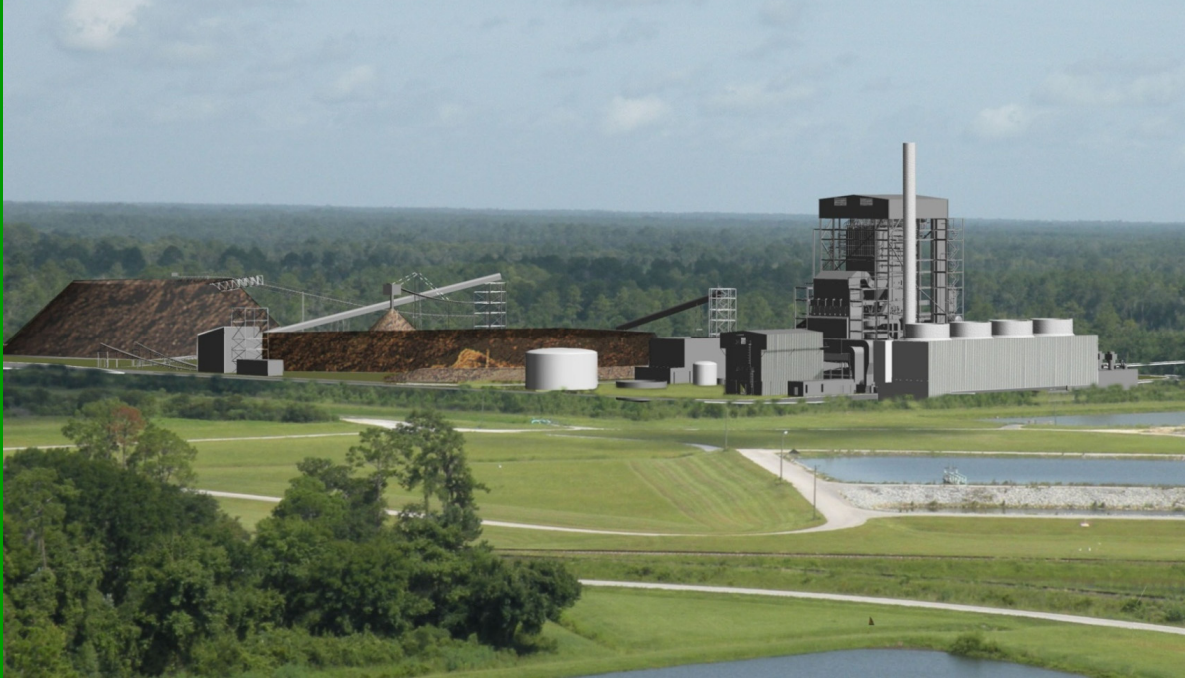


Gainesville Renewable Energy Center Site Certification Application



Gainesville
Renewable Energy Center
An American Renewables Company

Prepared by:

ECT

Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.

3701 Northwest 98th Street
Gainesville, Florida 32606
ECT No. 090408-0600

Volume 1

November 2009





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SITE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

GAINESVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTER

Submitted by:




Thomas W. Davis, P.E.
Florida Professional Engineer Registration No. 36777

November 30, 2009

Date

Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>		<u>Page</u>
	VOLUME 1	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		EX-1
1.0	INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL INFORMATION	1-1
1.1	<u>APPLICANT INFORMATION</u>	1-2
1.1.1	APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION	1-2
1.1.2	BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR GREC LLC	1-2
1.1.3	BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR GRU	1-5
1.2	<u>OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT</u>	1-6
1.2.1	OVERVIEW OF THE SITE	1-6
1.2.2	OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED GREC FACILITIES	1-11
1.3	<u>PURPOSE OF THE SCA</u>	1-13
2.0	NEED FOR THE PROPOSED FACILITY	2-1
2.1	<u>FPSC SCHEDULE FOR DETERMINATION OF NEED</u>	2-1
2.2	<u>BACKGROUND AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>	2-2
2.3	<u>GRU'S PLANNING AND PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS</u>	2-2
2.4	<u>FORECAST CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS</u>	2-5
2.5	<u>RELIABILITY CRITERIA</u>	2-5
2.6	<u>ALTERNATIVES ANALYZED</u>	2-5
2.7	<u>REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROCESS</u>	2-6
2.8	<u>DETAILED ECONOMIC ANALYSIS</u>	2-9
2.9	<u>BENEFITS OF GREC</u>	2-10
3.0	SITE AND VICINITY CHARACTERIZATION	3-1
3.1	<u>SITE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES DELINEATION</u>	3-1
3.1.1	SITE LOCATION	3-1
3.1.2	EXISTING SITE AND ADJACENT PROPERTY USES	3-4
3.1.3	PROPOSED SITE USES	3-4
3.1.4	FLOOD ZONES	3-8

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 2 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.2 <u>SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT</u>	3-8
3.2.1 GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTIONS	3-8
3.2.2 ZONING AND LAND USE PLANS	3-11
3.2.2.1 <u>Zoning District</u>	3-11
3.2.2.2 <u>Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map</u>	3-11
3.2.3 DEMOGRAPHY AND ONGOING LAND USE	3-14
3.2.3.1 <u>Demography and Existing Population</u>	3-14
3.2.3.2 <u>Existing Land Use</u>	3-14
3.2.3.3 <u>Proposed Development</u>	3-18
3.2.4 LEASES, EASEMENTS, TITLE, AGENCY WORKS	3-18
3.2.5 REGIONAL SCENIC, CULTURAL, AND NATURAL LANDMARKS	3-19
3.2.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES	3-19
3.2.7 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AND PUBLIC SERVICES	3-20
3.2.7.1 <u>Social and Economic Characteristics</u>	3-20
3.2.7.2 <u>Area Public Service and Utilities</u>	3-22
3.3 <u>PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT</u>	3-25
3.3.1 GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY	3-25
3.3.1.1 <u>Geologic Description of the Site and Area</u>	3-25
3.3.1.2 <u>Detailed Site Lithologic Description</u>	3-34
3.3.1.3 <u>Geologic Maps</u>	3-35
3.3.1.4 <u>Bearing Strength</u>	3-38
3.3.2 SUBSURFACE HYDROLOGY	3-38
3.3.2.1 <u>Subsurface Hydrology Data for the Site</u>	3-38
3.3.2.2 <u>Karst Hydrogeology</u>	3-66
3.3.3 SITE WATER BUDGET AND AREA USERS	3-69

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 3 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.3.3.1 <u>Site Water Budget</u>	3-69
3.3.3.2 <u>Area Uses</u>	3-71
3.3.4 SURFICIAL HYDROLOGY	3-72
3.3.4.1 <u>Hydrologic Characteristics</u>	3-72
3.3.4.2 <u>Measurement Programs</u>	3-93
3.3.5 VEGETATION/LAND USE	3-93
3.3.5.1 <u>GREC Site</u>	3-100
3.3.5.2 <u>Offsite Construction Laydown Areas</u>	3-116
3.3.6 ECOLOGY	3-120
3.3.6.1 <u>Species—Environmental Relationships</u>	3-120
3.3.6.2 <u>Preexisting Stresses</u>	3-137
3.3.6.3 <u>Measurement Programs</u>	3-138
3.3.7 METEOROLOGY AND AMBIENT AIR QUALITY	3-139
3.3.7.1 <u>Meteorology and Climatology</u>	3-139
3.3.7.2 <u>Ambient Air Quality</u>	3-150
3.3.7.3 <u>Measurement Programs</u>	3-163
3.3.8 NOISE	3-163
3.3.9 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES	3-174
4.0 THE PLANT AND DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED FACILITIES	4-1
4.1 <u>BACKGROUND</u>	4-1
4.1.1 MAJOR POWER PLANT FACILITIES AND SYSTEMS	4-2
4.1.2 ASSOCIATED LINEAR FACILITIES	4-6
4.2 <u>SITE LAYOUT</u>	4-8
4.3 <u>FUEL</u>	4-14
4.3.1 FUEL INVESTIGATION	4-18

