

Stop the Gainesville Biomass Plant

Suddenly, the disaster is stoppable.

Citizens are appealing the permits for the proposed biomass incinerator. We support the citizen petitioners, who have requested legal Hearings and been granted standing in those Hearings. They should be heard.

Building this \$500,000,000 incinerator would be a financial disaster for our city and the ratepayers. It is guaranteed only to bring us massive new air pollution.

It must be stopped.

We don't need it. We cannot afford it.

The total cost over 30 years is projected to exceed \$2 Billion.

We built up GRU over the years, and today it is our greatest public asset. Fully **36%** of the City's General Fund comes from the Utility Transfer, GRU's dividend to its stockholders (the ratepayers).

This project threatens our public finances. The ratepayers would shoulder the risk, the profits would go to a private corporation.

Rates are slated to go up as soon as this white elephant gets built. If rosy fuel price forecasts by GRU fail to come through, the costs will skyrocket.

GRU admits that we don't need any new power until 2023, at the earliest. Yet they have concocted a scheme to turn our public utility into a private-public Merchant Power Plant, giving us more pollution so that they can sell power elsewhere.

We will lose local control of utility operations. A sweet \$100 a year lease gives the private firm the right to run an industrial operation on 131 acres of our public land, without any of the transparency and accountability we have with our public utility, GRU.

Each of the numerous pages blacked-out in the secretive contract that GRU signed on our "behalf" is an insult to the public interest.

New testimony in an Administrative Hearing has revealed that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) will be holding GRU (that is, we the ratepayers) responsible for the plant's performance.

Anything that goes wrong will be ours to fix. Any violations, any fines will fall on us.

The permit applications themselves reveal a shocking and comprehensive pattern of regulatory avoidance. **(see box).**

Pattern of Regulatory Avoidance

- **Best Available Control Technology (BACT)**
IS AVOIDED : for Sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and also for deadly PM_{2.5} (Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns).
- **Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT)**
IS AVOIDED for **Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)**, including **mercury, lead and dioxin**.
- **No Consumptive Use Permit (CUP)** will be issued for the massive water withdrawals from the aquifer – *AVOIDED* by a *paper-work shuffle that contends (absurdly) this isn't happening*.

This Pattern of Avoidance leads back to a City Commission refusing to face the problem.

We need to restore accountability.

The evidence shows conclusively -- this project *should be stopped!*

What you can do to help... 1. **Share** this information with your neighbors and colleagues

2. **Speak out!** *Tell your City Commissioners to fix this!* CityComm@cityofgainesville.org (352) 334-5015

3. **Send a donation** (tax deductible) payable to :

Biomass Accountability Project (memo: Gainesville)
PO Box 357703 Gainesville FL 32635-7703

* You can Contact us at informationplease@cox.net to volunteer your help, or by Phone (352) 215-9099