Ron DeSantis
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Dane Eagle
SECRETARY

August 19, 2022

Ms. Cindy Mulkey
Siting Coordination Office
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blairstone Road, MS 5500
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

RE: Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility Expansion – Unit 4
Certification Application No. PA87-23SA1

Dear Ms. Mulkey:

Please find enclosed the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's "Agency Report," prepared and submitted pursuant to Section 403.507, Florida Statutes, for the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility Expansion – Unit 4 Site Certification Application PA87-23SA1. On February 11, 2022, Pasco County filed its site certification application for the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility Expansion – Unit 4 under the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act, Chapter 403, Part II, Florida Statutes. If you have any questions concerning this Agency Report, please contact Scott Rogers, Regional Planning Administrator, at (850) 717-8510, or by email at Scott.Rogers@deo.myflorida.com.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Melnick, Deputy Secretary
Division of Community Development

BM/sr

Enclosure: DEO Agency Report

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
AGENCY REPORT
ON
PASCO COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY EXPANSION – UNIT 4
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION NO. PA87-23SA1

On February 11, 2022, Pasco County filed its Certification Application (Application No. PA87-23SA1) for the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility Expansion – Unit 4 (Project) under the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act (Sections 403.501 through 403.518, Florida Statutes (F.S.)). Under the Act, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) coordinates the certification process with input from various state, regional, and local agencies, along with interested citizens. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity "Agency Report" on the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility Expansion – Unit 4 (Application PA87-23SA1) is pursuant to Section 403.507, F.S., of the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act.

I. Project Summary

Pasco County proposes an expansion to the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) to construct and operate a fourth new municipal waste combustor unit and facilities related to the new unit. The Project includes the following construction activities: (1) construction of municipal waste combustor Unit 4; (2) construction of air pollution control systems; (3) installation of a new turbine generator; (4) installation of a new boiler chemical feed system; (5) expansion of the existing cooling tower; (6) expansion of the existing ash handling system and ash storage area; (7) removal of the existing settling basin and construction of a new settling basin; and (8) the temporary use of a construction laydown area.

The existing RRF is located on a 751-acre site (certified site) that is currently certified under the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act for electrical power generation, and the certified facilities include three municipal waste combustors (Units 1, 2 and 3), a steam turbine electrical generator, a Class I landfill, and related facilities. The certified site is owned by Pasco County and located west of the Suncoast Parkway in the northwestern portion of Pasco County. The Project is proposed to be located on 0.55 acres within the existing certified site.

The RRF has been operating since 1991. The RRF uses three municipal waste combustor units to burn the County's municipal solid waste and then energy from the combustion is used to generate electricity from a steam turbine generator. The combustion process also reduces the volume of the County's solid waste. The RRF has a certified electrical generating capacity of 31 megawatts based on the three municipal waste combustor units, and the proposed Project will add a fourth municipal waste combustor unit to increase the generating capacity by 18 megawatts to a total of 49 megawatts.

The Project will increase the County's ability to process municipal solid waste generated by the residents and businesses in Pasco County. The Project will provide a reliable, low-cost source of electricity through renewable energy systems. The Project will help to diversify the types of fuel used to generate electricity in Florida.

II. Recommendations: State Comprehensive Plan and Other Matters (Section 403.507(2)(a), F.S.

After reviewing the application, the Department concludes that the proposed construction and operation of the Project does not raise any land use issues of concern. The Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility site is designated as "Major Public/Semi-Public" on the Pasco County Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map. The proposed Project is consistent with the uses allowed by the Major Public/Semi-Public designation.

The proposed Project is consistent with the following goals of the State Comprehensive Plan (SCP) (Section 187.201, F.S.):

a. SCP Goal 11 Energy (Section 187.201(11), F.S.); and Policies 6 and 9 of Goal 11:

Goal 11: *"Florida shall reduce its energy requirements through conservation and efficiency measures in all end-use sectors and shall reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide by promoting an increased use of renewable energy sources and low-carbon-emitting electric power plants."*

Policy 6: *"Increase the efficient use of energy in design and operation of buildings, public utility systems, and other infrastructure and related equipment."*

Policy 9: *"Promote the use and development of renewable energy resources and low-carbon-emitting electric power plants."*

The Project utilizes energy efficient design for a public utility system (furthers Policy 6). The Project promotes the use and development of renewable energy resources (furthers Goal 11 and Policy 9).

b. SCP Goal 15 Land Use (Section 187.201(15), F.S.): *"In recognition of the importance of preserving the natural resources and enhancing the quality of life of the state, development shall be directed to those areas which have in place, or have agreements to provide, the land and water resources, fiscal abilities, and service capacity to accommodate growth in an environmentally acceptable manner."*

In support of development, the Project enhances the service capacity of the electric power system to accommodate growth in an environmentally acceptable manner (furthers Goal 15).

c. SCP Goal 17 Public Facilities (Section 187.201(17), F.S.): *"Florida shall protect the substantial investments in public facilities that already exist and shall plan for and finance new facilities to serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner."*

The Project enhances the existing and future electric power system and will serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner (furthers Goal 17). The Project enhances the provision of a stable supply of electrical power that assists emergency management activities, including emergency preparedness, response and recovery to serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner (furthers Goal 17).

d. SCP Goal 21 The Economy (Section 187.201(21), F.S.): *"Florida shall promote an economic climate which provides economic stability, maximizes job opportunities, and increases per capita income for its residents."*

The Project will help provide Florida with a stable source of electric power and thus enhance the economic stability of the state (furthers Goal 21).

III. Section 403.507(3)(a), F.S.

Pursuant to Section 403.507(3)(a), F.S., the Agency Report shall contain *"A notice of any nonprocedural requirements not specifically listed in the application from which a variance, exemption, exception, or other relief is necessary in order for the proposed electrical power plant to be certified."* The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has not identified any such nonprocedural requirements.

IV. Recommendation for Approval or Denial of the Application (Section 403.507(3)(b), F.S.)

Pursuant to Section 403.507(3)(b), F.S., the Agency Report shall contain *"A recommendation for approval or denial of the site certification application."* The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity concludes that the proposed Project furthers goals of the State Comprehensive Plan and is an efficient use of an existing certified site for electric power generation. Therefore, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity recommends approval of the Certification Application (Application No. PA87-23SA1) for the Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility Expansion – Unit 4 contingent on the Project meeting all applicable certification requirements.

V. Proposed Conditions of Certification (Section 403.507(3)(c), F.S.)

Pursuant to Section 403.507(3)(c), F.S., the Agency Report shall contain *"Any proposed conditions of certification on matters within the jurisdiction of such agency. For each condition proposed by an agency in its report, the agency shall list the specific statute, rule, or ordinance which authorizes the proposed condition."* The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has no proposed conditions of certification.