TABLE OF CONTENTS
 (Continued, Page 4 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
4.3.2 FUEL PROCUREMENT STANDARDS AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS	4-18
4.3.2.1 <u>Fuel Minimum Sustainability Standards</u>	4-18
4.3.2.2 <u>Forest Stewardship Program</u>	4-20
4.3.3 FUEL PROCUREMENT AREA	4-20
4.3.4 FUEL QUALITY	4-22
4.3.5 FUEL QUANTITY	4-22
4.3.6 FUEL TRANSPORTATION	4-27
4.3.7 BIOMASS FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE	4-30
4.3.7.1 <u>Fuel Delivery and Unloading at the Site</u>	4-30
4.3.7.2 <u>Biomass Fuel Processing</u>	4-30
4.3.7.3 <u>Biomass Fuel Storage Facilities</u>	4-33
4.3.8 STARTUP AND EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT FUEL HANDLING AND STORAGE	4-34
4.4 <u>AIR EMISSIONS AND CONTROLS</u>	4-34
4.4.1 AIR EMISSION TYPES AND SOURCES	4-34
4.4.1.1 <u>BFB Boiler</u>	4-35
4.4.1.2 <u>Emergency Diesel Generator</u>	4-35
4.4.1.3 <u>Diesel-Driven Firewater Pump</u>	4-38
4.4.1.4 <u>Material Handling Systems and Storage Facilities</u>	4-38
4.4.1.5 <u>Cooling Tower</u>	4-41
4.4.2 AIR EMISSION CONTROLS	4-42
4.4.2.1 <u>NO_x Control</u>	4-42
4.4.2.2 <u>PM/PM₁₀ Control</u>	4-44
4.4.2.3 <u>SO₂ Control</u>	4-47
4.4.2.4 <u>Mercury</u>	4-47
4.4.3 BEST AVAILABLE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY	4-47
4.4.3.1 <u>BACT Methodology</u>	4-49
4.4.3.2 <u>Proposed BACT Technologies and Emission Limits</u>	4-50

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 5 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
4.4.3.3 <u>Nitrogen Oxides</u>	4-50
4.4.3.4 <u>Sulfur Dioxide</u>	4-50
4.4.3.5 <u>Particulate Matter</u>	4-52
4.4.3.6 <u>Carbon Monoxide and Volatile Organic Compounds</u>	4-52
4.4.4 DESIGN DATA FOR CONTROL EQUIPMENT	4-52
4.4.5 DESIGN PHILOSOPHY	4-52
4.4.6 CO ₂ EMISSIONS	4-53
4.5 <u>PLANT WATER USE</u>	4-53
4.5.1 HEAT DISSIPATION SYSTEM	4-57
4.5.1.1 <u>System Design</u>	4-57
4.5.1.2 <u>Source of Cooling Water</u>	4-59
4.5.1.3 <u>Dilution System</u>	4-59
4.5.1.4 <u>Blowdown, Screened Organisms, and Trash Disposal</u>	4-59
4.5.1.5 <u>Injection Wells</u>	4-59
4.5.2 DOMESTIC/SANITARY WASTEWATER	4-59
4.5.3 POTABLE WATER SYSTEMS	4-60
4.5.4 PROCESS WATER SYSTEMS	4-62
4.5.4.1 <u>Firewater System</u>	4-62
4.5.4.2 <u>Demineralized Water System</u>	4-63
4.5.4.3 <u>ZLD System</u>	4-63
4.5.4.4 <u>Service Water/General Maintenance</u>	4-64
4.6 <u>CHEMICAL AND BIOCIDES WASTE</u>	4-64
4.7 <u>BYPRODUCTS AND SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTE</u>	4-65
4.7.1 BYPRODUCT/SOLID WASTES	4-65
4.7.2 HAZARDOUS WASTE	4-67
4.8 <u>ONSITE DRAINAGE SYSTEM</u>	4-69
4.8.1 APPLICABLE REGULATIONS	4-69
4.8.1.1 <u>Local Regulations</u>	4-69

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 6 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
4.8.1.2 <u>State Regulations</u>	4-69
4.8.2 CONSTRUCTION PHASE DRAINAGE	4-71
4.8.3 OPERATIONAL PHASE DRAINAGE	4-74
4.8.3.1 <u>Stormwater System 100</u>	4-74
4.8.3.2 <u>Stormwater System 200</u>	4-77
4.8.3.3 <u>Stormwater System 300</u>	4-78
4.8.4 STORMWATER SYSTEM DESIGN CRITERIA	4-80
4.8.5 DRAINAGE SYSTEM DESIGN	4-81
4.8.6 EARTHWORK	4-81
4.8.7 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MEASURES	4-82
4.8.8 NPDES PERMITS RELATED TO STORMWATER DISCHARGES, DEWATERING	4-83
4.9 <u>MATERIALS HANDLING</u>	4-83
4.9.1 CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS HANDLING	4-83
4.9.2 OPERATIONS MATERIAL HANDLING	4-84
4.9.2.1 <u>Water/Wastewater Treatment Chemicals</u>	4-84
4.9.2.2 <u>Aqueous Ammonia</u>	4-85
4.9.2.3 <u>Lubricating Oil and Hydraulic Fluid</u>	4-85
4.10 <u>ASSOCIATED LINEAR FACILITIES</u>	4-86
4.11 <u>EMERGENCY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANS</u>	4-87
5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF SITE PREPARATION AND PLANT AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION	5-1
5.1 <u>LAND IMPACT</u>	5-1
5.1.1 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS	5-1
5.1.2 ROADS	5-7
5.1.3 FLOOD ZONES	5-11
5.1.4 TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS	5-11
5.2 <u>IMPACTS ON SURFACE WATER BODIES AND USES</u>	5-12
5.2.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT	5-12

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 7 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
5.2.2 MEASURING AND MONITORING PROGRAMS	5-12
5.3 <u>GROUNDWATER IMPACTS</u>	5-12
5.3.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT	5-12
5.3.2 MEASURING AND MONITORING PROGRAMS	5-15
5.4 <u>ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS</u>	5-15
5.4.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT	5-15
5.4.1.1 Terrestrial Systems	5-16
5.4.1.2 Wetland/Aquatic Systems	5-19
5.4.1.3 Endangered and Threatened Species	5-20
5.4.2 MEASURING AND MONITORING PROGRAMS	5-20
5.4.2.1 Terrestrial Systems	5-20
5.4.2.2 Wetland/Aquatic Systems	5-21
5.5 <u>AIR IMPACTS</u>	5-21
5.6 <u>SOLID WASTES</u>	5-23
5.7 <u>IMPACTS ON HUMAN POPULATIONS</u>	5-23
5.7.1 LAND USE IMPACTS	5-23
5.7.2 CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT	5-24
5.7.3 TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS	5-24
5.7.3.1 Trip Generation	5-25
5.7.3.2 Trip Distribution	5-25
5.7.3.3 Roadway Analysis	5-28
5.7.3.4 Intersection Analysis	5-28
5.7.4 HOUSING IMPACTS	5-28
5.7.5 PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES IMPACTS	5-30
5.7.6 NOISE IMPACTS	5-30
5.8 <u>IMPACTS ON LANDMARKS AND SENSITIVE AREAS</u>	5-33
5.9 <u>IMPACTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES</u>	5-35
5.10 <u>SPECIAL FEATURES</u>	5-35
5.11 <u>BENEFITS FROM CONSTRUCTION</u>	5-35

