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(352) 334-3400

P.O. Box 147117, Station A118

Gainesville, FL 32614

www.gru.com



Gainesville Regional Utilities

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CHRIS BREW, 334-3400 X 1741**

Final Presentation for Kelly Plant and Depot Avenue Neighborhood Redesign

Gainesville, FL – In March of this year GRU held a “design charrette” to gather community input for the proposed redesign of the downtown Kelly Generating Station and the surrounding Depot Avenue neighborhood. The urban planning firm of Dover, Kohl & Partners was hired to funnel the input into an attractive and functional neighborhood design. For a week they listened to ideas and drew preliminary sketches. Now they are returning to make a final presentation of their interpretation of the community’s ideas for the redesign project. Those interested should come to the Gainesville City Commission Chambers on Monday, June 7, at 6:00 p.m. City Hall is located at 200 East University Avenue.

The redesign is motivated by the need to provide for the growing electric power needs of Gainesville. GRU is planning to meet those needs by re-cycling an existing 40-megawatt generating unit by combining it with a new 70-megawatt generator. This will create a 110-megawatt natural gas unit that will provide for future power needs while improving air emissions and energy efficiency.

This “repowering” requires architectural work for the historical Kelly plant building, originally completed in 1914. GRU and the City Commission decided to use the opportunity to improve the looks of the surrounding Depot Avenue area as well, based on community input. Combining these ideas with nearby renovations for a new central bus location and a planned storm water park, should help make this neighborhood a model in urban design.

June 7, 1999

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