

1/28/08

January 23, 2008

Madame Mayor and Commissioners,

On January 22, 2008 the Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee (GEAC) held a special meeting and two recommendations were approved unanimously. The first was as follows: "City Commission receives advisement from GEAC that they direct GRU staff to review and appropriately adjust the weighting of the municipal solid waste (MSW) component of the fuel specified in the proposals in conformance with the request for proposals (RFP). Specifically that any MSW used in this process must be only that remainder that cannot be feasibly recycled. The recommendation is further that the desirable goal is not less than a 75% reduction (by weight) in the MSW stream (per San Francisco and Seattle recycling programs, etc.). Should the renewed consideration of this requirement necessitate clarification on the part of the responding companies, the GRU staff is authorized to solicit and accept additional input from those already bidding on the project."

The reference to only using that portion of the MSW stream that cannot feasibly be recycled in the above motion is based on the statement on page 10 of RFP 2007-135 which stated "**MSW fuel options shall be limited to materials that are not feasibly recycled.**" This was in accord with an amendment to the draft RFP made by Commissioner Lowe that was approved on October 8, 2007 by a unanimous vote of the City Commission.

The second motion stated: "The biomass ash produced should meet any requisite standards that would allow it to serve as fertilizer with the goal that it benefit sustainable forest management and silvicultural activities." On page 13 of RFP 2007-135 it states: "Among the non-economic criteria that GRU will employ in evaluating proposals is whether the fuel procurement practices associated with the proposed biomass-fueled generation projects are consistent with GRU's vision and support of sustainable forest resource management." In order to procure fuel in a sustainable manner the minerals and nutrients in clean biomass ash should be returned to the soil.

These motions reflect GEAC's concern that our current level of recycling not be diminished but rather improved and that every effort is made to ensure the sustainable use of renewable biomass resources. GEAC appreciates the Commission's attention to these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Rob Brinkman  
Chair GEAC