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 8 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
6.0 EFFECTS OF PLANT OPERATION	6-1
6.1 <u>EFFECTS OF THE OPERATION OF THE HEAT DISSIPATION SYSTEM</u>	6-1
6.1.1 TEMPERATURE EFFECT ON RECEIVING BODY OF WATER	6-1
6.1.2 EFFECT ON AQUATIC LIFE	6-2
6.1.3 BIOLOGICAL EFFECT OF MODIFIED CIRCULATION	6-2
6.1.4 EFFECTS OF OFFSTREAM COOLING	6-2
6.1.4.1 <u>Blowdown Discharge Effects</u>	6-2
6.1.4.2 <u>Cooling Tower Fogging/Drift Effects</u>	6-2
6.1.5 MEASUREMENT PROGRAM	6-4
6.2 <u>EFFECT OF CHEMICAL AND BIOCIDES DISCHARGES</u>	6-4
6.2.1 INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER DISCHARGES	6-4
6.2.2 COOLING TOWER BLOWDOWN	6-4
6.2.3 MEASUREMENT PROGRAMS	6-5
6.3 <u>IMPACTS ON WATER SUPPLIES</u>	6-5
6.3.1 SURFACE WATER	6-5
6.3.2 GROUNDWATER	6-5
6.3.3 DRINKING WATER	6-6
6.3.3.1 <u>Groundwater Models and Results</u>	6-7
6.3.3.2 <u>Impacts Assessment</u>	6-17
6.3.4 LEACHATE AND RUNOFF	6-22
6.3.5 MEASUREMENT PROGRAMS	6-23
6.4 <u>SOLID/HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL IMPACTS</u>	6-24
6.4.1 SOLID WASTE	6-24
6.4.2 HAZARDOUS WASTE	6-25
6.5 <u>SANITARY AND OTHER WASTE DISCHARGES</u>	6-26
6.6 <u>AIR QUALITY IMPACTS</u>	6-26

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 9 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
6.6.1 IMPACT ASSESSMENT	6-26
6.6.1.1 <u>Introduction</u>	6-26
6.6.1.2 <u>Regulatory Applicability and Overview of Impact Analyses</u>	6-26
6.6.1.3 <u>Analytical Approach</u>	6-29
6.6.1.4 <u>Summary of Air Quality Impacts</u>	6-32
6.6.1.5 <u>Other Air Quality-Related Impacts</u>	6-34
6.6.2 MERCURY IMPACTS	6-37
6.6.2.1 <u>Mercury Emissions</u>	6-37
6.6.2.2 <u>Mercury Impacts</u>	6-39
6.6.3 MONITORING PROGRAMS	6-43
6.7 <u>NOISE</u>	6-43
6.7.1 NOISE MODEL	6-44
6.7.2 NOISE MODEL INPUTS	6-45
6.7.2.1 <u>Noise Source Data</u>	6-45
6.7.2.2 <u>Attenuation Data</u>	6-47
6.7.2.3 <u>Noise Receivers</u>	6-47
6.7.3 RESULTS	6-48
6.8 <u>CHANGES IN NONAQUATIC SPECIES POPULATIONS</u>	6-51
6.8.1 WILDLIFE	6-51
6.8.2 VEGETATION	6-51
6.8.3 MONITORING	6-52
6.9 <u>OTHER PLANT OPERATION EFFECTS</u>	6-52
6.9.1 TRIP GENERATION	6-53
6.9.2 TRIP DISTRIBUTION	6-53
6.9.3 ROADWAY ANALYSIS	6-53
6.9.4 INTERSECTION ANALYSIS	6-58
6.9.5 TURN LANE ANALYSIS AT THE SITE ENTRANCE	6-58

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 10 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
6.9.5.1 <u>Turn Lane Storage Calculation</u>	6-58
6.9.5.2 <u>Deceleration/Taper Lengths</u>	6-60
6.9.5.3 <u>Turn Lane Length Summary</u>	6-60
6.9.5.4 <u>Turn Lane Recommendations</u>	6-60
6.9.6 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS	6-60
6.10 <u>ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES</u>	6-61
6.11 <u>RESOURCES COMMITTED</u>	6-61
7.0 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EFFECTS OF PLANT CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION	7-1
7.1 <u>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS</u>	7-1
7.1.1 TAX REVENUES	7-1
7.1.2 INDIRECT REVENUES	7-2
7.1.3 TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT NEW JOBS	7-3
7.1.3.1 <u>Construction Employment</u>	7-3
7.1.3.2 <u>Operation Employment</u>	7-5
7.1.3.3 <u>Expenditures</u>	7-7
7.2 <u>ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS</u>	7-7
7.2.1 TEMPORARY EXTERNAL COSTS	7-8
7.2.2 LONG-TERM EXTERNAL COSTS	7-9
7.2.2.1 <u>Land Use</u>	7-9
7.2.2.2 <u>Aesthetics</u>	7-9
7.2.2.3 <u>Public Services/Facilities</u>	7-11
8.0 SITE AND PLANT DESIGN ALTERNATIVES	8-1
9.0 ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINES AND OTHER ASSOCIATED LINEAR FACILITIES	9-1
9.1 <u>MAPS</u>	9-5
9.2 <u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>	9-5
9.2.1 138-KV TRANSMISSION LINE	9-5
9.2.2 ELECTRICAL SWITCHYARD	9-7

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 11 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
9.2.3 MULTIPIPELINE CORRIDOR	9-7
9.2.4 PERMANENT NEW ACCESS ROAD/DRIVEWAY	9-11
9.2.5 TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION ACCESS ROAD	9-11
9.3 <u>CORRIDORS</u>	9-11
9.3.1 CORRIDOR SELECTION	9-11
9.3.2 CORRIDOR DESCRIPTION	9-15
9.3.3 ALTERNATE CORRIDORS	9-15
9.3.4 ACCESS ROADS	9-15
9.3.5 COST PROJECTIONS	9-15
9.3.6 SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE CORRIDOR AREAS	9-15
9.3.6.1 <u>Governmental Jurisdictions</u>	9-15
9.3.6.2 <u>Zoning and Land Use Plans</u>	9-18
9.3.6.3 <u>Easements, Title, and Agency Works</u>	9-21
9.3.6.4 <u>Vicinity Scenic, Cultural, and Natural Landmarks</u>	9-22
9.3.6.5 Archaeological and Historic Sites	9-22
9.3.7 BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE CORRIDOR AREAS	9-22
9.3.7.1 <u>Land Use/Vegetation</u>	9-22
9.3.7.2 <u>Affected Waters and Wetlands</u>	9-24
9.3.7.3 <u>Ecology</u>	9-24
9.3.7.4 <u>Other Environmental Features</u>	9-26
9.4 <u>EFFECTS OF RIGHT-OF-WAY PREPARATION AND TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION</u>	9-26
9.4.1 CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES	9-26
9.4.1.1 <u>Clearing</u>	9-26
9.4.1.2 <u>Facility Construction</u>	9-26
9.4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMIT (ERP)	9-27
9.4.3 SOLID WASTES	9-27
9.4.4 CHANGES TO VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, AND AQUATIC LIFE	9-27

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 12 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
9.4.5 IMPACT ON HUMAN POPULATIONS	9-28
9.4.6 IMPACT ON REGIONAL SCENIC, CULTURAL, AND NATURAL LANDMARKS	9-28
9.4.7 IMPACT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC SITES	9-28
9.5 <u>POSTCONSTRUCTION IMPACTS AND EFFECTS OF MAINTENANCE</u>	9-28
9.5.1 MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES	9-28
9.5.2 MULTIPLE USES	9-28
9.5.3 CHANGES IN SPECIES POPULATIONS	9-29
9.5.4 EFFECTS OF PUBLIC ACCESS	9-29
9.5.5 OTHER POST CONSTRUCTION EFFECTS	9-29
9.5.5.1 <u>EMF Effects</u>	9-29
9.5.5.2 <u>Audible Noise</u>	9-31
9.5.5.3 <u>Safety</u>	9-31

