is an asthma and allergy specialist in Tallahassee

The Florida League of Conservation Voters has summary documentation on adverse effects of Biomass plants - includes documentation on effects of particulates-PM10 & PM2.5

<http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

The Gainesville Sun - April 8

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100408/OPINION02/100409525/1077/OPINION?p=3&tc=pg>

No need for biomass

Rob Brinkman ("Biomass needed to achieve Kyoto goals," Voice, 4-3) might be the first to agree that creation of greenhouse gas policy based on bad science is not "sustainable." Building a biomass plant in a rush to achieve Kyoto goals is an anachronism that clings to a demonstrably failed IPCC global warming hypothesis.

There is no longer a compelling need to invest scarce dollars for biomass plant in Gainesville.

Harold Saive,

Gainesville

The Gainesville Sun - April 6

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100406/OPINION02/100409705/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-April-6>

No position taken

I would like to clarify a statement made by Karen Orr, chairwoman of the Energy Justice Network, in her March 29 letter ("Why physicians are against biomass energy").

Orr stated the American Lung Association of the Southeast opposes biomass plants. We have not taken a formal position on biomass plants. We do, however, have concerns about increasing sources of air pollution from energy production, including biomass, as it relates the potential effects it poses for at-risk groups like those suffering from emphysema, asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

Burning wood, or any substance, releases toxic chemicals and particles into the air, affecting both the environment and respiratory health.

Additionally, we are concerned about the diesel equipment critical to plant operations and the trucks delivering the fuel source. These can add significant pollution on the roads and throughout nearby communities.

Although we have concerns about these new energy sources adding to air pollution, we are even more concerned about the older plants that do not use the best available technology to capture toxic emissions. The American Lung Association works hard for more stringent regulations.

Brenda Olsen, RN
Chief Operating Officer
American Lung Association
of the Southeast, Inc.
Tallahassee

The Tallahassee Democrat

<http://floridiansagainstincreatorsindisguise.com/category/medical-opposition/>

Frank Holcomb's Op-Ed misrepresents American Lung Association's position on Biomass Incinerators

Attached is the Lung Association's response to today's op-ed on the proposed biomass plant in Gadsden County. The op-ed misrepresented our position and we would like to make sure the public hears from us directly. Thanks for your consideration.

Brenda

5/10/2010

“As the Chief Operating Officer for the American Lung Association in Florida, I would like to clarify a statement made in Frank Holcomb’s recent editorial on the proposed biomass plant in Gadsden County. In his piece, he mentioned a position by the Clean Air Choice group within the American Lung Association that could be viewed as an endorsement of biomass energy. The information Mr. Holcomb cited was pulled from a website in Illinois and is not the position of the American Lung Association in Florida on the subject.

The American Lung Association has significant concerns regarding the proposed biomass plant and the potential effects it could pose for at-risk groups like those suffering from emphysema, asthma, diabetes and heart disease. Burning wood, or burning any substance, releases toxic chemicals and particles into the air which affect both the environment and respiratory health.

Additionally, diesel equipment critical to plant operation, like the trucks delivering wood, will add significant pollution on the roads and throughout nearby communities. A constant supply of fuel is needed requiring these trucks to make multiple, daily trips to and from the plant. The age of these vehicles and idling practices will also have a significant impact on the level of pollution emitted, and increase the potential damage to air quality and the health of Gadsden County citizens.

Furthermore, we have noticed a pattern nationwide of biomass plants being proposed for rural areas away from cities; where less protective pollution control restrictions and weaker permitting requirements apply. Plant proponents will say that they “meet the air pollution requirements” but the requirements themselves tend to be more lax.

Our organization is dedicated to healthy air and healthy lungs for all Floridians. I encourage the leaders of Gadsden County to consider the potential negative health effects on an already medically vulnerable and underserved community”

Brenda Olsen, RN
 Chief Operating Officer
 American Lung Association of the Southeast, Inc.
 Serving Florida, Georgia and South Carolina

The Gainesville Sun

Letter to the Editor

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100329/COLUMNISTS/3291002>

Why physicians are against 'biomass' energy

The Florida Medical Association and The American Lung Association of the Southeast oppose "biomass" power plants because they present an unacceptable risk to public health.

At least 75,000 physicians have signed resolutions proposing the banning or severe restrictions on the burning of "biomass" (for electricity) due to the increased risk of premature infant death, asthma in adults and children, chronic bronchitis, heart disease and stroke.

Emissions from "biomass" plants disproportionately harm the newborn, children, athletes, the chronically ill, those with lung disease and the elderly. People with emphysema, other chronic lung diseases, angina or congestive heart failure will be sicker.

Write the mayor and city commissioners. Tell them to fix the City's failed solar program and cancel the contract for the "biomass" plant before it's too late.

For more information on medical opposition to "biomass" plants, see <http://biomess.net>

Karen Orr
The Energy Justice Network
Chairwoman
Gainesville

NAACP criticizes biomass plant

The group says the plant would be too costly for minorities.

By Chad Smith
Staff writer

Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 6:01 a.m.

The local chapter of the NAACP wants the city to reconsider its proposed biomass power plant, fearing it would cause a spike in utility bills that would hit the poor the hardest.

Related Links:Candidates at odds over energy Earlier this month, Michael Bowie, president of the Alachua County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, sent city commissioners a letter asking them to "withdraw your support for this costly and risky biomass plant."

In an interview, Bowie said the project would have a significant impact on those in the lower socioeconomic tier, a majority of whom are minorities.

"It will be tough for the entire community, but it will definitely be a burden on the poor community," he said.

In the letter, he wrote, "(Gainesville Regional Utilities') map of KWh consumption per square foot of residence shows a remarkable correlation between high per square foot energy consumption and the distribution of lower income African-American population."

He wrote that the "project raises serious questions," asked why it had to be built now when the city won't need the capacity until 2023, and questioned whether cost estimates were valid considering a growing interest in biomass.

"It is unjust for the poor of Gainesville to bear a disproportionate share of the cost of the proposed biomass plant!" the letter concluded.

Bowie and GRU leaders have scheduled a meeting for Monday to discuss the plant's effects on utility rates.

The city is trying to answer some of the same concerns in Tallahassee, where the state's Public Service Commission will be deciding whether the plant will move ahead.

GRU spokesman Dan Jesse said the city-owned utility believes it will be "best for the customers and the rates in the long term."

As for the meeting Monday, Jesse said, "We're just going to be trying to convince them that this is a good business decision."

Contact Chad Smith at 338-3104 or chad.smith@gvillesun.com

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100313/ARTICLES/3131016>

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group votes to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

Press Release, March 13, 2010

Contact Brack Barker, Conservation Chair, phone # 352-215-4396

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group, which represents 14 counties in North Central Florida including Alachua county, has voted to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

- * A new power plant is not needed; GRU currently has 62% overcapacity
- * Competition for increasingly scarce biomass fuel will be too expensive and a burden on the ratepayers
- * We reject more massive air pollution and major water withdrawals
- * The City of Gainesville needs to expand their energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption. This will create many new jobs that will benefit the community and region. For these reasons the Suwannee/St.John's group opposes a new power plant.

Brack Barker Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group Conservation Chair

Josh Dickinson: Biomass energy threatens woodlands

Published March 14, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100314/OPINION03/100319871>

The Gainesville Sun, March 7, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100307/OPINION02/100309645>

GRU's \$500 million biomass folly

I would rephrase from Pamela Mincey's letter to the Sun (March 4):

"Unknowledgeable biomass advocates are declaring the proposed unneeded tree-burning plant to be financially responsible."

GRU has 63% overcapacity. To build a 500-million-dollar experimental new plant is folly. The Florida Public Service Commission is poised to deliver that verdict.

Only erroneous political appointment as a "carbon neutral" fuel, with consequent massive subsidies, propels the biomass fiasco.

Her foolish enthusiasm for chipping up Georgia's forests (for shipment to Europe, no less) exposes the flawed logic of these biomass advocates. How on God's green earth can that be "carbon neutral?"

Next thing you know, they'll bring us a plan to clear-cut the Amazon and ship it to China as "carbon neutral" fuel.

Tom Bussing
Gainesville

The Gainesville Sun

Letters to the Editor

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100219/OPINION02/100219442/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Feb-19>

Published: Friday, February 19, 2010

Fueling GRU's biomass

In regard to the requirements of the new 100 MW biomass plant: How did the U.S. Forest Service determine that a 75-mile radius from Gainesville is the plant's supply area? This area incorporates a minimum of 19 counties and covers approximately 11 million acres.

How can the Forest Service guarantee access and availability for fully half of the 1.5 million tons of logging residue left behind annually in the 5.5 million acres of forest in this area? As currently planned, we will require that much logging residue to fuel 75 percent of our new plant.

The 75-mile radius incorporates the cities of Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Leesburg, Crystal River, Cedar Key and Jasper. How can GRU depend upon the cooperation of the many municipalities and owners of the privately held forests to satisfy our increased local consumption?

And does GRU's 30-year contract with GREC include an iron-clad requirement that the biomass burners with their advanced emission controls be upgraded as technology improves to produce cleaner energy?

Andy and Eleanor Merritt

Cross Creek

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100216/OPINION02/100219671/-1/OPINION?p=2&tc=pg>

5/10/2010

Published: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

The PSC nailed it

The Florida Public Service Commissioners have stepped in to provide the first meaningful scrutiny of GRU's proposed bio-burner, something not a single member of the City Commission has done.

PSC Commissioner Nathan Skop nailed it: "GRU and the city are taking a huge risk with the rate payers' money."

The Sun reported that PSC staff made estimates including a \$100 million loss for the project by 2043. That is GRU's own estimate, and PSC staff merely comment on it.

They are charitable in accepting GRU's numbers, and also in not pointing out that under this same "base case" scenario, the red ink actually bottoms out at negative \$320 million dollars as of 2030. That's without wood prices rising faster than inflation, an obvious possibility that GRU's rosy projection (amazingly) doesn't even consider.

The plan would leave the ratepayers paying for the folly, with jacked up bills and "stranded assets" littering our generation portfolio. All for another 100 megawatts of overcapacity, for power that we do not need.

Tom Bussing,

Gainesville

The biomass scam

Many thanks to the Public Service Commission and The Gainesville Sun for exposing the true reason behind GRU's push for the biomass plant. It is not ecology. It is a form of corporate greed.

The Feb. 11 article states there is not even a "capacity need" until 2023. So, why build it?

The Sun reports that 50 of its 100 megawatt capacity will be sold to Orlando, Lakeland, and other areas. In other words \$500 million of our tax dollars will be spent in the hopes GRU can turn a profit selling our electricity to someone else.

The Sun also states your electric bill will also go up a minimum of \$4 per month.

And to add insult to injury for you folks out in the countryside, any profit that might possibly happen will be returned by GRU to the Gainesville city treasury, not you. Talk about taxation without representation!

Ben Butler,

Alachua

Letters to the Editor, Gainesville Sun, February 6

5/10/2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100206/OPINION02/100209650/-1/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Feb-6>

Biomass disaster

"Biomass" plants pose an undue risk to public health and the environment. Promoting these incinerators with public subsidies on the false claim that they produce "green" electricity is indefensible public policy.

Under current or proposed laws "biomass" burning will dramatically increase greenhouse gases. It is not "carbon neutral" as the industry claims.

Current research, data from company permits and proposals, environmental impact reports, and government analyses show that for several key pollutants (notably CO₂, NO_x and particulates), biomass burning is "dirty energy" - worse than coal. The Florida Medical Society, The Massachusetts Medical Society and the American Lung Association of New England oppose biomass power plants because they present an unacceptable risk to public health.

The U.S. Senate will be acting soon on proposed laws to give "biomass" plants more tax credits.

Please urge senators Bill Nelson and George LeMieux to stand with the interests of the people they represent and vote NO on all tax credits for "biomass" burning to make electricity.

To learn about some of the fourteen proposed "bioenergy" plants in North Florida, visit the Floridians Against Incinerators in Disguise website at <http://biomess.net>

Karen Orr, Co-chair
The Energy Justice Network
Gainesville

Fall and winter 2009 letters and columns published in The Gainesville Sun opposing the proposed 'biomass' incinerator in Gainesville Florida.

Published: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

Not enough wood for GRU's furnace

In his Dec. 20 column, Ron Cunningham listed some of the reasons wood for GRU's biomass generator may be too expensive for us to buy when that unit is ready to produce electricity. He suggests the local community could buy a forest to supply fuel for the plant "just in case" prices reach a level we cannot afford.

He says we might even persuade the state to allow harvesting fuel wood on the forest land it owns in the county.

It's a good thought, except that there isn't enough available forest land in the county to help us ratepayers much. The plant will burn nearly 2 tons of wood a minute, and it takes over an acre of productive Florida timberland to grow that much wood in a year.

The county owns and manages 6,100 acres of productive timberland, while the state owns about 5,500 acres outside Payne's Prairie. Together, state and county-owned forests might fuel about seven and a half days of biomass generator operation each year, assuming they were sustainably managed and produced

as much wood per acre as the commercial timberlands in the county do.

Even if we clear cut the whole 11,700 acres of county and local state forestland to fire the plant in an emergency, the total harvest would supply the generator for only about nine months.

It would take about 880 square miles of sustainably managed Florida timberland land to supply all the wood GRU will burn in its generator in a year. There are only 874 square miles of dry land in the entire county.

This explains in part why so many of us have opposed the biomass generator since the idea first surfaced

Dian Deevey,
Chair,
Alachua County
Environmental Protection
Advisory Committee,
Gainesville

Let's talk about the GRU elephant

Not long ago one could find posters at GRU headquarters that stated "Burn to Earn". I'm not sure if the posters are still there, but it looks like the newest incarnation of this "Burn to Earn" business model is the building of a new biomass power plant.

GRU has two jobs: provide utility services and generate "profits" for the city's general budget. GRU "profits" pay approximately 36 percent of Gainesville's operating expenses in a process they call the "revenue transfer."

The "revenue transfer" is the elephant in the room no one wants to talk about when discussing future power options. GRU must continue to make money to fund the city's expenses or taxpayers will have to pay higher taxes and city commissioners are reluctant to suggest any increases in taxes for fear they won't get re-elected. So, we are stuck in the 20th century "Burn to Earn" paradigm.

It's time to talk about the elephant in the room. Burning trees is not the way we should be generating revenue for our city. We need a better way to finance the services Gainesville provides to its citizens or we will continue to waste millions of dollars working through more proposals to burn things that generate electricity and "profits."

Let's make it clear to GRU and the City Commission that we don't a biomass plant in our community either.

Ed Brown,
Gainesville

"Not enough wood for GRU's furnace" and "Let's talk about the GRU elephant"
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091230/OPINION02/912289926>

December 21, 2009

5/10/2010

The Shell Game

Gainesville Is Giving Away Its Energy Future

By Thomas Bussing

It defies belief that the biggest utility contract in our city's history has been offered to an essentially empty paper entity whose principle activity is financial speculation, quick profit and quick sell-off.

We the people are committing to their 500 million dollar private contract to burn trees so that we can buy back electricity at more expensive rates.

Until now we were a municipal utility that built, owned and operated its system on behalf of the citizens. This deal transfers future ownership to shifting paper corporations who in turn sell off the rights they acquired from us.

Better hope it all works perfectly, because the bail-out leaves us bankrupt and in hock forever to outside private financiers.

We have been told that we cannot break this contract. We have been told it's too late, that if it is stopped the city might incur a financial penalty for the default.

What we really worry about is the opposite: that going ahead with this plant may bring on the biggest financial disaster possible for a city. We who pay the rates are on the line to pay the half-billion dollar cost.

But there is hope.

A good start is simply agreeing that building this plant is a bad idea, and that therefore the agreement is against our interests. The facts tell us it would be better to not go ahead.

Many letters to this newspaper have presented various reasons why we would be better off if this plant is not built. Here are a few more.

The contractor, "Nacogdoches Power," is a corporate entity created for a single project, a planned bio-burner in Nacogdoches, Texas, for which it was named. Quoting from their December 14, 2007 proposal to GRU: "Nacogdoches Power was formed in 2005. ... the company has no permanent employees..."

They are not builders or operators of power plants. They are merely seekers of financial arrangements, which they re-sell. They have no visible balance sheet and no actual employees.

They recently sold their so-called "Texas Project" to another outfit, before even getting it constructed. "Nacogdoches Power" has rebranded into "American Renewables" in the process.

They will not be running whatever gets built here. They may not even construct it. But they expect to be lucratively rewarded for their short time in town.

GRU admits that when completed, this plant will command a premium (high) price for its output. Rates can be expected to rise. In the end, to solve such problems we may be forced to buy them out – and at a

price that has not been disclosed.

Amazingly, such key terms have never been disclosed to the public, nor even our elected commissioners and mayor.

Five hundred million dollars is a lot of money to contract for, and it is we, the citizens who live here, who will have to pay unless it is stopped.

There is one thing we can all agree upon – that it would be far better for this contract to be voided than to take the enormous risk of bankrupting our utility and our city.

Not a brick has been laid, no equipment purchased for this proposed plant.

With that as our goal, we can proceed to explore mechanisms and any costs of extricating our City from this ill-advised and hastily-agreed-to contract.

In the long run, we will be much better off.

Dr. Thomas Bussing served as Mayor of Gainesville (2001-2004)

Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise

<http://floridiansagainstincineratorsindisguise.com/2009/12/21/gainesville-is-giving-away-its-energy-future/>

Go Green Nation

<http://www.gogreenation.org/2009/12/gainesville-is-giving-away-its-energy-future-%c2%ab-we-oppose-biomass-incinerator-projects-in-florida/>

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091224/OPINION02/912239969/-1/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-24>

Published December 24, 2009

"Let's Harvest our Heritage Forests for Biomass"

Not content with the exaggerated supply of "waste wood" that the ill-advised wood incinerator purports to "take care of," apparently such advocates as Ron Cunningham have their eyes on our Preservation Forests.

The "waste wood" they want to burn keeps our soil alive. It is critical to sustainable forests. Our Preservation Forests need to continue this natural soil-building cycle.

>From the start, to even discuss this proposed forest-burning power plant as a mere "waste wood burner" is to acquiesce to the prevalent political spin. That's a bad joke on us.

5/10/2010

In truth, this plant is designed to be a massive tree harvester.

But to be on the safe side, Cunningham suggests, if the fuel wood plantations can't keep up with the 1,000,000 tons per year appetite of the Tree Incinerator, let's burn our Heritage Forests.

Brilliant.

Dick Stokes

Gainesville

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091210/OPINION02/912099991/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-10>

Save our trees

GRU director Bob Hunzinger (Dec. 6) would have us believe that biomass is a renewable energy source. Nothing could be further from the truth.

He speaks of utilizing "forestry waste" as though it was a useless byproduct of a sustainable industry. The timber industry has already destroyed most of the natural forests of North Florida and has replaced them with ecologically useless pine plantations.

The only part of a pine plantation that is ever returned to nature is the so called "waste" that GRU intends to burn. The "waste" in question consists of what little organic material escapes the loggers, the decomposition of which is critically important to the soil.

There is no waste in nature, every leaf, twig, and bug counts. By turning to biomass we are acting like starving peasants who chop down the last few trees in the desert to feed their starving goats.

Turn off the lights if we must, but leave us the last of our trees!

Bruce J. Morgan,

Archer

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091212/OPINION02/912119988/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-12>

It's not too late

GRU contracted to build a biomass plant and stick it in our own backyard. It was labeled "renewable energy" to make us feel good.

A biomass plant is simply an incinerator that will burn trees and pine needles; stable forms of carbon which will now be released directly into the air we breathe.

Carbon dioxide is a byproduct of combustion, whether it is wood or coal. My lungs can't tell the difference.

5/10/2010

Add to this carbon footprint the 140-plus semi-truckloads of wood debris per day, which will result in additional carbon dioxide emissions. It's not too late to change our minds again.

Jeff Peet,

Newberry

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091019/NEWS/910199925/-1/OPINION?Title=Ronald-Saff-Reject-Gainesville-biomass-plant>

Guest Column

Monday, October 19, 2009

Dr. Ronald Saff: Reject Gainesville Biomass Plant

As a former U.F. undergrad, I am proud of the high caliber education I received in Gainesville which has enabled me to achieve my dream of becoming a physician. Although Alachua County receives high marks in educational standards for its premier institution, the county sadly has received a very poor grade from the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report which gave the county an F in ozone and C in particle pollution (soot). A proposed biomass plant for your community will only make the poor air quality there even more hazardous.

Not only does air pollution cause heart and asthma attacks, strokes, cancer, missed work days and shortened life, pregnant mothers exposed to high levels of air pollution give birth to children with stunted IQ's making poisoned air an educational issue as well.

The Florida Medical Association, deeply concerned about the massive amounts of carcinogens belched from the smoke stacks of biomass plants and other incinerators, urges State Government to minimize their approval and construction.

My Medical Society in Tallahassee wrote a letter of concern to the Department of Environmental Protection stating that the physicians were concerned that pollutants from a proposed biomass plant would adversely affect patients with respiratory and cardiac conditions and will increase the incidence of respiratory conditions in children.

With half of all men and one-third of all women developing some form of cancer at some time in their lives, society needs less biomass plants and not more of them. I urge Alachua County residents and the Medical Society to follow the example set by Tallahasseeans who realize the health risks that a biomass plant would bring and protested loudly to our politicians. We chased away the biomass plant sited for Tallahassee and with enough screaming and shouting you can do the same.

Ronald Saff, M.D.
Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091022/OPINION02/910221001/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters->

to-the-Editor-Oct-22

Letters to the Editor - Oct. 22

We don't need this biomass plant

There is no need to build a huge, polluting tree-burning 100 megawatt power plant in Gainesville.

Four semitrailers per hour of trees will be burned daily at Deerhaven. Five more tree burners are planned for North Florida putting us right into a smog belt.

The tree-burning power plant will release higher levels of polluting CO₂, NO_X and carbon monoxide than the coal burner. Collecting and transporting trees will add considerably to the overall unhealthy pollution.

GRU should be responsive to ratepayers who are now using less electricity. Ratepayers want to and need to conserve energy. GRU should pursue investment in energy efficiency in commercial buildings, homes, schools and public buildings.

The fastest way to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases is to plant more trees and store more carbon in soils and leave the "waste" in place.

There is no such thing as waste in nature or a forest. Organic matter must be replenished constantly and, if it is not, it will slowly disappear from the soil.

The City of Gainesville can be a vanguard for solar power and pass conservation and efficiency measures that will protect our remaining forests and reduce emissions.

These measures will save millions of dollars for taxpayers and keep our air cleaner and healthier.

December McSherry,
McSherry Tree Farm,
Archer

Submitted version

The Gainesville Sun
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091015/OPINION02/910149836/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-15-2009>

Published: Thursday, October 15, 2009

A throwback plant

The proposed tree-burning power plant is no more than a throwback to the charcoal furnaces of the 19th century.

5/10/2010

The forests of America were decimated to fuel a much small population need for industrial fuel.

There are already a number of huge enterprises lined up to turn our forests into energy dollars.

Huge plants are going in across the southeast, some to burn the wood, others to ship it off as pellets to be burned overseas.

The results of this unseemly rush-to-burn will be longlasting and devastating to our forests.

Clever lobbying that brought us the ethanol scam has continued to spread incentives for any-and-all biofuel schemes, including even garbage-burners.

Massive burning of things into our air will increase global warming.

Reducing our over-use of power through greater efficiencies and old-fashioned conservation has to be the first step, not building a giant new tree-incinerator.

For more information see "The Burning Issues With Biomass" at <http://www.energyjustice.net/biomass/>

Karen Orr
Energy Justice Network, Co-chair

The Gainesville Sun
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091001/OPINION02/909309898/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-1-2009>

Published: Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

A simple question: Is plant needed?

In his Saturday Speaking Out, former mayor Tom Bussing brought up some interesting questions about the new power plant approved last year by the City Commission.

There are many points to be argued as to the wisdom of bringing in the Nagadoches company to run this biomass fueled power plant, but my question is simple: Do we need it?

At the time the commissioners were discussing options for future power needs, GRU stated that if Gainesville residents followed GRU energy conservation guidelines, our current plant would provide sufficient power for something like 12 years, as I remember. Now, GRU tells us that residents have surpassed those conservation expectations and at this level of consumption the need for increased power could be pushed back farther. And that because of our conserving, the utility rates will have to be increased.

I would expect that utility users will find more ways to conserve if their rates increase.

Interestingly, I haven't yet noticed much of a change in wasteful usage of energy. It's still freezing in the post office, store employees still wear sweaters in the summer, lighting is still overused.

I haven't seen a large amount of solar panels or reflective roofing being installed yet, which will come

as costs go down with higher demand.

Could more focused conservation along with more widely used alternative energy sources push an increased energy demand back another 10 years? Why should Nagadoches come set up shop? How much will this cost us and is there a need? Seems like a needless waste of energy.

Monica Cooper,

Gainesville

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090926/OPINION03/909261005>

Thomas D. Bussing: GRU's carbon folly

By Thomas D. Bussing
Special to The Sun

Published: Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

Here's an "Inconvenient Truth" about global warming on our local level: Last May our city commissioners and mayor voted for a massive increase in GRU's emissions of CO₂.

The giant new wood-incinerating power plant at Deerhaven is expected to burn one million tons of "biomass" every year. (The current coal plant burns less than half that tonnage in producing twice as much electricity.)

Building the new plant would more than double the smokestack emissions at Deerhaven. This is bizarrely promoted as a "clean and green" project by our city officials. In fact, it is neither.

Dr. William Sammons has written an excellent expose on this (SUN on-line, July 15, 2009), disclosing the fact that wood-burning plants actually emit double the CO₂ compared to a coal plant, and thus double the climate impact.

Most of us know that wood is not an efficient fuel. Besides having a low inherent "heat value," it comes with a moisture content that must be boiled off in the flame. Thus, more CO₂ is produced for the same amount of heat.

It is illogical to advocate this inefficient fuel as a means to reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere. Kilowatt for kilowatt, it will spew more CO₂ than a coal plant.

The overriding forces driving this ill-conceived plan are subsidies, regulatory loopholes, and a contorted logic that claims "carbon neutrality" for the plant's exhaust emissions. This "convenient" replacement for truth holds that "Since growing trees absorb CO₂, the emissions from this plant are just recycled back into trees ... which we will then burn."

The fallacy is in believing that plants take up all CO₂ emissions. In fact plants absorb some, the ocean absorbs more (and as a consequence is becoming more acidic by the year), but a portion just stays and builds up in the atmosphere. That buildup is associated with global warming, and it doesn't matter if the CO₂ comes from coal, gas or "biomass."

It is a fact that "biomass" burning produces more CO2 than the conventional fuels. And "biomass" CO2 does not somehow migrate specifically to growing plants. It will, some of it, be in the atmosphere for many thousands of years.

There are many more truths that will continue to come forth to substantiate that the proposed wood-incinerator is a bad idea for Gainesville. But let's take them one at a time.

First of all, it is not "clean and green."

Thomas D. Bussing served as mayor of Gainesville 2001-2004.

The Gainesville Sun
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090715/NEWS/907159938/-1/OPINION?Title=William-Sammons-New-GRU-plant-will-be-neither-clean-nor-green>

William Sammons: New GRU plant will be neither clean nor green

Published: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 1:52 p.m.

The recently approved contract with a Boston company to build a costly wood incinerator electrical generation plant in Gainesville was sold to us as "clean and green." It is neither.

The fact is, this "biomass" plant will spew almost twice as much CO2 as the proposed coal plant it replaces — an estimated 2 billion pounds of CO2 every year, 2 billion pounds that will accelerate global warming. The proponents argue that the trees burned in the plant will grow back, so the project is "carbon neutral."

However, as the EPA stated on April 24, 2009, in the Endangerment Proposal on CO2, "Indeed, for a given amount of CO2 released today, about half will be taken up by the oceans and terrestrial vegetation over the next 30 years, and a further 30 percent will be removed over a few centuries, and the remaining 20 percent will only slowly decay over time such that it will take many thousands of years to remove from the atmosphere."

In simple fact, trees don't grow fast enough to reabsorb all that CO2. Burning trees puts more carbon in the air and worsens climate change because every molecule of CO2 is the same as every other molecule, whether the CO2 came from a burning a tree or a tailpipe.

The false argument that prevails is that this massive CO2 release is "natural".

Sure, this carbon was part of nature before it was incinerated, but what matters is the increase in CO2 in the atmosphere. Even if you want to rename it for political spin "biogenic" carbon, that won't prevent it from adding to the burden in the atmosphere.

GRU and the plant developers claim the plant is "low emissions," but that doesn't address CO2. There is nothing in the emissions controls on this plant that significantly reduces CO2 emissions. Just look at the

lack of common sense here. Burning wood increases the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. And cutting down trees reduces the amount of CO₂ taken out of the atmosphere. That's a double whammy for the environment.

The bottom line is that CO₂ is CO₂. The biomass plant will emit almost twice as much CO₂ as the coal plant it supplanted. That's a fact. It isn't "clean and green." It's a travesty.

It is ironic that this is coming to Gainesville at the same time as the cutting-edge solar FIT (Feed In Tariff) solar program. Which path will Gainesville be taking? To the past, or to the future? This scam is about more than CO₂. This biomass plant is about investors' profits, not a clean environment or clean power. The way this plant is being promoted is a scam – costing you in dollars, in health, and in your children's futures.

William Sammons, M.D.
Lincoln, MA

Jim Stringfellow: Let's rethink biomass plant

Consider the pace of technology advancement in energy production.

Published October 12, 2009

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091012/OPINION03/910099981>

Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error

CLIMATE CHANGE : <http://www.sciencemag.org>
SCIENCE VOL 326 23 OCTOBER 2009

Timothy D. Searchinger,^{1*} Steven P. Hamburg,^{2*} Jerry Melillo,³ William Chameides,⁴ Petr Havlik,⁵ Daniel M. Kammen,⁶ Gene E. Likens,⁷ Ruben N. Lubowski,² Michael Obersteiner,⁵ Michael Oppenheimer,¹ G. Philip Robertson,⁸ William H. Schlesinger,⁷ G. David Tilman⁹

Rules for applying the Kyoto Protocol and national cap-and-trade laws contain a major, but fixable, carbon accounting flaw in assessing bioenergy.

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The accounting now used for assessing compliance with carbon limits in the Kyoto Protocol and in climate legislation contains a far-reaching but fixable flaw that will severely undermine greenhouse gas reduction goals (1). It does not count CO₂ emitted from tailpipes and smokestacks when “bioenergy” is being used, but it also does not count changes in emissions from land use when biomass for energy is harvested or grown.

