

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

2009 NW 67 PLACE, SUITE A, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32653-1603
(352)955-2200 SUNCOM 625-2200 FAX (352) 955-2209



June 7, 2010

Mr. Mike Halpin, Administrator
Siting Coordination Office
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: Final Agency Report for Gainesville Regional Utilities
Gainesville Renewable Energy Center Site Certification Application

Dear Mr. Halpin:

This letter serves as the Final Agency Report of the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council concerning the Gainesville Regional Energy Center Site Certification Application pursuant to Section 403.507, Florida Statutes.

APPLICABLE REGIONAL PLAN GOALS AND POLICIES

A portion of the subject property is located within the Rocky Creek Stream-To-Sink Watershed, a Natural Resource of Regional Significance as identified and mapped in the regional plan. Applicable regional goals and policies are as follows:

REGIONAL GOAL 4.3. Protect all sources of recharge to the Floridan aquifer from all activities which would impair these functions or cause a degradation in the quality of the water being recharged in recognition of the importance of maintaining adequate supplies of high-quality groundwater for the region.

Policy 4.3.6. Ensure that local government comprehensive plans, DRIs, and requests for federal and state funds for development activities reviewed by the Council include adequate provisions for stormwater management and aquifer recharge protection in order to protect the quality and quantity of water contained in the Floridan Aquifer

The subject property is also located adjacent to U.S. Highway 441, which is a segment of the Regional Road Network as identified in the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Applicable transportation goals and policies are as follows:

REGIONAL GOAL 5.1. Maintain a regional road network which operates at or above the minimum level of service standard contained in local government comprehensive plans for those segments located outside Transportation Concurrency Exception Areas.

Policy 5.1.9. Mitigate impacts created by development so as to maintain the minimum adopted level of service standard on non-FIHS roads identified in this plan as significant regional transportation facilities as established in local government comprehensive plans.

IMPACTS TO REGIONAL FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

STREAM-TO-SINK WATERSHEDS

Section 4.9 of the site certification application provides detailed information regarding the proposed stormwater system for the project. The application further notes that the project must obtain a stormwater discharge permit under the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Multisector Generic Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity. Therefore, significant adverse impacts to the quality of water entering the Floridan Aquifer via the Rocky Creek Stream-to-Sink Watershed are not anticipated as a result of the project.

REGIONAL ROAD NETWORK

As noted in Section 6.9 of the application, the project is anticipated to result in an additional 378 average annual daily trips external to the project site. The analysis indicates that no significant adverse impacts are anticipated to the Regional Road Network as a result of the project. Therefore, significant adverse impacts are not anticipated to the Regional Road Network as a result of the project.

NONPROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

The project requires no variance, exemption, exception, or other relief from this agency to proceed further in the certification process.

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

No conditions are proposed to prevent significant adverse impacts to regional facilities or Natural Resources of Regional Significance.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OR DENIAL OF PROJECT

The proposed project is consistent with the North Central Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan. Therefore, it is recommended that the application be approved.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Steven Dopp, Senior Planner of the Planning Council's Regional and Local Government Programs staff, at (352) 955-2200, extension 109.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Koons, AICP
Executive Director

xc: Jack Doolittle, ECT