VOLUME 2

10.0 APPENDICES
10.1 <u>COORDINATION</u>
10.2 <u>FEDERAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS OR APPROVALS</u>
10.2.1 316 DEMONSTRATIONS
10.2.2 NPDES APPLICATIONS/PERMITS
10.2.3 HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL APPLICATIONS/PERMITS
10.2.4 SECTION 10 OR 404 APPLICATIONS/PERMITS
10.2.5 PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION/AIR CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATION
10.2.6 AIR OPERATION PERMIT (EXISTING)
10.2.7 COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATIONS
10.2.8 FAA NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OR ALTERATION
10.3 <u>ZONING DESCRIPTIONS</u>
10.4 <u>ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMIT (ERP)</u>

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued, Page 13 of 13)

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
10.4.1 JOINT ERP/SECTION 404 PERMIT APPLICATION	
10.4.2 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN	
10.4.3 WETLAND DELINEATION AND MITIGATION PLAN	
10.4.4 GRU LETTER ON WETLAND MITIGATION PLAN FOR GREC	
10.5 <u>LAND USE PLAN DESCRIPTIONS</u>	
10.6 <u>EXISTING STATE PERMITS</u>	
10.7 <u>MONITORING PROGRAMS</u>	
10.7.1 TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS	
10.7.2 GEOHYDROLOGY	
10.7.2.1 <u>Regional Lithologic Logs</u>	
10.7.2.2 <u>Regional Geologic Map and Cross-Sections</u>	
10.7.2.3 <u>Deep Well Lithology and Stratigraphy in the Site Area</u>	
10.7.2.4 <u>Shallow Stratigraphy at the GRU DGS Property</u>	
10.7.2.5 <u>Geologic Structure of Florida</u>	
10.7.2.6 <u>Lithology from Wells on GRU DGS Property</u>	
10.7.2.7 <u>Local Soils Maps and Characteristics</u>	
10.7.2.8 <u>Local Climate Data</u>	
10.7.2.91 <u>Data for Local Surface Water Drainage Basins</u>	
10.7.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES	
10.8 <u>WATER USE PERMIT APPLICATION INFORMATION</u>	
10.9 <u>EMF CALCULATIONS</u>	
10.10 <u>MEMORANDUM OF LEASE FOR GREC SITE</u>	
10.11 <u>FDOT DRIVEWAY/CONNECTION APPLICATION</u>	
10.12 <u>POTABLE WATER SYSTEM AND WELLS</u>	

VOLUME 3

10.2.5 PREVENTION OF SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION/AIR CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATION	
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LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.1.1-1 Applicant Information	1-3
3.2.3-1 Cities of Gainesville and Alachua, Alachua County, and Florida Population Trends	3-15
3.2.3-2 Medium Projections of Population	3-15
3.3.1-1 Hydrogeological Framework for GREC Site	3-26
3.3.2-1 Summary of Aquifer Coefficients for the Floridan Aquifer in Alachua County	3-46
3.3.2-2 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER11T4	3-51
3.3.2-3 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER10T8	3-52
3.3.2-4 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER9T5	3-53
3.3.2-5 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER7T2	3-54
3.3.2-6 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER6T8	3-55
3.3.2-7 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER6T1	3-56
3.3.2-8 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER6T4	3-57
3.3.2-9 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER4T5	3-58
3.3.2-10 Available Groundwater Data—Well DER3T7	3-59
3.3.2-11 Well No. 4 (DWELL) Sampling Results—January 1998 to October 2008	3-61
3.3.2-12 FAS Groundwater Quality Results—GRU DGS Supply Well No. 2	3-62
3.3.2-13 FAS Groundwater Quality Results—GRU DGS Supply Well No. 4	3-64
3.3.3-1 Summary of Permitted Wells Within 1 Mile of the GREC Site Boundaries	3-74
3.3.4-1 Selected USGS Gauging Stations on the Santa Fe River	3-85
3.3.4-2 Summary Statistics of Daily Flows at Selected Gauging Stations	3-85
3.3.4-3 Low Flow Characteristics for Santa Fe River Flows near Graham	3-91

LIST OF TABLES
(Continued, Page 2 of 4)

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.3.4-4 Low Flow Characteristics for Santa Fe River Flows at Worthington Springs	3-91
3.3.4-5 Flood-Frequency Relationship at Selected Gauging Stations	3-92
3.3.4-6 Summary Statistics of Rocky Creek Water Quality Parameters at CR 235	3-95
3.3.5-1 FLUCFCS Vegetation/Land Use Types at the GREC Site	3-101
3.3.5-2 Plant Species Observed on the GREC Site—July 2008 to June 2009	3-108
3.3.6-1 Wildlife Observed on the GREC Site—May 2009	3-122
3.3.6-2 Listed Plant Species that Occur or Have the Potential to Occur on the GREC Site	3-125
3.3.7-1 Temperature Data for Gainesville, Florida	3-141
3.3.7-2 Normal Relative Humidity Data for Gainesville, Florida	3-142
3.3.7-3 Annual and Seasonal Average Distribution of Atmospheric Stability Classes for Gainesville, Florida (2001 through 2005)	3-149
3.3.7-4 NAAQS and Florida AAQS	3-152
3.3.7-5 Gainesville Area Ambient Air Quality Data—2004 through 2008	3-155
3.3.7-6 Gainesville Area Ozone Ambient Air Quality Data—2002 through 2008	3-157
3.3.7-7 Lead and Noncriteria Pollutant Emissions, 2002	3-164
3.3.8-1 Maximum Sound Levels for Source Land Uses	3-166
3.3.8-2 24-Hour Ambient Sound Level Summary	3-175
3.3.8-3 GREC Ambient Noise Measurements	3-176
4.2.0-1 Dimensions of Major Structures and Facilities	4-16
4.3.4-1 Typical Constituent Analysis of Wood Fuel	4-23
4.3.4-2 Typical Natural Gas Composition	4-24

LIST OF TABLES
(Continued, Page 3 of 4)

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
4.3.4-3 Typical ULSD Composition	4-25
4.3.5-1 Quantities of Biomass Fuel-Fired (Based on Design Constituents)	4-26
4.3.5-2 Quantity of Natural Gas Fired	4-28
4.3.5-3 Quantities of ULSD Fuel Fired	4-29
4.4.1-1 Biomass-Fired BFB Boiler—Criteria Pollutant and H ₂ SO ₄ Mist Emissions Rates	4-36
4.4.1-2 Emergency Generator Diesel Engine Emission Rate Estimates	4-39
4.4.1-3 Diesel-Driven Firewater Pump Emission Rate Estimates	4-40
4.4.2-1 Preliminary SCR Design Criteria	4-45
4.4.2-2 Preliminary Fabric Filter Design Criteria	4-48
4.4.2-3 Proposed BACT Emission Limits and Control Technologies	4-51
4.5.0-1 Preliminary Design Analysis of Makeup Water, Well Water	4-58
4.7.1-1 Solid Byproduct and Waste Quantities	4-66
4.7.1-2 Typical Constituent Analysis of Wood Fuel Ash	4-68
4.8.2-1 Overall Approximate Areas for Power Block and Fuel Yard	4-73
5.4.1-1 Construction Impacts on the GREC Site by FLUCFCS Type	5-18
5.7.3-1 Peak Construction Trip Generation	5-26
5.7.6-1 Construction Equipment and Composite Site Noise Levels	5-32
5.7.6-2 Projected Average Construction Noise Levels (dBA) at Property Boundaries Based on Composite Noise Levels	5-34
6.3.3-1 Aquifer Parameters Defined in the SRWMD Model at the GREC Site Location	6-9
6.3.3-2 Summary of NSSCOU Groundwater Modeling Parameters	6-11
6.3.3-3 Summary of Predicted Steady-State NSSCOU Drawdown for GREC	6-15