This accounting erroneously treats all bioenergy as carbon neutral regardless of the source of the biomass, which may cause large differences in net emissions. For example, the clearing of long-established forests to burn wood or to grow energy crops is counted as a 100% reduction in energy emissions despite causing large releases of carbon. Several recent studies estimate that this error, applied globally, would create strong incentives to clear land as carbon caps tighten.

One study (2) estimated that a global CO₂ target of 450 ppm under this accounting would cause bioenergy crops to expand to displace virtually all the world’s natural forests and savannahs by 2065, releasing up to 37 gigatons (Gt) of CO₂ per year (comparable to total human CO₂ emissions today).

Another study predicts that, based solely on economic considerations, bioenergy could displace 59% of the world’s natural forest cover and release an additional 9 Gt of CO₂ per year to achieve a 50% “cut” in greenhouse gases by 2050 (3).

The reason: When bioenergy from any biomass is counted as carbon neutral, economics favor large-scale land conversion for bioenergy regardless of the actual net emissions (4).

The potential of bioenergy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions inherently depends on the source of the biomass and its net landuse effects.

Replacing fossil fuels with bioenergy does not by itself reduce carbon emissions, because the CO₂ released by tailpipes and smokestacks is roughly the same per unit of energy regardless of the source (1, 5).

Emissions from producing and/or refining biofuels also typically exceed those for petroleum (1, 6).

Bioenergy therefore reduces greenhouse emissions only if the growth and harvesting of the biomass for energy captures carbon above and beyond what would be sequestered anyway and thereby offsets emissions from energy use.

This additional carbon may result from land management changes that increase plant uptake or from the use of biomass that would otherwise decompose rapidly.

Assessing such carbon gains requires the same accounting principles used to assign credits for other land-based carbon offsets. For example, if unproductive land supports fast-growing grasses for bioenergy, or if forestry improvements increase tree growth rates, the additional carbon absorbed offsets emissions when burned for energy. Energy use of manure or crop and timber residues may also capture “additional” carbon.

However, harvesting existing forests for electricity adds net carbon to the air. That remains true even if limited harvest rates leave the carbon stocks of regrowing forests unchanged, because those stocks would otherwise increase and contribute to the terrestrial carbon sink (1).

If bioenergy crops displace forest or grassland, the carbon released from soils and vegetation, plus lost future sequestration, generates carbon debt, which counts against the carbon the crops absorb (7, 8).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has long realized that bioenergy's greenhouse effects vary by source of biomass and land-use effects.

It also recognizes that when forests or other plants are harvested for bioenergy, the resulting carbon release must be counted either as land-use emissions or energy emissions but not both.

To avoid double-counting, the IPCC assigns the CO₂ to the land-use accounts and exempts bioenergy emissions from energy accounts (5).

Yet it warns, because "fossil fuel substitution is already 'rewarded'" by this exemption, "to avoid underreporting . . . any changes in biomass stocks on lands . . . resulting from the production of biofuels would need to be included in the accounts" (9).

This symmetrical approach works for the reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) because virtually all countries report emissions from both land and energy use.

For example, if forests are cleared in Southeast Asia to produce palm biodiesel burned in Europe, Europe can exclude the tailpipe emissions as Asia reports the large net carbon release as land-use emissions.

However, exempting emissions from bioenergy use is improper for greenhouse gas regulations if land-use emissions are not included.

The Kyoto Protocol caps the energy emissions of developed countries. But the protocol applies no limits to land use or any other emissions from developing countries, and special crediting rules for "forest management" allow developed countries to cancel out their own land-use emissions as well (1, 10).

Thus, maintaining the exemption for CO₂ emitted by bioenergy use under the protocol (11) wrongly treats bioenergy from all biomass sources as carbon neutral, even if the source involves clearing forests for electricity in Europe or converting them to biodiesel crops in Asia.

This accounting error has carried over into the European Union's cap-and-trade law and the climate bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives (1, 12, 13). Both regulate emissions from energy but not land use and then erroneously exempt CO₂ emitted from bioenergy use.

In theory, the accounting system would work if caps covered all land-use emissions and sinks. However, this approach is both technically and politically challenging as it is extremely hard to measure all land-use emissions or to distinguish human and natural causes of many emissions (e.g., fires).

The straightforward solution is to fix the accounting of bioenergy. That means tracing the actual flows of carbon and counting emissions from tailpipes and smokestacks whether from fossil energy or bioenergy.

Instead of an assumption that all biomass offsets energy emissions, biomass should receive credit to the extent that its use results in additional carbon from enhanced plant growth or from the use of residues or biowastes.

Under any crediting system, credits must reflect net changes in carbon stocks, emissions of non-CO2 greenhouse gases, and leakage emissions resulting from changes in land-use activities to replace crops or timber diverted to bioenergy (1).

Separately, Europe and the United States have established legal requirements for minimum use of biofuels, which assess greenhouse gas consequences based on life-cycle analyses that reflect some land-use effects (1, 14). Such assessments vary widely in comprehensiveness, but none considers biofuels free from land-based emissions.

Yet the carbon cap accounting ignores land-use emissions altogether, creating its own large, perverse incentives. Bioenergy can provide much energy and help meet greenhouse caps, but correct accounting must provide the right incentives.

References and Notes

1. Additional references supporting the themes of this Policy Forum can be found in the supporting online material.
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15. The authors express thanks for the support of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Supporting Online Material
www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/326/5952/527/DC1

March 18, 2010
“National Sunshine Week”

Madam Mayor and Commissioners,

At a recent neighborhood electoral forum, one of the candidates for Mayor (who should wish to remain nameless) opined that citizens opposed to your proposed \$500 million dollar Biomass Tree Incinerator were dealing in “misinformation.”

This rash and untrue statement inspired me to speak briefly at Citizen Comment at the March 18 commission meeting about the dishonesty that permeates our city’s presentments to the Florida Public Service Commission, including the claim that “Gainesville’s citizens are fully informed” about the bioburner scheme with its devastating impact on their rates, and eager to take on the attendant serious financial risks to our utility.

The city claims to have held **37 public meetings** on the topic. The list of these “meetings” has yet to be presented. When brought forth, it will doubtless stand truth on its head once more.

My comments elicited another prevarication from GRU. After I referenced recent citizen revelations that the Solar F.I.T. program has been hijacked by a handful of speculators, the General Manager for Utilities told you that certain “large solar contractors” were having “trouble lining up financing in these times.” He assured you that GRU would help them find the financing.

That statement is dishonest. The General Manager knows, or certainly should since the citizens know, that the lion's share of the Solar F.I.T. subsidy (58%) has been snapped up by a single paper corporation, an ephemeral creation of greed, housed with some wrongful death attorneys in an office suite somewhere on Wilshire Boulevard. This applicant has never installed a solar panel anywhere.

It shouldn't be so hard to get the truth in Gainesville. The citizens are being maligned while the commissioners and Mayor malingers. You need to start doing your job, and stop denigrating the hard work of citizens looking for truth.

I challenge each of you to respond to this plea. This commission has become notorious for not responding to citizens' letters, e-mails and phone calls. That has to stop.

My request of each of you starts with this: send me your copy of the list of the "37 public meetings" held on the Biomass Tree Burner.

Pursuant of course to the Florida Sunshine Law, which has apparently sunset in Gainesville.

Yours truly,
Thomas D. Bussing PhD

<http://www.gators-r.us/SolarInfo/>

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION® Fighting for Air

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

June 24, 2009

Charles D. Connor
President &
Chief Executive Officer

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1301 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20004-1725
Phone: (202) 785-3355
Fax: (202) 452-1805

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

61 Broadway, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10006-2701
Phone: (212) 315-8700
Fax: (212) 315-8800

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey:

www.LungUSA.org

As you consider legislation to address global climate change and energy policy, the American Lung Association urges you to use this opportunity to target widespread pollutants that can both directly harm lung health of millions of Americans and worsen global climate change. At a minimum, we urge you to select mechanisms that prevent increases in ambient air pollution and hazardous air pollutants.

Stephen J. Nolan, Esq.
Chair

Over 186 million Americans continue to live and breathe in areas with unhealthy air in the United States. The American Lung Association supports aggressive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that maximize co-benefits of reducing criteria pollutants and provide near-term public health benefits. These strategies include ambitious programs to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel combustion and promote cleaner alternative vehicle technologies and fuels. These require real changes: substantial increases in clean renewable energy resources; a transformation of the land use planning process to emphasize smart growth policies that promote alternatives to driving; and, as well, significant reductions in power plant and industrial emissions.

Mary H. Partridge
Chair-elect

Bruce A. Herring
Past-Chair

H. James Gooden
Secretary

Terrence L. Johnston
Treasurer

We urge you to consider approaches that target two critical two critical pollutants well within reach—black carbon and ozone. Black carbon, or diesel soot, and ozone not only significantly impact global warming but also endanger public health. Black carbon from diesel, a mixture of 40 different toxic substances, increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Ozone, the most commonly encountered pollutant in America's cities, damages lung capacity and aggravates asthma. Both pollutants send people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases to the hospital and emergency room. Both cut short the lives of thousands of people every year. Because black carbon particles and ozone have significantly shorter life-spans in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, immediate controls can make a near-term difference in the level of global warming, as well as have immediate health benefits.

Albert J. Rizzo, MD
Nationwide Assembly
Speaker

Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey

June 24, 2009

Page 2

The legislation should support state and local air pollution control efforts and include strong controls on major sources of emissions. Please include stronger controls on coal-fired power plants and other major industrial sources that also reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other toxic air contaminant emissions.

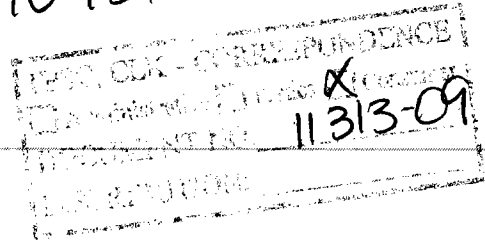
The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

The American Lung Association thanks you for the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Connor", written in a cursive style.

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO

**Ann Cole**

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 12:56 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant
Attachments: ALA_national_letter.pdf; Attached Message Part

Thank you for this information. The attachment has been printed and will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 9:20 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant

Ann,

Please add the e-mail below and attachment to *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket 090451-EM

Thanks,
Cristina

From: Dick Stokes [mailto:rastokes@atlantic.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 08, 2010 7:04 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant

Dear Chairwoman Argenziano, Commissioner Edgar, Commissioner Klement, Commissioner Skop and Commissioner Stevens,

Please vote to deny the city of Gainesville's proposed 'biomass' power plant.

I know you are under great political pressure to approve the expensive, unneeded power plant but please consider the rate payer.

Contrary to statements by Gainesville officials, the rate payers are not aware of the rate hikes they'll be forced to pay if this proposed plant is built.

The local newspaper has done a very poor job of covering the issue. The 'dozens' of public meetings the City claims to have had on the proposed bio-burner are a mystery. Repeated requests for documentation of these public meetings have been ignored. (The March 18th letter to the City from former Gainesville mayor Tom Bussing requesting a list of public

meetings on the bio-burner is at the bottom of the page.)

Based on the public meetings on the proposed bio-burner that actually occurred, the vast majority of the citizens who know about it, are against it.

071159: Video of Evaluation of Biomass-fueled Generation Proposals, May 12, 2008

Citizen comments @ 01:47:40

http://gainesville.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=5&clip_id=319

The Florida League of Conservation Voters has summary documentation on adverse effects of Biomass plants - includes documentation on effects of particulates-PM10 & PM2.5
<http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

Attached is a letter from the National Lung Association

Excerpt from the Lung Association letter:

The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

snip

'Biomass' burning is not green, it's not sustainable, it's not healthy, it's not renewable, it's not carbon neutral, it's not environmentally friendly and it's not ecologically sound.

If built, the proposed Gainesville 'biomass' plant will shackle our citizens with a 30 year debt. Please vote to deny it.

Sincerely,

Dick Stokes
715 NE 2nd Street
Gainesville 32601

Please see letters regarding the proposed bio-burner below

The Gainesville SUN

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100414/OPINION03/4141001/-1/OPINION?p=all&tc=pgall>

Joy Towles Ezell: Biomass plant is a mistake

5/10/2010

By Joy Towles Ezell
Special to The Sun

Published: Wednesday, April 14, 2010

The Florida League of Conservation Voters opposes the proposed power plant in Gainesville.

Gainesville does not need more electric power; it currently has a 63 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 Gainesville City Commission needs to be aware of the disastrous effects this proposed incinerator will have on the ratepayers, the environment and the public's health.

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.

Basic forestry truths: There is no waste in nature, and "residual biomass" needs to stay in the woods to replenish the soil.

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.

It's time for the commissioners to acknowledge that they made a terrible mistake and vote to cancel the contract before it's too late.

The city of Gainesville needs to fix the failed solar program, expand energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption.

Doing so would create many new jobs that would benefit the community and region.

For more information, see the Florida League of Conservation Voters summary documentation on adverse effects of biomass plants at <http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

Joy Towles Ezell is president of the Florida League of Conservation Voters. She lives in Perry.

Gainesville SUN - April 13, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100413/OPINION02/100419863/1077/OPINION?p=3&tc=pg>

Biomass is bad for us

In his April 11 Speaking Out, Don Post, a retired professor of forestry, claims that the proposed biomass plant will be good for our forests. What he really means is that it will be good for the forest products industry and for landowners, such as himself, who have destroyed our natural forests and replaced them with biologically destitute tree farms.

Now that the cancer of growth has finally slowed down, industrial foresters have no market for particle board, pulp for junk mail, and other low value products so they are turning to biomass.

Industrial forestry has already degraded vast areas of our state. Future reliance on biomass will be the death knell not only for truly sustainable forestry, but also for nature as we know it.

We should work to restore the vibrant and diverse ecosystems that were once the glory of North Florida.

Bruce Morgan
Archer

The Gainesville Sun - May 4, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100504/OPINION02/100509857/-1/opinion?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-May-4>

A better way

If we are concerned about CO2 and pollution, then GRU's biomass plans are faulty. There is no way you can convince me that letting a piece of wood rot on the ground where it falls has a larger carbon footprint than having two city employees in a big truck pick it up, drive it 40 miles to Deerhaven, and then burn it.

A more logical approach would be to take the same \$500 million and put \$20,000 solar installations (sufficient for an average home) on 25,000 customers' roofs.

GRU's website says they have 90,000 customers including businesses, so the solar approach would become a significant percentage of GRU's output. Not only would this give those customers free or nearly-free electricity for decades, it would alleviate GRU's need to burn coal (or anything else) for them.

Ben Butler,
Alachua

Gainesville Sun - April 9th

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100408/NEWS/100409427/-1/OPINION?Title=Ronald-Saff-Scrap-the-biomass-plant>

Dr. Saff: Scrap the biomass plant

The City of Gainesville should scrap the proposed unnecessary 100 MW 'biomass' power plant.

Incineration increases greenhouse gases in the atmosphere causing a rise in global temperatures and harmful consequences to human health.

There is evidence for a relationship between air emissions exposure and lung cancer.

Emission of hazardous gases such as carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, and nitrogen oxides. Particulate matter from incineration interferes with normal lung development, reduces lung function, increases episodes of asthma, emphysema, pneumonia and bronchitis; aggravates heart disease; chronic obstructive lung disease; chronic bronchitis; and increases the risk of cancer and genetic mutations.

Pregnant mothers exposed to high levels of air pollution give birth to children with an increased risk of stunted IQs.

The Florida Medical Association supports development of comprehensive programs for resource conservation, recycling and composting and the Massachusetts Medical Society called 3 proposed biomass plants there "an unacceptable public health risk". Conservation, efficiency and solar are what we need to protect public health

Ronald Saff, M.D.

Member, Florida Medical Association Environment and Health Section

Dr. Saff is an asthma and allergy specialist in Tallahassee

The Florida League of Conservation Voters has summary documentation on adverse effects of Biomass plants - includes documentation on effects of particulates-PM10 & PM2.5

<http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

The Gainesville Sun - April 8

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100408/OPINION02/100409525/1077/OPINION?p=3&tc=pg>

No need for biomass

Rob Brinkman ("Biomass needed to achieve Kyoto goals," Voice, 4-3) might be the first to agree that creation of greenhouse gas policy based on bad science is not "sustainable." Building a biomass plant in a rush to achieve Kyoto goals is an anachronism that clings to a demonstrably failed IPCC global warming hypothesis.

There is no longer a compelling need to invest scarce dollars for biomass plant in Gainesville.

Harold Saive,

Gainesville

5/10/2010

The Gainesville Sun - April 6

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100406/OPINION02/100409705/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-April-6>

No position taken

I would like to clarify a statement made by Karen Orr, chairwoman of the Energy Justice Network, in her March 29 letter ("Why physicians are against biomass energy").

Orr stated the American Lung Association of the Southeast opposes biomass plants. We have not taken a formal position on biomass plants. We do, however, have concerns about increasing sources of air pollution from energy production, including biomass, as it relates the potential effects it poses for at-risk groups like those suffering from emphysema, asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

Burning wood, or any substance, releases toxic chemicals and particles into the air, affecting both the environment and respiratory health.

Additionally, we are concerned about the diesel equipment critical to plant operations and the trucks delivering the fuel source. These can add significant pollution on the roads and throughout nearby communities.

Although we have concerns about these new energy sources adding to air pollution, we are even more concerned about the older plants that do not use the best available technology to capture toxic emissions. The American Lung Association works hard for more stringent regulations.

Brenda Olsen, RN
Chief Operating Officer
American Lung Association
of the Southeast, Inc.
Tallahassee

The Tallahassee Democrat

<http://floridiansagainstinincineratorsindisguise.com/category/medical-opposition/>

Frank Holcomb's Op-Ed misrepresents American Lung Association's position on Biomass Incinerators

Attached is the Lung Association's response to today's op-ed on the proposed biomass plant in Gadsden County. The op-ed misrepresented our position and we would like to make sure the public hears from us directly. Thanks for your consideration.

Brenda

"As the Chief Operating Officer for the American Lung Association in Florida, I would like to clarify a statement made in Frank Holcomb's recent editorial on the proposed biomass plant in Gadsden County. In his piece, he mentioned a position by the Clean Air Choice group within the American Lung Association that could be viewed as an endorsement of biomass energy. The information Mr. Holcomb cited was pulled from a website in Illinois and is not the position of the American Lung Association in Florida on the subject.

5/10/2010

The American Lung Association has significant concerns regarding the proposed biomass plant and the potential effects it could pose for at-risk groups like those suffering from emphysema, asthma, diabetes and heart disease. Burning wood, or burning any substance, releases toxic chemicals and particles into the air which affect both the environment and respiratory health.

Additionally, diesel equipment critical to plant operation, like the trucks delivering wood, will add significant pollution on the roads and throughout nearby communities. A constant supply of fuel is needed requiring these trucks to make multiple, daily trips to and from the plant. The age of these vehicles and idling practices will also have a significant impact on the level of pollution emitted, and increase the potential damage to air quality and the health of Gadsden County citizens.

Furthermore, we have noticed a pattern nationwide of biomass plants being proposed for rural areas away from cities; where less protective pollution control restrictions and weaker permitting requirements apply. Plant proponents will say that they "meet the air pollution requirements" but the requirements themselves tend to be more lax.

Our organization is dedicated to healthy air and healthy lungs for all Floridians. I encourage the leaders of Gadsden County to consider the potential negative health effects on an already medically vulnerable and underserved community"

Brenda Olsen, RN
Chief Operating Officer
American Lung Association of the Southeast, Inc.
Serving Florida, Georgia and South Carolina

The Gainesville Sun

Letter to the Editor

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100329/COLUMNISTS/3291002>

Why physicians are against 'biomass' energy

The Florida Medical Association and The American Lung Association of the Southeast oppose "biomass" power plants because they present an unacceptable risk to public health.

At least 75,000 physicians have signed resolutions proposing the banning or severe restrictions on the burning of "biomass" (for electricity) due to the increased risk of premature infant death, asthma in adults and children, chronic bronchitis, heart disease and stroke.

Emissions from "biomass" plants disproportionately harm the newborn, children, athletes, the chronically ill, those with lung disease and the elderly. People with emphysema, other chronic lung diseases, angina or congestive heart failure will be sicker.

Write the mayor and city commissioners. Tell them to fix the City's failed solar program and cancel the contract for the "biomass" plant before it's too late.

For more information on medical opposition to "biomass" plants, see <http://biomess.net>

Karen Orr
The Energy Justice Network
Chairwoman
Gainesville

NAACP criticizes biomass plant

The group says the plant would be too costly for minorities.

By Chad Smith
Staff writer

Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 6:01 a.m.

The local chapter of the NAACP wants the city to reconsider its proposed biomass power plant, fearing it would cause a spike in utility bills that would hit the poor the hardest.

Related Links: Candidates at odds over energy Earlier this month, Michael Bowie, president of the Alachua County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, sent city commissioners a letter asking them to "withdraw your support for this costly and risky biomass plant."

In an interview, Bowie said the project would have a significant impact on those in the lower socioeconomic tier, a majority of whom are minorities.

"It will be tough for the entire community, but it will definitely be a burden on the poor community," he said.

In the letter, he wrote, "(Gainesville Regional Utilities') map of KWh consumption per square foot of residence shows a remarkable correlation between high per square foot energy consumption and the distribution of lower income African-American population."

He wrote that the "project raises serious questions," asked why it had to be built now when the city won't need the capacity until 2023, and questioned whether cost estimates were valid considering a growing interest in biomass.

"It is unjust for the poor of Gainesville to bear a disproportionate share of the cost of the proposed biomass plant!" the letter concluded.

Bowie and GRU leaders have scheduled a meeting for Monday to discuss the plant's effects on utility rates.

The city is trying to answer some of the same concerns in Tallahassee, where the state's Public Service Commission will be deciding whether the plant will move ahead.

GRU spokesman Dan Jesse said the city-owned utility believes it will be "best for the customers and the rates in the long term."

As for the meeting Monday, Jesse said, "We're just going to be trying to convince them that this is a good business decision."

Contact Chad Smith at 338-3104 or chad.smith@gvillesun.com

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100313/ARTICLES/3131016>

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group votes to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

Press Release, March 13, 2010

Contact Brack Barker, Conservation Chair, phone # 352-215-4396

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group, which represents 14 counties in North Central Florida including Alachua county, has voted to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

- * A new power plant is not needed; GRU currently has 62% overcapacity
- * Competition for increasingly scarce biomass fuel will be too expensive and a burden on the ratepayers
- * We reject more massive air pollution and major water withdrawals
- * The City of Gainesville needs to expand their energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption. This will create many new jobs that will benefit the community and region. For these reasons the Suwannee/St.John's group opposes a new power plant.

Brack Barker Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group Conservation Chair

Josh Dickinson: Biomass energy threatens woodlands

Published March 14, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100314/OPINION03/100319871>

The Gainesville Sun, March 7, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100307/OPINION02/100309645>

GRU's \$500 million biomass folly

I would rephrase from Pamela Mincey's letter to the Sun (March 4):

“Unknowledgeable biomass advocates are declaring the proposed unneeded tree-burning plant to be financially responsible.”

GRU has 63% overcapacity. To build a 500-million-dollar experimental new plant is folly. The Florida Public Service Commission is poised to deliver that verdict.

Only erroneous political anointment as a “carbon neutral” fuel, with consequent massive subsidies, propels the biomass fiasco.

5/10/2010

Her foolish enthusiasm for chipping up Georgia's forests (for shipment to Europe, no less) exposes the flawed logic of these biomass advocates. How on God's green earth can that be "carbon neutral?"

Next thing you know, they'll bring us a plan to clear-cut the Amazon and ship it to China as "carbon neutral" fuel.

Tom Bussing
Gainesville

The Gainesville Sun

Letters to the Editor

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100219/OPINION02/100219442/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Feb-19>

Published: Friday, February 19, 2010

Fueling GRU's biomass

In regard to the requirements of the new 100 MW biomass plant: How did the U.S. Forest Service determine that a 75-mile radius from Gainesville is the plant's supply area? This area incorporates a minimum of 19 counties and covers approximately 11 million acres.

How can the Forest Service guarantee access and availability for fully half of the 1.5 million tons of logging residue left behind annually in the 5.5 million acres of forest in this area? As currently planned, we will require that much logging residue to fuel 75 percent of our new plant.

The 75-mile radius incorporates the cities of Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Leesburg, Crystal River, Cedar Key and Jasper. How can GRU depend upon the cooperation of the many municipalities and owners of the privately held forests to satisfy our increased local consumption?

And does GRU's 30-year contract with GREC include an iron-clad requirement that the biomass burners with their advanced emission controls be upgraded as technology improves to produce cleaner energy?

Andy and Eleanor Merritt

Cross Creek

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100216/OPINION02/100219671/-1/OPINION?p=2&tc=pg>

Published: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

The PSC nailed it

The Florida Public Service Commissioners have stepped in to provide the first meaningful scrutiny of GRU's proposed bio-burner, something not a single member of the City Commission has done.

5/10/2010

PSC Commissioner Nathan Skop nailed it: "GRU and the city are taking a huge risk with the rate payers' money."

The Sun reported that PSC staff made estimates including a \$100 million loss for the project by 2043. That is GRU's own estimate, and PSC staff merely comment on it.

They are charitable in accepting GRU's numbers, and also in not pointing out that under this same "base case" scenario, the red ink actually bottoms out at negative \$320 million dollars as of 2030. That's without wood prices rising faster than inflation, an obvious possibility that GRU's rosy projection (amazingly) doesn't even consider.

The plan would leave the ratepayers paying for the folly, with jacked up bills and "stranded assets" littering our generation portfolio. All for another 100 megawatts of overcapacity, for power that we do not need.

Tom Bussing,

Gainesville

The biomass scam

Many thanks to the Public Service Commission and The Gainesville Sun for exposing the true reason behind GRU's push for the biomass plant. It is not ecology. It is a form of corporate greed.

The Feb. 11 article states there is not even a "capacity need" until 2023. So, why build it?

The Sun reports that 50 of its 100 megawatt capacity will be sold to Orlando, Lakeland, and other areas. In other words \$500 million of our tax dollars will be spent in the hopes GRU can turn a profit selling our electricity to someone else.

The Sun also states your electric bill will also go up a minimum of \$4 per month.

And to add insult to injury for you folks out in the countryside, any profit that might possibly happen will be returned by GRU to the Gainesville city treasury, not you. Talk about taxation without representation!

Ben Butler,

Alachua

Letters to the Editor, Gainesville Sun, February 6
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100206/OPINION02/100209650/-1/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Feb-6>

Biomass disaster

"Biomass" plants pose an undue risk to public health and the environment. Promoting these incinerators with public subsidies on the false claim that they produce "green" electricity is indefensible public policy.

5/10/2010

Under current or proposed laws "biomass" burning will dramatically increase greenhouse gases. It is not 'carbon neutral' as the industry claims.

Current research, data from company permits and proposals, environmental impact reports, and government analyses show that for several key pollutants (notably CO₂, NO_x and particulates), biomass burning is "dirty energy" - worse than coal. The Florida Medical Society, The Massachusetts Medical Society and the American Lung Association of New England oppose biomass power plants because they present an unacceptable risk to public health.

The U.S. Senate will be acting soon on proposed laws to give "biomass" plants more tax credits.

Please urge senators Bill Nelson and George LeMieux to stand with the interests of the people they represent and vote NO on all tax credits for "biomass" burning to make electricity.

To learn about some of the fourteen proposed "bioenergy" plants in North Florida, visit the Floridians Against Incinerators in Disguise website at <http://biomess.net>

Karen Orr, Co-chair
The Energy Justice Network
Gainesville

Fall and winter 2009 letters and columns published in The Gainesville Sun opposing the proposed 'biomass' incinerator in Gainesville Florida.

Published: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

Not enough wood for GRU's furnace

In his Dec. 20 column, Ron Cunningham listed some of the reasons wood for GRU's biomass generator may be too expensive for us to buy when that unit is ready to produce electricity. He suggests the local community could buy a forest to supply fuel for the plant "just in case" prices reach a level we cannot afford.

He says we might even persuade the state to allow harvesting fuel wood on the forest land it owns in the county.

It's a good thought, except that there isn't enough available forest land in the county to help us ratepayers much. The plant will burn nearly 2 tons of wood a minute, and it takes over an acre of productive Florida timberland to grow that much wood in a year.

The county owns and manages 6,100 acres of productive timberland, while the state owns about 5,500 acres outside Payne's Prairie. Together, state and county-owned forests might fuel about seven and a half days of biomass generator operation each year, assuming they were sustainably managed and produced as much wood per acre as the commercial timberlands in the county do.

Even if we clear cut the whole 11,700 acres of county and local state forestland to fire the plant in an emergency, the total harvest would supply the generator for only about nine months.

It would take about 880 square miles of sustainably managed Florida timberland land to supply all the wood GRU will burn in its generator in a year. There are only 874 square miles of dry land in the entire

county.

This explains in part why so many of us have opposed the biomass generator since the idea first surfaced

Dian Deevey,
Chair,
Alachua County
Environmental Protection
Advisory Committee,
Gainesville

Let's talk about the GRU elephant

Not long ago one could find posters at GRU headquarters that stated "Burn to Earn". I'm not sure if the posters are still there, but it looks like the newest incarnation of this "Burn to Earn" business model is the building of a new biomass power plant.

GRU has two jobs: provide utility services and generate "profits" for the city's general budget. GRU "profits" pay approximately 36 percent of Gainesville's operating expenses in a process they call the "revenue transfer."

The "revenue transfer" is the elephant in the room no one wants to talk about when discussing future power options. GRU must continue to make money to fund the city's expenses or taxpayers will have to pay higher taxes and city commissioners are reluctant to suggest any increases in taxes for fear they won't get re-elected. So, we are stuck in the 20th century "Burn to Earn" paradigm.

It's time to talk about the elephant in the room. Burning trees is not the way we should be generating revenue for our city. We need a better way to finance the services Gainesville provides to its citizens or we will continue to waste millions of dollars working through more proposals to burn things that generate electricity and "profits."

Let's make it clear to GRU and the City Commission that we don't a biomass plant in our community either.

Ed Brown,
Gainesville

"Not enough wood for GRU's furnace" and "Let's talk about the GRU elephant"
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091230/OPINION02/912289926>

December 21, 2009

The Shell Game

Gainesville Is Giving Away Its Energy Future

By Thomas Bussing

5/10/2010

It defies belief that the biggest utility contract in our city's history has been offered to an essentially empty paper entity whose principle activity is financial speculation, quick profit and quick sell-off.

We the people are committing to their 500 million dollar private contract to burn trees so that we can buy back electricity at more expensive rates.

Until now we were a municipal utility that built, owned and operated its system on behalf of the citizens. This deal transfers future ownership to shifting paper corporations who in turn sell off the rights they acquired from us.

