



# MANATEE COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

*Scott 11/27*  
*Cindy 1/19*  
*claim*  
*Howard*  
*11/19*

November 12, 1999

Howard L. Rhodes, Director, DARM  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

**RE: Initial Title V Air Operation Permit  
Big Bend and Gannon Station Facility 0570039 and 0570040  
Revised Draft Permit #0570039-002-AV and 0570040-002-AV**

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

Please be advised that I wish to go on record as opposing the permits for these two power plants.

Both of these plants pollute twice as much pollution as the whole state of New Jersey. They also produce four times as much pollution per kilowatt as the plant in Manatee County. TECO is the second worst power plant polluter in the United States.

Any permit renewal should require modifications to reduce pollution by the maximum possible. This company has taken its projects and invested in foreign countries. It is time they spend their profits around this epic center of the most polluted air in our state. To allow them to do any less is the state's failure to comply with EPA's Clean Air rules. Major modifications were done at both of these plants requiring higher pollution standards than what is included in the draft of these permits.

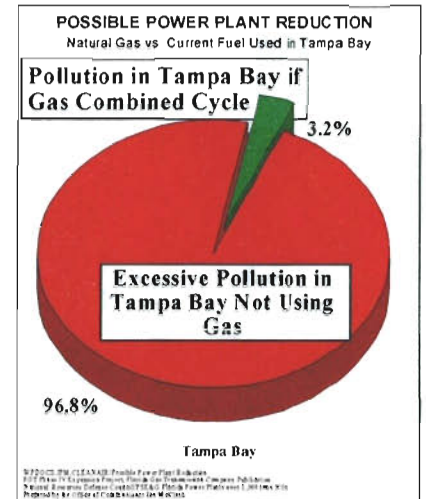
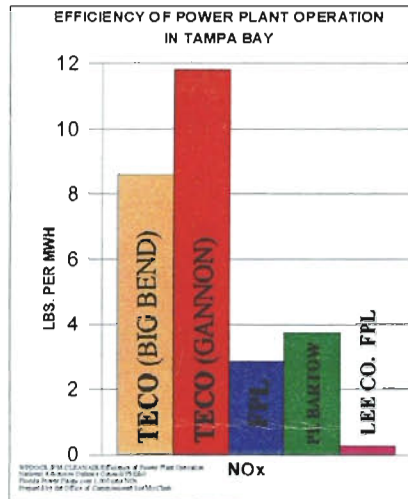
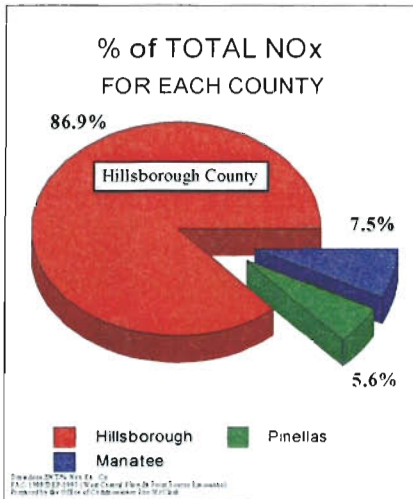
Approval of these permits will further degrade air quality in the Tampa Bay area, as well as, the rest of the state.

Sincerely,

  
JOE MCCLASH  
County Commissioner  
At-Large, District 7

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DIVISION OF AIR  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

# SUMMARY OF TAMPA BAY'S POLLUTION



## POWER PLANTS

**NO<sub>x</sub>** converts to ground level ozone which has adverse human health effects, degrades air and water quality, our environment and can cause premature death.

- Hillsborough County generates more power plant pollution than any county in Florida.
- Tampa Electric Company (TECO) operates three power plants in Hillsborough County.

### 1998 Reports

Hillsborough County generated 70,411 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> (Manatee generated (10,385 tons). *This is 2 1/2 times more pollution than the state of New Jersey generated (27,963 tons).*

- Florida has three times more NO<sub>x</sub> pollution from power plants than the state of New York. Ten times more than the state of California.

**SO<sub>2</sub>** can be seen as the orange haze in the sky. SO<sub>2</sub> is responsible for acid rain in Florida. Power plants emit SO<sub>2</sub> which turn soil acidic allowing mercury to leach out. Florida has one of the worst mercury problems in the world.

- Florida is the fourth largest polluter in the nation for SO<sub>2</sub> (818,366 tons). *Only Indiana (968,340 tons), Ohio (1,414,993 tons) and Pennsylvania (1,072,875 tons) pollute more.*
- 29% of all SO<sub>2</sub> pollution in the state of Florida is from Tampa Bay Power Plants, mainly TECO.

**Mercury:** The electric industry is the largest unregulated source of mercury contamination. Coal-burning power plants are the primary contributors. Florida health officials have warned against eating fish from 183,000 acres of lakes and 2,100 miles of rivers due to mercury contamination, which can cause severe neurological damage.

# WAYS TO REDUCE POLLUTION

## **Power Plants**

- Create goals to limit pollution for power produced. TECO generates four times more pollution than FPL's plant in Manatee County for the same kilowatt of power produced.
- Pollution reduction technology can reduce NO<sub>x</sub> by 90% and SO<sub>2</sub> by 95%. This is cost effective and good for the economy.
- Burn natural gas. FPL's plant in Lee County will produce three times more power, almost no visible emissions, 60% less NO<sub>x</sub> pollution and almost no SO<sub>2</sub> pollution (20,561 TPY to 137 TPY).
- Increase efficiency standards for power consuming appliances.
- Set goals for more use of solar and energy recovery equipment.

## **Automobiles**

- Use low sulphur fuels.
- Expedite lower emissions for automobiles.
- Close loophole for Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV's) and light trucks.
- Use low emission or electric vehicles.
- Promote carpools, vanpools vs. single occupancy vehicles.

## **CLEAN AIR POLICY**

**State needs to provide leadership to clean our air by establishing common sense goals for Florida.**

## **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DEREGULATION POLICY PROPOSAL**

Deregulate power plant's service areas that exceed a standard in excess of 1.15 lb. of NO<sub>x</sub>/MWH and /or 3 lb. of SO<sub>2</sub>/MWH providing that electrical rates are equal or less than current rates, unless power provider provides plan to reduce emissions within 3 years to standards as stated.

- Allows limited deregulation based on equal or less cost and reduced pollution.
- Allows current utility to provide energy at reduced pollution levels without forced regulation.
- Can be implemented quickly.
- Competition will determine power provider. If several corporations are competing for the same service area, award will go to one with least pollution as long as cost is equal or less than current rates.
- Restrict selling power outside of Florida unless pollution standards are achieved.