

William Theodore & Shirley Jean Medlin

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Kimberly Menchion, Asst. Gen. Counsel
Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 58
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Dear Kimberly Menchion

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

AUG 13 2008

SITING COORDINATION

I am writing to you about my concern that Progress Energy has and will depreciate my property value by a huge amount. Progress Energy is going to resurrect an abandoned rail line adjacent to my back yard. Progress Energy said they do not need to purchase my land or purchase an easement from me. The resurrection of this abandoned rail line will depreciate my property value and their spokesperson, Gail Simpson, Manager of Public Policy, says that they DO NOT have to compensate me for depreciation of my property.

We questioned this abandoned railway before purchasing our lot and were told that the Florida Forever Land Acquisition Group someday would be putting a Greenway Trail on this abandoned CSX rail line. We would have NEVER purchased this property, if we had known that Progress Energy would come in and once again reconstruct the abandoned rail line and be running box cars in our backyard to Nuclear Plants. This is very unfair that a 17 billion dollar project will depreciate the value of my over \$500,000.00 home substantially. We have a beautiful 2 acre lot that we cleared of pine trees to mirror our beautiful Rainbow River State Park. We also put in a mini golf course on our beautiful nature setting. We retired here from Michigan to what we thought was Paradise and invested our retirement money into this property to find out 3 years after that it will be destroyed by Progress Energy's Proposed Rail Line going through our backyard and chasing away all the wildlife, wonders and beauty of nature provided here. Progress Energy has other options that they could consider without putting it in our backyard and depreciating our home. It is hard enough with today's economy to sell a home, but now with Progress Energy's rail line running in plain view of my Lanai and pool it will be impossible to recoup our retirement investment.

Here are some of our many concerns:

1. There is currently one railroad crossing in existence in Dunnellon at the junction of Williams St. and SR 484 which is a main East-West corridor in and out of town. This new crossing is planned for US Highway 41, a main North-South corridor. If two trains arrived at these crossings at or near the same time they would effectively block the major roads into and out of Dunnellon.
2. The already-heavy traffic on Highway 41 will become worse with a second Dunnellon railroad crossing and the resulting train delays.

3. Critical safety issues for all area residents - most importantly - emergency services being delayed due to train crossings. This could result in tragic and unnecessary deaths.

4. Wildlife endangerment, a dramatic increase of noise and air pollution from an additional train line and concern about the possible future transportation of hazardous materials and nuclear waste through our neighborhood and backyards. This danger would obviously pose significant pollution and health hazards.

5. Structural damage to homes in close proximity of the railway spurs - most significantly - those in the Rainbow Springs Woodlands area.

6. Due to additional trains on the present line, rail noise will increase exponentially for all areas of Rainbow Springs including, The Woodlands, Grand Park, Grand Park North, Country Club Estates, The Forest, The Villas, Fox Trace, and Fairway Estates, as well as the surrounding area.

7. Some Woodlands property owners will have trains operating along the edges of their yards, in close proximity to their homes, disrupting their tranquility. Some homes are within 80 feet of the abandoned rail line.

8. We feel the railroad spur in its proposed location will have an irreversible negative impact on our environment, on our property values and on the quality of our lives.

9. Overall decrease of the quality of life in our rural wooded community and our beautiful Rainbow River State Park.

Please we are turning to you to help us STOP Progress Energy from letting this happen to our tranquil and beautiful neighborhood.

Sincerely,

William Theodore Medlin
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