Better hope it all works perfectly, because the bail-out leaves us bankrupt and in hock forever to outside private financiers.

We have been told that we cannot break this contract. We have been told it's too late, that if it is stopped the city might incur a financial penalty for the default.

What we really worry about is the opposite: that going ahead with this plant may bring on the biggest financial disaster possible for a city. We who pay the rates are on the line to pay the half-billion dollar cost.

But there is hope.

A good start is simply agreeing that building this plant is a bad idea, and that therefore the agreement is against our interests. The facts tell us it would be better to not go ahead.

Many letters to this newspaper have presented various reasons why we would be better off if this plant is not built. Here are a few more.

The contractor, "Nacogdoches Power," is a corporate entity created for a single project, a planned bio-burner in Nacogdoches, Texas, for which it was named. Quoting from their December 14, 2007 proposal to GRU: "Nacogdoches Power was formed in 2005. ... the company has no permanent employees..."

They are not builders or operators of power plants. They are merely seekers of financial arrangements, which they re-sell. They have no visible balance sheet and no actual employees.

They recently sold their so-called "Texas Project" to another outfit, before even getting it constructed. "Nacogdoches Power" has rebranded into "American Renewables" in the process.

They will not be running whatever gets built here. They may not even construct it. But they expect to be lucratively rewarded for their short time in town.

GRU admits that when completed, this plant will command a premium (high) price for its output. Rates can be expected to rise. In the end, to solve such problems we may be forced to buy them out – and at a price that has not been disclosed.

Amazingly, such key terms have never been disclosed to the public, nor even our elected commissioners and mayor.

Five hundred million dollars is a lot of money to contract for, and it is we, the citizens who live here, who will have to pay unless it is stopped.

There is one thing we can all agree upon – that it would be far better for this contract to be voided than to take the enormous risk of bankrupting our utility and our city.

Not a brick has been laid, no equipment purchased for this proposed plant.

With that as our goal, we can proceed to explore mechanisms and any costs of extricating our City from this ill-advised and hastily-agreed-to contract.

In the long run, we will be much better off.

Dr. Thomas Bussing served as Mayor of Gainesville (2001-2004)

Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise

<http://floridiansagainstincederatorsindisguise.com/2009/12/21/gainesville-is-giving-away-its-energy-future/>

Go Green Nation

<http://www.gogreenation.org/2009/12/gainesville-is-giving-away-its-energy-future-%c2%ab-we-oppose-biomass-incinerator-projects-in-florida/>

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091224/OPINION02/912239969/-1/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-24>

Published December 24, 2009

"Let's Harvest our Heritage Forests for Biomass"

Not content with the exaggerated supply of "waste wood" that the ill-advised wood incinerator purports to "take care of," apparently such advocates as Ron Cunningham have their eyes on our Preservation Forests.

The "waste wood" they want to burn keeps our soil alive. It is critical to sustainable forests. Our Preservation Forests need to continue this natural soil-building cycle.

>From the start, to even discuss this proposed forest-burning power plant as a mere "waste wood burner" is to acquiesce to the prevalent political spin. That's a bad joke on us.

In truth, this plant is designed to be a massive tree harvester.

But to be on the safe side, Cunningham suggests, if the fuel wood plantations can't keep up with the 1,000,000 tons per year appetite of the Tree Incinerator, let's burn our Heritage Forests.

Brilliant.

Dick Stokes

Gainesville

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091210/OPINION02/912099991/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-10>

Save our trees

GRU director Bob Hunzinger (Dec. 6) would have us believe that biomass is a renewable energy source. Nothing could be further from the truth.

He speaks of utilizing "forestry waste" as though it was a useless byproduct of a sustainable industry. The timber industry has already destroyed most of the natural forests of North Florida and has replaced them with ecologically useless pine plantations.

The only part of a pine plantation that is ever returned to nature is the so called "waste" that GRU intends to burn. The "waste" in question consists of what little organic material escapes the loggers, the decomposition of which is critically important to the soil.

There is no waste in nature, every leaf, twig, and bug counts. By turning to biomass we are acting like starving peasants who chop down the last few trees in the desert to feed their starving goats.

Turn off the lights if we must, but leave us the last of our trees!

Bruce J. Morgan,

Archer

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091212/OPINION02/912119988/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-12>

It's not too late

GRU contracted to build a biomass plant and stick it in our own backyard. It was labeled "renewable energy" to make us feel good.

A biomass plant is simply an incinerator that will burn trees and pine needles; stable forms of carbon which will now be released directly into the air we breathe.

Carbon dioxide is a byproduct of combustion, whether it is wood or coal. My lungs can't tell the difference.

Add to this carbon footprint the 140-plus semi-truckloads of wood debris per day, which will result in additional carbon dioxide emissions. It's not too late to change our minds again.

Jeff Peet,

Newberry

5/10/2010

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091019/NEWS/910199925/-1/OPINION?Title=Ronald-Saff-Reject-Gainesville-biomass-plant>

Guest Column

Monday, October 19, 2009

Dr. Ronald Saff: Reject Gainesville Biomass Plant

As a former U.F. undergrad, I am proud of the high caliber education I received in Gainesville which has enabled me to achieve my dream of becoming a physician. Although Alachua County receives high marks in educational standards for its premier institution, the county sadly has received a very poor grade from the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report which gave the county an F in ozone and C in particle pollution (soot). A proposed biomass plant for your community will only make the poor air quality there even more hazardous.

Not only does air pollution cause heart and asthma attacks, strokes, cancer, missed work days and shortened life, pregnant mothers exposed to high levels of air pollution give birth to children with stunted IQ's making poisoned air an educational issue as well.

The Florida Medical Association, deeply concerned about the massive amounts of carcinogens belched from the smoke stacks of biomass plants and other incinerators, urges State Government to minimize their approval and construction.

My Medical Society in Tallahassee wrote a letter of concern to the Department of Environmental Protection stating that the physicians were concerned that pollutants from a proposed biomass plant would adversely affect patients with respiratory and cardiac conditions and will increase the incidence of respiratory conditions in children.

With half of all men and one-third of all women developing some form of cancer at some time in their lives, society needs less biomass plants and not more of them. I urge Alachua County residents and the Medical Society to follow the example set by Tallahasseeans who realize the health risks that a biomass plant would bring and protested loudly to our politicians. We chased away the biomass plant sited for Tallahassee and with enough screaming and shouting you can do the same.

Ronald Saff, M.D.

Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091022/OPINION02/910221001/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-22>

Letters to the Editor - Oct. 22

We don't need this biomass plant

5/10/2010

There is no need to build a huge, polluting tree-burning 100 megawatt power plant in Gainesville.

Four semitrailers per hour of trees will be burned daily at Deerhaven. Five more tree burners are planned for North Florida putting us right into a smog belt.

The tree-burning power plant will release higher levels of polluting CO₂, NO_X and carbon monoxide than the coal burner. Collecting and transporting trees will add considerably to the overall unhealthy pollution.

GRU should be responsive to ratepayers who are now using less electricity. Ratepayers want to and need to conserve energy. GRU should pursue investment in energy efficiency in commercial buildings, homes, schools and public buildings.

The fastest way to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases is to plant more trees and store more carbon in soils and leave the "waste" in place.

There is no such thing as waste in nature or a forest. Organic matter must be replenished constantly and, if it is not, it will slowly disappear from the soil.

The City of Gainesville can be a vanguard for solar power and pass conservation and efficiency measures that will protect our remaining forests and reduce emissions.

These measures will save millions of dollars for taxpayers and keep our air cleaner and healthier.

December McSherry,
McSherry Tree Farm,
Archer

Submitted version

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091015/OPINION02/910149836/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-15-2009>

Published: Thursday, October 15, 2009

A throwback plant

The proposed tree-burning power plant is no more than a throwback to the charcoal furnaces of the 19th century.

The forests of America were decimated to fuel a much small population need for industrial fuel.

There are already a number of huge enterprises lined up to turn our forests into energy dollars.

Huge plants are going in across the southeast, some to burn the wood, others to ship it off as pellets to be burned overseas.

The results of this unseemly rush-to-burn will be longlasting and devastating to our forests.

Clever lobbying that brought us the ethanol scam has continued to spread incentives for any-and-all biofuel schemes, including even garbage-burners.

Massive burning of things into our air will increase global warming.

Reducing our over-use of power through greater efficiencies and old-fashioned conservation has to be the first step, not building a giant new tree-incinerator.

For more information see "The Burning Issues With Biomass" at <http://www.energyjustice.net/biomass/>

Karen Orr
Energy Justice Network, Co-chair

The Gainesville Sun
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091001/OPINION02/909309898/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-1-2009>

Published: Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

A simple question: Is plant needed?

In his Saturday Speaking Out, former mayor Tom Bussing brought up some interesting questions about the new power plant approved last year by the City Commission.

There are many points to be argued as to the wisdom of bringing in the Nagadoches company to run this biomass fueled power plant, but my question is simple: Do we need it?

At the time the commissioners were discussing options for future power needs, GRU stated that if Gainesville residents followed GRU energy conservation guidelines, our current plant would provide sufficient power for something like 12 years, as I remember. Now, GRU tells us that residents have surpassed those conservation expectations and at this level of consumption the need for increased power could be pushed back farther. And that because of our conserving, the utility rates will have to be increased.

I would expect that utility users will find more ways to conserve if their rates increase.

Interestingly, I haven't yet noticed much of a change in wasteful usage of energy. It's still freezing in the post office, store employees still wear sweaters in the summer, lighting is still overused.

I haven't seen a large amount of solar panels or reflective roofing being installed yet, which will come as costs go down with higher demand.

Could more focused conservation along with more widely used alternative energy sources push an increased energy demand back another 10 years? Why should Nagadoches come set up shop? How much will this cost us and is there a need? Seems like a needless waste of energy.

Monica Cooper,

5/10/2010

Gainesville

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090926/OPINION03/909261005>

Thomas D. Bussing: GRU's carbon folly

By Thomas D. Bussing
Special to The Sun

Published: Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

Here's an "Inconvenient Truth" about global warming on our local level: Last May our city commissioners and mayor voted for a massive increase in GRU's emissions of CO₂.

The giant new wood-incinerating power plant at Deerhaven is expected to burn one million tons of "biomass" every year. (The current coal plant burns less than half that tonnage in producing twice as much electricity.)

Building the new plant would more than double the smokestack emissions at Deerhaven. This is bizarrely promoted as a "clean and green" project by our city officials. In fact, it is neither.

Dr. William Sammons has written an excellent expose on this (SUN on-line, July 15, 2009), disclosing the fact that wood-burning plants actually emit double the CO₂ compared to a coal plant, and thus double the climate impact.

Most of us know that wood is not an efficient fuel. Besides having a low inherent "heat value," it comes with a moisture content that must be boiled off in the flame. Thus, more CO₂ is produced for the same amount of heat.

It is illogical to advocate this inefficient fuel as a means to reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere. Kilowatt for kilowatt, it will spew more CO₂ than a coal plant.

The overriding forces driving this ill-conceived plan are subsidies, regulatory loopholes, and a contorted logic that claims "carbon neutrality" for the plant's exhaust emissions. This "convenient" replacement for truth holds that "Since growing trees absorb CO₂, the emissions from this plant are just recycled back into trees ... which we will then burn."

The fallacy is in believing that plants take up all CO₂ emissions. In fact plants absorb some, the ocean absorbs more (and as a consequence is becoming more acidic by the year), but a portion just stays and builds up in the atmosphere. That buildup is associated with global warming, and it doesn't matter if the CO₂ comes from coal, gas or "biomass."

It is a fact that "biomass" burning produces more CO₂ than the conventional fuels. And "biomass" CO₂ does not somehow migrate specifically to growing plants. It will, some of it, be in the atmosphere for many thousands of years.

There are many more truths that will continue to come forth to substantiate that the proposed wood-incinerator is a bad idea for Gainesville. But let's take them one at a time.

5/10/2010

First of all, it is not "clean and green."

Thomas D. Bussing served as mayor of Gainesville 2001-2004.

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090715/NEWS/907159938/-1/OPINION?Title=William-Sammons-New-GRU-plant-will-be-neither-clean-nor-green>

William Sammons: New GRU plant will be neither clean nor green

Published: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 1:52 p.m.

The recently approved contract with a Boston company to build a costly wood incinerator electrical generation plant in Gainesville was sold to us as "clean and green." It is neither.

The fact is, this "biomass" plant will spew almost twice as much CO₂ as the proposed coal plant it replaces — an estimated 2 billion pounds of CO₂ every year, 2 billion pounds that will accelerate global warming. The proponents argue that the trees burned in the plant will grow back, so the project is "carbon neutral."

However, as the EPA stated on April 24, 2009, in the Endangerment Proposal on CO₂, "Indeed, for a given amount of CO₂ released today, about half will be taken up by the oceans and terrestrial vegetation over the next 30 years, and a further 30 percent will be removed over a few centuries, and the remaining 20 percent will only slowly decay over time such that it will take many thousands of years to remove from the atmosphere."

In simple fact, trees don't grow fast enough to reabsorb all that CO₂. Burning trees puts more carbon in the air and worsens climate change because every molecule of CO₂ is the same as every other molecule, whether the CO₂ came from a burning a tree or a tailpipe.

The false argument that prevails is that this massive CO₂ release is "natural".

Sure, this carbon was part of nature before it was incinerated, but what matters is the increase in CO₂ in the atmosphere. Even if you want to rename it for political spin "biogenic" carbon, that won't prevent it from adding to the burden in the atmosphere.

GRU and the plant developers claim the plant is "low emissions," but that doesn't address CO₂. There is nothing in the emissions controls on this plant that significantly reduces CO₂ emissions. Just look at the lack of common sense here. Burning wood increases the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. And cutting down trees reduces the amount of CO₂ taken out of the atmosphere. That's a double whammy for the environment.

The bottom line is that CO₂ is CO₂. The biomass plant will emit almost twice as much CO₂ as the coal plant it supplanted. That's a fact. It isn't "clean and green." It's a travesty.

It is ironic that this is coming to Gainesville at the same time as the cutting-edge solar FIT (Feed In Tariff) solar program. Which path will Gainesville be taking? To the past, or to the future? This scam is about more than CO2. This biomass plant is about investors' profits, not a clean environment or clean power. The way this plant is being promoted is a scam – costing you in dollars, in health, and in your children's futures.

William Sammons, M.D.
Lincoln, MA

Jim Stringfellow: Let's rethink biomass plant

Consider the pace of technology advancement in energy production.

Published October 12, 2009

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091012/OPINION03/910099981>

Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error

CLIMATE CHANGE : <http://www.sciencemag.org>
SCIENCE VOL 326 23 OCTOBER 2009

Timothy D. Searchinger,^{1*} Steven P. Hamburg,^{2*} Jerry Melillo,³ William Chameides,⁴ Petr Havlik,⁵ Daniel M. Kammen,⁶ Gene E. Likens,⁷ Ruben N. Lubowski,² Michael Obersteiner,⁵ Michael Oppenheimer,¹ G. Philip Robertson,⁸ William H. Schlesinger,⁷ G. David Tilman⁹

Rules for applying the Kyoto Protocol and national cap-and-trade laws contain a major, but fixable, carbon accounting flaw in assessing bioenergy.

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The accounting now used for assessing compliance with carbon limits in the Kyoto Protocol and in climate legislation contains a far-reaching but fixable flaw that will severely undermine greenhouse gas reduction goals (1). It does not count CO₂ emitted from tailpipes and smokestacks when “bioenergy” is being used, but it also does not count changes in emissions from land use when biomass for energy is harvested or grown.

This accounting erroneously treats all bioenergy as carbon neutral regardless of the source of the

biomass, which may cause large differences in net emissions. For example, the clearing of long-established forests to burn wood or to grow energy crops is counted as a 100% reduction in energy emissions despite causing large releases of carbon. Several recent studies estimate that this error, applied globally, would create strong incentives to clear land as carbon caps tighten.

One study (2) estimated that a global CO₂ target of 450 ppm under this accounting would cause bioenergy crops to expand to displace virtually all the world's natural forests and savannas by 2065, releasing up to 37 gigatons (Gt) of CO₂ per year (comparable to total human CO₂ emissions today).

Another study predicts that, based solely on economic considerations, bioenergy could displace 59% of the world's natural forest cover and release an additional 9 Gt of CO₂ per year to achieve a 50% "cut" in greenhouse gases by 2050 (3).

The reason: When bioenergy from any biomass is counted as carbon neutral, economics favor large-scale land conversion for bioenergy regardless of the actual net emissions (4).

The potential of bioenergy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions inherently depends on the source of the biomass and its net landuse effects.

Replacing fossil fuels with bioenergy does not by itself reduce carbon emissions, because the CO₂ released by tailpipes and smokestacks is roughly the same per unit of energy regardless of the source (1, 5).

Emissions from producing and/or refining biofuels also typically exceed those for petroleum (1, 6).

Bioenergy therefore reduces greenhouse emissions only if the growth and harvesting of the biomass for energy captures carbon above and beyond what would be sequestered anyway and thereby offsets emissions from energy use.

This additional carbon may result from land management changes that increase plant uptake or from the use of biomass that would otherwise decompose rapidly.

Assessing such carbon gains requires the same accounting principles used to assign credits for other land-based carbon offsets. For example, if unproductive land supports fast-growing grasses for bioenergy, or if forestry improvements increase tree growth rates, the additional carbon absorbed offsets emissions when burned for energy. Energy use of manure or crop and timber residues may also capture "additional" carbon.

However, harvesting existing forests for electricity adds net carbon to the air. That remains true even if limited harvest rates leave the carbon stocks of regrowing forests unchanged, because those stocks would otherwise increase and contribute to the terrestrial carbon sink (1).

If bioenergy crops displace forest or grassland, the carbon released from soils and vegetation, plus lost future sequestration, generates carbon debt, which counts against the carbon the crops absorb (7, 8).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has long realized that bioenergy's greenhouse effects vary by source of biomass and land-use effects.

It also recognizes that when forests or other plants are harvested for bioenergy, the resulting carbon release must be counted either as land-use emissions or energy emissions but not both.

To avoid double-counting, the IPCC assigns the CO₂ to the land-use accounts and exempts bioenergy emissions from energy accounts (5).

Yet it warns, because “fossil fuel substitution is already ‘rewarded’” by this exemption, “to avoid underreporting . . . any changes in biomass stocks on lands . . . resulting from the production of biofuels would need to be included in the accounts” (9).

This symmetrical approach works for the reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) because virtually all countries report emissions from both land and energy use.

For example, if forests are cleared in Southeast Asia to produce palm biodiesel burned in Europe, Europe can exclude the tailpipe emissions as Asia reports the large net carbon release as land-use emissions.

However, exempting emissions from bioenergy use is improper for greenhouse gas regulations if land-use emissions are not included.

The Kyoto Protocol caps the energy emissions of developed countries. But the protocol applies no limits to land use or any other emissions from developing countries, and special crediting rules for “forest management” allow developed countries to cancel out their own land-use emissions as well (1, 10).

Thus, maintaining the exemption for CO₂ emitted by bioenergy use under the protocol (11) wrongly treats bioenergy from all biomass sources as carbon neutral, even if the source involves clearing forests for electricity in Europe or converting them to biodiesel crops in Asia .

This accounting error has carried over into the European Union’s cap-and-trade law and the climate bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives (1, 12, 13). Both regulate emissions from energy but not land use and then erroneously exempt CO₂ emitted from bioenergy use.

In theory, the accounting system would work if caps covered all land-use emissions and sinks. However, this approach is both technically and politically challenging as it is extremely hard to measure all land-use emissions or to distinguish human and natural causes of many emissions (e.g., fires).

The straightforward solution is to fix the accounting of bioenergy. That means tracing the actual flows of carbon and counting emissions from tailpipes and smokestacks whether from fossil energy or bioenergy.

Instead of an assumption that all biomass offsets energy emissions, biomass should receive credit to the extent that its use results in additional carbon from enhanced plant growth or from the use of residues or biowastes.

Under any crediting system, credits must reflect net changes in carbon stocks, emissions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases, and leakage emissions resulting from changes in land-use activities to replace crops or timber diverted to bioenergy (1).

Separately, Europe and the United States have established legal requirements for minimum use of biofuels, which assess greenhouse gas consequences based on life-cycle analyses that reflect

some land-use effects (1, 14). Such assessments vary widely in comprehensiveness, but none considers biofuels free from land-based emissions.

Yet the carbon cap accounting ignores land-use emissions altogether, creating its own large, perverse incentives. Bioenergy can provide much energy and help meet greenhouse caps, but correct accounting must provide the right incentives.

References and Notes

1. Additional references supporting the themes of this Policy Forum can be found in the supporting online material.
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15. The authors express thanks for the support of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Supporting Online Material

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/326/5952/527/DC1

March 18, 2010
 “National Sunshine Week”

Madam Mayor and Commissioners,

At a recent neighborhood electoral forum, one of the candidates for Mayor (who should wish to remain nameless) opined that citizens opposed to your proposed \$500 million dollar Biomass Tree Incinerator were dealing in “misinformation.”

This rash and untrue statement inspired me to speak briefly at Citizen Comment at the March 18 commission meeting about the dishonesty that permeates our city’s presentments to the Florida Public Service Commission, including the claim that “Gainesville’s citizens are fully informed” about the bioburner scheme with its devastating impact on their rates, and eager to take on the attendant serious financial risks to our utility.

The city claims to have held **37 public meetings** on the topic. The list of these “meetings” has yet to be presented. When brought forth, it will doubtless stand truth on its head once more.

My comments elicited another prevarication from GRU. After I referenced recent citizen revelations that the Solar F.I.T. program has been hijacked by a handful of speculators, the General Manager for Utilities told you that certain “large solar contractors” were having “trouble lining up financing in these times.” He assured you that GRU would help them find the financing.

That statement is dishonest. The General Manager knows, or certainly should since the citizens know, that the lion’s share of the Solar F.I.T. subsidy (58%) has been snapped up by a single paper corporation, an ephemeral creation of greed, housed with some wrongful death attorneys in an office suite somewhere on Wilshire Boulevard. This applicant has never installed a solar panel anywhere.

5/10/2010

It shouldn't be so hard to get the truth in Gainesville. The citizens are being maligned while the commissioners and Mayor malingering. You need to start doing your job, and stop denigrating the hard work of citizens looking for truth.

I challenge each of you to respond to this plea. This commission has become notorious for not responding to citizens' letters, e-mails and phone calls. That has to stop.

My request of each of you starts with this: send me your copy of the list of the "37 public meetings" held on the Biomass Tree Burner.

Pursuant of course to the Florida Sunshine Law, which has apparently sunset in Gainesville.

Yours truly,
Thomas D. Bussing PhD

<http://www.gators-r.us/SolarInfo/>

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June 24, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey:

As you consider legislation to address global climate change and energy policy, the American Lung Association urges you to use this opportunity to target widespread pollutants that can both directly harm lung health of millions of Americans and worsen global climate change. At a minimum, we urge you to select mechanisms that prevent increases in ambient air pollution and hazardous air pollutants.

Over 186 million Americans continue to live and breathe in areas with unhealthy air in the United States. The American Lung Association supports aggressive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that maximize co-benefits of reducing criteria pollutants and provide near-term public health benefits. These strategies include ambitious programs to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel combustion and promote cleaner alternative vehicle technologies and fuels. These require real changes: substantial increases in clean renewable energy resources; a transformation of the land use planning process to emphasize smart growth policies that promote alternatives to driving; and, as well, significant reductions in power plant and industrial emissions.

We urge you to consider approaches that target two critical two critical pollutants well within reach—black carbon and ozone. Black carbon, or diesel soot, and ozone not only significantly impact global warming but also endanger public health. Black carbon from diesel, a mixture of 40 different toxic substances, increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Ozone, the most commonly encountered pollutant in America's cities, damages lung capacity and aggravates asthma. Both pollutants send people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases to the hospital and emergency room. Both cut short the lives of thousands of people every year. Because black carbon particles and ozone have significantly shorter life-spans in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, immediate controls can make a near-term difference in the level of global warming, as well as have immediate health benefits.

Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey

June 24, 2009

Page 2

The legislation should support state and local air pollution control efforts and include strong controls on major sources of emissions. Please include stronger controls on coal-fired power plants and other major industrial sources that also reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other toxic air contaminant emissions.

The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

The American Lung Association thanks you for the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Connor", written in a cursive style.

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 2010	
FBI - GAINESVILLE	
11313-09	

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 12:39 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant
Attachments: ALA_national_letter.pdf; Attached Message Part

Thank you for this information. The attachment has been printed and will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Klement
Sent: Monday, May 10, 2010 7:51 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant

Please add to docket 090451.

From: Dick Stokes [mailto:rastokes@atlantic.net]
Sent: Saturday, May 08, 2010 7:04 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: Please Vote to Deny Proposed Gainesville 'Biomass' Plant

Dear Chairwoman Argenziano, Commissioner Edgar, Commissioner Klement, Commissioner Skop and Commissioner Stevens,

Please vote to deny the city of Gainesville's proposed 'biomass' power plant.

I know you are under great political pressure to approve the expensive, unneeded power plant but please consider the rate payer.

Contrary to statements by Gainesville officials, the rate payers are not aware of the rate hikes they'll be forced to pay if this proposed plant is built.

The local newspaper has done a very poor job of covering the issue. The 'dozens' of public meetings the City claims to have had on the proposed bio-burner are a mystery. Repeated requests for documentation of these public meetings have been ignored. (The March 18th letter to the City from former Gainesville mayor Tom Bussing requesting a list of public meetings on the bio-burner is at the bottom of the page.)

Based on the public meetings on the proposed bio-burner that actually occurred, the vast majority of the citizens who know about it, are against it.

071159: Video of Evaluation of Biomass-fueled Generation Proposals, May 12, 2008

5/10/2010

Citizen comments @ 01:47:40

http://gainesville.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=5&clip_id=319

The Florida League of Conservation Voters has summary documentation on adverse effects of Biomass plants - includes documentation on effects of particulates-PM10 & PM2.5
<http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

Attached is a letter from the National Lung Association

Excerpt from the Lung Association letter:

The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

snip

'Biomass' burning is not green, it's not sustainable, it's not healthy, it's not renewable, it's not carbon neutral, it's not environmentally friendly and it's not ecologically sound.

If built, the proposed Gainesville 'biomass' plant will shackle our citizens with a 30 year debt. Please vote to deny it.

Sincerely,

Dick Stokes
715 NE 2nd Street
Gainesville 32601

Please see letters regarding the proposed bio-burner below

The Gainesville SUN

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100414/OPINION03/4141001/-1/OPINION?p=all&tc=pgall>

Joy Towles Ezell: Biomass plant is a mistake

By Joy Towles Ezell
Special to The Sun

Published: Wednesday, April 14, 2010

5/10/2010

The Florida League of Conservation Voters opposes the proposed power plant in Gainesville.

Gainesville does not need more electric power; it currently has a 63 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 Gainesville City Commission needs to be aware of the disastrous effects this proposed incinerator will have on the ratepayers, the environment and the public's health.

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.

Basic forestry truths: There is no waste in nature, and "residual biomass" needs to stay in the woods to replenish the soil.

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.

It's time for the commissioners to acknowledge that they made a terrible mistake and vote to cancel the contract before it's too late.

The city of Gainesville needs to fix the failed solar program, expand energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption.

Doing so would create many new jobs that would benefit the community and region.

For more information, see the Florida League of Conservation Voters summary documentation on adverse effects of biomass plants at <http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

Joy Towles Ezell is president of the Florida League of Conservation Voters. She lives in Perry.

Gainesville SUN - April 13, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100413/OPINION02/100419863/1077/OPINION?p=3&tc=pg>

Biomass is bad for us

In his April 11 Speaking Out, Don Post, a retired professor of forestry, claims that the proposed biomass plant will be good for our forests. What he really means is that it will be good for the forest products industry and for landowners, such as himself, who have destroyed our natural forests and replaced them with biologically destitute tree farms.

Now that the cancer of growth has finally slowed down, industrial foresters have no market for particle board, pulp for junk mail, and other low value products so they are turning to biomass.

Industrial forestry has already degraded vast areas of our state. Future reliance on biomass will be the death knell not only for truly sustainable forestry, but also for nature as we know it.

We should work to restore the vibrant and diverse ecosystems that were once the glory of North Florida.

Bruce Morgan
Archer

The Gainesville Sun - May 4, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100504/OPINION02/100509857/-1/opinion?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-May-4>

A better way

If we are concerned about CO2 and pollution, then GRU's biomass plans are faulty. There is no way you can convince me that letting a piece of wood rot on the ground where it falls has a larger carbon footprint than having two city employees in a big truck pick it up, drive it 40 miles to Deerhaven, and then burn it.

A more logical approach would be to take the same \$500 million and put \$20,000 solar installations (sufficient for an average home) on 25,000 customers' roofs.

GRU's website says they have 90,000 customers including businesses, so the solar approach would become a significant percentage of GRU's output. Not only would this give those customers free or nearly-free electricity for decades, it would alleviate GRU's need to burn coal (or anything else) for them.

Ben Butler,
Alachua

Gainesville Sun - April 9th

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100408/NEWS/100409427/-1/OPINION?Title=Ronald-Saff-Scrap-the-biomass-plant>

Dr. Saff: Scrap the biomass plant

The City of Gainesville should scrap the proposed unnecessary 100 MW 'biomass' power plant.

Incineration increases green house gases in the atmosphere causing a rise in global temperatures and

harmful consequences to human health.

There is evidence for a relationship between air emissions exposure and lung cancer.

Emission of hazardous gases such as carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, and nitrogen oxides. Particulate matter from incineration interferes with normal lung development, reduces lung function, increases episodes asthma, emphysema, pneumonia and bronchitis; aggravates heart disease; chronic obstructive lung disease; chronic bronchitis; and increases the risk of cancer and genetic mutations.

Pregnant mothers exposed to high levels of air pollution give birth to children with an increased risk of stunted IQs.

The Florida Medical Association supports development of comprehensive programs for resource conservation, recycling and composting and the Massachusetts Medical Society called 3 proposed biomass plants there "an unacceptable public health risk". Conservation, efficiency and solar are what we need to protect public health

Ronald Saff, M.D.
Member, Florida Medical Association Environment and Health Section

Dr. Saff is an asthma and allergy specialist in Tallahassee

The Florida League of Conservation Voters has summary documentation on adverse effects of Biomass plants - includes documentation on effects of particulates-PM10 & PM2.5
<http://www.flcv.com/biomass.html>

The Gainesville Sun - April 8
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100408/OPINION02/100409525/1077/OPINION?p=3&tc=pg>

No need for biomass

Rob Brinkman ("Biomass needed to achieve Kyoto goals," Voice, 4-3) might be the first to agree that creation of greenhouse gas policy based on bad science is not "sustainable." Building a biomass plant in a rush to achieve Kyoto goals is an anachronism that clings to a demonstrably failed IPCC global warming hypothesis.

