

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE November 7 2007

TO The Honorable Ed DePuy

FROM  Commissioner Bill Proctor

SUBJECT Proposed Waste to Energy Facility

It s a big deal Crist said

I absolutely agree with the Governor s quote in today s Tallahassee Democrat It is a big deal when we are discussing a waste to energy plant in Leon County It is a big deal that needs a lot more vetting and discussion before it is a reality

The purpose of this memo is to ask the following questions and agenda this issue for our next meeting

- 1 Green Power has been quietly negotiating for months with state recruiters and Tallahassee and Leon County officials These discussions must have been mere whispers as my first knowledge of it came from the screaming headline in today s paper We pride ourselves on an open government operating in the sunshine As a member of the Board I m deeply concerned that I have had no interaction or communication on this waste to energy facility Now that it is coming the Leon County Board of County Commissioners needs to weigh in and be part of the process
- 2 With financing in place the company plans to break ground in July 2008 Of course when asked about possible locations the Mayor states It s far too early to comment about this at this time And exactly where does the company plan to break this ground? I haven t seen a McDonald s get sited in six months let alone a waste to energy facility This again raises my concern that more discussions and decisions have already been made that I am not aware of This siting needs to be a deliberate process with ample opportunity for real public participation
- 3 The plant requires 1 million gallons of water a day to operate And where is this water coming from? The article alludes to the spray field which leads to the possible siting of this facility in the Southside in my district Another opportunity for economic development in my district along with the sprayfield transfer station and all the other opportunities that the rest of the County doesn t enjoy
- 4 will vaporize 1 000 tons of municipal garbage a day Based on the article our community generates about half the tonnage needed to operate this facility Our friends in Wakulla and Jefferson will need to contribute their trash to make this viable – I m not aware of any way to get their trash outside of more trucks clogging our already over burdened southside roads Not only is the southside the current dumping ground for everything undesirable in Leon County we will now take the mantle for the entire region

Mr Chairman I fully appreciate the need for our community to diversify our energy supply I also understand the rush to be seen as going green and being environmentally correct However myself and the Board need to be much more a part of the process than we have been to date I look forward to discussing this at our next meeting

cc Leon County Board of County Commissioners
Parwez Alam County Administrator

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE November 9 2007

TO The Honorable Ed DePuy

FROM Commissioner Bill Proctor

SUBJECT Proposed Waste to Energy Facility

Colleagues

I offer you a copy of the letter I sent to Governor Charlie Crist on Wednesday concerning his announcement of a waste to energy plant in Leon County. The newspaper cited the sprayfield area as the lead option for this plant. Obviously, Tram Road has enough issues with the sprayfield and the nitrogen loaded waters it dumps which recent studies show end up in Wakulla Springs. In addition to the comments I offered to the Governor and to you through my memo to Chairman DePuy, I have concerns that a vaporizing plant will emit gasses that may be toxic or harmful though it may not be readily detectable such as a gas called radon.

The announcement of a ground breaking of July 2008 when no formal application has been made for a permit of a public/private utility reeks of complete arrogance as this announcement implies that this project will be built notwithstanding public processes mandated for such projects. It is my understanding that we have a contract with Waste Management. Since the newspaper account has factored the County's garbage in its 520 ton total with the City, exactly how will we be relieved from our contract with Waste Management? Also, can we sell the garbage transfer station on Gum Road now that it will not be needed beyond 2010?

What is a reactor? Is this the same reactor that was at Chernobyl? Do we need a reactor in our community? Why do we have water boiling at 5000 Celsius? Where will this chemically scorched water go? Into the sprayfield? What will it do to Wakulla Springs? What happened to the City of Tallahassee's agreement with Wakulla that the city would improve the waters discharged at its sprayfield so that the springs would be less contaminated?

Does the county have any kind of process or rules governing the siting, permitting and building of utility plants? How much money will the county be paid for the trash or fuel that we provide this private entity to generate electricity it will sell to the city which will charge citizens who purchase the city's electric power? Isn't it time somebody set a price to the raw material or fuel called garbage that will be utilized in this process?

If this plant needs 1,000 tons of trash per day, why will it be built making Tallahassee dependent on the trash and garbage of neighboring counties? Our nation is already dependent on foreign oil. This plant will make our community dependent on foreign garbage. This is a direction that needs greater vetting. Moreover, why should the Southside now become the regional center and hub of trash dumping and garbage collection for the entire region of North Florida?