LIST OF TABLES
(Continued, Page 4 of 4)

<u>Table</u>	<u>Page</u>
6.3.3-4 Change in Upper Santa Fe River Flow Based on 1.4-MGD Upper Floridan Withdrawal	6-16
6.6.1-1 Projected GREC Emissions Compared to PSD Significant Emission Rates	6-28
6.6.1-2 GREC Criteria Pollutant Maximum PSD Class II Area Impacts	6-33
6.6.1-3 GREC Criteria Pollutant Maximum Class I Area Impacts	6-35
6.6.2-1 AERMOD Model Results—GREC Mercury Deposition and Concentration Impacts: Santa Fe River Basin	6-40
6.7.2-1 Sources and Sound Power Levels Used in Noise Modeling Analysis	6-46
6.7.3-1 Results of Noise Modeling Analysis	6-50
6.9.1-1 Plant Operations Trip Generation	6-54
7.1.3-1 RIMS II Construction Impacts Based on Initial Changes in Earnings and Employment	7-4
7.1.3-2 RIMS II Operation Impacts	7-6
9.3.7-1 Wildlife Observed Within or Adjacent to the GREC Offsite Linear Facilities—September 2009	9-25
9.5.5-1 Maximum EMF Capable of Being Produced by GREC 138-kV Transmission Line and Switchyard	9-30

LIST OF FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
1.2.1-1 GREC Site Location within Florida and Alachua County	1-7
1.2.1-2 General Vicinity Map of the GREC Site	1-8
1.2.1-3 GREC Site in Relation to the GRU DGS Property	1-10
3.1.1-1 GREC Site Location within Florida and Alachua County	3-2
3.1.1-2 GREC Site Location and Vicinity	3-3
3.1.1-3 GREC Site	3-5
3.1.3-1 General Arrangement of Facilities on GREC Site	3-6
3.1.4-1 100-Year Flood Zones	3-9
3.2.1-1 Governmental Jurisdictions within 5 Miles	3-10
3.2.2-1 Future Land Use within 5 Miles	3-12
3.2.3-1 Generalized Land Use within 5 miles of GREC	3-16
3.3.2-1 Elevation of Base of Surficial Aquifer and Top of Confining Unit	3-40
3.3.2-2 Groundwater Elevation Map—April 6, 7, and 8, 2009	3-41
3.3.2-3 Groundwater Elevation Map—Water Table Average of 10 Most Recent Quarterly Data through April 2009	3-42
3.3.2-4 Potentiometric Surface of the Upper Floridan Aquifer (May 2005)	3-47
3.3.2-5 Total Fluctuation of Groundwater Levels in the FAS	3-48
3.3.2-6 Location of Groundwater Monitoring Wells on the DGS Site	3-50
3.3.3-1 Large-Quantity Permitted Water Users	3-73
3.3.4-1 Drainage Basins Adjacent to GREC Site	3-81
3.3.4-2 USGS Gauging Stations	3-84
3.3.4-3 Daily Flow Data at Santa Fe River near Graham (1957 to 1998)	3-87
3.3.4-4 Daily Flow Data at Santa Fe River at Worthington Springs (1931 to 2009)	3-88

LIST OF FIGURES
(Continued, Page 2 of 5)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.3.4-5 Santa Fe River Mean of Monthly Flows for the Period of Record near Graham (1957 to 1998)	3-89
3.3.4-6 Santa Fe River Mean of Monthly Flows for the Period of Record at Worthington Springs (1931 to 2009)	3-90
3.3.4-7 Water Quality Monitoring Stations	3-94
3.3.5-1 GREC Land Use/Cover Types Using FLUCFCS	3-102
3.3.5-2 Photographs of Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types at the GREC Site	3-103
3.3.5-3 Offsite Construction Laydown Area Land Use/Cover Using FLUCFCS	3-117
3.3.5-4 Photographs of Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types on Offsite Construction Laydown Areas	3-118
3.3.6-1 Florida Listed Species within 5-Mile Buffer of the GREC Site	3-129
3.3.7-1 5-Year Wind Rose for GRA—2001 through 2005	3-144
3.3.7-2 5-Year Winter Wind Rose for GRA—2001 through 2005	3-145
3.3.7-3 5-Year Spring Wind Rose for GRA—2001 through 2005	3-146
3.3.7-4 5-Year Summer Wind Rose for GRA—2001 through 2005	3-147
3.3.7-5 5-Year Fall Wind Rose for GRA—2001 through 2005	3-148
3.3.7-6 Location of Ambient Air Quality Monitors near the GREC Site	3-154
3.3.7-7 AQI Charts for Alachua County, Florida—2007 and 2008	3-160
3.3.7-8 Existing Alachua County SO ₂ , NO _x , VOC, and CO Emissions for 2002	3-161
3.3.7-9 Existing Alachua County PM Emissions for 2002	3-162
3.3.7-10 Location of Major Sources of Air Emission within 40 km of GREC	3-165
3.3.8-1 Ambient Noise Monitoring Locations	3-168
3.3.8-2 Meter No. 1—Eastern Property Boundary	3-169

LIST OF FIGURES
(Continued, Page 3 of 5)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
3.3.8-3 Meter No. 2—Northern Property Boundary	3-170
3.3.8-4 Meter No. 3—Western Property Boundary	3-171
3.3.8-5 Meter No. 4—Southern Property Boundary	3-172
4.1.1-1 Schematic of BFB Boiler	4-3
4.1.2-1 Locations of Proposed GREC Associated Linear Facilities	4-7
4.2.0-1 Overall Layout of Proposed GREC Facilities within DGS Site	4-9
4.2.0-2 Layout of Proposed Facilities within GREC Site	4-10
4.2.0-3 Detailed Facility Layout for GREC	4-11
4.2.0-4 Conceptual Rendering of GREC Facility	4-15
4.3.3-1 Major Timber Resource Areas and Forest Products Mills within 75-Mile Radius of GREC	4-21
4.3.7-1 Biomass Fuel Delivery, Unloading, and Processing System	4-31
4.3.7-2 Biomass Fuel Handling and Storage System	4-32
4.4.2-1 GREC BFB Biomass Boiler Emission Control Technologies	4-43
4.5.0-1 GREC Water Balance Annual Average Water Usage	4-55
4.5.0-2 GREC Water Balance Maximum Daily Water Usage	4-56
4.8.3-1 Stormwater System Drainage Areas for Power Plant/Fuel Yard and Scale House Areas	4-75
4.8.3-2 Stormwater System Drainage Areas for Access Road, Switchyard, and Temporary Parking Areas	4-76
4.8.3-3 GREC Final Grading Plan for Plant, Fuel Yard, and Scale House Areas	4-79
5.1.1-1 Land Disturbed by Construction on GREC Site and DGS Site	5-2
5.1.2-1 Plan View of Entrance Road	5-8
5.1.2-2 Typical Access Roadway Cross-Section	5-10