There is no longer a compelling need to invest scarce dollars for biomass plant in Gainesville.

Harold Saive,

Gainesville

The Gainesville Sun - April 6
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100406/OPINION02/100409705/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-April-6>

No position taken

I would like to clarify a statement made by Karen Orr, chairwoman of the Energy Justice Network, in her March 29 letter ("Why physicians are against biomass energy").

Orr stated the American Lung Association of the Southeast opposes biomass plants. We have not taken a formal position on biomass plants. We do, however, have concerns about increasing sources of air pollution from energy production, including biomass, as it relates the potential effects it poses for at-risk groups like those suffering from emphysema, asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

Burning wood, or any substance, releases toxic chemicals and particles into the air, affecting both the environment and respiratory health.

Additionally, we are concerned about the diesel equipment critical to plant operations and the trucks delivering the fuel source. These can add significant pollution on the roads and throughout nearby communities.

Although we have concerns about these new energy sources adding to air pollution, we are even more concerned about the older plants that do not use the best available technology to capture toxic emissions. The American Lung Association works hard for more stringent regulations.

Brenda Olsen, RN
Chief Operating Officer
American Lung Association
of the Southeast, Inc.
Tallahassee

The Tallahassee Democrat

<http://floridiansagainstinincineratorsindisguise.com/category/medical-opposition/>

Frank Holcomb's Op-Ed misrepresents American Lung Association's position on Biomass Incinerators

Attached is the Lung Association's response to today's op-ed on the proposed biomass plant in Gadsden County. The op-ed misrepresented our position and we would like to make sure the public hears from us directly. Thanks for your consideration.

Brenda

"As the Chief Operating Officer for the American Lung Association in Florida, I would like to clarify a statement made in Frank Holcomb's recent editorial on the proposed biomass plant in Gadsden County. In his piece, he mentioned a position by the Clean Air Choice group within the American Lung Association that could be viewed as an endorsement of biomass energy. The information Mr. Holcomb cited was pulled from a website in Illinois and is not the position of the American Lung Association in Florida on the subject.

The American Lung Association has significant concerns regarding the proposed biomass plant and the potential effects it could pose for at-risk groups like those suffering from emphysema, asthma, diabetes and heart disease. Burning wood, or burning any substance, releases toxic chemicals and particles into the air which affect both the environment and respiratory health.

Additionally, diesel equipment critical to plant operation, like the trucks delivering wood, will add

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significant pollution on the roads and throughout nearby communities. A constant supply of fuel is needed requiring these trucks to make multiple, daily trips to and from the plant. The age of these vehicles and idling practices will also have a significant impact on the level of pollution emitted, and increase the potential damage to air quality and the health of Gadsden County citizens.

Furthermore, we have noticed a pattern nationwide of biomass plants being proposed for rural areas away from cities; where less protective pollution control restrictions and weaker permitting requirements apply. Plant proponents will say that they "meet the air pollution requirements" but the requirements themselves tend to be more lax.

Our organization is dedicated to healthy air and healthy lungs for all Floridians. I encourage the leaders of Gadsden County to consider the potential negative health effects on an already medically vulnerable and underserved community"

Brenda Olsen, RN
Chief Operating Officer
American Lung Association of the Southeast, Inc.
Serving Florida, Georgia and South Carolina

The Gainesville Sun

Letter to the Editor

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100329/COLUMNISTS/3291002>

Why physicians are against 'biomass' energy

The Florida Medical Association and The American Lung Association of the Southeast oppose "biomass" power plants because they present an unacceptable risk to public health.

At least 75,000 physicians have signed resolutions proposing the banning or severe restrictions on the burning of "biomass" (for electricity) due to the increased risk of premature infant death, asthma in adults and children, chronic bronchitis, heart disease and stroke.

Emissions from "biomass" plants disproportionately harm the newborn, children, athletes, the chronically ill, those with lung disease and the elderly. People with emphysema, other chronic lung diseases, angina or congestive heart failure will be sicker.

Write the mayor and city commissioners. Tell them to fix the City's failed solar program and cancel the contract for the "biomass" plant before it's too late.

For more information on medical opposition to "biomass" plants, see <http://biomess.net>

Karen Orr
The Energy Justice Network
Chairwoman
Gainesville

NAACP criticizes biomass plant

The group says the plant would be too costly for minorities.

By Chad Smith
Staff writer

Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 6:01 a.m.

The local chapter of the NAACP wants the city to reconsider its proposed biomass power plant, fearing it would cause a spike in utility bills that would hit the poor the hardest.

Related Links: Candidates at odds over energy Earlier this month, Michael Bowie, president of the Alachua County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, sent city commissioners a letter asking them to "withdraw your support for this costly and risky biomass plant."

In an interview, Bowie said the project would have a significant impact on those in the lower socioeconomic tier, a majority of whom are minorities.

"It will be tough for the entire community, but it will definitely be a burden on the poor community," he said.

In the letter, he wrote, "(Gainesville Regional Utilities') map of KWh consumption per square foot of residence shows a remarkable correlation between high per square foot energy consumption and the distribution of lower income African-American population."

He wrote that the "project raises serious questions," asked why it had to be built now when the city won't need the capacity until 2023, and questioned whether cost estimates were valid considering a growing interest in biomass.

"It is unjust for the poor of Gainesville to bear a disproportionate share of the cost of the proposed biomass plant!" the letter concluded.

Bowie and GRU leaders have scheduled a meeting for Monday to discuss the plant's effects on utility rates.

The city is trying to answer some of the same concerns in Tallahassee, where the state's Public Service Commission will be deciding whether the plant will move ahead.

GRU spokesman Dan Jesse said the city-owned utility believes it will be "best for the customers and the rates in the long term."

As for the meeting Monday, Jesse said, "We're just going to be trying to convince them that this is a good business decision."

Contact Chad Smith at 338-3104 or chad.smith@gvillesun.com

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100313/ARTICLES/3131016>

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group votes to oppose the

GRU/GREC Biomass plant

Press Release, March 13, 2010

Contact Brack Barker, Conservation Chair, phone # 352-215-4396

The Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group, which represents 14 counties in North Central Florida including Alachua county, has voted to oppose the GRU/GREC Biomass plant

- * A new power plant is not needed; GRU currently has 62% overcapacity
- * Competition for increasingly scarce biomass fuel will be too expensive and a burden on the ratepayers
- * We reject more massive air pollution and major water withdrawals
- * The City of Gainesville needs to expand their energy efficiency programs and aggressively help customers reduce energy consumption. This will create many new jobs that will benefit the community and region. For these reasons the Suwannee/St.John's group opposes a new power plant.

Brack Barker Suwannee/St Johns Sierra Group Conservation Chair

Josh Dickinson: Biomass energy threatens woodlands

Published March 14, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100314/OPINION03/100319871>

The Gainesville Sun, March 7, 2010

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100307/OPINION02/100309645>

GRU's \$500 million biomass folly

I would rephrase from Pamela Mincey's letter to the Sun (March 4):

“Unknowledgeable biomass advocates are declaring the proposed unneeded tree-burning plant to be financially responsible.”

GRU has 63% overcapacity. To build a 500-million-dollar experimental new plant is folly. The Florida Public Service Commission is poised to deliver that verdict.

Only erroneous political anointment as a “carbon neutral” fuel, with consequent massive subsidies, propels the biomass fiasco.

Her foolish enthusiasm for chipping up Georgia's forests (for shipment to Europe, no less) exposes the flawed logic of these biomass advocates. How on God's green earth can that be "carbon neutral?"

Next thing you know, they'll bring us a plan to clear-cut

the Amazon and ship it to China as “carbon neutral” fuel.

Tom Bussing
Gainesville

The Gainesville Sun

Letters to the Editor

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100219/OPINION02/100219442/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Feb-19>

Published: Friday, February 19, 2010

Fueling GRU's biomass

In regard to the requirements of the new 100 MW biomass plant: How did the U.S. Forest Service determine that a 75-mile radius from Gainesville is the plant's supply area? This area incorporates a minimum of 19 counties and covers approximately 11 million acres.

How can the Forest Service guarantee access and availability for fully half of the 1.5 million tons of logging residue left behind annually in the 5.5 million acres of forest in this area? As currently planned, we will require that much logging residue to fuel 75 percent of our new plant.

The 75-mile radius incorporates the cities of Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Leesburg, Crystal River, Cedar Key and Jasper. How can GRU depend upon the cooperation of the many municipalities and owners of the privately held forests to satisfy our increased local consumption?

And does GRU's 30-year contract with GREC include an iron-clad requirement that the biomass burners with their advanced emission controls be upgraded as technology improves to produce cleaner energy?

Andy and Eleanor Merritt

Cross Creek

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100216/OPINION02/100219671/-1/OPINION?p=2&tc=pg>

Published: Tuesday, February 16, 2010

The PSC nailed it

The Florida Public Service Commissioners have stepped in to provide the first meaningful scrutiny of GRU's proposed bio-burner, something not a single member of the City Commission has done.

PSC Commissioner Nathan Skop nailed it: "GRU and the city are taking a huge risk with the rate payers' money."

The Sun reported that PSC staff made estimates including a \$100 million loss for the project by 2043. That is GRU's own estimate, and PSC staff merely comment on it.

5/10/2010

They are charitable in accepting GRU's numbers, and also in not pointing out that under this same "base case" scenario, the red ink actually bottoms out at negative \$320 million dollars as of 2030. That's without wood prices rising faster than inflation, an obvious possibility that GRU's rosy projection (amazingly) doesn't even consider.

The plan would leave the ratepayers paying for the folly, with jacked up bills and "stranded assets" littering our generation portfolio. All for another 100 megawatts of overcapacity, for power that we do not need.

Tom Bussing,

Gainesville

The biomass scam

Many thanks to the Public Service Commission and The Gainesville Sun for exposing the true reason behind GRU's push for the biomass plant. It is not ecology. It is a form of corporate greed.

The Feb. 11 article states there is not even a "capacity need" until 2023. So, why build it?

The Sun reports that 50 of its 100 megawatt capacity will be sold to Orlando, Lakeland, and other areas. In other words \$500 million of our tax dollars will be spent in the hopes GRU can turn a profit selling our electricity to someone else.

The Sun also states your electric bill will also go up a minimum of \$4 per month.

And to add insult to injury for you folks out in the countryside, any profit that might possibly happen will be returned by GRU to the Gainesville city treasury, not you. Talk about taxation without representation!

Ben Butler,

Alachua

Letters to the Editor, Gainesville Sun, February 6

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100206/OPINION02/100209650/-1/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Feb-6>

Biomass disaster

"Biomass" plants pose an undue risk to public health and the environment. Promoting these incinerators with public subsidies on the false claim that they produce "green" electricity is indefensible public policy.

Under current or proposed laws "biomass" burning will dramatically increase greenhouse gases. It is not "carbon neutral" as the industry claims.

Current research, data from company permits and proposals, environmental impact reports, and government analyses show that for several key pollutants (notably CO₂, NO_x and particulates), biomass burning is "dirty energy" - worse than coal. The Florida Medical Society, The Massachusetts Medical Society and the American

5/10/2010

Lung Association of New England oppose biomass power plants because they present an unacceptable risk to public health.

The U.S. Senate will be acting soon on proposed laws to give "biomass" plants more tax credits.

Please urge senators Bill Nelson and George LeMieux to stand with the interests of the people they represent and vote NO on all tax credits for "biomass" burning to make electricity.

To learn about some of the fourteen proposed "bioenergy" plants in North Florida, visit the Floridians Against Incinerators in Disguise website at <http://biomess.net>

Karen Orr, Co-chair
The Energy Justice Network
Gainesville

Fall and winter 2009 letters and columns published in The Gainesville Sun opposing the proposed 'biomass' incinerator in Gainesville Florida.

Published: Wednesday, December 30, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

Not enough wood for GRU's furnace

In his Dec. 20 column, Ron Cunningham listed some of the reasons wood for GRU's biomass generator may be too expensive for us to buy when that unit is ready to produce electricity. He suggests the local community could buy a forest to supply fuel for the plant "just in case" prices reach a level we cannot afford.

He says we might even persuade the state to allow harvesting fuel wood on the forest land it owns in the county.

It's a good thought, except that there isn't enough available forest land in the county to help us ratepayers much. The plant will burn nearly 2 tons of wood a minute, and it takes over an acre of productive Florida timberland to grow that much wood in a year.

The county owns and manages 6,100 acres of productive timberland, while the state owns about 5,500 acres outside Payne's Prairie. Together, state and county-owned forests might fuel about seven and a half days of biomass generator operation each year, assuming they were sustainably managed and produced as much wood per acre as the commercial timberlands in the county do.

Even if we clear cut the whole 11,700 acres of county and local state forestland to fire the plant in an emergency, the total harvest would supply the generator for only about nine months.

It would take about 880 square miles of sustainably managed Florida timberland land to supply all the wood GRU will burn in its generator in a year. There are only 874 square miles of dry land in the entire county.

This explains in part why so many of us have opposed the biomass generator since the idea first surfaced

Dian Deevey,

5/10/2010

Chair,
 Alachua County
 Environmental Protection
 Advisory Committee,
 Gainesville

Let's talk about the GRU elephant

Not long ago one could find posters at GRU headquarters that stated "Burn to Earn". I'm not sure if the posters are still there, but it looks like the newest incarnation of this "Burn to Earn" business model is the building of a new biomass power plant.

GRU has two jobs: provide utility services and generate "profits" for the city's general budget. GRU "profits" pay approximately 36 percent of Gainesville's operating expenses in a process they call the "revenue transfer."

The "revenue transfer" is the elephant in the room no one wants to talk about when discussing future power options. GRU must continue to make money to fund the city's expenses or taxpayers will have to pay higher taxes and city commissioners are reluctant to suggest any increases in taxes for fear they won't get re-elected. So, we are stuck in the 20th century "Burn to Earn" paradigm.

It's time to talk about the elephant in the room. Burning trees is not the way we should be generating revenue for our city. We need a better way to finance the services Gainesville provides to its citizens or we will continue to waste millions of dollars working through more proposals to burn things that generate electricity and "profits."

Let's make it clear to GRU and the City Commission that we don't a biomass plant in our community either.

Ed Brown,
 Gainesville

"Not enough wood for GRU's furnace" and "Let's talk about the GRU elephant"
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091230/OPINION02/912289926>

 December 21, 2009

The Shell Game

Gainesville Is Giving Away Its Energy Future

By Thomas Bussing

It defies belief that the biggest utility contract in our city's history has been offered to an essentially empty paper entity whose principle activity is financial speculation, quick profit and quick sell-off.

We the people are committing to their 500 million dollar private contract to burn trees so that we can buy back electricity at more expensive rates.

5/10/2010

Until now we were a municipal utility that built, owned and operated its system on behalf of the citizens. This deal transfers future ownership to shifting paper corporations who in turn sell off the rights they acquired from us.

Better hope it all works perfectly, because the bail-out leaves us bankrupt and in hock forever to outside private financiers.

We have been told that we cannot break this contract. We have been told it's too late, that if it is stopped the city might incur a financial penalty for the default.

What we really worry about is the opposite: that going ahead with this plant may bring on the biggest financial disaster possible for a city. We who pay the rates are on the line to pay the half-billion dollar cost.

But there is hope.

A good start is simply agreeing that building this plant is a bad idea, and that therefore the agreement is against our interests. The facts tell us it would be better to not go ahead.

Many letters to this newspaper have presented various reasons why we would be better off if this plant is not built. Here are a few more.

The contractor, "Nacogdoches Power," is a corporate entity created for a single project, a planned bio-burner in Nacogdoches, Texas, for which it was named. Quoting from their December 14, 2007 proposal to GRU: "Nacogdoches Power was formed in 2005. ... the company has no permanent employees..."

They are not builders or operators of power plants. They are merely seekers of financial arrangements, which they re-sell. They have no visible balance sheet and no actual employees.

They recently sold their so-called "Texas Project" to another outfit, before even getting it constructed. "Nacogdoches Power" has rebranded into "American Renewables" in the process.

They will not be running whatever gets built here. They may not even construct it. But they expect to be lucratively rewarded for their short time in town.

GRU admits that when completed, this plant will command a premium (high) price for its output. Rates can be expected to rise. In the end, to solve such problems we may be forced to buy them out – and at a price that has not been disclosed.

Amazingly, such key terms have never been disclosed to the public, nor even our elected commissioners and mayor.

Five hundred million dollars is a lot of money to contract for, and it is we, the citizens who live here, who will have to pay unless it is stopped.

There is one thing we can all agree upon – that it would be far better for this contract to be voided than to take the enormous risk of bankrupting our utility and our city.

Not a brick has been laid, no equipment purchased for this proposed plant.

With that as our goal, we can proceed to explore mechanisms and any costs of extricating our City from this ill-advised and hastily-agreed-to contract.

In the long run, we will be much better off.

Dr. Thomas Bussing served as Mayor of Gainesville (2001-2004)

Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise

<http://floridiansagainstinincineratorsindisguise.com/2009/12/21/gainesville-is-giving-away-its-energy-future/>

Go Green Nation

<http://www.gogreenation.org/2009/12/gainesville-is-giving-away-its-energy-future-%c2%ab-we-oppose-biomass-incinerator-projects-in-florida/>

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091224/OPINION02/912239969/-1/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-24>

Published December 24, 2009

"Let's Harvest our Heritage Forests for Biomass"

Not content with the exaggerated supply of "waste wood" that the ill-advised wood incinerator purports to "take care of," apparently such advocates as Ron Cunningham have their eyes on our Preservation Forests.

The "waste wood" they want to burn keeps our soil alive. It is critical to sustainable forests. Our Preservation Forests need to continue this natural soil-building cycle.

>From the start, to even discuss this proposed forest-burning power plant as a mere "waste wood burner" is to acquiesce to the prevalent political spin. That's a bad joke on us.

In truth, this plant is designed to be a massive tree harvester.

But to be on the safe side, Cunningham suggests, if the fuel wood plantations can't keep up with the 1,000,000 tons per year appetite of the Tree Incinerator, let's burn our Heritage Forests.

Brilliant.

Dick Stokes

Gainesville

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091210/OPINION02/912099991/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters->

5/10/2010

to-the-Editor-Dec-10

Save our trees

GRU director Bob Hunzinger (Dec. 6) would have us believe that biomass is a renewable energy source. Nothing could be further from the truth.

He speaks of utilizing "forestry waste" as though it was a useless byproduct of a sustainable industry. The timber industry has already destroyed most of the natural forests of North Florida and has replaced them with ecologically useless pine plantations.

The only part of a pine plantation that is ever returned to nature is the so called "waste" that GRU intends to burn. The "waste" in question consists of what little organic material escapes the loggers, the decomposition of which is critically important to the soil.

There is no waste in nature, every leaf, twig, and bug counts. By turning to biomass we are acting like starving peasants who chop down the last few trees in the desert to feed their starving goats.

Turn off the lights if we must, but leave us the last of our trees!

Bruce J. Morgan,

Archer

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091212/OPINION02/912119988/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Dec-12>

It's not too late

GRU contracted to build a biomass plant and stick it in our own backyard. It was labeled "renewable energy" to make us feel good.

A biomass plant is simply an incinerator that will burn trees and pine needles; stable forms of carbon which will now be released directly into the air we breathe.

Carbon dioxide is a byproduct of combustion, whether it is wood or coal. My lungs can't tell the difference.

Add to this carbon footprint the 140-plus semi-truckloads of wood debris per day, which will result in additional carbon dioxide emissions. It's not too late to change our minds again.

Jeff Peet,

Newberry

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091019/NEWS/910199925/-1/OPINION?Title=Ronald-Saff-Reject-Gainesville-biomass-plant>

Guest Column

5/10/2010

Monday, October 19, 2009

Dr. Ronald Saff: Reject Gainesville Biomass Plant

As a former U.F. undergrad, I am proud of the high caliber education I received in Gainesville which has enabled me to achieve my dream of becoming a physician. Although Alachua County receives high marks in educational standards for its premier institution, the county sadly has received a very poor grade from the American Lung Association's State of the Air Report which gave the county an F in ozone and C in particle pollution (soot). A proposed biomass plant for your community will only make the poor air quality there even more hazardous.

Not only does air pollution cause heart and asthma attacks, strokes, cancer, missed work days and shortened life, pregnant mothers exposed to high levels of air pollution give birth to children with stunted IQ's making poisoned air an educational issue as well.

The Florida Medical Association, deeply concerned about the massive amounts of carcinogens belched from the smoke stacks of biomass plants and other incinerators, urges State Government to minimize their approval and construction.

My Medical Society in Tallahassee wrote a letter of concern to the Department of Environmental Protection stating that the physicians were concerned that pollutants from a proposed biomass plant would adversely affect patients with respiratory and cardiac conditions and will increase the incidence of respiratory conditions in children.

With half of all men and one-third of all women developing some form of cancer at some time in their lives, society needs less biomass plants and not more of them. I urge Alachua County residents and the Medical Society to follow the example set by Tallahasseeans who realize the health risks that a biomass plant would bring and protested loudly to our politicians. We chased away the biomass plant sited for Tallahassee and with enough screaming and shouting you can do the same.

Ronald Saff, M.D.
Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091022/OPINION02/910221001/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-22>

Letters to the Editor - Oct. 22

We don't need this biomass plant

There is no need to build a huge, polluting tree-burning 100 megawatt power plant in Gainesville.

Four semitrailers per hour of trees will be burned daily at Deerhaven. Five more tree burners are planned for North Florida putting us right into a smog belt.

5/10/2010

The tree-burning power plant will release higher levels of polluting CO2, NOX and carbon monoxide than the coal burner. Collecting and transporting trees will add considerably to the overall unhealthy pollution.

GRU should be responsive to ratepayers who are now using less electricity. Ratepayers want to and need to conserve energy. GRU should pursue investment in energy efficiency in commercial buildings, homes, schools and public buildings.

The fastest way to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases is to plant more trees and store more carbon in soils and leave the "waste" in place.

There is no such thing as waste in nature or a forest. Organic matter must be replenished constantly and, if it is not, it will slowly disappear from the soil.

The City of Gainesville can be a vanguard for solar power and pass conservation and efficiency measures that will protect our remaining forests and reduce emissions.

These measures will save millions of dollars for taxpayers and keep our air cleaner and healthier.

December McSherry,
McSherry Tree Farm,
Archer

Submitted version

The Gainesville Sun
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091015/OPINION02/910149836/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-15-2009>

Published: Thursday, October 15, 2009

A throwback plant

The proposed tree-burning power plant is no more than a throwback to the charcoal furnaces of the 19th century.

The forests of America were decimated to fuel a much small population need for industrial fuel.

There are already a number of huge enterprises lined up to turn our forests into energy dollars.

Huge plants are going in across the southeast, some to burn the wood, others to ship it off as pellets to be burned overseas.

The results of this unseemly rush-to-burn will be longlasting and devastating to our forests.

Clever lobbying that brought us the ethanol scam has continued to spread incentives for any-and-all biofuel schemes, including even garbage-burners.

Massive burning of things into our air will increase global warming.

Reducing our over-use of power through greater efficiencies and old-fashioned conservation has to be the first step, not building a giant new tree-incinerator.

For more information see "The Burning Issues With Biomass" at <http://www.energyjustice.net/biomass/>

Karen Orr
Energy Justice Network, Co-chair

The Gainesville Sun
<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091001/OPINION02/909309898/1077/OPINION?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-Oct-1-2009>

Published: Thursday, October 1, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

A simple question: Is plant needed?

In his Saturday Speaking Out, former mayor Tom Bussing brought up some interesting questions about the new power plant approved last year by the City Commission.

There are many points to be argued as to the wisdom of bringing in the Nagadoches company to run this biomass fueled power plant, but my question is simple: Do we need it?

At the time the commissioners were discussing options for future power needs, GRU stated that if Gainesville residents followed GRU energy conservation guidelines, our current plant would provide sufficient power for something like 12 years, as I remember. Now, GRU tells us that residents have surpassed those conservation expectations and at this level of consumption the need for increased power could be pushed back farther. And that because of our conserving, the utility rates will have to be increased.

I would expect that utility users will find more ways to conserve if their rates increase.

Interestingly, I haven't yet noticed much of a change in wasteful usage of energy. It's still freezing in the post office, store employees still wear sweaters in the summer, lighting is still overused.

I haven't seen a large amount of solar panels or reflective roofing being installed yet, which will come as costs go down with higher demand.

Could more focused conservation along with more widely used alternative energy sources push an increased energy demand back another 10 years? Why should Nagadoches come set up shop? How much will this cost us and is there a need? Seems like a needless waste of energy.

Monica Cooper,

Gainesville

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090926/OPINION03/909261005>

5/10/2010

Thomas D. Bussing: GRU's carbon folly

By Thomas D. Bussing
Special to The Sun

Published: Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 6:01 a.m.

Here's an "Inconvenient Truth" about global warming on our local level: Last May our city commissioners and mayor voted for a massive increase in GRU's emissions of CO₂.

The giant new wood-incinerating power plant at Deerhaven is expected to burn one million tons of "biomass" every year. (The current coal plant burns less than half that tonnage in producing twice as much electricity.)

Building the new plant would more than double the smokestack emissions at Deerhaven. This is bizarrely promoted as a "clean and green" project by our city officials. In fact, it is neither.

Dr. William Sammons has written an excellent expose on this (SUN on-line, July 15, 2009), disclosing the fact that wood-burning plants actually emit double the CO₂ compared to a coal plant, and thus double the climate impact.

Most of us know that wood is not an efficient fuel. Besides having a low inherent "heat value," it comes with a moisture content that must be boiled off in the flame. Thus, more CO₂ is produced for the same amount of heat.

It is illogical to advocate this inefficient fuel as a means to reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere. Kilowatt for kilowatt, it will spew more CO₂ than a coal plant.

The overriding forces driving this ill-conceived plan are subsidies, regulatory loopholes, and a contorted logic that claims "carbon neutrality" for the plant's exhaust emissions. This "convenient" replacement for truth holds that "Since growing trees absorb CO₂, the emissions from this plant are just recycled back into trees ... which we will then burn."

The fallacy is in believing that plants take up all CO₂ emissions. In fact plants absorb some, the ocean absorbs more (and as a consequence is becoming more acidic by the year), but a portion just stays and builds up in the atmosphere. That buildup is associated with global warming, and it doesn't matter if the CO₂ comes from coal, gas or "biomass."

It is a fact that "biomass" burning produces more CO₂ than the conventional fuels. And "biomass" CO₂ does not somehow migrate specifically to growing plants. It will, some of it, be in the atmosphere for many thousands of years.

There are many more truths that will continue to come forth to substantiate that the proposed wood-incinerator is a bad idea for Gainesville. But let's take them one at a time.

First of all, it is not "clean and green."

Thomas D. Bussing served as mayor of Gainesville 2001-2004.

The Gainesville Sun

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20090715/NEWS/907159938/-1/OPINION?Title=William-Sammons-New-GRU-plant-will-be-neither-clean-nor-green>

William Sammons: New GRU plant will be neither clean nor green

Published: Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 1:52 p.m.

The recently approved contract with a Boston company to build a costly wood incinerator electrical generation plant in Gainesville was sold to us as "clean and green." It is neither.

The fact is, this "biomass" plant will spew almost twice as much CO₂ as the proposed coal plant it replaces — an estimated 2 billion pounds of CO₂ every year, 2 billion pounds that will accelerate global warming. The proponents argue that the trees burned in the plant will grow back, so the project is "carbon neutral."

However, as the EPA stated on April 24, 2009, in the Endangerment Proposal on CO₂, "Indeed, for a given amount of CO₂ released today, about half will be taken up by the oceans and terrestrial vegetation over the next 30 years, and a further 30 percent will be removed over a few centuries, and the remaining 20 percent will only slowly decay over time such that it will take many thousands of years to remove from the atmosphere."

In simple fact, trees don't grow fast enough to reabsorb all that CO₂. Burning trees puts more carbon in the air and worsens climate change because every molecule of CO₂ is the same as every other molecule, whether the CO₂ came from a burning a tree or a tailpipe.

The false argument that prevails is that this massive CO₂ release is "natural".

Sure, this carbon was part of nature before it was incinerated, but what matters is the increase in CO₂ in the atmosphere. Even if you want to rename it for political spin "biogenic" carbon, that won't prevent it from adding to the burden in the atmosphere.

GRU and the plant developers claim the plant is "low emissions," but that doesn't address CO₂. There is nothing in the emissions controls on this plant that significantly reduces CO₂ emissions. Just look at the lack of common sense here. Burning wood increases the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere. And cutting down trees reduces the amount of CO₂ taken out of the atmosphere. That's a double whammy for the environment.

The bottom line is that CO₂ is CO₂. The biomass plant will emit almost twice as much CO₂ as the coal plant it supplanted. That's a fact. It isn't "clean and green." It's a travesty.

It is ironic that this is coming to Gainesville at the same time as the cutting-edge solar FIT (Feed In Tariff) solar program. Which path will Gainesville be taking? To the past, or to the future? This scam is about more than CO₂. This biomass plant is about investors' profits, not a clean environment or clean power. The way this plant is being promoted is a scam – costing you in dollars, in health, and in your children's futures.

William Sammons, M.D.
Lincoln, MA

Jim Stringfellow: Let's rethink biomass plant

Consider the pace of technology advancement in energy production.

Published October 12, 2009

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091012/OPINION03/910099981>

Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error

CLIMATE CHANGE : <http://www.sciencemag.org>
SCIENCE VOL 326 23 OCTOBER 2009

Timothy D. Searchinger,^{1*} Steven P. Hamburg,^{2*} Jerry Melillo,³ William Chameides,⁴
Petr Havlik,⁵ Daniel M. Kammen,⁶ Gene E. Likens,⁷ Ruben N. Lubowski,² Michael Obersteiner,⁵
Michael Oppenheimer,¹ G. Philip Robertson,⁸ William H. Schlesinger,⁷ G. David Tilman⁹

Rules for applying the Kyoto Protocol and national cap-and-trade laws contain a major, but fixable, carbon accounting flaw in assessing bioenergy.

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The accounting now used for assessing compliance with carbon limits in the Kyoto Protocol and in climate legislation contains a far-reaching but fixable flaw that will severely undermine greenhouse gas reduction goals (1). It does not count CO₂ emitted from tailpipes and smokestacks when “bioenergy” is being used, but it also does not count changes in emissions from land use when biomass for energy is harvested or grown.

