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Melony M. Bell  
Commissioner, District 2

Board of County Commission

August 11, 2011

State of Florida  
Public Service Commission  
Attention: Ms. Ann Cole  
Commission Clerk  
Office of Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0850

**RE: Docket No. 110090-EQ – Petition for approval of negotiated power purchase agreement with U.S. EcoGen Polk, LLC by Progress Energy Florida, Inc.**

Dear Mr. Chairman and fellow Commissioners:

I am aware that the Power Purchase Agreement entered into between U.S. EcoGen Polk, LLC and Progress Energy Florida, Inc., is currently under review by your commission. As Polk County Commissioner for the district in which the project will be located, I would like to express my support for U.S. EcoGen Polk, LLC's 60 MW biomass electrical generating facility in Polk County, Florida.

The Fort Meade project is very important to my community for the following reasons:

The proposed site is located on formerly mined phosphate land and with the decline of the phosphate industry, unemployment in Fort Meade remains very high. This project will create 350 construction jobs immediately after financing in mid-2012 which will last approximately two years. The plant should be operational in early 2014 and will employ 35 full-time positions for a minimum of 30 years. The plant will also employ 50-60 persons in biomass fuel production and transportation with an average wage of \$40,000 annually.

The Central Florida Development Council conducted an economic impact analysis on the project which concluded an impact of \$11 million annually over the full term of the Power Purchase Agreement. This project will also double the ad valorem tax base for the City of Fort Meade which will allow the city to create new jobs and improve city services.

U.S. EcoGen's President and CEO has committed to partner with the Polk County School Board to establish a Career Academy focused on renewable energy technology at Fort Meade Middle-Senior High School and with Polk State College to create career based educational training programs to allow the community the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to work at the plant and enter into a career path with U.S. EcoGen.

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

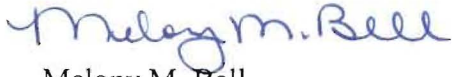
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It is my hope that the Commission will allow this Power Purchase Agreement between U.S. EcoGen Polk, LLC and Progress Energy Florida, Inc. to move forward without delay. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (863) 534-6434 or MelonyBell@polk-county.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melony M. Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue ink color.

Melony M. Bell  
Commissioner, District 2

Cc: Adam Putnam, Commissioner of Agriculture