LIST OF FIGURES
(Continued, Page 4 of 5)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
5.4.1-1 Land Use Construction Impacts	5-17
5.7.3-1 Peak Construction Daily Trips	5-27
5.7.3-2 Peak Construction: a.m. and p.m. Peak Hour Trips	5-29
6.3.3-1 Steady-State Drawdown in UFA (Layer 3) Based on 1.4-MGD Withdrawal	6-12
6.3.3-2 Steady-State Drawdown in IAS (Layer 2) Based on 1.4-MGD Withdrawal	6-13
6.3.3-3 Steady-State Drawdown in SAS (Layer 1) Based on 1.4-MGD Withdrawal	6-14
6.7.2-1 GREC Noise Modeling Results	6-49
6.9.2-1 Forestry Fuel Deliveries: Percent Distribution and Daily Trips	6-55
6.9.2-2 Mill and Urban Wood Fuel Deliveries and Nonfuel Deliveries: Percent Distribution and Daily Trips	6-56
6.9.2-3 Plant Operation Daily Trips	6-57
6.9.4-1 Plant Operation: a.m. and p.m. Peak Hour Trips	6-59
7.2.2-1 Conceptual Rendering View of GREC Facilities from Main Access Road Entrance	7-10
7.2.2-2 Conceptual Rendering View of GREC Facilities from Entrance to Turkey Creek	7-12
9.0.0-1 Linear Facilities Proposed for Certification	9-3
9.0.0-2 Aerial Photograph—Linear Facilities Proposed for Certification	9-4
9.2.1-1 Typical GREC 138-kV Structure	9-6
9.2.2-1 Plot Plan of the 138-kV Electrical Switchyard	9-8
9.2.2-2 Proposed Switchyard Plan View	9-9
9.2.2-3 Proposed Switchyard Cross-Sectional View	9-10
9.2.3-1 Typical Cross-Section of Pipes	9-12

LIST OF FIGURES
(Continued, Page 5 of 5)

<u>Figure</u>	<u>Page</u>
9.2.4-1 Typical Access Roadway Cross-Section	9-13
9.2.4-2 Plan View of Entrance Road	9-14
9.3.1-1 Existing Transmission Lines 115 kV or Greater within 5 Miles	9-16
9.3.6-1 Governmental Jurisdictions	9-17
9.3.6-2 Future Land Use Map	9-19
9.3.6-3 Zoning Map	9-20
9.3.7-1 Land Cover/Vegetation	9-23
9.5.5-1 Location of Switchyard EMF Cross-Sections	9-32

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

°	degree
°C	degree Celsius
°F	degree Fahrenheit
µg/m ² /yr	microgram per square meter per year
µg/m ³	microgram per cubic meter
µS/cm	microSiemen per centimeter
AAQS	ambient air quality standard
ACEPD	Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
ACFM	actual cubic foot per minute
ACSB	Alachua County School Board
ACSR	aluminum conductor, steel-reinforced
ADT	average daily traffic
AERMOD	AMS/EPA regulatory model
American Renewables	American Renewables, LLC
AMS	American Meteorological Society
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
AQI	air quality index
AQRV	air quality-related value
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
AST	aboveground storage tank
BACT	best available control technology
BayCorp	BayCorp Holdings, Ltd.
BEA	U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis
BEBR	Bureau of Economic and Business Research
BFB	bubbling fluidized bed
BMP	best management practice
Btu/ft ³	British thermal units per cubic foot
Btu/gal	British thermal unit per gallon
Btu/hr	British thermal units per hour
Btu/lb	British thermal unit per pound
CAA	Clean Air Act
CadnaA	Computer Aided Noise Abatement
CAIR	Clean Air Interstate Rule
CCS	carbon capture and sequestration
CEC	Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc.
CEMS	continuous emissions monitoring system
CFB	circulating fluidized bed
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic foot per second
CGP	generic permit for stormwater discharge from large and small construction activities
CHP	combined heat and power
CO	carbon monoxide

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS
(Continued, Page 2 of 7)

CO ₂	carbon dioxide
col/100 mL	colony per 100 milliliters
CR	County Road
CSX	CSX Transportation, Inc.
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
dBZ	C-weighted decibel
DGS	flat-frequency-weighted decibel
DSI	Deerhaven Generating Station
DSM	dry sorbent injection
ECT	demand-side management
EGEAS	Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.
EMI	Electrical Generation Expansion Analysis System
EMS	Energy Management, Inc.
EPA	emergency medical service
EPC	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPRI	engineer, procure, and construct
ERP	Electric Power Research Institute
ET	environmental resource permit
F.A.C.	evapotranspiration
F.S.	Florida Administrative Code
FAS	Florida Statutes
FBC	Floridan aquifer system
FDACS	fluidized bed combustion
FDEP	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDHR	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDLES	Florida Division of Historical Resources
FDOT	Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security
FEMA	Florida Department of Transportation
FGS	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Florida Geological Survey
FIT	flood insurance rate map
FLAG	feed-in tariff
	Federal Land Managers' Air Quality Related Values Workgroup
Florida Greenbook	FDOT's Manual of Uniform Minimum Standards for Design, Construction, and Maintenance for Streets and Highways
FLUCFCS	Florida Land Use, Cover, and Forms Classification System
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
FPL	Florida Power & Light Company
FPSC	Florida Public Service Commission
ft	foot

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS
(Continued, Page 3 of 7)

ft bls	foot below land surface
ft/day	foot per day
ft/ft	foot per foot
ft/yr	foot per year
ft ²	square foot
ft ² /day	square feet per day
ft-msl	foot above mean sea level
ft-NGVD	foot National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
G/ACRESUB	Gainesville/Alachua County Regional Electric and Sewer Utilities Board
g/s	gram per second
GAQM	Guideline on Air Quality Models
GB	gigabyte
GCTL	groundwater cleanup target level
GDS	GDS Associates
GE	General Electric
GEAC	Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee
Genesis	Genesis Group
GHG	greenhouse gas
GMA	Gainesville Metropolitan Area
gpd	gallon per day
gpm	gallon per minute
gr/100 dscf	grain per 100 dry standard cubic foot
gr/dscf	grain per dry standard cubic foot
GRA	Gainesville Regional Airport
GRA	Gainesville Regional Airport
GREC	Gainesville Renewable Energy Center
GREC LLC	Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC
GRU	Gainesville Regional Utilities
GSE	GSE Engineering & Consulting, Inc.
H ₂ SO ₄	sulfuric acid
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
HCREC	Hamilton County Renewable Energy Center
Hg ⁰	elemental mercury
Hg ²⁺	compounds of oxidized mercury
Hg _p	particle-bound mercury
HHV	higher heating value
hp	horsepower
hr/yr	hour per year
Hz	Hertz
i	hydraulic gradient
I-75	Interstate 75

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS
(Continued, Page 4 of 7)

IAS	intermediate aquifer system and intermediate confining unit
ICF	ICF Consulting
IGCC	integrated gasification combined-cycle
IRP	integrated resource planning
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
JIA	Jacksonville International Airport
K	hydraulic conductivity
kcmil	thousand circular mil
kV	kilovolt
K _v	vertical hydraulic conductivity
kV/m	kilovolt per meter
kW	kilowatt
lb/hr	pound per hour
lb/MMBtu	pound per million British thermal units
lb/MWh	pound per megawatt-hour
lb/yr	pound per year
LCOE	levelized cost of energy
LDC	land development code
LDC	land development code
L _{eq}	equivalent continuous sound level
L _{eq} (1)	1-hour equivalent sound level
L _{eq} (24)	24-hour equivalent sound level
LFA	Lower Floridan aquifer
L _{max}	maximum sound level
L _{min}	minimum sound level
LOS	level of service
L _{wA}	overall sound power level
m/s	meter per second
MCR	maximum current rating
MDN	Mercury Deposition Network
MFL	minimum flows and levels
mG	milliGauss
mg/L	microgram per liter
MGD	million gallons per day
mi ²	square mile
mi ²	square mile
MMBtu/hr	million British thermal units per hour
MODFLOW	Modular Three-Dimensional Finite Difference Groundwater Flow Model
mph	mile per hour
MSDS	material safety data sheet
MSGP	multisector generic permit for stormwater discharge associated with industrial activity

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS
(Continued, Page 5 of 7)

