

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 7, 2009
TO: Commissioner Bill Proctor
FROM: Parwez Alam, County Administrator 
SUBJECT: Response to Memorandum on the Biomass Impact on Water

In your December 31, 2008 memorandum, you requested information regarding the Biomass Gas and Electric (BG&E) project and its impact on the community's water supply (Attachment #1). Below, staff has provided information on the concerns which were highlighted in the memorandum.

Water Use

The City of Tallahassee (City) anticipates that BG&E will utilize approximately 750,000 gallons of water for its gasification and production process (process water). Initially, BG&E will purchase potable water from the City. The Florida Aquifer is the City's source of potable water for both outdoor and indoor use, including its drinking water. It is anticipated that potable water will be the source of BG&E's process water for 12-14 months.

Subsequently, the BG&E project will utilize treated effluent water as its source for process water. Currently, the City is completing its Advance Water Treatment project as part of its Wakulla Springs lawsuit settlement. A pipeline is planned to be constructed which will provide treated effluent water to the Seminole Golf Course. The pipeline will run adjacent to the proposed BG&E site and would be the source of its process water once the pipeline is complete.

Water Disposal

The water discharged from the BG&E facility would go to the City's sewer system. The water collected will be treated as part of the Waste Water Treatment Plants' normal operations. According to the City, the water would not be disposed of at the Tram Road sprayfield and would not be placed in an onsite holding pond. BG&E's design drawings and Department of Environmental Protection permit application do not indicate that onsite holding ponds will be utilized for process water storage or treatment. It is not anticipated that the water disposed of by the BG&E facility would have any effect on the ecosystem.

Currently, there has not been any formal permit submission to the Northwest Florida Water Management District for well construction or water use.

Water Restrictions

The Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan and Leon County ordinances do not address water restriction for droughts.

Attachment #1: Commissioner Proctor's December 31, 2008 Memorandum regarding Biomass
Impact on Water

cc: Leon County Board of County Commissioners
Herb Thiele, County Attorney
Vincent S. Long, Deputy County Administrator
Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator ✓
Wayne Tedder, Planning Director

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 31, 2008

TO: Parwez Alam, County Administrator

FROM: Commissioner Bill Proctor *BP*

SUBJECT: Biomass Impact on Water: 1) Volume of Gallons; 2) Disposal of Used Water; 3) Water Restrictions

Thank you for the information you have provided on Biomass Gas and Electric for the Board for our January meeting.

It has come to my attention that the Biomass plant will utilize millions of gallons of water daily from the Floridian Aquifer. Glenn Farris has told citizen groups this plant operate 24/7.

Water Use

- 1) I am requesting an understanding of the exact water usage and drain on our aquifer the Biomass plant will devour. Across the nation there are drinking water shortages. Just last week the City of Tallahassee publicly instructed citizens who live in the Roberts Avenue vicinity to boil their drinking water piped from the City. How will BG&E's insatiable use of water impact its availability for the rest of the community?

Water Disposal

- 2) Please inform us with particularity the contents of the used waste water. How will these millions of gallons be disposed? Will the water have toxins in it? Will mere chlorination suffice to treat it? Will it re-enter the aquifer and get into our drinking water?

Will it be spray away on Tram Road and be discharged to drain into Wakulla Springs?

Will the Biomass water linger in an on site holding pond?

How will the discharged water affect the ecosystem in the near and distant future? According to whom?

What review has the NW Florida Water Management District given this plant? Were there any problems it addressed?

Water Restrictions

- 3) The Capital City/County of Georgia disallows washing cars, sprinkling yards or taking showers beyond 10 minutes. If the Capital City/County of Florida had a drought situation similar to Atlanta's would BG&E still be allowed unlimited supply of water? Does the Comp Plan or ordinances have a water restriction plan for droughts?

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 8, 2009
TO: Commissioner Bill Proctor
FROM: Parwez Alam, County Administrator 
SUBJECT: Response to Memorandum on Utility Agreement

In your December 31, 2008 memorandum, you requested information regarding the County's utility agreement with the City of Tallahassee (City) and how it compares to the City's utility agreement with Florida State University (FSU) (Attachment #1). Below, staff has provided information on the concerns which were referred to in the memorandum.

In 1999, the County executed a Preferred Customer Electric Service (PCES) agreement with the City. The PCES agreement provides a discount on electric service in exchange for the County's long-term commitment to remain a customer of the City of Tallahassee. The discounts are 5% and 7% based on the size of service, technically referred to as demand and large demand service. The majority of the County's electric service is billed via the large demand service and receives a 7% discount. The PCES agreement also requires a 3-year notice to terminate the contract.

The same discounts and notice apply to all PCES customers which include FSU. The County and FSU were among the first PCES customers. The City and FSU have also entered into an agreement related to the Biomass Gas & Electric (BG&E) proposed plant that is unrelated to the PCES agreement. Under the latter agreement, FSU extended its commitment as a customer, waiving its existing right to terminate the PCES prior to 2021 and also agreed to create an alternative energy program with a facility on the BG&E plant site that uses the hydrogen bi-product from the plant.

Attachment #1: Commissioner Proctor's December 31, 2008 Memorandum regarding Utility Agreement

cc: Leon County Board of County Commissioners
Bert Hartsfield, Property Appraiser
Doris Maloy, Tax Collector
Bob Inzer, Clerk of Court
Herb Thiele, County Attorney
Vincent S. Long, Deputy County Administrator
Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator
Wayne Tedder, Planning Director

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MEMORANDUM

Attachment # 1
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DATE: December 31, 2008
TO: Parwez Alam, County Administrator
FROM: Commissioner Bill Proctor 
SUBJECT: Utility Agreement

What is the utility agreement the County now has with the City of Tallahassee?

How does it compare to the terms Florida State University either receives or may receive with the City as reported in the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper article on Biomass Politics featured Sunday, December 21, 2008?

Does the County receive any annual incentive payments from the City of Tallahassee? Can the County receive the same terms? What must we do to receive "incentive" payments from the City similar to those FSU gets?

cc: BCC
Bert Hartsfield, Property Appraiser
Doris Maloy, Tax Collector
Bob Inzer, Clerk of Court