This accounting erroneously treats all bioenergy as carbon neutral regardless of the source of the biomass, which may cause large differences in net emissions. For example, the clearing of long-established forests to burn wood or to grow energy crops is counted as a 100% reduction in energy emissions despite causing large releases of carbon. Several recent studies estimate that this error, applied globally, would create strong incentives to clear land as carbon caps tighten.

One study (2) estimated that a global CO₂ target of 450 ppm under this accounting would cause bioenergy crops to expand to displace virtually all the world's natural forests and savannahs by 2065, releasing up to 37 gigatons (Gt) of CO₂ per year (comparable to total human CO₂ emissions today).

Another study predicts that, based solely on economic considerations, bioenergy could displace 59% of the world's natural forest cover and release an additional 9 Gt of CO₂ per year to achieve a 50% "cut" in greenhouse gases by 2050 (3).

The reason: When bioenergy from any biomass is counted as carbon neutral, economics favor large-scale land conversion for bioenergy regardless of the actual net emissions (4).

The potential of bioenergy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions inherently depends on the source of the biomass and its net land-use effects.

Replacing fossil fuels with bioenergy does not by itself reduce carbon emissions, because the CO₂ released by tailpipes and smokestacks is roughly the same per unit of energy regardless of the source (1, 5).

Emissions from producing and/or refining biofuels also typically exceed those for petroleum (1, 6).

Bioenergy therefore reduces greenhouse emissions only if the growth and harvesting of the biomass for energy captures carbon above and beyond what would be sequestered anyway and thereby offsets emissions from energy use.

This additional carbon may result from land management changes that increase plant uptake or from the use of biomass that would otherwise decompose rapidly.

Assessing such carbon gains requires the same accounting principles used to assign credits for other land-based carbon offsets. For example, if unproductive land supports fast-growing grasses for bioenergy, or if forestry improvements increase tree growth rates, the additional carbon absorbed offsets emissions when burned for energy. Energy use of manure or crop and timber residues may also capture "additional" carbon.

However, harvesting existing forests for electricity adds net carbon to the air. That remains true even if limited harvest rates leave the carbon stocks of regrowing forests unchanged, because those stocks would otherwise increase and contribute to the terrestrial carbon sink (1).

If bioenergy crops displace forest or grassland, the carbon released from soils and vegetation, plus lost future sequestration, generates carbon debt, which counts against the carbon the crops absorb (7, 8).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has long realized that bioenergy's greenhouse effects vary by source of biomass and land-use effects.

It also recognizes that when forests or other plants are harvested for bioenergy, the resulting carbon release must be counted either as land-use emissions or energy emissions but not both.

To avoid double-counting, the IPCC assigns the CO₂ to the land-use accounts and exempts bioenergy emissions from energy accounts (5).

Yet it warns, because “fossil fuel substitution is already ‘rewarded’” by this exemption, “to avoid underreporting . . . any changes in biomass stocks on lands . . . resulting from the production of biofuels would need to be included in the accounts” (9).

This symmetrical approach works for the reporting under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) because virtually all countries report emissions from both land and energy use.

For example, if forests are cleared in Southeast Asia to produce palm biodiesel burned in Europe, Europe can exclude the tailpipe emissions as Asia reports the large net carbon release as land-use emissions.

However, exempting emissions from bioenergy use is improper for greenhouse gas regulations if land-use emissions are not included.

The Kyoto Protocol caps the energy emissions of developed countries. But the protocol applies no limits to land use or any other emissions from developing countries, and special crediting rules for “forest management” allow developed countries to cancel out their own land-use emissions as well (1, 10).

Thus, maintaining the exemption for CO₂ emitted by bioenergy use under the protocol (11) wrongly treats bioenergy from all biomass sources as carbon neutral, even if the source involves clearing forests for electricity in Europe or converting them to biodiesel crops in Asia .

This accounting error has carried over into the European Union’s cap-and-trade law and the climate bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives (1, 12, 13). Both regulate emissions from energy but not land use and then erroneously exempt CO₂ emitted from bioenergy use.

In theory, the accounting system would work if caps covered all land-use emissions and sinks. However, this approach is both technically and politically challenging as it is extremely hard to measure all land-use emissions or to distinguish human and natural causes of many emissions (e.g., fires).

The straightforward solution is to fix the accounting of bioenergy. That means tracing the actual flows of carbon and counting emissions from tailpipes and smokestacks whether from fossil energy or bioenergy.

Instead of an assumption that all biomass offsets energy emissions, biomass should receive credit to the extent that its use results in additional carbon from enhanced plant growth or from the use of residues or biowastes.

Under any crediting system, credits must reflect net changes in carbon stocks, emissions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases, and leakage emissions resulting from changes in land-use activities to replace crops or timber diverted to bioenergy (1).

Separately, Europe and the United States have established legal requirements for minimum use of biofuels, which assess greenhouse gas consequences based on life-cycle analyses that reflect some land-use effects (1, 14). Such assessments vary widely in comprehensiveness, but none considers biofuels free from land-based emissions.

Yet the carbon cap accounting ignores land-use emissions altogether, creating its own large, perverse incentives. Bioenergy can provide much energy and help meet greenhouse

caps, but correct accounting must provide the right incentives.

References and Notes

1. Additional references supporting the themes of this Policy Forum can be found in the supporting online material.
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3. J. M. Melillo et al., Unintended Environmental Consequences of a Global Biofuel Program (MIT Joint Program Report Series, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 2009).
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12. European Commission, Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003, Official Journal of the European Union L 275, 25.10.2003.
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House of Representatives July 2009).

14. T. D. Searchinger, in *Biofuels: Environmental Consequences and Interactions with Changing Land Use*:

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(Cornell Univ. Press, Ithaca, NY, 2009), pp. 37–52.

15. The authors express thanks for the support of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Supporting Online Material

www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/326/5952/527/DC1

March 18, 2010
 “National Sunshine Week”

Madam Mayor and Commissioners,

At a recent neighborhood electoral forum, one of the candidates for Mayor (who should wish to remain nameless) opined that citizens opposed to your proposed \$500 million dollar Biomass Tree Incinerator were dealing in “misinformation.”

This rash and untrue statement inspired me to speak briefly at Citizen Comment at the March 18 commission meeting about the dishonesty that permeates our city’s presentments to the Florida Public Service Commission, including the claim that “Gainesville’s citizens are fully informed” about the bioburner scheme with its devastating impact on their rates, and eager to take on the attendant serious financial risks to our utility.

The city claims to have held **37 public meetings** on the topic. The list of these “meetings” has yet to be presented. When brought forth, it will doubtless stand truth on its head once more.

My comments elicited another prevarication from GRU. After I referenced recent citizen revelations that the Solar F.I.T. program has been hijacked by a handful of speculators, the General Manager for Utilities told you that certain “large solar contractors” were having “trouble lining up financing in these times.” He assured you that GRU would help them find the financing.

That statement is dishonest. The General Manager knows, or certainly should since the citizens know, that the lion’s share of the Solar F.I.T. subsidy (58%) has been snapped up by a single paper corporation, an ephemeral creation of greed, housed with some wrongful death attorneys in an office suite somewhere on Wilshire Boulevard. This applicant has never installed a solar panel anywhere.

It shouldn’t be so hard to get the truth in Gainesville. The citizens are being maligned while the commissioners and Mayor malingers. You need to start doing your job, and stop denigrating the hard work of citizens looking for truth.

5/10/2010

I challenge each of you to respond to this plea. This commission has become notorious for not responding to citizens' letters, e-mails and phone calls. That has to stop.

My request of each of you starts with this: send me ***your*** copy of the list of the "37 public meetings" held on the Biomass Tree Burner.

Pursuant of course to the Florida Sunshine Law, which has apparently sunset in Gainesville.

Yours truly,
Thomas D. Bussing PhD

<http://www.gators-r.us/SolarInfo/>

† AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION®

Fighting for Air

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

June 24, 2009

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Nationwide Assembly
Speaker

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey:

As you consider legislation to address global climate change and energy policy, the American Lung Association urges you to use this opportunity to target widespread pollutants that can both directly harm lung health of millions of Americans and worsen global climate change. At a minimum, we urge you to select mechanisms that prevent increases in ambient air pollution and hazardous air pollutants.

Over 186 million Americans continue to live and breathe in areas with unhealthy air in the United States. The American Lung Association supports aggressive strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that maximize co-benefits of reducing criteria pollutants and provide near-term public health benefits. These strategies include ambitious programs to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuel combustion and promote cleaner alternative vehicle technologies and fuels. These require real changes: substantial increases in clean renewable energy resources; a transformation of the land use planning process to emphasize smart growth policies that promote alternatives to driving; and, as well, significant reductions in power plant and industrial emissions.

We urge you to consider approaches that target two critical two critical pollutants well within reach—black carbon and ozone. Black carbon, or diesel soot, and ozone not only significantly impact global warming but also endanger public health. Black carbon from diesel, a mixture of 40 different toxic substances, increases the risk of developing lung cancer. Ozone, the most commonly encountered pollutant in America's cities, damages lung capacity and aggravates asthma. Both pollutants send people with asthma and other chronic lung diseases to the hospital and emergency room. Both cut short the lives of thousands of people every year. Because black carbon particles and ozone have significantly shorter life-spans in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, immediate controls can make a near-term difference in the level of global warming, as well has have immediate health benefits.

Chairman Waxman and Chairman Markey
June 24, 2009
Page 2

The legislation should support state and local air pollution control efforts and include strong controls on major sources of emissions. Please include stronger controls on coal-fired power plants and other major industrial sources that also reduce sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other toxic air contaminant emissions.

The legislation should promote clean renewable electricity, including wind, solar and geothermal. The Lung Association urges that the legislation not promote the combustion of biomass. Burning biomass could lead to significant increases in emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulfur dioxide and have severe impacts on the health of children, older adults, and people with lung diseases.

The American Lung Association thanks you for the opportunity to share our perspective.

Sincerely,

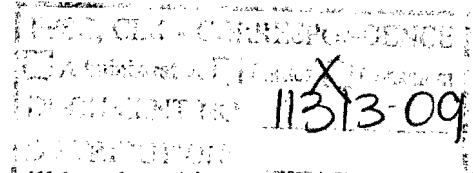
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Connor".

Charles D. Connor
President & CEO

Diamond Williams

090451

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 2:43 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Docket 090451 - response requested



Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: Docket 090451 - response requested

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 7:56 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 5:39 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: myrrh460@gmail.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Mildred Russell

Company:

Primary Phone: 352-375-7646

Secondary Phone:

Email: myrrh460@gmail.com

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Please vote "no" on the city of Gainesville biomass plant. It is not a sound idea, and has the potential to loose money the city and its citizens do not have.

Diamond Williams

090451-EM

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 2:42 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Docket 090451 - response requested

Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: Docket 090451 - response requested

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:42 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:24 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: John Schiffermuller

Company:

Primary Phone: 352-256-4159

Secondary Phone: 352-256-4159

Email: onebigelf@yahoo.com

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? No

Comments:

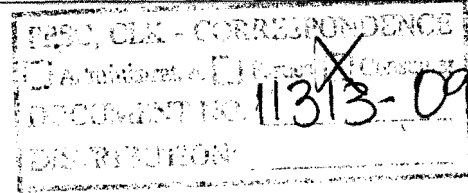
Contact by email, please.

Pleas vote NO on the City of Gainesville Biomass electricity plant. The citizens of Gainesville and the surrounding areas are paying for quite enough of their bad ideas already.

090451

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 2:32 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451
Attachments: RE: My contact; FW: My contact; FW: My contact; RE: My contact



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 Florida Public Service Commission
 Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
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From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 1:00 PM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451

Customer correspondence

From: Angie Calhoun
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 5:01 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: Protest to docket 090451

5/6/2010

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 5:09 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 4:49 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Jim Beaty
Company: RW Beaty Restaurant Eq.
Primary Phone: 352-339-5368
Secondary Phone: 352-376-5939
Email: Beatyequip@aol.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

Please vote NO on the Gainesville Fl. Bio Mass electrical generator. There has been to much "Vodu Economics" used to justify the cost and it will end up costing the taxpayers of Gainesville. This is a bad idea.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 9:20 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:34 AM
To: Webmaster
Cc: keithmcinnis@gmail.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Keith McInnis
Company:
Primary Phone: 352 2406210
Secondary Phone: 352 2406210
Email: keithmcinnis@gmail.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Please DECLINE the City of Gainesville the right to build a bio-mass power plant. It is not needed, it is inconsistent with the air quality values of this community and will ironically burn trees from Tree City USA only to sell the power to distant areas at a loss of efficiency.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 3:08 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 2:59 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: bfuller@ltenews.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Barbara Fuller

Company: resident, 6552 NW 37th Dr. Gainesville Primary Phone: 3523737089 Secondary Phone: 3523737089

Email: bfuller@ltenews.com

Response requested? No

CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Dear Public Service Commission members: Please vote no on the City of Gainesville's biomass. Thank you,
Barbara Fuller

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Wednesday, May 05, 2010 7:56 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 11:08 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Paul Mueller
Company:
Primary Phone:
Secondary Phone:
Email: archean@cox.net

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

PLEASE deny the City of Gainesville's biomass plant request. I have no idea how this concept has gained so much momentum, but it is a dangerous proposal from both health and financial points of view.
Thanks

090451

Diamond Williams

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: Docket 090451 - response requested

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:42 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:24 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: John Schiffermuller
Company:
Primary Phone: 352-256-4159
Secondary Phone: 352-256-4159
Email: onebigelf@yahoo.com

Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? No

Comments:

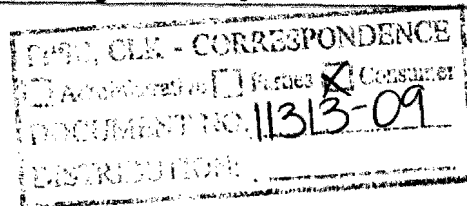
Contact by email, please.

Pleas vote NO on the City of Gainesville Biomass electricity plant. The citizens of Gainesville and the surrounding areas are paying for quite enough of their bad ideas already.

Diamond Williams

090451-EM

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:29 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protet to docket 090451
Attachments: FW: My contact; FW: My contact; RE: My contact



Thank you for this information. These attachments have been printed and will be placed in **Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives**, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

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From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 10:59 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protet to docket 090451

Customer correspondence

From: Angie Calhoun
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 5:09 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: Protet to docket 090451

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:13 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:08 AM
To: Webmaster
Cc: banco42@aol.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Douglas Woodall
Company:
Primary Phone:
Secondary Phone:
Email: banco42@aol.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Why in the world are you endorsing the building of a biomass energy plant and increasing our already high energy costs? This is unacceptable in an era of high unemployment and increasing taxes.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 2:36 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 2:14 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Mary Valter
Company:
Primary Phone:
Secondary Phone:
Email:

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

I do not believe that Gainesville needs to continue with discussions on the bio-mass plant for GRU as I think our utility rates here are high enough and I feel this would make them go up. I moved here from South Florida and my rates for all utilities were much lower. Please do not okay this going forward. Thank you.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 3:07 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 2:52 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: James Shaw
Company:
Primary Phone: 3526658570
Secondary Phone: 3526658570
Email: jim.shaw10@gmail.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

The biomass plant planned for GRU in Gainesville, is not needed and will only result in more truck traffic and inefficient government. I strongly oppose the proposed plant and ask the PSC to do the right thing and not allow it to proceed.

Diamond Williams

090451 - EM

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:27 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451

PSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION:		

Attachments: FW: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact

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Thank you,

Diamond Williams
 Staff Assistant
 Office of Commission Clerk
 Florida Public Service Commission
 Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
 Phone: 850-413-6094

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From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 11:00 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451

customer correspondence

From: Angie Calhoun
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 5:09 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: Protest to docket 090451

These customers are requesting a response.

5/4/2010

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 4:52 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 4:37 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: kjb828@yahoo.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Kenneth Bieda
Company:
Primary Phone:
Secondary Phone:
Email: kjb828@yahoo.com

Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:
Do not go forward with the bio-mass plant. The energy costs are way to high already. Looking forward to the next election!

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:24 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:23 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Richard Devlin
Company:
Primary Phone:
Secondary Phone:
Email:

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:
No Bio-mass power plant in Gainesville, Plaese. Our rates are high as it is now we don't need them to go higher.

Thanks for the change to make a comment.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:48 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Judith Bartpm
Company:
Primary Phone: 352-373-6941
Secondary Phone:
Email: jbarton1@cox.net

Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? No

Comments:

NO bio-mass plant, we simply cannot afford higher rates. let alone all the trucks in and out of town on our already bad roads.

jbarton

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 10:36 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 10:29 AM
To: Webmaster
Cc: rae1649@bellsouth.net
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Kathleen Watkins
Company: Florida citizen
Primary Phone: 352-375-0012
Secondary Phone:
Email: rae1649@bellsouth.net

Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

I DO NOT want biomass power plants to be pursued as a source of energy. It will increase our energy costs which is TOO HIGH already!! Work on nuclear plants, drilling for oil and natural gas and other ways to reduce the enormous burden put upon our backs. Your job makes you responsible to work for the interests of citizens, not to destroy this state through taxation.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:48 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Judith Bartpm
Company:
Primary Phone: 352-373-6941
Secondary Phone:
Email: jbarton1@cox.net

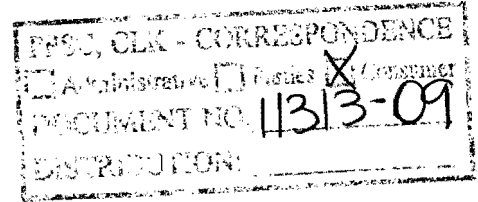
Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? No

Comments:
NO bio-mass plant, we simply cannot afford higher rates. let alone all the trucks in and out of town on our already bad roads.
jbarton

Diamond Williams

090451

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:26 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Docket 090451



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Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

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-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 11:03 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Ann Cole; Dorothy Menasco
Subject: Docket 090451

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 8:15 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 8:52 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: jiminater@earthlink.net
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Jimmy Owens

Company: retired- Progress Energy,Florida Primary Phone: jiminater@earthlink.net Secondary Phone:

Email: jiminater@earthlink.net

Response requested? No

CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

I am opposed to the Gainesville Bio-mass Plant. I am retired from > 35 years of power production experience in maintenance and operation positions, with TVA and Florida Power Corp (aka Progress Energy). I know that TVA and Florida Power (at Suwanee Plant) had pilot programs in bio-mass electric production in the past 40 years. Both were failures and eventually abandoned. IF a plant facility cannot assure a consistent fuel source and reliable fuel BTU content then it is bound to be another disappointment-that the GRU customers cannot afford. Thank You -Jimmy

090451-EM

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:25 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Please enter these comments into the record
Attachments: Public Testimony of Robert W.doc; 2-22-10_Adm_letter.pdf

PSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09	
DISTRIBUTION:	

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 Office of Commission Clerk
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From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 11:14 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Please enter these comments into the record

Customer correspondence for docket 090451.

From: Robert Brinkman [mailto:robertwbrinkman@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 3:12 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: Please enter these comments into the record

To whom it may concern,

Please enter these comments into the record for the supplemental hearing on May 3rd regarding the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center. I will bring a printed copy as well as the referenced letter to senator Rockefeller from Lisa Jackson. I can be reached at 352-318-4934 if there are any questions. I will merely summarize my attached comments during the public hearing portion.

Rob Brinkman

5/4/2010

Public Testimony of Robert W. Brinkman Before the PSC Re:
Needs Determination for the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center

I have been intensely involved in the community discussions in Gainesville regarding energy supply and related climate change issues for over 7 years. I served on the Alachua County Environmental Protection Advisory Committee (EPAC) becoming Chair in late 2005 just after the release of an EPAC review of GRU's proposal to build a second coal plant. Chapter 8 of this report, whose primary authors were Dian Deevey and Dr. David Harlos, recommended a 100 MW biomass plant. EPAC members are appointed by the Alachua County Commission to advise it on environmental issues of concern to Alachua County residents.

During much of this time I also served on the Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee (GEAC) serving as Chair of the committee for several years. As a member of GEAC I was part of a delegation from Gainesville that traveled to Burlington Vermont to see their biomass plant that has been in operation for over twenty five years and to talk with City and Utility officials. GEAC is appointed by the Gainesville City Commission to advise it on energy policy issues and was created as part of a settlement between the Sierra Club and the City of Gainesville as a result of legal action in opposition to the construction of our first and thankfully only coal plant, Deerhaven 2.

I served on the executive committee of the Suwannee- St. John's group of the Sierra Club Florida becoming chair in 2006 and serving in that capacity until March of 2010. I also founded a local organization known as Citizens for Affordable Renewable Energy (CARE) primarily for the purpose of attempting to place a referendum on the ballot by petition to amend the Gainesville City Charter to require a referendum vote on the proposed coal plant. CARE suspended the signature gathering effort when almost three years ago the Gainesville City Commission voted to direct staff to issue a request for proposals for a biomass power plant. CARE dropped its ballot petition effort in recognition that a coal plant was now off the table.

Much to my surprise the recent City elections featured a great deal of debate surrounding the proposed biomass plant including huge amounts of misinformation. My faith in democracy has been renewed by the results in which the only two candidates out of a field of ten competing for two seats that supported the biomass plant won the election. While the mayoral race was close the results after a machine recount matched exactly those from election night, the only difference being the addition of provisional ballots after review by the canvassing commission which increased the margin of victory slightly. Of particular significance was the district four race which saw a political newcomer who supported the biomass plant defeat a former four term Alachua County Commissioner who opposed the plant by an almost two to one margin.

Despite the fact that the contract with American Renewables to build (the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center) GREC was approved almost a year ago, the proceedings before this Commission brought the issue to forefront in the election campaign. While many opponents focused on a future date when

Gainesville would require more generation capacity; the need to diversify fuel sources and specifically to increase substantially renewable energy generation is now, not in more than a decade. Gainesville is the only city in Florida and one of only a few nationally to have a cost feasible plan to reduce GHG emissions 7% below 1990 levels.

I am proud of the Gainesville City Commission for all of their efforts to move forward in pursuit of both renewable energy and conservation and I am impressed with not only the competence and professionalism of GRU but also of their adaptability to Gainesville's change to a renewable energy focus over the last seven years and their innovation in implementing programs. Indeed I firmly believe that there is no better utility or City to lead Florida forward in pursuit of affordable and renewable energy.

Throughout much of the early years when I was advocating against the proposed coal plant I worked hand in hand with many of the same persons, including the intervenors who now oppose the biomass plant for various reasons. It truly saddens me to have to take issue with them but throughout the recent discussions on GREC I have been frustrated by the lack of empirical evidence from most opponents.

The record before the PSC in this matter, specifically the testimony of Richard Schroeder, demonstrates clearly with many sources of empirical evidence that not only is the supply adequate it is in fact abundant and would support more biomass plants. The seven pulp mills along the Georgia costs have managed to compete for the available round wood pulp resources available only to their west while GREC would be surrounded by some of the most productive pine forests in the region.

Ms. Deevey among others has stated that she was concerned about the availability of fuel supply and indeed stated on Thursday April 29 at a presentation she gave that IFAS faculty she had spoken with were concerned and referred to "studies", yet the record of this matter before you shows that IFAS faculty are authors of many of the studies that clearly demonstrate the abundance of available logging residue. She also foresaw a potential for biomass costs tripling without offering any empirical evidence and warns of potential bankruptcy for Gainesville or forced sale of GRU. For the record the Gainesville Charter requires a referendum to approve a sale of GRU. I respectfully differ with her point of view, even without carbon regulations the increase costs while not without a likely rate impact are only a part of the energy supply costs to GRU. Even those costs would be well worth both the actual reduction in Gainesville's GHG emissions, not to mention the value of the example set for other Florida utilities of substantial and cost effective methods at reducing future climate disruption through conservation and solar as well as biomass.

Under any likely scenario where carbon emissions are regulated GREC will be a boon to the rate payers of GRU, regarding the likelihood of such regulations I am attaching, and respectfully request that it be entered into the public record of this matter, a letter from Lisa Jackson US EPA Administrator to Senator Rockefeller. The letter cites *Massachusetts vs. EPA* as requiring the

EPA to regulate large stationary sources such as power plants and that she anticipates promulgating such regulations next year, fully two years before GREC would go online.

When I visited almost four years ago Burlington Vermont and the other co-owners of the McNeil generating station enjoyed economic benefits from the sale of renewable energy credits. By the way Burlington officials showed posters and other documentation of some of the same fears on the part of some citizens prior to the building of their biomass plant. These included destruction of Vermont's forests, which happily are healthier today than they were a quarter century ago. As in Gainesville, the Burlington biomass plant proposal started with a citizen advisory committee and the opponents were in the minority and ultimately their fears proved unfounded as I believe they will be in Gainesville given the opportunity to move forward with GREC.

Recently I was struck by the thought that while fossil fuel from the ground biomass, like the biblical manna from heaven, comes from the sky. Trees create cellulose by combining atmospheric CO₂ and rain from the sky using solar energy. Biomass plants simply insert themselves into the carbon cycle of the biosphere while coal and other fossil fuels are an unnatural perturbation of that carbon cycle with already evident and increasing impacts to our biosphere. Ms. Deevey has stated at public meetings that she feels that ultimately carbon regulations may not classify biomass as carbon neutral, increasingly there is evidence that if biomass plants promote improvements in silvicultural practices that result in an increased tree growth and CO₂ absorption they could be considered carbon negative.

As I write this we have recently lost dozens of miners in coal mining accidents as well several oil platform workers. In recent times the country learned of the disastrous impact potential of coal ash storage and currently a leaking oil well that may exceed the release of the Exxon Valdez threatens the ecosystem of an unknown portion of the Gulf of Mexico. Clearly the environmental impacts of these two principle fossil fuel sources and the need to transition away from our addiction to both have never been more evident. Simply put it is better to cut down trees rather than the oldest mountains on earth (through mountain top removal), the former will grow back.

I respectfully urge the PSC to as expeditiously as possible grant the requested needs determination because there is an urgent need for renewable energy, we need to transition away from the worst fossil fuel sources now, and biomass is not only the most cost effective renewable resource available to Gainesville, biomass per unit of energy costs less than coal. While this matter is probably not the most important to come before this Commission your decision in this matter could be the most symbolic one each of you will make in your service on the PSC. We are at a decision point will Florida move forward towards a clean safe energy future or will we remained mired in our fossil fuel addiction and an increasingly ominous future?



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 22 2010

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Jay D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rockefeller:

Thank you for your letter of February 19, 2010, concerning the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) work to comply with the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA* while providing a manageable path forward for businesses and state governments. I share your goals of ensuring economic recovery at this critical time and of addressing greenhouse-gas emissions in sensible ways that are consistent with the call for comprehensive energy and climate legislation. My full response to your letter appears below and in the enclosed document.

Many of the comments and questions you offer are similar to ones that EPA received during recent public comment periods. As EPA staff works to respond to those comments, I am happy to share information with you here in order to answer the questions in your letter as completely as I can. The decision-making process has moved far enough along that I can make several central points based on modifications I expect to make in finalizing EPA's previous proposals:

- The United States Supreme Court held three years ago in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that greenhouse gases are air pollution and are subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act. EPA must follow the Supreme Court's holding, as you recognize in your letter.
- By April of this year, I expect to take actions to ensure that no stationary source will be required to get a Clean Air Act permit to cover its greenhouse gas emissions in calendar year 2010.
- Based on those anticipated actions, I expect that EPA will phase-in permit requirements and regulation of greenhouse gases for large stationary sources beginning in calendar year 2011. In the first half of 2011, only those facilities that already must apply for Clean Air Act permits as a result of their non-greenhouse gas emissions will need to address their greenhouse gas emissions in their permit applications.
- Further, I am expecting that greenhouse gas emissions from other large sources will phase in starting in the latter half of 2011. Between the latter half of 2011 and 2013, I expect that the threshold for permitting will be substantially higher than the 25,000-ton limit that EPA originally proposed. In any event, EPA does not intend to subject the smallest sources to Clean Air Act permitting for greenhouse-gas emissions any sooner than 2016.

- You asked in your letter what the result would be if Senator Lisa Murkowski's resolution of disapproval of EPA's endangerment finding were enacted. One result would be to prevent EPA from issuing its greenhouse gas standard for light-duty vehicles, because the endangerment finding is a legal prerequisite of that standard. The impacts of that result would be significant. In particular, it would undo an historic agreement among states, automakers, the federal government, and other stakeholders. California and at least thirteen other states that have adopted California's emissions standards likely would enforce those standards within their jurisdictions,¹ leaving the automobile industry without the explicit nationwide uniformity that it has described as important to its business.²

Background

Three years ago, the Supreme Court held in *Massachusetts v. EPA* that the term "air pollutant" in the Clean Air Act includes greenhouse gases.³ The Court also held that the Act requires EPA to consider the science of climate change meaningfully in determining whether greenhouse-gas pollution endangers public health or welfare.⁴ As a result of the Court's decision, EPA became obligated to treat greenhouse-gas emissions as air pollution under the Clean Air Act and to engage with the best available science in determining whether those emissions endanger Americans' health or welfare. After EPA staff conducted a comprehensive survey of the soundest available science and carefully reviewed hundreds of thousands of public comments, I determined last December that greenhouse-gas emissions do endanger Americans' health and welfare.⁵

As you know, I am not alone in having reached that conclusion. The U.S. Global Change Research Program, which consists of thirteen federal departments – including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Defense, Energy, and the Interior – found last June that risks to human health will increase as a result of human-induced global warming.⁶ The U.S. Senate itself has twice passed, on a bipartisan basis, a resolution finding that greenhouse-gas accumulation from human activity poses a substantial risk of increased frequency and severity of floods and droughts.⁷

EPA's endangerment finding obligates the agency, under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act, to issue greenhouse-gas emissions standards for motor vehicles.⁸ EPA will begin to discharge that

¹ <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/climate/regulations/air-resources-board.pdf>.

² See *Patchwork Proven*, National Automobile Dealers Association (January 2009).

³ 549 U.S. 497, 528-29, 532-33 (2007).

⁴ *Id.* at 534-35.

⁵ 74 Fed. Reg. 66495, *et seq.* (December 15, 2009).

⁶ <http://downloads.globalchange.gov/usimpacts/pdfs/climate-impacts-report.pdf>

⁷ See Energy Policy Act of 2005; Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

⁸ See Clean Air Act Section (202)(a)(1), 42 U.S.C. § 7521(a)(1).

duty late next month, by issuing greenhouse-gas emissions standards for Model Year 2012-2016 light-duty motor vehicles.⁹

At the same time that EPA issues its light-duty-vehicle emissions standard, the Department of Transportation will issue a rule raising the existing fuel-economy standards for the same vehicles.¹⁰ Together, the EPA and DOT standards will reduce the lifetime oil consumption of the affected vehicles by 1.8 billion barrels while eliminating 950 million metric tons of greenhouse-gas pollution.¹¹ The government of California has agreed to recognize vehicles that comply with the EPA rule as complying with the state's greenhouse-gas emissions standard. As a result, the automakers will be able to operate with the nation-wide regulatory uniformity that they have sought.