MTPO	Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
MW	megawatt
MWh	megawatt-hour
n	effective porosity
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standard
NAD	North American Datum 1983
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NADSC	natural attenuation default source concentration
NCFRPC	North Central Florida Regional Planning Council
NESC	National Electrical Safety Code
ng/m ³	nanogram per cubic meter
NH ₃	ammonia gas
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NOI	notice of intent
NO _x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPV	net present value
NREL	National Renewable Energy Laboratory
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
NSR	New Source Review
NSSCOU	nonsteady or steady state coupled
NWA	National Wilderness Area
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PC	pulverized coal
PEF	Progress Energy Florida
Petition	petition filed by GRU and GREC LLC for a FPSC determination of need for the proposed GREC
PF	Public Facilities zoning district
PM	particulate matter
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than or equal to 10 micrometers
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers
PPA	power purchase agreement
ppm	part per million
ppmw	part per million by weight
PPSA	Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act
PS	Public Services and Operations zoning district
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
psig	pound per square inch gauge
PV	photovoltaic
RARE	Roadless area review and evaluation

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS
(Continued, Page 6 of 7)

RCP	reinforced concrete pipe
RDF	refuse-derived fuel
RFP	request for biomass proposal
RGM	reactive gaseous divalent mercury
RO	reverse osmosis
RUC	Regional Utilities Committee
s.u.	standard unit
s.u.	standard unit
SAS	surficial aquifer system
SCA	site certification application
SCR	selective catalytic reduction
SFCU	sub-Floridan confining unit
SIL	significant impact level
Site	approximately 131 acres where GREC will be located
SJRWMD	St. Johns River Water Management District
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SO _x	sulfur oxides
SPL	sound pressure level
SR	State Road
SRCC	Southeast Regional Climate Center
SRPP	strategic regional policy plan
SRWMD	Suwannee River Florida Water Management District
SWPPP	stormwater pollution prevention plan
TDS	total dissolved solid
the City	the City of Gainesville
TIITF	Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund
TMDL	total maximum daily load
tpd	ton per day
tph	ton per hour
tpy	ton per year
TRC	total resource cost
TSS	total suspended solid
Tyr Energy	Tyr Energy, Inc.
U.S. 441	U.S. Highway 441
UFA	Upper Floridan aquifer
UIC	Underground Injection Control
ULSD	ultra-low sulfur diesel
UMAM	Uniform Mitigation Assessment Methodology
USDA	U. S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
v	linear flow velocity

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS
(Continued, Page 7 of 7)

VISTAS	Visibility Improvement State and Tribal Association of the Southeast
VMT	vehicle-mile traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
WBAN	Weather-Bureau-Army-Navy
WBID	water body identification
WMD	water management district
WTE	waste-to-energy
WUP	water use permit
yd ³	cubic yard
ZLD	zero liquid discharge

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gainesville Renewable Energy Center, LLC (GREC LLC) is filing this site certification application

(SCA) for the construction and operation of the Gainesville Renewable Energy Center (GREC), a new electrical power plant and associated facilities located within the City of Gainesville in Alachua County, Florida. GREC will consist of a nominal net 100-megawatt (MW) electrical generating plant that will use clean, woody biomass material as fuel and will employ state-of-the-art air emissions and environmental control systems to provide reliable, renewable energy at a reasonable cost.

This SCA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of: (a) the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA), Sections 403.501 through 403.518, Florida Statutes (F.S.); and (b) the rules implementing the PPSA, which have been adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and codified in Chapter 62-17, Part I, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). This SCA follows the prescribed format and informational requirements of the FDEP Application Instruction Guide: Electrical Power Plant Sites and Associated Facilities Electrical Transmission Lines (revised September 1, 2009).

This executive summary highlights the key features of GREC. More detailed information on GREC is provided in this SCA as required pursuant to the PPSA.

GAINESVILLE RENEWABLE ENERGY CENTER, LLC

GREC LLC is the Applicant for the proposed GREC SCA. GREC LLC is a subsidiary of American Renewables, LLC (American Renewables). GREC LLC was specifically established by American Renewables to develop, construct, own, and operate the proposed GREC in Gainesville, Florida.

American Renewables is a private, for-profit renewable power producer. American Renewables develops, builds, and operates renewable energy facilities that use biomass materials as fuel. American Renewables is jointly owned by affiliates of three companies: BayCorp Holdings, Ltd. (BayCorp); Energy Management, Inc. (EMI); and Tyr Energy, Inc. (Tyr Energy). These entities bring together successful experience and expertise in energy-related project development, operations, investment, and management.

In addition to GREC, American Renewables has other biomass energy facilities of similar 100-MW size and design in various stages of development, including the Nacogdoches Power project in eastern Texas, which was recently sold to Southern Power, a subsidiary of Southern Company, and the Hamilton County Renewable Energy Center in Hamilton County, Florida.

NEED FOR GREC

The electrical output of GREC will be purchased by Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) under a 30-year power purchase agreement (PPA) between the City of Gainesville (d/b/a GRU) and GREC LLC. The PPA was unanimously approved by the Gainesville City Commission on May 7, 2009. The City's decision to select GREC to meet its future energy supply needs and enter into the PPA was the result of an extensive integrated resource planning process including an extensive public participation/public outreach program. An open competitive procurement process was used to identify the most cost-effective proposal that satisfied the City's goals and objectives. A key element in this process was the Gainesville City Commission's decision to only pursue renewable energy for its future energy supply needs. The selection of GREC as the best option for meeting GRU's electrical supply needs was based on: (a) the need for electric system reliability and integrity, (b) the need for fuel diversity and supply reliability, and (c) the need for electricity at a reasonable cost.

GREC LLC and GRU jointly filed a petition for determination of need for GREC with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) on September 18, 2009 (Florida PSC Docket No. 090451-EM). At the time of this SCA filing, the petition is under review by Florida PSC and the Florida PSC hearing for consideration of the petition is scheduled for

December 16, 2009. The docket indicates that the Florida PSC will issue its order on the determination of need for GREC on March 1, 2010.

GREC SITE

GREC will be located on an approximately 131-acre Site in northwest Gainesville that GREC LLC will lease from the City of Gainesville (d/b/a GRU). The GREC Site is located within the boundaries of the approximately 1,146-acre previously certified site for GRU's existing Deerhaven Generation Station (DGS). The GREC Site area is currently not actively used by GRU and does not contain any facilities associated with DGS. Based on consultations with FDEP's Siting Coordination Office, it is GREC LLC's understanding that FDEP will either amend the SCA for DGS or modify the conditions of certification for DGS as appropriate to delineate between the GREC Site and the certified site for DGS.

The GREC Site is presently undeveloped and has historically been used for agriculture and pine silviculture. Most of the Site currently is actively managed for timber production and has been altered by land preparation (furlowing) and periodic harvesting of timber. The Site is transected by numerous unpaved roads/trails and is surrounded by manmade swales/ditches. The current land use and vegetation types on the Site consist primarily of forested communities, including pine plantations, mixed pine and hardwoods, and several wetland types. Nonforested communities include manmade swales, trails/roads, open land, and herbaceous dry prairie.

The property adjacent to and east of the GREC Site is part of the GRU DGS property. The Alachua County Public Works Department has facilities on the land adjacent to the Site's western border. A radio tower and undeveloped land also are situated west of the Site. Northwest 128th Lane is adjacent to the north side of the Site. Undeveloped, wooded land is located north of Northwest 128th Lane. South of the Site is U.S. Highway 441 (U.S. 441), the CSX rail line and spur, and several properties that are used for commercial and retail sales. The closest residential development to the Site is the Turkey Creek subdivision located approximately 0.8 mile to the southwest of the proposed area for the power plant facilities on the Site.

GREC POWER PLANT AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

GREC will involve the construction and operation of a nominal net 100-MW (nominal gross 116-MW) biomass-fired electrical power plant and associated facilities on the approximately 131-acre Site. In addition, GREC will involve the development of four associated linear facilities, which will extend off the GREC Site onto GRU's DGS property. These linear facilities will include the main access road, a natural gas pipeline, a sanitary sewer force main pipeline, and a 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and switchyard. The main access road will also run a short distance off the DGS property across the existing CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSX) railroad line corridor and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) right-of-way along U.S. Highway 441 (U.S. 441). Further, during construction, an approximately 8-acre area on the DGS property will be temporarily used for construction laydown and an existing DGS maintenance road will be temporarily used for access to the laydown area. GREC LLC is seeking certification of the electrical power plant and all associated facilities within the PPSA proceeding.