I am requesting that this matter be agendaed at our next meeting.

cc Leon County Board of County Commissioners
Parwez Alam, County Administrator



Bill Proctor
Commissioner • District 1

November 7 2007

Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor
The Capitol
Tallahassee FL 32399

Dear Governor Crist

In reading today's paper I noted your strong leadership in providing solutions to the State's energy crisis. I am fully supportive of any proposal that provides relief to the rate payers of our community through alternative energies. In addition, the added benefit of transitioning away from the antiquated process of landfilling trash is always welcome.

However, I am deeply concerned that this new process isn't a Trojan horse for our community and specifically my district. Based on the reports in the paper, you support an effort to place a new advanced waste treatment plant in Tallahassee. This idea, with all due respect, troubles me. Please understand why.

In Tallahassee and Leon County, nearly all waste treatment facilities are located in the Southside. There exists a waste treatment plant near FAMU on Lake Bradford Road. There is one next door to the Tallahassee Airport on Springhill Road and Capital Circle. Another waste facility or sprayfield is on Tram Road next door to Southwood Florida High School and the State Office complex.

The Southside is loaded with waste treatment facilities. Waste facilities should be fairly distributed to other areas. Governor, may I also encourage you to appreciate Wakulla Springs, a precious natural resource, has been inundated with effluent and nitrogen flowing from the Southside waste treatment facilities. Moreover, Lake Munson flows into Wakulla Springs and has been a polluted lake that no one uses for recreational purposes.

Governor, not only are there three waste treatment plants already in the Southside, but this community's garbage transfer station is located in the south end on Gum Road and Capital Circle.

Governor, the Tallahassee Regional Airport dumps noise pollution and stresses Southside citizens everyday as well with its take off and landings of jet planes.

Down in St. Marks, the massive Purdom electric plant is located off of Woodville Highway in St. Marks. Over half of all storm water flows down to the Southside. We have more diseases, health issues, and mosquitoes than any one.

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36

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Governor I want to express concerns that Leon County's Southside should not be the dumping ground for placing a new waste facility. We are already inhaling waste poisoning Wakulla Springs being driven bananas by noise and experiencing lower property values than others. I am seeking your support in helping shape the criteria that sites this plant in a part of the community that is less burdened by existing waste facilities. These criteria should be a dominant feature which also factors the science of ecology and topography. Please help set this as a policy objective before this matter becomes a local firestorm.

The Southside has great promise and holds tremendous potential. So many have worked hard to bring this potential to the forefront. However, another waste treatment plant on top of all other waste plants, airport garbage transfer station and run off water will severely affect the value of property in the Southside and its attractiveness as a desired place to live. Our quality of life will be affected because this waste plant will hurt real estate value, threaten our environment that affects people's health and it will add to the already common perception that the Southside is the dumping ground for Leon County.

Additionally, high volumes of water from the Floridian Aquifer may impact our drinking water supply. As in Atlanta which has a drinking water supply problem due to Lake Lanier's drying up, it is also true that Lake Jackson and Lafayette have dried up. Is it clear that there is a correlation between dried lakes and available drinking water? After millions of gallons are taken from the Aquifer on a daily basis, where will the discharge go except the Southside and will this impact Wakulla Springs? Science shows Southside water from Lake Munson and the Tram Road sprayfield all lead into Wakulla County. Consider also that the topography of the Southside is porous sand and only a few feet to the Floridian Aquifer, the source of Tallahassee's drinking water.

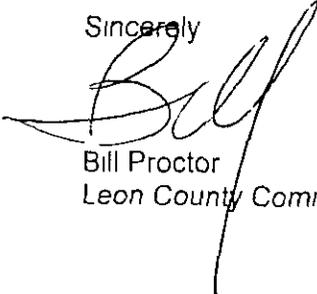
Governor, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners knows very little about the waste facility coming to Tallahassee. A major project like this has always received some form of regulatory review from the staff of the County and/or public hearings and/or County Commission review. I would hope that as this matter proceeds that it would enjoy a Sunshine review that is fully transparent and open to citizen participation.

It interests me that a new public utility may be imposed upon our community without any formal or informal processes, Sunshine debates, public hearings or Commission review. The Department of Environmental Protection from the newspaper report seems unfamiliar with a permitting process or familiarity with the science related to the proposed facility for Leon County.

Governor, I seek your assistance for the widening of Woodville Highway (an emergency evacuation road), the widening of Springhill Road (the gateway road into the Capital coming from the airport) and funding to build a new school for Rickards High School. A new high school magnetized with fine arts, technology and sciences would enhance the attractiveness of the Southside which so many have struggled to improve, but not a waste to energy plant.

I request to meet with you at your earliest convenience. Please, Governor, do not build another treatment facility in any part of the Southside which could further hurt Wakulla Springs.

Sincerely,



Bill Proctor
Leon County Commissioner