The implementation of EPA's light-duty vehicle standard will make greenhouse-gas emissions subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act for the first time. Under the Act's text, air pollutants that are subject to regulation under the statute are subject to the Act's "prevention of significant deterioration" and operating-permit provisions for stationary sources.¹²

Mindful of that legal consequence, and in order to provide clarity for states and businesses, EPA has been working to complete two rulemakings. The agency has received many thoughtful comments on those two rulemakings – from citizens, States, localities, industry representatives, and environmental groups. The agency's upcoming actions will reflect and incorporate valuable information and constructive suggestions that EPA received during the public comment periods, and thus will improve substantially upon the agency's initial proposals.

The first action will conclude EPA's reconsideration of a memorandum that former EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson issued in 2008. I anticipate that the final action on reconsideration will explain that greenhouse-gas emissions will become "subject to regulation" under the Clean Air Act, such as to make them a part of the Act's stationary-source permitting programs, in January of 2011, when Model Year 2012 light-duty vehicles will need to comply with EPA's greenhouse-gas emissions standard. As a result of that final action, no facility will need to address greenhouse-gas emissions in Clean Air Act permitting before 2011.

The second action will promulgate what has become known as the tailoring rule. I describe that action in detail at the outset of this letter.

I have already described the impact of enactment of Senator Lisa Murkowski's resolution of disapproval of EPA's endangerment finding on the light-duty vehicle standard and the historic agreement among states, automakers, the federal government, and other stakeholders. Moreover, a vote to vitiate the greenhouse-gas endangerment finding would be viewed as a vote to reject the

⁹ See 74 Fed. Reg. 49453, *et seq.* (September 28, 2009).

¹⁰ See *id.*

¹¹ <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/522d0a809f6b7f9c8525763200562534!OpenDocument>

¹² See, e.g., Clean Air Act Section 169(3), 42 U.S.C. § 7479(3) ("each pollutant subject to regulation under this chapter").

scientific work of the thirteen U.S. government departments that contribute to the U.S. Global Change Research Program. It also would be viewed by many as a vote to move the United States to a position behind that of China on the issue of climate change, and more in line with the position of Saudi Arabia.

Attached, please find responses to those of your questions that are not addressed above. Thank you again for your letter. I appreciate this opportunity to update you on EPA's work to comply with the Supreme Court's decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA* while providing a manageable path forward for businesses and state governments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa P. Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lisa P. Jackson

Enclosure

What is your assessment of the likelihood of the tailoring rule surviving already announced legal challenges?

EPA would not have issued its initial tailoring rule proposal if I did not believe that it was lawful. Oddly, certain advocacy organizations that purport to speak for businesses are the only ones who have threatened to challenge the tailoring rule in court. My assessment is that those challenges, if they are filed, will fail. If my assessment were otherwise, I would not promulgate the tailoring rule.

Currently, PSD regulations are applied to fewer than 400 facilities per year for pollutants such as ozone. How many facilities would be required to obtain permits under GHG regulation under the Clean Air Act?

None in 2010. For the first half of 2011, fewer than 400, because only facilities undergoing permitting for other pollutants would need to address greenhouse-gas emissions in permitting.

Large electric generators using domestically produced coal and natural gas are uncertain about potential "Best Available Control Technology" or "BACT" standards for carbon dioxide (CO₂). What does EPA expect coal and natural gas plant operators to do if there is no standard? What process will you use to determine such standards and the range of options for such facilities given the pre-commercial standing of current CO₂ abatement technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS)?

EPA continues to review and analyze options for defining Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for greenhouse-gas emissions. The additional time that EPA will have before permitting requirements will take effect will enable the agency and stakeholders to consider this issue carefully and thoughtfully. EPA's goal will be to identify practical, achievable, and cost-effective strategies for minimizing emissions increases from new facilities and major modifications, recognizing the importance of those projects to the economy and job creation. The agency would of course apply the well-developed framework that exists for determining BACT for non-greenhouse-gas pollutants. One of the factors that is applied under that framework is the commercial availability of a given control technology. EPA is closely following efforts to make integrated systems for capturing, transporting, and storing CO₂ from coal-fueled electricity generating facilities commercially available. The agency would expect to carefully consider the state of development of this technology in considering options for BACT.

There is genuine concern from the domestic oil and gas industries, from entities operating at the wellhead to pipeline operators, processing plants, and refiners, that they will be severely disadvantaged in the world marketplace by stationary source regulations. Can you characterize how these regulations will translate into costs for these industries? Has your agency analyzed or will you consider the impacts on competitiveness that these costs could have on these industries?

The feasibility and commercial availability of a technology are certainly analyzed in any BACT process, and both feasibility and commercial availability are relevant to competitiveness.

Comprehensive clean energy legislation must ensure a robust US manufacturing base for clean energy production, invest in US research and development of new clean energy technologies, and mitigate costs to energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries. If EPA regulates GHGs for stationary sources, what are the direct and indirect cost implications for industrial sources of Clean Air Act prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) regulations? Has your agency analyzed or will you consider so-called “carbon leakage” and the competitiveness impacts of these costs on these industries? Will your agency public impact analyses on these critical issues prior to implementing the regulation?

EPA has evaluated the impacts of clean energy legislation on energy-intensive and trade-exposed industries as a part of our larger analysis of the Waxman-Markey bill (H.R. 2454) in June 2009. In addition, EPA participated in the Administration’s interagency assessment of the implications of climate policy on U.S. competitiveness, titled “The Effects of H.R. 2454 on International Competitiveness and Emission Leakage in Energy-Intensive Trade-Exposed Industries” (December 2009). The report shows that under the allowance allocations made available in H.R. 2454 for the energy-intensive trade-exposed industries, the impact of comprehensive energy and climate legislation is effectively nil on the production costs for these industries. Even in the absence of the H.R. 2454 allowance allocations, these industries would bear only modest impacts on production costs (less than 3 percent increase) under an allowance price of \$20 per ton. PSD costs would be only a small factor in the cost structure of the industry. Moreover, facilities in these sectors are already subject to PSD for other pollutants.

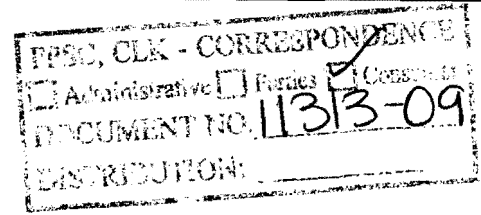
How would a resolution striking down the endangerment finding affect EPA’s ability to provide resources or technical expertise intended to address and adapt to climate change effects, including, but not limited to: Efforts to analyze climate and weather variability and its effects on agriculture, fisheries, species habitats, and coastal development among communities along the Gulf Coast and elsewhere; research programs related to climate change effects on mountain snowpack throughout the Pacific Coast and Mountain West regions; and the infrastructure, energy, and socioeconomic implications of relocating Alaska communities due to historically unprecedented coastal erosion?

You raise a very significant question. EPA has not had time to determine the answer. EPA would certainly try to help those threatened communities even if Congress vitiated the endangerment finding. As of this writing, however, I cannot guarantee that enactment of such a resolution would have no negative impact on those efforts.

Diamond Williams

090451

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:12 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451



Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 4:12 PM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 3:44 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 090451

Copy on file, see 941101C. DH

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 11:13 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]

Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 10:57 AM

To: Webmaster

Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Hugh Calderwood

Company:

Primary Phone: 386-462-3229

Secondary Phone:

Email:

Response requested? No

CC Sent? No

Comments:

I recommend denial of the biomass plant in Alachua county. I can see the day when easily available wood will cease and require farther distances to feed the kettle esp if other biomass plants come on line. This will increase costs to generate electricity.

090451-EM

Diamond Williams

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 8:11 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451-Response requested
Attachments: RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact; RE: My contact

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION:		

Thank you for this information. These attachments have been printed and will be placed in **Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives**, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
 Staff Assistant
 Office of Commission Clerk
 Florida Public Service Commission
 Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
 Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 4:15 PM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451-Response requested

customer correspondence

From: Diane Hood
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 3:42 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 090451-Response requested

These have been put into the system with EM858, docket number 090451 and PR-69 as close out code. DH

5/4/2010

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:10 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 7:06 AM
To: Webmaster
Cc: gator67fop@aol.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Jeff McAdams
Company: Fraternal Order of Police
Primary Phone: 352 376-1629
Secondary Phone: 352 258-9211
Email: gator67fop@aol.com

Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Dear PSC Commissioners,

Please allow this email to confirm that I am not in support of the proposed Gainesville Regional Utilities Bio Mass plant partnership. I currently represent nearly 400 members, many who receive their electricity from GRU. Let me be clear, we are in favor of clean energy alternatives so long as it is not a major gamble to the rate payers. I have followed the proposed bio mass proposal and there is clearly too much risk of higher fees to the consumer to allow this plant.

The rate payers of GRU are paying some of the highest utility rates in the state, now is not the time to burden them with additional cost.

Please vote this proposal down.

Thank You,

Jeff McAdams
President, Gator Lodge 67, FOP

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:10 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2010 7:46 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Bradley Van Riper

Company:

Primary Phone:

Secondary Phone:

Email: pillsandpolice@cox.net

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? No

Comments:

I would like the PSC to deny Gainesville's attempt to build a BioMass Plant. Our utility rates are already outrageous and this plant will only serve to increase them even more. Most citizens in Gainesville do NOT want the Biomass Plant, yet our commishiners have forced it upon us because they think we are too stupid to know what we want.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:15 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:11 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: gator67fop@aol.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Jeff McAdams
Company: Gator Lodge 67, FOP
Primary Phone: 352 376-1629
Secondary Phone: 352 258-9211
Email: gator67fop@aol.com

Response requested? Yes
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

Madam Chair & Commissioner,

This is my second electronic communication to the PSC today asking you to vote down the proposed bio mass plant partnership between the City of Gainesville and American Renewables. I have listened online to the comments by all the speakers at today's meeting. I would asked that before you make your decision, that you reflect back on the comments by everyone and take into account how many people who spoke, and did so on behalf of the citizens and rate payers that would be impacted. I counted 13 individuals who testified before you, they did so as special interest groups that would benefit financially. Don't get me wrong, job creation is great, but it is my understanding that you are not charged with considering the financial impact, except for to the rate payers. In concluding, I want to applaud your efforts in voting down rate increases to the citizens of Florida by private utilities. Now, you have a rare chance to protect the citizens of Gainesville. Please judge this bio mass proposal by the same standard you would other utility request for rate increases.

Thank you,
Jeff McAdams
President
Gator Lodge 67, FOP

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:15 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 1:02 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Harold Wise

Company:

Primary Phone:

Secondary Phone:

Email: rgrharrywise@yahoo.com

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? No

Comments:

Please vote NO on the Biomass plant.

Ann Cole

090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:34 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 ___Administrative___ Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Klement
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:33 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL

Please place in docket 090451.

From: Dick Stokes [mailto:rastokes@atlantic.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2010 8:37 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL

----- Original Message -----

Subject: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL
Date: Sun, 2 May 2010 13:36:48 -0400
From: Biomass Truth <biomasstruth@comcast.net>
To: Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com
CC: oelrich.steve.web@flsenate.gov, Charles.Chestnut@myfloridahouse.gov, Larry.Cretul@myfloridahouse.gov, Jeff.Kottkamp@MyFlorida.com, michael.sole@dep.state.fl.us, commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us, statesurgeongeneral@doh.state.fl.us, peggy.kassees@myflorida.com, pagem@doacs.state.fl.us, racklea@doacs.state.fl.us, lisa_conti@doh.state.fl.us, kendra_goff@doh.state.fl.us

Office of Governor Charlie Crist
 State of Florida
 PL-05 The Capitol
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
 May 2, 2010
 Dear Governor Crist:

As we all witness the greatest North American environmental disaster of our lifetime in our own back yard, we wonder out loud what it would take for the governments – federal, state, county and city – to start carrying out the public mandate of protecting the precious environment that delicately hangs in the balance. To every onlooker, it is painfully obvious that this ecological catastrophe could only have happened due to willful negligence, pervasive corruption, and blatant complicity with the oil drilling companies concerned on the part of the US Government.

5/3/2010

This is not why we are writing to you today. We are equally concerned about the same type of behavior by the State of Florida regarding the cavalier siting of biomass incinerators throughout the State of Florida. We can all view the oil slick in the Gulf, smell the pungent odor of petroleum, and feel for the many seabirds coated with black, filmy goo. We cannot, however, see the extremely dangerous pollutants that would be routinely emitted from a 100 megawatt biomass incinerator like the one under consideration for Gainesville, FL. We especially cannot foresee just how profound and myriad the assaults to human and environmental health, which these "regulated" hazardous air pollutants would commit on a daily basis.

Governor Crist, how many more citizens in the cities and counties across Florida need to voice their adamant and fierce opposition to these plants, based on scientific data and information furnished by the biomass companies themselves, for you to understand the enormity of this looming human health calamity?

Biomass incinerator proposals have now been terminated in South Tallahassee, Liberty County and Gretna, FL. The DEP Air Permit Application was recently withdrawn for the incinerator proposed for Port St Joe due to incorrect assumptions, false data and incomplete information filed by NW FL Renewable Energy Center. We sincerely hope that, with oil slicks soon to be coating the shores of our Emerald Coast beaches, you are more justifiably skeptical of these energy companies and their ill-conceived plans. As you always do, please: "Listen to the People."

To date the medical community has spoken loud and clear about the numerous, serious and often chronic medical conditions, which would occur in the wake of the operation of these plants throughout Florida. The academic institutions have provided plenty of evidence that irrefutably demonstrates the multitude of adverse consequences to the local environments and Florida ecosystems. The legal experts have shown the liabilities and risks that will inevitably occur with energy development of this nature, particularly in those populated areas which have already been the victims of multi-generational environmental racism.

As we scan the map of Florida and evaluate all the locales where these plants are being sited, it is clear that there is a direct violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act in many of them. Therefore, class action lawsuits are being prepared in jurisdictions across the State very clearly delineating the points of law (pursuant to statutory EPA regulatory guidance), which, by legal necessity, must be adhered to in order to ensure environmental justice.

The economically depressed towns and cities that are often preyed upon by these corporate vultures will no longer tolerate this pattern of complete and total disregard of human life and environmental sustainability. The bait of twenty-five jobs for the poor souls who will inescapably suffer ill health for the duration of their lifetimes before succumbing to premature death is no longer attractive. Nor are the tax abatements that would drain the coffers of these impoverished communities for years to come. And in the fraudulent case of the Gainesville debacle, the taxpayers will no longer be duped into a scheme of paying more for their own electricity than the existing alternatives currently provide.

It is important to note that, as the PSC considers this attempted assault on the Gainesville community, there are some very serious and fateful issues that must be addressed, lest the governments – state, county and city – be held in contempt by the concerned citizens, taxpayers and voters. The following points of information recently appeared in the Gainesville Sun:

"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."

Governor Crist, may we remind you once again of your executive orders concerning greenhouse gases issued in 2007? As we have previously written to you, "We would hope that the Department of Environmental Protection will start complying with these directives concerning air quality and carbon impacts. To date, they have clearly violated this mandate and shirked their responsibility to the residents of this State, as have the FL Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture. We request that rulemaking proceedings be initiated to regulate carbon dioxide from these incinerators consistent with your Executive Orders 07-126, 07-127 and 07-128, and that state subsidies be withheld from all biomass incinerators, both future and already constructed."

Very sincerely,

Florida League of Conservation Voters
 Environmental Alliance of North Florida
 Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise
 HOPE (Help Our Polluted Environment) in Taylor County
 Healthcare Professionals for Clean Environment
 Coalition Against Chemical Trespass
 Concerned Citizens of Alachua County
 Concerned Citizens of Leon County
 Concerned Citizens of Gadsden County
 Concerned Citizens of Gulf County
 Cc: The Honorable Bill Nelson
 The Honorable George LeMieux
 Senator Steve Oelrich
 Representative Charles S. Chestnut IV
 Representative Larry Cretul
 Jeff Kottkamp, Lieutenant Governor
 Robert Wheeler, General Counsel
 Kathy Mears, Deputy Chief of Staff
 Melinda Miguel, Chief Inspector General
 Pat Gleason, Special Counsel for Open Government
 Warren Davis, Director of Citizens Services
 Michael W. Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
 Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture
 Ana M. Viamonte Ross, State Surgeon General, Florida Department of Health
 Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor, Gainesville, FL
 Thomas Hawkins, Commissioner
 Henry Scherwin, Commissioner
 Lauren Poe, Commissioner
 Jack Donovan, Commissioner
 Craig Lowe, Commissioner
 Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Commissioner
 Russ Blackburn, Gainesville City Manager
 Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair, Alachua County Commission
 Mike Byerly, Commissioner
 Rodney J. Long, Commissioner
 Paula M. Delaney, Commissioner
 Lee Pinkoson, Commissioner
 Randall H. Reid, Alachua County Manager
 Editor, The Gainesville Sun
 Editor, Tallahassee Democrat
 Editor, Miami Herald
 Editor, St. Petersburg Times
 Editor, Orlando Sentinel
 Editor, Palm Beach Post
 Editor, Florida Times Union
 Editor, Pensacola News Journal
 Tim Croft, Editor, The Star
 Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Of Counsel, Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, P.A.

Text inserted by Panda IS 2008:

This message has NOT been classified as spam. If it is unsolicited mail (spam), click on the following link to reclassify it: [It is spam!](#)

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:33 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Request to vote no

090451-EM
FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Klement
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:33 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Request to vote no

Please place in docket 090451.

From: Jake Fuller [mailto:jakefuller08@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2010 10:17 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Skop; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: Request to vote no

Commissioners:

Please deny the city of Gainesville's request for a 100-watt biomass plant. Our city does not need the additional power until 2023; and locking the ratepayers into a 30-year contract would be irresponsible when technology is rapidly advancing. A biomass plant could easily be obsolete technology in the near future.

Thank you,

Jake Fuller
2617 NW 34th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32605
352-375-3878

Ann Cole

090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:29 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL

Tracking: **Recipient** **Read**
Office of Commissioner Skop Read: 5/3/2010 8:29 AM
Commissioners Advisors
Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
___Administrative___ Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:27 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL

Ann,

Please add the e-mail below to *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket 090451-EM

Thanks,
Cristina

From: Dick Stokes [mailto:rastokes@atlantic.net]
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2010 8:37 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL

----- Original Message -----

Subject: 100 MW Biomass Incinerator Proposed for Gainesville FL
Date: Sun, 2 May 2010 13:36:48 -0400
From: Biomass Truth <biomasstruth@comcast.net>
To: Charlie.Crist@MyFlorida.com
CC: oelrich.steve.web@flsenate.gov, Charles.Chestnut@myfloridahouse.gov,
Larry.Cretul@myfloridahouse.gov, Jeff.Kottkamp@MyFlorida.com,
michael.sole@dep.state.fl.us, commissioner@doacs.state.fl.us,
statesurgeongeneral@doh.state.fl.us, peggy.kassees@myflorida.com, pagem@doacs.state.fl.us,
racklea@doacs.state.fl.us, lisa_conti@doh.state.fl.us, kendra_goff@doh.state.fl.us

Office of Governor Charlie Crist

5/3/2010

State of Florida
 PL-05 The Capitol
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
 May 2, 2010

Dear Governor Crist:

As we all witness the greatest North American environmental disaster of our lifetime in our own back yard, we wonder out loud what it would take for the governments – federal, state, county and city – to start carrying out the public mandate of protecting the precious environment that delicately hangs in the balance. To every onlooker, it is painfully obvious that this ecological catastrophe could only have happened due to willful negligence, pervasive corruption, and blatant complicity with the oil drilling companies concerned on the part of the US Government.

This is not why we are writing to you today. We are equally concerned about the same type of behavior by the State of Florida regarding the cavalier siting of biomass incinerators throughout the State of Florida. We can all view the oil slick in the Gulf, smell the pungent odor of petroleum, and feel for the many seabirds coated with black, filmy goo. We cannot, however, see the extremely dangerous pollutants that would be routinely emitted from a 100 megawatt biomass incinerator like the one under consideration for Gainesville, FL. We especially cannot foresee just how profound and myriad the assaults to human and environmental health, which these “regulated” hazardous air pollutants would commit on a daily basis.

Governor Crist, how many more citizens in the cities and counties across Florida need to voice their adamant and fierce opposition to these plants, based on scientific data and information furnished by the biomass companies themselves, for you to understand the enormity of this looming human health calamity?

Biomass incinerator proposals have now been terminated in South Tallahassee, Liberty County and Gretna, FL. The DEP Air Permit Application was recently withdrawn for the incinerator proposed for Port St Joe due to incorrect assumptions, false data and incomplete information filed by NW FL Renewable Energy Center. We sincerely hope that, with oil slicks soon to be coating the shores of our Emerald Coast beaches, you are more justifiably skeptical of these energy companies and their ill-conceived plans. As you always do, please: "Listen to the People."

To date the medical community has spoken loud and clear about the numerous, serious and often chronic medical conditions, which would occur in the wake of the operation of these plants throughout Florida. The academic institutions have provided plenty of evidence that irrefutably demonstrates the multitude of adverse consequences to the local environments and Florida ecosystems. The legal experts have shown the liabilities and risks that will inevitably occur with energy development of this nature, particularly in those populated areas which have already been the victims of multi-generational environmental racism.

As we scan the map of Florida and evaluate all the locales where these plants are being sited, it is clear that there is a direct violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act in many of them. Therefore, class action lawsuits are being prepared in jurisdictions across the State very clearly delineating the points of law (pursuant to statutory EPA regulatory guidance), which, by legal necessity, must be adhered to in order to ensure environmental justice.

The economically depressed towns and cities that are often preyed upon by these corporate vultures will no longer tolerate this pattern of complete and total disregard of human life and environmental sustainability. The bait of twenty-five jobs for the poor souls who will inescapably suffer ill health for the duration of their lifetimes before succumbing to premature death is no longer attractive. Nor are the tax abatements that would drain the coffers of these impoverished communities for years to come. And in the fraudulent case of the Gainesville debacle, the taxpayers will no longer be duped into a scheme of paying more for their own electricity than the existing alternatives currently provide.

It is important to note that, as the PSC considers this attempted assault on the Gainesville community, there are some very serious and fateful issues that must be addressed, lest the governments – state, county and city – be held in contempt by the concerned citizens, taxpayers and voters. The following points of information recently appeared in the Gainesville Sun:

“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.”

Governor Crist, may we remind you once again of your executive orders concerning greenhouse gases issued in 2007? As we have previously written to you, “We would hope that the Department of Environmental Protection will start complying with these directives concerning air quality and carbon impacts. To date, they have clearly violated this mandate and shirked their responsibility to the residents of this State, as have the FL Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture. We request that rulemaking proceedings be initiated to regulate carbon dioxide from these incinerators consistent with your Executive Orders 07-126, 07-127 and 07-128, and that state subsidies be withheld from all biomass incinerators, both future and already constructed.”

Very sincerely,

Florida League of Conservation Voters
Environmental Alliance of North Florida
Floridians Against Incinerators In Disguise
HOPE (Help Our Polluted Environment) in Taylor County
Healthcare Professionals for Clean Environment
Coalition Against Chemical Trespass
Concerned Citizens of Alachua County
Concerned Citizens of Leon County
Concerned Citizens of Gadsden County
Concerned Citizens of Gulf County
Cc: The Honorable Bill Nelson
The Honorable George LeMieux
Senator Steve Oelrich
Representative Charles S. Chestnut IV
Representative Larry Cretul
Jeff Kottkamp, Lieutenant Governor
Robert Wheeler, General Counsel
Kathy Mears, Deputy Chief of Staff
Melinda Miguel, Chief Inspector General
Pat Gleason, Special Counsel for Open Government
Warren Davis, Director of Citizens Services
Michael W. Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner, Florida Department of Agriculture
Ana M. Viamonte Ross, State Surgeon General, Florida Department of Health
Pegeen Hanrahan, Mayor, Gainesville, FL
Thomas Hawkins, Commissioner
Henry Scherwin, Commissioner
Lauren Poe, Commissioner
Jack Donovan, Commissioner
Craig Lowe, Commissioner
Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Commissioner
Russ Blackburn, Gainesville City Manager
Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Chair, Alachua County Commission
Mike Byerly, Commissioner
Rodney J. Long, Commissioner
Paula M. Delaney, Commissioner
Lee Pinkoson, Commissioner
Randall H. Reid, Alachua County Manager
Editor, The Gainesville Sun

5/3/2010

Editor, Tallahassee Democrat
Editor, Miami Herald
Editor, St. Petersburg Times
Editor, Orlando Sentinel
Editor, Palm Beach Post
Editor, Florida Times Union
Editor, Pensacola News Journal
Tim Croft, Editor, The Star
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Of Counsel, Levin, Papantonio, Thomas, Mitchell, P.A.

Text inserted by Panda IS 2008:

This message has NOT been classified as spam. If it is unsolicited mail (spam), click on the following link to reclassify it: [It is spam!](#)

Ann Cole

090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:29 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Request to vote no

Tracking: Recipient

Office of Commissioner Skop
 Commissioners Advisors
 Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite

Read

Read: 5/3/2010 8:30 AM

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE

___Administrative___ Parties ConsumerDOCUMENT NO. 11313-09

DISTRIBUTION: _____

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Monday, May 03, 2010 8:28 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: Request to vote no

Ann,

Please add the e-mail below to *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket 090451-EM

Thanks,
 Cristina

From: Jake Fuller [mailto:jakefuller08@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 02, 2010 10:17 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Skop; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office of Commissioner Klement
Subject: Request to vote no

Commissioners:

Please deny the city of Gainesville's request for a 100-watt biomass plant. Our city does not need the additional power until 2023; and locking the ratepayers into a 30-year contract would be irresponsible when technology is rapidly advancing. A biomass plant could easily be obsolete technology in the near future.

Thank you,

Jake Fuller
 2617 NW 34th Terrace
 Gainesville, FL 32605
 352-375-3878

5/3/2010

Diamond Williams

090451

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2010 9:20 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Ann Cole; Dorothy Menasco
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451
Attachments: FW: My contact; FW: My contact; RE: My contact

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION:		

Thank you for this information. These attachments have been printed and will be placed in **Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives**, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
 Staff Assistant
 Office of Commission Clerk
 Florida Public Service Commission
 Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
 Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 4:24 PM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Ann Cole; Dorothy Menasco
Subject: FW: Protest to docket 090451

customer correspondence

From: Angie Calhoun
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 3:16 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: Protest to docket 090451

These have been entered as protests in CATS.

4/26/2010

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 9:12 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 9:01 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Robert Krames
Company:
Primary Phone: 352-328-5343
Secondary Phone:
Email: robert@robertkrames.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

Please stop the Bio Mass plant from being built here in Gainesville. It's a bad deal and it will destroy our local economy. Our rates are already too much of a burden.

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 9:41 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 9:15 AM
To: Webmaster
Cc: susanwalker@mmparrish.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Susan Walker
Company: none
Primary Phone: 352-377-8848
Secondary Phone:
Email: susanwalker@mmparrish.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? Yes

Comments:
NO! I do NOT want a biomass plant in Alachua County. Our energy rates are too high now!

Diamond Williams

From: Webmaster
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 1:12 PM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 1:11 PM
To: Webmaster
Cc: mason.alley@gmail.com
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Mason Alley
Company:
Primary Phone: 352-505-0872
Secondary Phone:
Email: mason.alley@gmail.com

Response requested? No

CC Sent? Yes

Comments:

I am a resident of Gainesville, FL and a GRU customer. I am VERY OPPOSED to our city commission's current efforts to create a bio-mass facility. I thank the PSC for their current refusal to allow the City of Gainesville to move forward on this project and strongly encourage you to continue to DISALLOW all permission at a state level. For the reasons your committee found -- unneeded capacity and unknown future costs to consumers, in addition to a restrictive 30-year contract with a start-up company which has little experience and is unable to self-fund this project -- the citizens of Gainesville need protection from your office in this matter.

Thank you for your continued votes AGAINST the GRU bio-mass plant.

Mason Alley
Gainesville FL
352-505-0872

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION:		

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 10:06 AM
To: Cristina Slaton
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: REply [2]: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Thanks, Cristina. We will place this information in Docket No. 090451-EM

From: Cristina Slaton
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 10:02 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: RE: REply [2]: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Ann,

Sorry for the typo - I meant 090451.

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 9:59 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: REply [2]: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 900451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Tuesday, April 20, 2010 9:42 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: REply [2]: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Ann,

Please add the e-mail below to *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 900451-EM.

Thanks,
Cristina

From: David Mitchell Basker [mailto:basker@cox.net]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 6:09 PM
To: KELLY.JR; Curt Kiser
Cc: Office of Commissioner Klement; Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Dian Deevey; Paula Stahmer; Richard Selwach
Subject: REply [2]: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Dear Mr. Kelly - I am most appreciative for the courtesy of your prompt and comprehensive reply .

4/20/2010

By copy I will continue to address our constitutional and procedural questions to our PSC General Counsel Mr. Kiser, *to wit* : Irrespective of an ability to add to the volume of public comments and respectfully as more efficacious yet; Would our interveners and/or citizens aggrieved have legal *standing* to file preliminary motions before the PSC to address our constitutional questions -and/or- to also move the PSC for a continuance until after the legislature and governor have determined **House Bill 725** to a finality given that promulgation could affect jurisdiction in the above referenced case if the *less than 45%* population criteria is applicable to Gainesville / GRU ?

Thank you both very much !
dMb

CC: **Curt Kiser, Esq. General Counsel**
Dian Deveey & Paula Stahmer, Esq. Interveners
Mr. Richard Selwach

-----Original Message-----

From: KELLY.JR [mailto:KELLY.JR@leg.state.fl.us]

Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 4:46 PM

To: 'David Mitchell Basker'

Subject: RE: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Mr. Basker – I received your email below concerning the proposed biomass plant by GRU and will attempt to answer your questions.

First, our office was created in 1974 to represent ratepayers of utilities that fall within the jurisdiction of the Florida Public Service Commission (“PSC”). We are a Legislative office. We do not intervene in all matters because of limited resources. The PSC, by comparison, has almost 20 employees for each employee at the Office of Public Counsel. However, we do intervene in all major rate case proceedings filed by the investor owned utilities in Florida.