POWER PLANT FACILITIES

The main electrical generating facilities for GREC will consist of a bubbling fluidized bed (BFB) boiler and conventional steam turbine generator. The BFB boiler will be capable of accommodating a wide range of clean, woody biomass fuels. In the BFB boiler, combustion of the woody biomass will take place in the dense, fluidized sand bed located at the bottom of the furnace as well as above the bed.

Flue gas from the BFB boiler will pass through air emission control equipment and exhaust to the atmosphere through one 230-foot (ft) tall stack. Other facilities in the main power block area will include an administration building; warehouse; water and wastewater treatment facilities; sand and fly and bottom ash handling and storage facilities; emergency diesel generator and firewater pump; a switchyard; and biomass fuel delivery, handling, and storage facilities.

BIOMASS FUEL PROCUREMENT

GREC will use clean, chipped/ground, woody biomass material as its primary fuel. The biomass material will consist of logging residue, mill residue, and urban wood waste. Urban wood waste typically consists of woody tree trimmings created by land clearing, right-of-way maintenance, and other nonforestry sources of woody debris. GREC will not use as fuel any form of treated, painted, or coated wood; municipal solid wastes; construction or demolition debris; coal; petroleum coke; or tires.

GREC LLC will enter into contracts with local and regional landowners and suppliers for the procurement of approximately 1 million tons per year (tpy) of biomass fuel. The biomass fuel will typically be procured from areas within a 75-mile radius of the Site. The fuel suppliers will be required to follow strict standards that were established by GRU and GREC LLC in the PPA to protect the sustainability of regional forests. The fuel suppliers also will be given the opportunity to benefit from a forest stewardship incentive program if they exceed the minimum standards established by GRU and GREC LLC.

The biomass fuel will be prepared and chipped/ground at offsite locations to meet the design specifications established by GREC LLC for the BFB. The chipped/ground wood will be delivered to the GREC Site by truck. When the truck arrives at the Site, the truck will be weighed, and then the biomass fuel will be unloaded. The biomass will be stacked in storage piles and then reclaimed as needed. The onsite biomass fuel handling and storage systems will include truck scales, truck dumpers, screens and wood hogs, automatic and manual stacker/reclaim systems, and fuel storage piles.

STATE-OF-THE-ART AIR EMISSION CONTROLS

GREC will use advanced BFB boiler technology and clean burning biomass fuel to minimize its airborne emissions. Using renewable biomass fuel also will help ensure that GREC's emissions are *carbon neutral* with regard to carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (GHGs).

GREC will also use state-of-the-art air emission control systems, which represent the best available control technology (BACT) to effectively minimize regulated air emissions.

These control systems include:

- BFB boiler technology to minimize NO_x production via combustion staging.
- SCR system to control NO_x emissions.
- BFB boiler technology combined with dry sorbent injection (DSI), low-sulfur biomass fuel, and naturally occurring calcium in the wood ash to control SO₂, H₂SO₄ mist, hydrogen chloride, and hydrogen fluoride emissions.
- Fabric filter baghouse for control of particulate matter.

Through the use of these effective emission control systems, GREC's impacts on ambient air quality in Alachua County and the region will be minimal and significantly less than all ambient air quality standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and FDEP to protect human health and the environment.

WATER USE MINIMIZATION AND ZERO LIQUID DISCHARGE SYSTEM

GREC will be equipped with a zero liquid discharge (ZLD) system, which will allow GREC to eliminate any discharges of industrial wastewater from the facility. The ZLD system also will allow GREC to maximize the recycling and reuse of water. The ZLD system and other water conservation measures will be used to minimize the amount of water used by GREC. Nonetheless, GREC will need approximately 1.4 millions gallons per day (gpd) of water (annual average), primarily to replace the water lost through evaporation in GREC's mechanical draft cooling tower. This need will be satisfied by using groundwater withdrawn from the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA) through two new onsite wells. To support the approval of this water use by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) as part of this SCA process, detailed modeling and analyses of GREC's proposed groundwater withdrawals have been conducted to assess potential impacts. The results of these efforts show that the proposed water use will not harm nor adversely impact groundwater levels and quality, surface waters, wetlands, existing legal users, or other environmental resources on or in the vicinity of the Site. In addition, to offset this groundwater use, GRU has agreed to reduce the approved groundwater allocation for the GRU DGS by 1.4 million gallons per day (MGD) prior to the start of com-

mercial operations of GREC. GREC LLC also conducted a reclaimed water feasibility analysis. Though this analysis concluded that it is not currently feasible to use reclaimed water, GREC LLC has agreed to consider the use of reclaimed water in the future if it becomes reasonably available and economically feasible for GREC.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

GREC will have onsite drainage systems designed to manage, treat, and control stormwater runoff and minimize potential erosion and sedimentation impacts during construction and operation. These drainage facilities will be designed in accordance with all applicable requirements of FDEP, the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), and local agencies, if required. Only stormwater runoff from areas with no contact with industrial activities will be discharged from the Site.

WETLAND MITIGATION AND PROTECTION

The proposed arrangement of facilities on the GREC Site is designed to minimize impacts to wetlands. Key considerations in designing the proposed Site layout included: (1) avoiding areas with extensive, high-quality wetlands; (2) locating facilities in areas with lower quality wetlands where wetland impacts cannot be avoided; and (3) providing an average 50-ft setback buffer around all nonimpacted wetlands.

To compensate for unavoidable, permanent impacts to 0.44 acre of lower quality wetlands, GREC LLC is proposing a mitigation plan that consists of placing a permanent preservation and conservation easement on approximately 10.25 acres of high-quality wetland habitat and 12.33 acres of upland buffer surrounding the wetland.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

The construction and operation of GREC will provide economic benefits to the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, the region, and the state. These benefits include the creation of an average of 168 and a peak of 426 jobs during the 34-month construction period, as well as an additional 44 fulltime jobs at the GREC facility once the unit begins operation. Further, during GREC operations, it is estimated that an additional 450 to 500 jobs will be created in the north Florida region, primarily in support of the biomass fuel supply activities. Construction and operation of GREC will generate significant sales

tax revenues from purchases of goods and services directly for the plant and indirectly by workers and employees. Also, GREC will provide significant ad valorem tax revenues to the City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and other taxing authorities.

GREC SCHEDULE

Currently, construction of GREC is scheduled to begin in December 2010, and commercial operation is scheduled for December 2013. Achieving this schedule has significant economic consequences for GRU and its power customers. If the biomass facility begins commercial operation by January 1, 2014, GREC will be eligible to obtain the renewable energy grant from the federal government that is contained in H.R. 1 (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009). The savings in GRU's cost of power resulting from GREC obtaining the renewable energy grant is \$8.10 per megawatt-hour (MWh), which equates to a savings of \$6.4 million per year.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND BENEFITS

In summary, GREC LLC has selected and implemented designs for GREC that will avoid or minimize environmental impacts in Alachua County and the north-central Florida region, while reliably and cost-effectively meeting the future energy needs of GRU's customers. GREC LLC's and GRU's selection of the existing DGS property for GREC offers many benefits and minimizes environmental, land use, and other impacts compared to development of a generation facility at a greenfield site. GREC LLC's use of renewable biomass energy technology with state-of-the-art air emission control systems and the water-conserving water use plan will also minimize potential environmental impacts. Further, GREC will provide numerous positive direct and indirect economic benefits in Gainesville, Alachua County and the region.