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November 13, 2008

Michael W. Sole, Secretary  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 49  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Proposed Project and Air Pollution Construction Permit for BG&E  
Bio Mass Plant Located at Roberts Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida

Dear Secretary Sole:

It has come to my attention that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is preparing to issue what is called an air pollution construction permit that will permit the further development of a biomass-fed integrated gasification combined cycle power plant called the "Tallahassee Renewable Energy Center" to be located in Leon County along Lipona Road at Roberts Avenue, in Tallahassee, Florida. It appears that this location is also within the Florida State University's Southwest Campus.

The Leon County School Board and I have not been briefed or involved on this matter, nor have we had any input on the development of the Biomass plant itself. Given the close proximity of this proposed biomass plant to at least five of our Leon County Schools, I have developed a series of questions in which myself and the Leon County School Board would like to have answered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as soon as possible. It is my understanding that a waiting period is currently in effect and that a permit may be issued as soon as November 18<sup>th</sup>, therefore I request that the answers to my questions be provided to me before the waiting period expires. The air permit number of this application is 0730109-001-AC. The applicant is: Tallahassee Renewable Energy Center.

The series of questions are set forth in the attachment to this correspondence and I would appreciate your prompt consideration and response thereto.

Sincerely yours,



Jackie Pons, Superintendent  
Leon County School District

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INQUIRIES CONCERNING BIOMASS-FED INTEGRATED  
GASIFICATION COMBINED CYCLE PLANT  
AIR PERMIT NO. 0730109-001-AC

With regard to the construction of the plant and the air permit, I have the following questions:

1. Please list the approved fuel sources that will be used at the plant.
2. In regards to the fuel source, what process will be in place to insure only approved fuels are used in the gasification process?
3. What process is in place to insure that there are no accompanying toxic materials in the saw dust, especially in materials from out of state?
4. What safeguards are in place to prohibit the use of municipal solid waste at the plant?
5. What process insured that no harmful gases escape in excess of the amount permitted by Florida Law?
6. Are objectionable odors from the stockpile of fuel, or the gasification process expected, if so what would be the expected extent or range?
7. What are the potential dangers of the supposed "inert" residue that results from the process? What will be the method of disposal for this residue?
8. What is the expected truck traffic increase in the area, as it pertains to school start and school bus pickup and drop off in the vicinity?