As the Florida Legislature has for the most part exempted from PSC jurisdiction utilities that are owned by municipalities and cooperatives, historically we have no involvement in the ratemaking process for those utilities. It is my understanding that the reasons for exempting these entities from PSC jurisdiction was because the ratepayers of government-owned utilities are adequately represented by their elected officials, and the ratepayers of cooperatives, by definition, own their utility. Regarding your concern that citizens who are served by GRU outside of Gainesville city limits have no representation, there are several municipal-owned utilities similarly situated; that is, they serve both customers within and outside the city limits. I recommend you contact your local state Senator or Representative regarding concerns in this area as this is purely a Legislative issue. In fact, there is a bill filed in the Legislature this year (House Bill 725) that would make municipal-owned utilities that have less than 45% of its total retail electric customers at physical addresses located within the municipality’s corporate boundaries subject to PSC jurisdiction. Here is the link to that bill:
<http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/House/bills/billtext/pdf/h072500.pdf>.

In those limited matters involving utilities owned by municipalities and cooperative that fall under the PSC, the PSC staff have historically done a good job of identifying and analyzing the pertinent issues pertaining to a particular case in accordance with Florida Statutes, similar to the proposed biomass plant in Docket #090541. We are not aware of any petition filed in regard to enjoining the PSC from going forward to exercise its authority to render a decision based upon the power bestowed by the Legislature. Note, the Florida Legislature vests the PSC with the jurisdiction to decide whether a

“need” is warranted for a new plant to generate electricity. In Chapter 366, Florida Statutes, the Legislature states it is in the public interest to promote the development of renewable energy resources.

With respect to the current GRU biomass docket, the PSC will allow any and all public comments. Any consumer may file their comments and/or pertinent materials directly with the PSC, and this information will be made a part of the official record and will be considered by the Commissioners in rendering a decision. Simply submit the information to the Clerk’s office under the Docket #090451. Such information may also be submitted electronically.

Also, there is another bill pending in this year’s Legislative Session that would require the PSC to grant any need determination that is currently under consideration as of the effective date of the bill.

That bill is Senate bill 992 and the link is:

http://www.flsenate.gov/data/session/2010/Senate/bills/amendments_Com/pdf/sb0992AM369040.pdf.

I hope this sufficiently addresses your inquiries.

JR

J.R. Kelly
Office of Public Counsel
111 West Madison Street
Room 812
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400
850-488-9330
850-487-6419 Fax

From: David Mitchell Basker [mailto:basker@cox.net]

Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 4:12 AM

To: KELLY.JR

Cc: Paula Stahmer; Dian Deevey; Don Marsh; Bestpawn1

Subject: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

To: James Ray Kelly, Esquire
Florida Office of Public Counsel
111 W Madison St Rm 812
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-6588

Re: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass application

Dear Mr. Kelly,

After reading about your office, Public Counsel at www.floridaopc.gov/about.cfm and in the interest of due diligence with regard to the above referenced case, I write to inquire preliminarily with respect to whether any litigation, ruling, order or decision, *etc.* has ever addressed the question about any alleged disparity of citizens' rights being diminished given the fact that "The Public Counsel does not pursue cases regarding utilities owned by local governments or cooperatives, ..." thus to have alleged offense against their customers' rights otherwise secured by the Equal Protection and/or Due Process clause of the United States and/or Florida Constitutions ?

Secondarily please advise regarding whether any person or entity has ever filed a petition

in that regard that also prayed for injunctive relief to enjoin the PSC from going forward with a decision that was alleged to irreversibly impact citizen consumer taxpayers envisioned to be served in a negative manner by a municipal or cooperative owned utility's proposed expansion as presently alleged to be found pending by the GRU Biomass application ? Parenthetically, *many irregularities* are alleged to obtain, *e.g.*, a near-total lack of prior public information, as here when the contractual terms were not even publicly disclosed until one week after the contract was signed. Respectfully, interaction by a Public Counsel is a necessity that is beyond obvious.

Moreover, citizens who are served by GRU outside of Gainesville City limits having ABSOLUTELY NO REPRESENTATION are harpooned in *extremis*. Accordingly even greater *per se* violations of their constitutional rights may be found to obtain by statute, *i.e.*, a TOTAL lack of participation by your office thus to offend more egregiously yet if a PSC decision obtains to the exclusion of any or all considerations of various disparate rights that may also be void *ab initio* for lack of jurisdiction ?

May I respectfully suggest that it is entirely within your mandate to move the PSC to address these issues forthwith and *sua sponte* PLEASE and if so, hopefully the PSC will allow public comment and/or refer these questions to the legislature or for judicial review in the spirit of cooperation thus to avoid any protracted citizen litigation ? Respectfully, there are no crucial pending time-lines for the instant application to be determined if a decision is held in abeyance for many months or even a few years and/or to open the public record for discovery by the Public Counsel and/or citizens aggrieved !

Thank you very much in advance for the favor of your return reply .

/s/ David Mitchell Basker { GRU customer }
 P.O. Box 357426
 Gainesville, FL 32635

CC: Mesdames Deevey and Stahmer, Esq., Intervenors

Diamond Williams

090451

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 2:23 PM
To: Ellen Plendl
Subject: RE: email

PSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION:		

Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 7:54 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: email

Email received and response sent.

Docket No. 090451-EM

Diamond Williams

From: David Mitchell Basker [basker@cox.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 11:14 PM
To: basker@cox.net
Subject: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

TO - Public Service Commission

Nancy Argenziano Chairman	Commissioner.Argenziano@psc.state.fl.us
Lisa Polak Edgar	Commissioner.Edgar@psc.state.fl.us
Nathan A. Skop	Commissioner.skop@psc.state.fl.us
David E. Klement	Commissioner.Klement@psc.state.fl.us
Ben A. Stevens III	Commissioner.Stevens@psc.state.fl.us
S. Curtis Kiser, Esq. General Counsel	Curt.kiser@hklaw.com
Steven J. Stolting, Esq. Inspector General	Sstoltin@psc.state.fl.us
Timothy J. Devlin Executive Director	By fax: 850-487-1716

Re: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass application

Greetings:

Please be advised regarding my complaints expressed by email to James Ray Kelly, Esq. P-S-C Public Counsel of even date regarding constitutional infirmities perceived in the above referenced case thus to respectfully request that he move the PSC to address these issues forthwith and *sua sponte* such that if so, the PSC will allow public comment and/or refer these questions to the legislature or for judicial review in the spirit of cooperation thus to avoid any protracted citizen litigation given that there are no crucial pending time-lines for the instant application to be determined if a decision is held in abeyance for months or a few years and/or to open the public record for discovery by the Public Counsel and/or citizens aggrieved; as to which I also thank you in advance for the courtesy of your reply !, *to wit* :

Dear Mr. Kelly,

After reading about your office, Public Counsel at www.floridaopc.gov/about.cfm and in the interest of due diligence with regard to the above referenced case, I write to inquire preliminarily with respect to whether any litigation, ruling, order or decision, *etc.* has ever addressed the question about any alleged disparity of citizens' rights being diminished given the fact that "The Public Counsel does not pursue cases regarding utilities owned by local governments or cooperatives, ..." thus to have alleged offense against their customers' rights otherwise secured by the **Equal Protection** and/or **Due Process clause** of the United States and/or Florida **Constitutions** ?

4/19/2010

Secondarily please advise regarding whether any person or entity has ever filed a petition in that regard that also prayed for injunctive relief to enjoin the PSC from going forward with a decision that was alleged to irreversibly impact citizen consumer taxpayers envisioned to be served in a negative manner by a municipal or cooperative owned utility's proposed expansion as presently alleged to be found pending by the GRU Biomass application ? Parenthetically, many irregularities are alleged to obtain, *e.g.*, a near-total lack of prior public information, as here when ***the contractual terms were not even publicly disclosed until one week after the contract was signed.*** Respectfully, interaction by a Public Counsel is a necessity that is beyond obvious.

Moreover, citizens who are served by GRU outside of Gainesville City limits having ABSOLUTELY NO REPRESENTATION are harpooned in *extremis*. Accordingly even greater *per se* violations of their constitutional rights may be found to obtain by statute, *i.e.*, a TOTAL lack of participation by your office thus to offend more egregiously yet if a PSC decision obtains to the exclusion of any or all considerations of various disparate rights that may also be **void *ab initio*** for lack of jurisdiction ?

May I respectfully suggest that it is entirely within your mandate to move the PSC to address these issues forthwith and *sua sponte* PLEASE and if so, hopefully the PSC will allow public comment and/or refer these questions to the legislature or for judicial review in the spirit of cooperation thus to avoid any protracted citizen litigation ? Respectfully, there are no crucial pending time-lines for the instant application to be determined if a decision is held in abeyance for many months or even a few years and/or to open the public record for discovery by the Public Counsel and/or ***citizens aggrieved*** !

Thank you very much in advance for the favor of your return reply .

/s/ David Mitchell Basker { GRU customer }
P.O. Box 357426
Gainesville, Fl 32635

CC: **Mesdames Deevey and Stahmer, Esq., Interveners**
Mr. Richard Selwach, Ombudsman *privat pro bono publico*

Diamond Williams

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 7:54 AM
To: 'David Mitchell Basker'
Subject: RE: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Mr. David Mitchell Basker
basker@cox.net

Dear Mr. Basker:

This is in response to your inquiry with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) regarding Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC.

You expressed your views about the joint petition to determine need for Gainesville Renewable Energy Center in Alachua County, by Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center. I will add your comments to the correspondence side of Docket No. 090451-EM regarding this matter.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

Ellen Plendl
Regulatory Specialist
Florida Public Service Commission
Division of Service, Safety, & Consumer Assistance
1-800-342-3552 (phone)
1-800-511-0809 (fax)

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 8:43 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Thank you, Cristina. This e-mail will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM, on behalf of Commissioner Skop.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 8:30 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Ann,

Please add the e-mail below to docket 090451 on behalf of Commissioner Skop as well.

Thank you,
Cristina

From: David Mitchell Basker [mailto:basker@cox.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 10:37 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement; Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Cc: Steven Stolting; curt.kiser@hklaw.com; Paula Stahmer; Dian Deevey; Richard Selwach
Subject: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

To - Public Service Commission

Nancy Argenziano Chairman	Commissioner.Argenziano@psc.state.fl.us
Lisa Polak Edgar	Commissioner.Edgar@psc.state.fl.us
Nathan A. Skop	Commissioner.skop@psc.state.fl.us
David E. Klement	Commissioner.Klement@psc.state.fl.us
Ben A. Stevens III	Commissioner.Stevens@psc.state.fl.us
S. Curtis Kiser, Esq. General Counsel	Curt.kiser@hklaw.com
Steven J. Stolting, Esq. Inspector General	Sstoltin@psc.state.fl.us
Timothy J. Devlin Executive Director	By fax: 850-487-1716

Re: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass application

Greetings:

Ann Cole

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 8:17 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Klement
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 7:56 AM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

Please to docket 090451.

From: David Mitchell Basker [mailto:basker@cox.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2010 10:37 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Klement; Office of Commissioner Skop; Office of Commissioner Argenziano; Office of Commissioner Stevens; Office Of Commissioner Edgar
Cc: Steven Stolting; curt.kiser@hkllaw.com; Paula Stahmer; Dian Deevey; Richard Selwach
Subject: PUBLIC COUNSEL: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass - constitutional violations ?

To - Public Service Commission

Nancy Argenziano Chairman	<u>Commissioner.Argenziano@psc.state.fl.us</u>
Lisa Polak Edgar	<u>Commissioner.Edgar@psc.state.fl.us</u>
Nathan A. Skop	<u>Commissioner.skop@psc.state.fl.us</u>
David E. Klement	<u>Commissioner.Klement@psc.state.fl.us</u>
Ben A. Stevens III	<u>Commissioner.Stevens@psc.state.fl.us</u>
S. Curtis Kiser, Esq. General Counsel	<u>Curt.kiser@hkllaw.com</u>
Steven J. Stolting, Esq. Inspector General	<u>Sstoltin@psc.state.fl.us</u>
Timothy J. Devlin Executive Director	By fax: 850-487-1716

Re: No. 090451-EM GRU / Biomass application

Greetings:

Please be advised regarding my complaints expressed by email to James Ray Kelly, Esq. P-S-C Public Counsel of even date regarding constitutional infirmities perceived in the above referenced case thus to respectfully request that he move the PSC to address these issues

4/19/2010

forthwith and *sua sponte* such that if so, the PSC will allow public comment and/or refer these questions to the legislature or for judicial review in the spirit of cooperation thus to avoid any protracted citizen litigation given that there are no crucial pending time-lines for the instant application to be determined if a decision is held in abeyance for months or a few years and/or to open the public record for discovery by the Public Counsel and/or citizens aggrieved; as to which I also thank you in advance for the courtesy of your reply !, *to wit* :

Dear Mr. Kelly,

After reading about your office, Public Counsel at www.floridaopc.gov/about.cfm and in the interest of due diligence with regard to the above referenced case, I write to inquire preliminarily with respect to whether any litigation, ruling, order or decision, *etc.* has ever addressed the question about any alleged disparity of citizens' rights being diminished given the fact that "The Public Counsel does not pursue cases regarding utilities owned by local governments or cooperatives, ..." thus to have alleged offense against their customers' rights otherwise secured by the Equal Protection and/or Due Process clause of the United States and/or Florida Constitutions ?

Secondarily please advise regarding whether any person or entity has ever filed a petition in that regard that also prayed for injunctive relief to enjoin the PSC from going forward with a decision that was alleged to irreversibly impact citizen consumer taxpayers envisioned to be served in a negative manner by a municipal or cooperative owned utility's proposed expansion as presently alleged to be found pending by the GRU Biomass application ? Parenthetically, many irregularities are alleged to obtain, *e.g.*, a near-total lack of prior public information, as here when ***the contractual terms were not even publicly disclosed until one week after the contract was signed.*** Respectfully, interaction by a Public Counsel is a necessity that is beyond obvious.

Moreover, citizens who are served by GRU outside of Gainesville City limits having ABSOLUTELY NO REPRESENTATION are harpooned in *extremis*. Accordingly even greater *per se* violations of their constitutional rights may be found to obtain by statute, i.e., a TOTAL lack of participation by your office thus to offend more egregiously yet if a PSC decision obtains to the exclusion of any or all considerations of various disparate rights that may also be void ***ab initio*** for lack of jurisdiction ?

May I respectfully suggest that it is entirely within your mandate to move the PSC to address these issues forthwith and *sua sponte* PLEASE and if so, hopefully the PSC will allow public comment and/or refer these questions to the legislature or for judicial review in the spirit of cooperation thus to avoid any protracted citizen litigation ? Respectfully, there are no crucial pending time-lines for the instant application to be determined if a decision is held in abeyance for many months or even a few years and/or to open the public record for discovery by the Public Counsel and/or ***citizens aggrieved*** !

Thank you very much in advance for the favor of your return reply .

/s/ David Mitchell Basker { GRU customer }
P.O. Box 357426
Gainesville, FL 32635

CC: Mesdames Deevey and Stahmer, Esq., Intervenors
Mr. Richard Selwach, *Ombudsman privat pro bono publico*

Please be advised regarding my complaints expressed by email to James Ray Kelly, Esq. P-S-C Public Counsel of even date regarding constitutional infirmities perceived in the above referenced case thus to respectfully request that he move the PSC to address these issues forthwith and *sua sponte* such that if so, the PSC will allow public comment and/or refer these questions to the legislature or for judicial review in the spirit of cooperation thus to avoid any protracted citizen litigation given that there are no crucial pending time-lines for the instant application to be determined if a decision is held in abeyance for months or a few years and/or to open the public record for discovery by the Public Counsel and/or citizens aggrieved; as to which I also thank you in advance for the courtesy of your reply !, *to wit* :

Dear Mr. Kelly,

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May I respectfully suggest that it is entirely within your mandate to move the PSC to address these issues forthwith and *sua sponte* PLEASE and if so, hopefully the PSC will allow public comment and/or refer these questions to the legislature or for judicial review in the spirit of cooperation thus to avoid any protracted citizen litigation ? Respectfully, there are no crucial pending time-lines for the instant application to be determined if a decision is held in abeyance for many months or even a few years and/or to open the public record for

discovery by the Public Counsel and/or *citizens aggrieved* !

Thank you very much in advance for the favor of your return reply .

/s/ David Mitchell Basker { GRU customer }

P.O. Box 357426

Gainesville, Fl 32635

CC: Mesdames Deevey and Stahmer, Esq., Interveners

Mr. Richard Selwach, *Ombudsman privat pro bono publico*

Diamond Williams

090451

From: Diamond Williams
Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 8:29 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: RE: 090451

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION:		

Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM

Thank you,

Diamond Williams
Staff Assistant
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
Email: diwillia@psc.state.fl.us
Phone: 850-413-6094

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 10:33 AM
To: Diamond Williams
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: 090451

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2010 9:32 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: FW: My contact

Customer comment for docket 090451.

It's been added to CATS

Angie

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2010 8:10 AM

To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Sunday, April 11, 2010 8:33 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

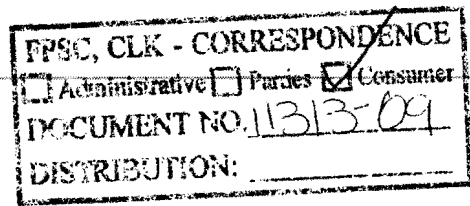
Name: Kim Setliff
Company:
Primary Phone: 352-375-7257
Secondary Phone:
Email: Setliff@aol.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

I would like to commend the PSC for thoroughly investigating GRU's request for the biomass plant. I have never liked the idea and am glad the PSC is on the consumer's side. There are too many "ifs". A lot can happen in 13 years and the projected growth is not foreseeable in this area for many years. There may be a more responsible way to "go green". It did sound good until one looked at the fuel necessary to transport the biomass, the damage to the roads and traffic. Thank you for looking at the big picture.

Ann Cole



From: Ann Cole
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 3:23 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Biomass Plant in Alachua County
Attachments: NAACP_Biomass_Plant_Letter.pdf

Thank you for this attachment, which has been printed. Unless otherwise instructed, this will be placed in *Correspondence* - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 3:17 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Biomass Plant in Alachua County

Please place the attached in the docket file for 090451-EM.

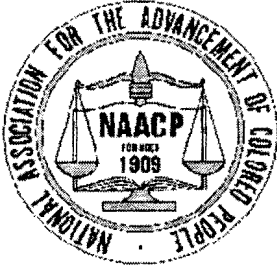
From: Michael Bowie [mailto:naacpacb1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:39 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Consumer Contact; Rahkiah Brown; Cara Evans; Emily Browne; Evelyn Foxx; Harriet Ludwig; Joe Reaves; Josh Dickinson; Kimberly Owens; Michael Bowie; Diana McPherson; Marcus Monroe; Xavier Monroe; Jah NKwanda; Le'Asia Lundy; Yvonne Rawls
Subject: Biomass Plant in Alachua County

Dear Commissioner Argenziano,

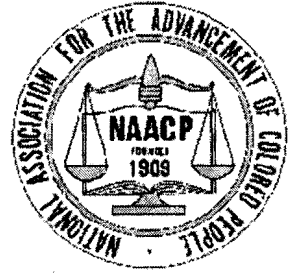
Please find attached a letter sent to the Gainesville City Commission addressing the Biomass Plant and concerns that the NAACP has about the development of a 100 mW facility. The timeline of activities in reference to the Biomass Plant can be found at www.alachuaNAACP.blogspot.com. The docket number has been added to the letter.

Michael

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President
Alachua County Branch
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
PO Box 593
Gainesville, FL 32602
E-mail: naacpacb1@yahoo.com



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
ALACHUA COUNTY BRANCH
P.O. Box 593
GAINESVILLE, FL 32602



March 1, 2010

The Honorable Mayor Pegeen Hanrahan
Members of the City Commission
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

RE: Biomass Plant Concerns; Case Docket Number: 090451-EM

Dear Mayor Hanrahan and Commissioners,

The Alachua County Branch of the NAACP supports our State and National commitment to environmental stewardship and environmental justice. We also strongly support renewable energy programs.

However, the proposed 100 MW biomass project raises serious questions. Why are we planning to build a multi-million dollar biomass plant when we do not need new generating capacity until 2023? Will GRU's customers share the cost of this plant as they do for the Feed in Tariff and other solar programs? Are cost estimates for biomass fuel valid given the growing number of competing users of biomass in our region?

African Americans constitute a large percentage of the lower income population in Gainesville. It is important to note that lower income citizens pay a disproportionately large share of their income for energy. GRU's map of KWh consumption per square foot of residence shows a remarkable correlation between high per square foot energy consumption and the distribution of lower income African-American population.

It is unjust for the poor of Gainesville to bear a disproportionate share of the cost of the proposed biomass plant!

Please withdraw your support for this costly and risky biomass plant. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at naacpacb1@yahoo.com or (352) 273-4365. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Bowie

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President

Ellen Plendl

0910 451-2A
Docket

From: Michael Bowie [naacpacb1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:39 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Consumer Contact; Rahkiah Brown; Cara Evans; Emily Browne; Evelyn Foxx; Harriet Ludwig; Joe Reaves; Josh Dickinson; Kimberly Owens; Michael Bowie; Diana McPherson; Marcus Monroe; Xavier Monroe; Jah NKwanda; Le'Asia Lundy; Yvonne Rawls
Subject: Biomass Plant in Alachua County

Attachments: NAACP_Biomass_Plant_Letter.pdf



NAACP_Biomas
Plant_Letter.pdf

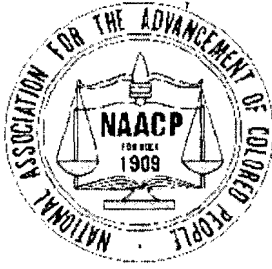
FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313709
DISTRIBUTION:

Dear Commissioner Argenziano,

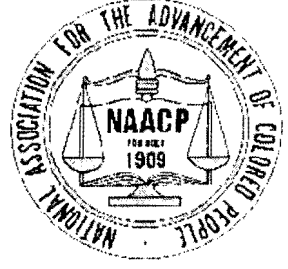
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Michael

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President
Alachua County Branch
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
PO Box 593
Gainesville, FL 32602
E-mail: naacpacb1@yahoo.com



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
ALACHUA COUNTY BRANCH
P.O. Box 593
GAINESVILLE, FL 32602



March 1, 2010

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Please withdraw your support for this costly and risky biomass plant. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at naacpacb1@yahoo.com or (352) 273-4365. Thank you.

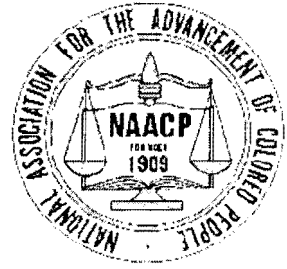
Sincerely,

Michael V. Bowie

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
ALACHUA COUNTY BRANCH
P.O. Box 593
GAINESVILLE, FL 32602



March 1, 2010

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Members of the City Commission
200 East University Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32601

RE: Biomass Plant Concerns; Case Docket Number: 090451-EM

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Sincerely,

Michael V. Bowie

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President

Ellen Plendl

From: Michael Bowie [naacpacb1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2010 10:39 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Argenziano
Cc: Consumer Contact; Rahkiah Brown; Cara Evans; Emily Browne; Evelyn Foxx; Harriet Ludwig; Joe Reaves; Josh Dickinson; Kimberly Owens; Michael Bowie; Diana McPherson; Marcus Monroe; Xavier Monroe; Jah NKwanda; Le'Asia Lundy; Yvonne Rawls
Subject: Biomass Plant in Alachua County
Attachments: NAACP_Biomass_Plant_Letter.pdf



NAACP_Biomas
Plant_Letter.pdf

Dear Commissioner Argenziano,

Please find attached a letter sent to the Gainesville City Commission addressing the Biomass Plant and concerns that the NAACP has about the development of a 100 mW facility. The timeline of activities in reference to the Biomass Plant can be found at www.alachuaNAACP.blogspot.com. The docket number has been added to the letter.

Michael

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President
Alachua County Branch
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
PO Box 593
Gainesville, FL 32602
E-mail: naacpacb1@yahoo.com

COMMISSIONERS:
NANCY ARGENZIANO, CHAIRMAN
LISA POLAK EDGAR
NATHAN A. SKOP
DAVID E. KLEMENT
BEN A. "STEVE" STEVENS III

STATE OF FLORIDA



DIVISION OF SERVICE, SAFETY &
CONSUMER ASSISTANCE
DANIEL M. HOPPE, DIRECTOR
(850) 413-6480

Public Service Commission

March 31, 2010

Dr. Michael V. Bowie, President
Alachua County Branch
National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People
PO Box 593
Gainesville, FL 32602

RE: PSC Inquiry 934116C

Dear Dr. Bowie:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter to Chairman Nancy Argenziano, Florida Public Service Commission, regarding the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center. Given the nature of your concerns, Chairman Argenziano feels it would be appropriate for specialized staff of the Division of Service, Safety and Consumer Assistance to respond directly to you.

You expressed a concern about the joint petition to determine need for the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center in Alachua County, by Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC. We appreciate your comments regarding the petition and will add your correspondence to Docket No. 090451-EM.

If you have any questions or concerns please call Ellen Plendl at 1-800-342-3552 or by fax at 1-800-511-0809.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Roland".

Randy Roland
Regulatory Program Administrator
Division of Service, Safety &
Consumer Assistance

RR:mep

090451

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: March 30, 2010

TO: Ann Cole, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: Erik L. Saylor, Senior Attorney, Office of the General Counsel

RE: Docket No. 090451-EM – In Re: Joint petition to determine need for Gainesville Renewable Energy Center in Alachua County, by Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC.

Please place the attached letter from Mr. Dickinson and his editorial into the correspondence side of the Docket file.

ELS/th
Attachment

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

RECEIVED-FPSC
10 MAR 31 PM 1:31
COMMISSION
CLERK



THE FOREST MANAGEMENT TRUST

Ms. Ann Cole
Clerk of the Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Ms. Cole,

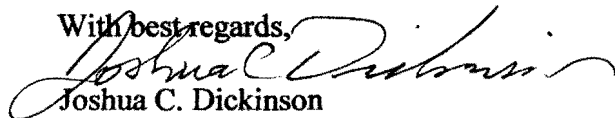
The enclosed editorial relates to a petition from Gainesville Regional Utilities now being considered by the Public Service Commission. *Docket # 090451-EM*

It has been revealed to the PSC that GRU does not need new generating capacity before 2023. The year could when new capacity would be needed could be extended much longer if GRU were to drop its marginally profitable wholesale sales to Alachua and Seminole. I understand the PSC has requested this information from GRU.

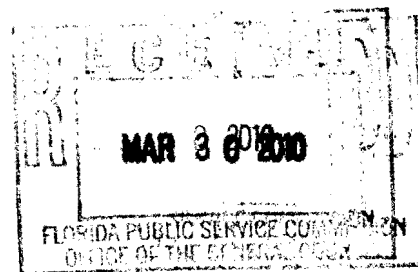
In the **Speaking Out** editorial I document the massive competition developing for biomass in the region, the environmental damage that will result, and the lack of economic benefit to non-industrial forest owners from biomass sales.

If you have any questions please communicate with me by email (josh.foresttrust@earthlink.net).

With best regards,


Joshua C. Dickinson

cc: Erik Saylor



SPEAKING OUT

Biomass energy threatens woodlands

GRU should either put off construction of its planned biomass plant or build a smaller one with a less negative impact.



**JOSH
DICKINSON**

A controversy has evolved within the Gainesville community concerning GRU's planned 100 megawatt biomass-fueled power plant.

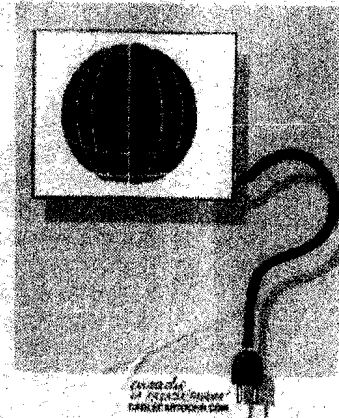
Those supporting the plant point out that biomass represents a locally available, renewable fuel source and would generate local employment. These are valid points.

However, I believe there are other elements of this complex issue that should be taken into consideration. Many of the downside issues associated with the biomass plant discussed below are related to its scale. GRU conservatively estimates

that it would draw from a 75-mile radius around Gainesville. This represents over 17,000 square miles over which trucks would travel to collect low volume per acre "waste wood." This contrasts with Europe where biomass energy plants are much smaller with correspondingly smaller, non-competing source areas.

Projected and current competitors for biomass exist within parts of the 17,000 square miles in the nearby counties of Hamilton, Nassau and Echols (Ga.). Two power plants with a total of 155 megawatt capacity are planned for Hamilton County alone (less than 75 miles away). As supply diminishes, power plants can be expected to compete with the paper industry (in Taylor, Nassau and Putnam counties) for whole trees; as the huge export-oriented pellet mills in Florida, Georgia and Alabama already do.

Ecologists and environmentalists have long considered short rotation pine plantations to be the lowest common denominator of forestry in the southeast. Plantation area can be expected to expand in response to projected demand by GE, U and



CAGLE CARTOONS

others.

Worse yet, USDA is proposing the introduction of genetically engineered eucalypts, cottonwood and poplar. These non-native species will create planted forests even more ecologically depauperate than pine plantations. Such plantations will require major inputs of fossil fuel-derived fertilizer.

Do we really want to be part of this growing threat to Florida's remaining rich natural ecosystems?

Corporations with huge land holdings can profit from biomass sales as they wait for

real estate sales to materialize, as in the case of Plum Creek, a Real Estate Investment Trust.

For family forest owners who own the majority of our forest land, growing biomass exclusively is a losing proposition. For them, biomass is a welcome, but small income source from thinnings, forest restoration and harvest residue. Their real income will come from selling quality saw timber at \$40 per ton, compared with \$4 to \$10 per ton for biomass and pulp wood.

Naturally regenerating forests can sequester far more carbon in both the forest itself and the durable construction materials they grow.

Private forest owners are vulnerable to timber buyers whose "We Buy Timber" signs dot the backroads of Florida. They will be eager to hoodwink owners of unmanaged forests to have their forests clear cut for biomass at a fraction of the value they could realize were they to manage their forests for quality timber.

Neither GRU's proposed environmental controls nor the state's weak Best Management Practices will prevent such forest degradation.

Given that GRU doesn't need new generating capacity until 2023, it does not make sense to build a multimillion-dollar biomass plant funded by ratepayers, particularly lower income rate payers who spend a disproportionate percentage of their income on energy already. The unclear policy environment increases risk that ratepayers will incur major costs.

