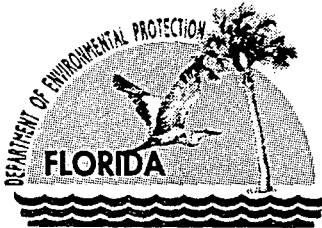


FILE



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Twin Towers Office Building
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

David B. Struhs
Secretary

March 19, 2003

Ms. Laura R. Crouch
Manager - Air Programs
Environmental Affairs
Tampa Electric Company
Big Bend Station
6944 US Hwy 41
Apollo Beach, FL 33572-9200

Re: Big Bend Unit #4 NO_x Reduction Plan

Dear Ms. Crouch:

Thank you for sending me a copy of Tampa Electric Company's (TEC's) "Big Bend Unit #4 NO_x Reduction Plan" dated February 28, 2003 that you submitted to the USEPA.

Although TEC has considerable flexibility under the USEPA Consent Decree, the Department recommends that TEC keeps its state-required [SIP] construction permits current.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 850-921-9534 or Cindy.Phillips@dep.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

Cindy L. Phillips, P.E.
Bureau of Air Regulation

c: Shelly Castro, TEC