

January 10, 1997

Mr. Mike Kennedy
Florida Power Corporation
P.O. Box 14042 Mail Code H2G
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

Enclosed are two copies of the report you requested, "Air Quality and Air Quality Related Values in Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area." I appreciate Florida Power Corporation's concern for Chassahowitzka and was very pleased to see you express that concern in your recent quote in the Citrus Times: "We're proposing to do it in an environmentally responsible way. . .because we're very sensitive to that." We assume that you refer to a revised project proposal that we have not yet had an opportunity to review, as the original proposal (that we reviewed and commented on in February and November of 1996) was not environmentally responsible. We look forward to the new proposal.

As you are apparently aware, the refuge and wilderness area preserve a unique section of relatively unspoiled estuarine habitat along an otherwise intensively developed coastline. Chassahowitzka provides valuable and diverse habitat for many types of wildlife, including a number of endangered species.

In addition, the wilderness area is a Class I air quality area, one of only four in Florida. Congress intended the highest protection from air pollution for Class I areas and Class I area resources, including visibility. Congress felt so strongly about this that they declared as a national goal "...the prevention of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory class I Federal areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution." (The Clean Air Act, Sec. 169A(a)(1))

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AIR REGULATION**

Thank you for publicly voicing your commitment to be environmentally responsible. With the cooperation and assistance of corporate neighbors, such as Florida Power, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be able to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality and resources in our Class I areas for future generations.

If I can provide you with any more information, please call me in Denver at (303) 969-2617.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ellen M. Porter

Ellen M. Porter
Environmental Specialist

Enclosures

bcc:

FDEP: Al Linero

CHAS: Refuge Manager

ARD-DEN: Reading and Project File

ARD-DEN:EPorter:ep:1/10/97:x2617:KENNEDY.LTR

cc: C.H. Janey, BAR
D. Beason, OGC