



June 11, 2007

Dear Governor Crist:

We applaud the recent steps taken to seek out renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources to meet Florida's skyrocketing appetite for electrical power. We also believe it is important to utilize all the available tools to improve the efficiency and lessen the environmental impacts of the state's traditional energy sources.

The undersigned groups support the concept of adding natural gas storage located within Florida as an element in the state's energy portfolio. By storing natural gas near the southern end of the two pipelines that bring gas into the State of Florida, electricity plants powered by this cleaner-burning fuel will have the ability to use stored gas as a back-up supply. Currently, on peak days when the pipeline capacity is fully utilized or during supply interruptions caused by hurricanes, power plants that normally burn natural gas will burn fuel oil; or old, less efficient, oil-fired power plants are brought back on line.

While much attention has been directed towards the debate on coal-fired generation, the burning of oil within the State of Florida has been overlooked. We do not want to lose sight of the fact that Florida is one of the leading users of fuel oil in the United States. Any opportunity to reduce that distinction should be considered. For example, one proposed storage facility under consideration would have the capacity to provide enough stored natural gas to the state's power plants to displace as much as 114 million gallons


of fuel oil a year. Because natural gas burns cleaner than fuel oil, using this stored gas can result in avoiding significant levels of harmful emissions including

- 188,000-376,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂),
- 37-74 tons of sulfuric acid mist (SAM),
- 50-100 tons of particulate matter (PM),
- 175-350 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂),
- 76-152 tons of carbon monoxide (CO)
- 81-162 tons of nitrogen oxide (NO_x).


Storing natural gas within the state provides an extremely attractive opportunity for Florida to reduce emissions and enhance supply reliability with well-proven technology. Among, the fossil fuels, we believe that natural gas is the fuel of choice for the generation of electricity since it has the least impact on the environment. We must have secure, diverse supplies of natural gas to ensure citizens will have power when they need it with a higher degree of protection and confidence. We value your stated commitments to the environment in Florida; we would encourage you to include this kind of strategic project into your future plans.

As we have all committed to invest in infrastructure that will better the environment, we see natural gas storage within the state of Florida as a perfect opportunity to benefit from a technology that improves our environment and provides other significant, tangible advantages for our state. We will look forward to continuing our discussions on renewable energy, conservation and other technologies (such as market- area storage) that will meet our future needs and minimize impacts to our environment.


Sincerely,




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