

# Department of Environmental Protection

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

Virginia B. Wetherell Secretary

December 1, 1997

### CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Paul Amundsen, Esquire Amundsen and Moore Attorneys at Law 502 East Park Avenue Tallahassee, Florida 32302-1759

Dear Mr. Amundsen:

We received your letter dated November 18 requesting timely written notice of any requests by TECO to burn fuels other than coal. Any such application will be processed by the Bureau of Air Regulation. We have established a site on our web site which lists application received. You may be interested in reviewing the information on the site from time to time. Our address is www.dep.state.fl.us. Once you see an application of interest, you can request to be copied on correspondence regarding that request. That is easy to do because we can add your name to the list of interested parties in the entry for that specific application in our database. We will also include a note to that effect in the hardcopy file for that permitting action.

We will endeavor to actively notify you soon after we receive any such applications from TECO. However the request is open-ended, does not specify any time limits, and concerns future applications for which there exist no public records. Therefore we cannot ensure that you will always receive notification on a timely basis.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Doug Beason at 850/921-9624. If you wish to learn how to access the information on the website, please call Al Linero at 850/488-1344.

Sincerely,

Howard L. Rhodes, Director

Division of Air Resources

Management

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cc: W. Douglas Beason, Esq.

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## AMUNDSEN & MOORE

PAUL H. AMUNDSEN RICHARD W. MOORE RICHARD E. TORPY RODOLFO NUÑEZ MICHAEL J. MERENSTEIN JULIA E. SMITH

OF COUNSEL: BYRON B. MATHEWS, JR. 502 EAST PARK AVENUE TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301 (850) 425-2444 FACSIMILE: (850) 425-2447

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November 18, 1997 RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Certified - Return Receipt Requested

Howard Rhodes, Director
Division of Air Resources Management
Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Re: Request for Actual Notice Regarding Proposals to Burn other Fuels at TECO's Gannon Station /

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

As you know, this office represents Ridge Generating Station, L.P. ("Ridge"). Ridge was a party petitioner in formal administrative proceedings on two air permits sought by Tampa Electric Company ("TECO") to burn tire-derived fuel at TECO's Gannon Plant in Hillsborough County. Last month, TECO withdrew both of those permit applications and consequently the formal proceedings were dismissed.

The purpose of this letter is to request that DEP provide this office with timely, written notice of any similar requests by TECO7 to burn any fuels other than coal at the Gannon Station and additionally, timely, written notice of DEP's intended action on any such proposals by TECO.

For example, and without limiting the breadth of my request above, projects for which I am asking for actual notice are any TECO request to DEP for authorization of any kind to burn tirederived fuel, paper pellets, yard waste, wood or wood chips, yard clippings, petroleum coke, and any combinations or blends of these or similar fuels.

Additionally, (actual notice is requested for any proposed changes or alterations or modifications to the fuel ward at the Gannon Station.

Mr. Howard Rhodes November 18, 1997 Page two

Finally, I would appreciate you advising me immediately if for any reason the DEP will not provide the notice that I am requesting in this letter.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely

Paul H. Amundsen

PHA/mb

cc: W. Douglas Beason, Esquire

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#### TIRE BURNING ISSUE

- ♦ The Wheelabrator Ridge Facility is a <u>50MW</u> electrical generating facility fueled by waste wood and waste tires near Lakeland, Florida.
- The Facility burns approximately 300,000 tons/year of wood and 45,000 tons/year (4,500,000 tires).
- During the Pre-Application Meeting with the FDEP in the fall of 1991, the Company was told that, in order to be permitted to burn tires, a spray dryer absorber for SO2 control and fabric filter would be required. If burning only wood, an electrostatic precipitator would meet permit requirements.
- The Company made the decision to assume the added capital cost, as well as the additional ongoing operational cost of the S.D.A. and fabric filter because the relative fuel price advantage of tires vs. wood justified the expenditure.
- In 1995, when the Ridge Facility applied to increase its tire burning capacity from 32,000 tons per year to 45,000 tons per year the Company had to agree to reduce its initial SO2 limits from 109.4#/hour to 65#/hour in the final permit in order to gain state approval.
- Tampa Electric is now applying for a permit modification to allow its Gannon Station Unit

  3 to burn tires with SO2 emissions uncontrolled.
- ◆ To now have someone with <u>no SO2</u> control equipment be allowed to burn tires because they have a lax 1980's SO2 permit (2.4#/MMBTU at Gannon vs. 0.1#/MMBTU at Ridge) is inconceivable.
- Since the Ridge Facility started up in 1994, all known significant tire piles have been consumed in central and southern Florida and the disposal is no longer a problem in Florida.

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