It makes sense for Gainesville to either put off a major investment in a biomass-fueled power plant or build a much smaller plant sized to utilize local sources biomass from right-of-way clearing, clearing for housing projects, storm damage clean up, Alachua County Forever restoration and thinnings from local sustainably managed forestry projects.

Meanwhile we should invest far more in energy conservation and efficiency.

Josh Dickinson, of Gainesville, is director of the Forest Management Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable, profitable forestry for family forest owners. He is currently a board member of the Forest Stewardship Council in the U.S.

090451-EM

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10 MAR 30 AM 7:28



THE FOREST MANAGEMENT TRUST

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<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 1131309		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

RECEIVED-FPSC
10 MAR 30 AM 11:04
COMMISSION
CLERK

Ms. Ann Cole
Clerk of the Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Dear Ms. Cole,

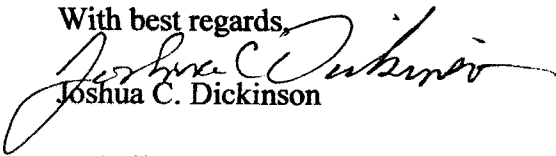
The enclosed editorial relates to a petition from Gainesville Regional Utilities now being considered by the Public Service Commission. Docket # 090451-EM

It has been revealed to the PSC that GRU does not need new generating capacity before 2023. The year could when new capacity would be needed could be extended much longer if GRU were to drop its marginally profitable wholesale sales to Alachua and Seminole. I understand the PSC has requested this information from GRU.

In the **Speaking Out** editorial I document the massive competition developing for biomass in the region, the environmental damage that will result, and the lack of economic benefit to non-industrial forest owners from biomass sales.

If you have any questions please communicate with me by email (josh.foresttrust@earthlink.net).

With best regards,


Joshua C. Dickinson

cc: Erik Saylor



THE FOREST MANAGEMENT TRUST

Joshua C. Dickinson, III

6124 SW 30th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32608
Tel.: (352) 373-2377
Email: josh.foresttrust@earthlink.net

SPEAKING OUT

Biomass energy threatens woodlands

GRU should either put off construction of its planned biomass plant or build a smaller one with a less negative impact.



**JOSH
DICKINSON**

A controversy has evolved within the Gainesville community concerning GRU's planned 100 megawatt biomass-fueled power plant.

Those supporting the plant point out that biomass represents a locally available, renewable fuel source and would generate local employment. These are valid points.

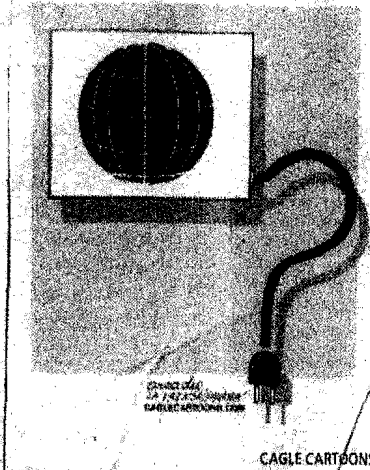
However, I believe there are other elements of this complex issue that should be taken into consideration. Many of the downside issues associated with the biomass plant discussed below are related to its scale.

GRU conservatively estimates

that it would draw from a 75-mile radius around Gainesville. This represents over 17,000 square miles over which trucks would travel to collect low volume per acre "waste wood." This contrasts with Europe where biomass energy plants are much smaller with correspondingly smaller, non-competing source areas.

Projected and current competitors for biomass exist within parts of the 17,000 square miles in the nearby counties of Hamilton, Nassau and Echols (Ga.). Two power plants with a total of 155 megawatt capacity are planned for Hamilton County alone (less than 75 miles away). As supply diminishes, power plants can be expected to compete with the paper industry (in Taylor, Nassau and Putnam counties) for whole trees; as the huge export-oriented pellet mills in Florida, Georgia and Alabama already do.

Ecologists and environmentalists have long considered short rotation pine plantations to be the lowest common denominator of forestry in the southeast. Plantation area can be expected to expand in response to projected demand by G.U. and



CAGLE CARTOONS

others.

Worse yet, USDA is proposing the introduction of genetically engineered eucalypts, cottonwood and poplar. These non-native species will create planted forests even more ecologically depauperate than pine plantations. Such plantations will require major inputs of fossil fuel-derived fertilizer.

Do we really want to be part of this growing threat to Florida's remaining rich natural ecosystems?

Corporations with huge land holdings can profit from biomass sales as they wait for

real estate sales to materialize, as in the case of Plum Creek, a Real Estate Investment Trust.

For family forest owners who own the majority of our forest land, growing biomass exclusively is a losing proposition. For them, biomass is a welcome, but small income source from thinnings, forest restoration and harvest residue. Their real income will come from selling quality saw timber at \$40 per ton, compared with \$4 to \$10 per ton for biomass and pulp wood.

Naturally regenerating forests can sequester far more carbon in both the forest itself and the durable construction materials they grow.

Private forest owners are vulnerable to timber buyers whose "We Buy Timber" signs dot the backroads of Florida. They will be eager to hoodwink owners of unmanaged forests to have their forests clear cut for biomass at a fraction of the value they could realize were they to manage their forests for quality timber.

Neither GRU's proposed environmental controls nor the state's weak Best Management Practices will prevent such forest degradation.

Given that GRU doesn't need new generating capacity until 2023, it does not make sense to build a multimillion-dollar biomass plant funded by ratepayers, particularly lower income rate payers who spend a disproportionate percentage of their income on energy already. The unclear policy environment increases risk that ratepayers will incur major costs.

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Meanwhile we should invest far more in energy conservation and efficiency.

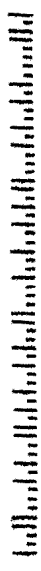
Josh Dickinson, of Gainesville, is director of the Forest Management Trust, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting sustainable, profitable forestry for family forest owners. He is currently a board member of the Forest Stewardship Council in the U.S.

Dickinson
6124 Swd 30 Ave.
Gainesville FL 32608

USA FIRST-CLASS FOREVER
2010 FOREVER
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GAINESVILLE FL 32608
29 MAR 2009 PM 2 V

Ms. Ann Cole
Clerk of the Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

32399+0850



Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32339

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Public Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

Dear Commissioner Polak Edgar,

As a customer of Gainesville Regional Utilities I write this letter to recommend denial of the proposed 100 megawatt biomass plant. Another presentation before the Commission is scheduled in mid-April, and I encourage you to ask probing questions about the assumptions made in the economic feasibility of this plant. I think the analysis is seriously flawed and threatens the long term profitability of the utility. GRU contributes substantially to the City of Gainesville's budget, and without a profitable utility the city cannot continue to fund the many services that are so vital to our community.

The proposed biomass plant is estimated to produce power at a cost of approximately \$100 per mw. GRU's existing plants produce power much more cheaply using fossil fuels of coal, oil, and natural gas. The production cost of our coal plant, Deerhaven Unit 2, is only \$37 per mw; Kelly Unit CC1 only \$45 per mw; Deerhaven Unit 1 only \$58 per mw. These incremental costs vary somewhat with spot fuel prices but are consistently well below the cost of biomass fuel production. Additionally, GRU has a firm contract with Progress Energy Florida to purchase up to 100 mw, for 24 hours per day, on a call basis. This price is approximately \$54 per mw, though the cost varies slightly with spot market fuel prices.

GRU readily admits in the newspaper that its proposal to build this biomass plant stems from the Gainesville City Commission's political agenda for green power, and NOT because it is economically feasible to do so. Furthermore, the biomass plant doesn't do anything significant to reduce greenhouse gases. It is estimated that 100 diesel trucks PER DAY will be needed to supply the fuel. The controversy over this amount of traffic will go on indefinitely if this plant is approved.

Please question the assumptions made for this wood burning plant since the very same people at GRU who have done this analysis recommended in 2002 the installation of small generators at the Alachua County landfill at a cost of about \$2.5 million. These generators were estimated to run for many years, but ran only intermittently for about 2 years when it was determined there wasn't actually enough methane gas in the landfill to sustain operation! The generators have since been dismantled and sold.

The green power political agenda is blind to some obvious realities and will not take no for an answer, even if it means bankruptcy. The public relations campaign to support this project has ignored the same kind of economic realities. Damn the deficits.

American Renewables doesn't have a good track record either in its planning. Their plan to build a similar 100 mw biomass plant in Texas was sold before construction started to Southern Power, citing in the newspaper "We had intended to construct that facility and own and operate it. Unfortunately, we went to market with that at a very bad time." This

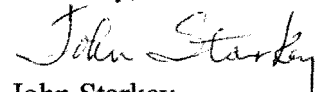
is another example of faulty assumptions made about the economic viability of biomass projects, especially so far away from their fuel source as the one in Gainesville will be.

There is also a timing issue with this plant in Gainesville. If construction can begin by the end of the year, American Renewables stands to receive a subsidy, or credit, from the federal government to the tune of 30% of the project's cost. This subsidy is about \$150 million. GRU will share the windfall by receiving a discounted rate. This plant is an economic loser and the public is the victim. It cannot stand on its own merits and needs to be recognized as such. This plant simply doesn't pass the smell test.

GRU cites three main reasons for building this biomass plant: improved reliability, fuel diversity, and long term cost savings. All three reasons must be challenged and can be shown to be better addressed in other ways.

Please ask probing questions about the economic assumptions and operational parameters of this plant. When you do you will find that bankruptcy is likely in current conditions. Please save us from this catastrophe and vote no.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Starkey".

John Starkey
Gainesville, Florida

John Stankey
9002 N.W. 64th Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32653

DISTRIBUTION CENTER

10 MAR 11 AM 7: 21

Ms. Lisa Polak Edgar
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32339

Citizen Comments

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399



RECEIVED

MAR 11 2010

Florida Public Service Commission
COMMISSIONER EDGAR

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chief Advisor to Commissioner Edgar

Roberta S. Bass

2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard ♦ Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0854

Phone: (850) 413-6016 Fax: (850) 413-6017

E-mail: rbass@psc.state.fl.us

Ann -

*Please place the
attached letter in
Docket No. 090451-EM.*

RECEIVED-PPSC

10 MAR 12 AM 10:25

COMMISSION
CLERK

*Thank you,
Roberta*

Cathi Lindsley

090451-EM

From: Cathi Lindsley
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 1:33 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: RE: To CLK Docket 090451- Response requested

Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 1:16 PM
To: Cathi Lindsley
Cc: Dorothy Menasco; Ann Cole
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090451- Response requested

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:07 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject:

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:15 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 8:55 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:
Name: Tony Domenech
Company: Retired
Primary Phone: 352-373-3025
Secondary Phone:
Email: tdomenech@aol.com

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? No

Comments:

Please deny the City of Gainesville's request for biomass generation for these reasons:

Let's take a look at some things for consideration: Electricity rates and a recent decision on new power. I am going to provide the average monthly cost per 1000 kilowatts of electricity for five utilities providing power in our area of the state.

Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA) — 114.22 Florida Power & Light - 104.15 Clay Electric - 109.90 Progress Energy - 123.76 Gainesville Regional Utility (GRU) - 145.48

Incidentally, JEA turned down a 50 megawatt biomass electric plant because it was too expensive. Our city commissioners set the course, direction, and rate structure for GRU. Those are the facts. My sources are: JEA, GRU, & FECA

We can't afford even higher rates for electricity and our city is held captive by a 10-15% turn out in local spring elections. You are our last hope.

Cathi Lindsley

090451-EM

From: Cathi Lindsley
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 1:32 PM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: RE: To CLK Docket 090541- Response requested

Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451-EM.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 12:31 PM
To: Cathi Lindsley
Subject: FW: To CLK Docket 090541- Response requested

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
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DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 10:07 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: To CLK Docket 090541- Response requested

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 9:15 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 02, 2010 8:55 AM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Tony Domenech
Company: Retired
Primary Phone: 352-373-3025
Secondary Phone:
Email: tdomenech@aol.com

Response requested? Yes

CC Sent? No

Comments:

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Ann Cole

090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 2:43 PM
To: Steve Larson
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: FW: Gainesville Reg. Utilities 100 MW
Attachments: Proposed Biomass Power Plant Need Det.Gainesville.Ltr.2.24.2010.pdf

Thanks, Steve. The attachment has been printed and will be placed in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Steve Larson
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 12:02 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Gainesville Reg. Utilities 100 MW

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 ___Administrative___ Parties Consumer
 DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
 DISTRIBUTION: _____

Please place the attached letter in the file for docket #090451-EM. Thanks,
Steve

From: Carolyn Cannon
Sent: Monday, March 01, 2010 11:19 AM
To: Steve Larson
Subject: Gainesville Reg. Utilities 100 MW



Florida Municipal Power Agency

Nicholas P. Guarriello
General Manager and CEO

February 24, 2010

Florida Public Service Commission
c/o Chair Nancy Argenziano
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Subject: Gainesville Regional Utilities 100 MW proposed Biomass Power Plant Need
Determination Request

The Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) is a wholesale power agency owned by municipal electric utilities. FMPA provides the entire wholesale power supply needs for 14 municipal electric utilities throughout the state through our All-Requirements Project (the ARP), and we are committed to securing electric generation capacity to meet our member's needs. Together, the ARP members serve approximately 261,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers throughout the state.

Since the ARP is interested in identifying cost effective renewable energy options, and because of the potential regulatory issues associated with conventionally fueled electric generation, we continue to investigate options to incorporate cost-effective renewable forms of energy into our generation mix. The renewable energy programs implemented on behalf of the ARP members to date have primarily focused on solar photovoltaic power projects. However, we have also been evaluating several landfill gas and biomass options.

FMPA is one of the entities in Florida that has entered into a confidentiality agreement with American Renewables d/b/a Gainesville Renewable Energy Center LLC. We entered into this agreement in order to examine the terms and conditions behind Gainesville Regional Utilities offer to resell up to 50 MW of the capacity and energy from the unit for up to ten years. This offer included all the environmental attributes of the capacity (assuming biomass is considered carbon neutral in any Renewable Portfolio Standard or carbon regulations) as well as renewable energy credits. In addition to its renewable aspects, this project is a potential source of firm, base load power.

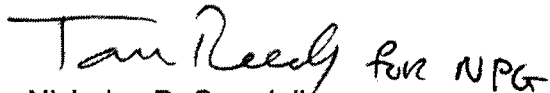
8553 Commodity Circle | Orlando, FL 32819-9002
T. (407) 355-7767 | Toll Free (888) 774-7606
F. (407) 355-5794 | www.fmpa.com
nick.guarriello@fmpa.com

Florida Public Service Commission
February 24, 2010
Page 2

Other favorable aspects of the offer from GRU include only paying for available power, the fixed aspects of the prices over the next ten years, and the opportunity to diversify the fuel mix for the ARP. The open question for us is the premium, if any, the ARP members may be willing to pay over conventional sources of power for the environmental attributes of the project.

We understand that GRU has taken the position that they are not going enter into contract negotiations with potential off-takers until all certifications and permits are received, and after the fuels contracts that will be required by American Renewables' financiers have been executed. Having these issues resolved will assist us in our deliberations.

Respectfully

Handwritten signature of Nicholas P. Guarriello in cursive, with the initials "NPG" written to the right of the signature.

Nicholas P. Guarriello
General Manager and CEO

NPG/su

Ann Cole090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 2:23 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Stevens
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Gainesville Regional Utilities Proposed Generating Facility

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 DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
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Tracking: Recipient	Read
Office of Commissioner Stevens	
Commissioners Advisors	
Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite	
Cristina Slaton	Read: 2/23/2010 2:24 PM
Roberta Bass	Read: 2/23/2010 2:32 PM

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Correspondence* - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Melanie Shanks **On Behalf Of** Office of Commissioner Stevens
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 1:03 PM
To: Ann Cole
Subject: FW: Gainesville Regional Utilities Proposed Generating Facility

Anne,

Can you place in Docket #090451 - Correspondence

Thanks!
 Melanie

From: Craig Hedgecock [mailto:chedgecock@cox.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 12:36 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Stevens
Subject: Gainesville Regional Utilities Proposed Generating Facility

Dear Commissioner Stevens:

Thank you for voting to delay the construction of the proposed wood resource generating facility.

Upon review of the published information and general knowledge of the operation of the system, it appears that the demand for the additional capacity may be not needed at this time. At best, it will be needed in the distant future.

As I understand it, GRU intends to purchase all of the power from the proposed plant for 30 years and then sell same to other utilities in the region "if" it is not needed locally.

The questions I have are:

1. Will the cost of generation from the "experimental" system cost more than the utility can resell the power "if" the plant does not operate/function as designed? The fuel source could get very expensive if other utilities and/or

2/23/2010

users also compete for same. Our local environmental activists may also have an influence over "future" commissioners and limit access to "local" forests requiring a larger area to supply fuel for the plant. Will the transportation costs increase dramatically due to another oil crisis, etc.?

2. What happens when Progress Energy's proposed nuclear plants come on line? Will their surplus power be less expensive?

3. What happens "if" the plant has serious operational problems over time? Are the rate payers still responsible to purchase the power and at what cost?

4. What happens if the "cap and trade" legislation never passes?

5. Is GRU primarily a "municipal" utility or is it in competition with the other "regulated" utilities? If the answer is that they are in competition with other utilities, perhaps the legislature should consider placing them under the watch of the PSC.

If I consider recent decisions made the majority of the current Gainesville City Commissioners, I question whether or not they are placing "political" considerations above "economic" considerations. For instance, they seem to be very proud of their decision to adopt the "feed in tariff" program for solar power generator systems. As an engineer, I cannot understand their logic. The businesses/individuals receive "generous" federal, state, and local subsidies to install their systems. But, in order to make the systems "economically" sound, GRU has agreed to purchase their surplus power at over four (4) times to the cost of producing same by conventional means. I am all for new technology but only if it is economically viable. In this case, this appears to be a political decision made so that our Mayor can travel all over the world to to spout how "green" Gainesville is! At what cost to the rate payers?

Craig R. Hedgecock, PE/PSM
27 NW 48th Boulevard
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 377-9928
(352) 377-6663 FAX
chedgecock@cox.net

Ann Cole

090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 10:40 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Gainesville Regional Utilities Proposed Generating Facility

Tracking: Recipient	Read
Office of Commissioner Skop	Read: 2/23/2010 10:46 AM
Commissioners Advisors	
Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite	
Cristina Slaton	Read: 2/23/2010 10:46 AM

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 DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
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Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Correspondence* - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 8:32 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: Gainesville Regional Utilities Proposed Generating Facility

Ann,

Please add the e-mail below to Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

Thank you,
 Cristina

From: Craig Hedgecock [mailto:chedgecock@cox.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 5:21 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Subject: Gainesville Regional Utilities Proposed Generating Facility

Dear Commissioner Skop:

Thank you for voting to delay the construction of the proposed wood resource generating facility.

Upon review of the published information and general knowledge of the operation of the system, it appears that the demand for the additional capacity may be not needed at this time. At best, it will be needed in the distant future.

As I understand it, GRU intends to purchase all of the power from the proposed plant for 30 years and then sell same to other utilities in the region "if" it is not needed locally.

The questions I have are:

2/23/2010

1. Will the cost of generation from the "experimental" system cost more than the utility can resell the power "if" the plant does not operate/function as designed? The fuel source could get very expensive if other utilities and/or users also compete for same. Our local environmental activists may also have an influence over "future" commissioners and limit access to "local" forests requiring a larger area to supply fuel for the plant. Will the transportation costs increase dramatically due to another oil crisis, etc.?
2. What happens when Progress Energy's proposed nuclear plants come on line? Will their surplus power be less expensive?
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Craig R. Hedgecock, PE/PSM
27 NW 48th Boulevard
Gainesville, FL 32607
(352) 377-9928
(352) 377-6663 FAX
chedgecock@cox.net

Ann Cole

090451-EM

From: Ann Cole
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 10:35 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Commissioners Advisors; Administrative Assistants - Commission Suite
Subject: RE: Jobs in Alachua County

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
 ___Administrative___ Parties Consumer
 DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
 DISTRIBUTION: _____

Thank you for this information, which will be placed in *Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives*, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

From: Office of Commissioner Skop
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 9:57 AM
To: Ann Cole
Cc: Bill McNulty
Subject: FW: Jobs in Alachua County

Ann,

Please add the e-mail below to Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 090451-EM.

Thank you,
 Cristina

From: tom cunilio [mailto:t.cosaf@windstream.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2010 4:42 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Skop
Cc: Chris Etherton (Chairman)
Subject: Jobs in Alachua County

Mr. Scop - Please reconsider your opposition to the GREC facility in Gainesville. It appears from your Bio that you may have never looked at woody biomass as a source of renewable energy. This is unfortunate. The Electric Power Research Institute has made public data on the jobs that woody biomass power generation produce: 4.9 jobs/MWh. The reasons you oppose the GREC plant seem to hinge on, according to the Gnl Sun, the uncertain situation with regard to the need for 100 MW. As a Muni, GRU knows who wants green power and knowing/seeing/hearing Lakeland Utilities interest in 25 MW at the meeting in Gnlv you did not attend, there will not be a dearth of buyers. The other uncertainty deals with demand locally. Basically you seem to argue that as long as GRU can burn coal and provide customers with this "cheap" electric fuel source, why build a biomass plant? Coal is no longer a cheap, affordable source of energy, Nathan. We pay almost \$100/ton for coal from W. VA. There, mountain-top mining is producing, in the words of a VA populist, a "Dying Land." Coal contains roughly twice the Btu content of undried wood. Yet, the \$50/ton expected price for biomass is no where close to what delivered fuel wood will cost GREC. The GRU customers will, with the additional efficiencies the RC&D Council is suggesting, reap a huge savings given the expected fuel cost under these scenarios. As I said to County Commissioner Mike Byerly yesterday, this opportunity cost advantage will most probably result in GRU running its base load coal plant at a lower capacity whenever it can while the base load biomass plant will not cease production. This means fewer pounds of Mercury (Hg) emitted as well as few lbs. of SOx. You are reportedly a resident of Alachua County and must be aware of the other objections to the GREC not stated officially in the PSC report. Please realize that you could be, as a non-expert in woody biomass and energy crops, misinformed by those in Alachua County who have your ear. Your stated objections do not at this point make a strong case at all for rejection. Your staff recommendation was to approve. I suggest you listen to them before listening to local folks here like Penny Wheat or even Ms. Dian Deevy.

Sincerely,

Tom Cunilio, Coordinator
 NC FL Renewable RC&D Council

2/16/2010

Cathi Lindsley

090451-EM

From: Cathi Lindsley
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 11:11 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject: RE: Docket 090451

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313-09
DISTRIBUTION: _____

Thank you for this information. This attachment has been printed and will be placed in Docket Correspondence - Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket 090451.

Thanks,
Cathi

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruth McHargue
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2010 11:10 AM
To: Cathi Lindsley
Cc: Ann Cole; Dorothy Menasco
Subject: Docket 090451

Customer correspondence

-----Original Message-----

From: Consumer Contact
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 10:19 AM
To: Ruth McHargue
Subject:

-----Original Message-----

From: Webmaster
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 8:03 AM
To: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: My contact

-----Original Message-----

From: contact@psc.state.fl.us [<mailto:contact@psc.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2010 8:25 PM
To: Webmaster
Subject: My contact

Contact from a Web user

Contact Information:

Name: Tony Domenech
Company: Retired
Primary Phone: 352-373-3025
Secondary Phone: 352-871.4652
Email: tdomenech@aol.com

Response requested? No
CC Sent? No

Comments:

I want to express my profound appreciation on your delay to allow the bio-mass electrical generation plant in Gainesville. Please, please, please vote it down. This is an absurd and expensive idea based that will cost us dearly for decades. I'm happy to speak more on this issue but I know your time is limited. You are being very wise in your caution. Less than 10% of our community is driving this idea and I can support all my assertions. Thank you.

This is a draft of an op-ed submitted to the Gainesville Sun.
It is by former Mayor Tom Bussing - Submitted by Dian Deacon, dian@bellsouth.net

To: "Biomass@energyjustice.net" <Biomass@energyjustice.net>

Sent: Sat, December 12, 2009 11:36:13 PM

Subject: ~~[Biomass]~~ The Shell Game: Gainesville Is Giving Away Its Energy Future

Biomass Opponents List (biomass@energyjustice.net)

The Shell Game

Gainesville Is Giving Away Its Energy Future

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE
Administrative Parties X Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313.09
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By Thomas Bussing

It defies belief that the biggest utility contract in our city's history has been offered to an essentially empty paper entity whose principle activity is financial speculation, quick profit and quick sell-off.

We the people are committing to their 500 million dollar private contract to burn trees so that we can buy back electricity at more expensive rates.

Until now we were a municipal utility that built, owned and operated its system on behalf of the citizens. This deal transfers future ownership to shifting paper corporations who in turn sell off the rights they acquired from us.

Better hope it all works perfectly, because the bail-out leaves us bankrupt and in hock forever to outside private financiers.

We have been told that we cannot break this contract. We have been told it's too late, that if it is stopped the city might incur a financial penalty for the default.

What we really worry about is the opposite: that going ahead with this plant may bring on the biggest financial disaster possible for a city. We who pay the rates are on the line to pay the half-billion dollar cost.

But there is hope.

A good start is simply agreeing that building this plant is a bad idea, and that therefore the agreement is against our interests. The facts tell us it would be better to not go ahead.

Many letters to this newspaper have presented various reasons why we would be better off if this plant is not built. Here are a few more.

The contractor, "Nacogdoches Power," is a corporate entity created for a single project, a planned bio-burner in Nacogdoches, Texas, for which it was named. Quoting from their December 14, 2007 proposal to GRU: "Nacogdoches Power was formed in 2005. ... the company has no permanent employees..."

They are not builders or operators of power plants. They are merely seekers of financial arrangements, which they re-sell. They have no visible balance sheet and no actual employees. They recently sold their so-called "Texas Project" to another outfit, before even getting it constructed. "Nacogdoches Power" has rebranded into "American Renewables" in the process.

They will not be running whatever gets built here. They may not even construct it. But they expect to be lucratively rewarded for their short time in town.

GRU admits that when completed, this plant will command a premium (high) price for its output. Rates can be expected to rise. In the end, to solve such problems we may be forced to buy them out – and at a price that has not been disclosed.

Amazingly, such key terms have never been disclosed to the public, nor even our elected commissioners and mayor.

Five hundred million dollars is a lot of money to contract for, and it is we, the citizens who live here, who will have to pay unless it is stopped.

There is one thing we can all agree upon - that it would be far better for this contract to be voided than to take the enormous risk of bankrupting our utility and our city.

Not a brick has been laid, no equipment purchased for this proposed plant.

With that as our goal, we can proceed to explore mechanisms and any costs of extricating our City from this ill-advised and hastily-agreed-to contract.

In the long run, we will be much better off.

Dr. Thomas Bussing served as Mayor of Gainesville (2001-2004)

Docket # 090451

Petition for a Determination of Need for the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center by

Gainesville Regional Utilities and Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC.

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 DEC 11 AM 9:16
COMMISSION
CLEY

DOCKET NO. 090451-EM

FPSC, CLK - CORRESPONDENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consumer
DOCUMENT NO. 11313.09		
DISTRIBUTION: _____		

Name Richard Selwach

Address 523 NW 3rd Ave

Gainesville, FL 32601

(352)371-4367

If you want to let the Public Service Commission know how you feel about this case, you may fill out this comment form and return it by mail, or send a fax to 1-800-511-0809. Correspondence will be placed in the file of this docket.

CONSUMER COMMENTS

The biomass incinerator plant should be denied because we need to enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources before we use our trees and forests for fuel. We need to look at alternatives like natural gas and fuel cell technology before incineration of recyclables. Also, environmental impact statements need to be made & public rebuttal ~~statements~~ & final environmental impact statements need to be advertised & published before any permits are given. The biologist report needs to be available to the people & the press prior to the vote. The plant is not cost effective because of the increased carbon taxes

associated with extra CO₂ emissions & the adverse effects on our environment.

fold and tape -- see back for address

#070451

MATTHEW M. CARTER II
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF FLORIDA



Capital Circle Office Center
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850
(850) 413-6046

CONSUMER
Public Service Commission

November 13, 2009

RECEIVED-FPSC
09 NOV 13 PM 4:37
COMMISSION
CLERK

The Honorable Steve Oelrich
Florida Senate District 14
314 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 31399-1100

Dear Senator Oelrich:

Thank you for your letter requesting a public hearing in Gainesville for the proposed Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) biomass plant need determination proceedings. Rest assured, such a hearing has already been scheduled at the urging of Commissioner Nathan Skop.

Although a public hearing in the service territory for this kind of need determination proceeding is unusual, it is certainly within the Commission's authority to hear such testimony, and it is never the wrong decision to give the people another opportunity to engage their government.

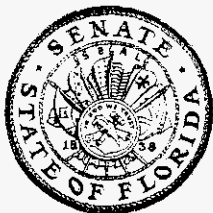
The Commission will hold a public hearing on December 9, 2009, at the Gainesville City Hall for the purpose of supplementing information gathered from the several public meetings held by GRU. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Carter II
Chairman

MMCII/ba

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATF
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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK



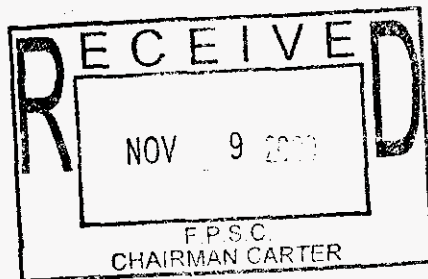
THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Higher Education, *Chair*
Military Affairs and Domestic Security,
Vice Chair
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Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities
General Government Appropriations
Governmental Operations - Policy and Steering

JOINT COMMITTEE:
Everglades Oversight

SENATOR STEVE OELRICH
14th District



#090451

November 5, 2009

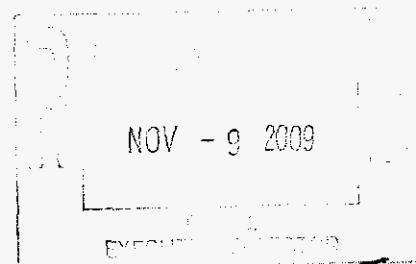
Dear Chairman Carter,

The proposed GRU Biomass plant is a project of regional significance. That being said, the citizens of this area should have the opportunity to make their thoughts and feelings about this project known.

Accordingly, I would respectfully request that the Florida Public Service Commission conduct a public comment hearing in Gainesville prior to the need determination proceeding, currently scheduled for December 16, 2009.

Sincerely,

Senator Steve Oelrich



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REPLY TO:

- 4131 Northwest 28th Lane, Suite 7, Gainesville, Florida 32606 (352) 375-3555
- 314 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5020

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

JEFF ATWATER
President of the Senate

MIKE FASANO
President Pro Tempore 3 NOV 13 08

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

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