

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY OBJECTING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS IN THE EVERGLADES BASIN.

WHEREAS, Monroe County is a culturally rich community and an outdoor paradise; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County covers most of the area known as the Everglades National Park; and

WHEREAS, the remainder of Monroe County, the Florida Keys, abuts and is dependent upon the waters of Florida Bay, into which the Everglades Ecosystem provides run-off; and

WHEREAS, the Glades Power Park (GPP) is a coal-fired power plant proposed by Florida Power and Light for a location in Moore Haven, Glades County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the proposed placement of the GPP borders Fisheating Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lake Okeechobee, Nicodemus Slough and the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River, all of which are vital components of the Everglades Ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the proposed GPP will require 26 million gallons of water per day in and near Water Supply Planning areas currently under drought restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the proposed GPP will generate oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, particulate matter and sulfuric acid mist, all at least five times the threshold for significant deterioration review; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plant will emit two hundred pounds of mercury per year which will be deposited on marshlands well equipped biochemically to convert it to methyl mercury; and

WHEREAS, published scientific research has demonstrated that mercury fallout occurs primarily in a 100 km radius of coal-fired electric generating stations; and

WHEREAS, this 100 km radius includes habitat where endangered and other fish and wildlife species already carry a high body burden of mercury; and

WHEREAS, methyl mercury is a highly toxic chemical that can be absorbed in the bloodstream, that has been proven to harm wildlife, and that US EPA estimates is present at potentially harmful levels in the blood of one out of six pregnant women; and

WHEREAS, the waters of Florida Bay beyond the 100 km radius will be negatively impacted and the destructive run-off created by "Big Sugar" will be exacerbated by the influx of mercury into the already fragile environment; and

WHEREAS, the emission of carbon dioxide will contribute to the accumulation of greenhouse gases, which contribute to global climate change, and according to international scientific consensus, must be significantly reduced by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the extraction and transportation of coal contributes severe societal and environmental harm, including mountaintop removal, to other regions, nations and continents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1: That Monroe County has serious objections to the establishment of coal-fired power plants in the historic Everglades drainage basin and urges that they not be permitted..

Section 2: Monroe County encourages the State of Florida to focus on conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources rather than construct more infrastructure dependent upon non-renewable sources, which are harmful to people and wildlife.

Section 3: Monroe County is particularly opposed to the proposed Glades Power Park project since it increases Greenhouse Gas emissions in the Everglades, with its corresponding pollution and effects on global climate, while irreversibly setting our energy policies in a direction away from conservation, energy efficiency and renewable resource use.

Section 4: The Clerk is directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to Florida Senator Larcenia J. Bullard and Florida Representatives Ron Saunders, Stan Mayfield, Baxter Troutman, and Trudi Williams, and also to send copies to Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior, Matthew J. Hogan, Acting Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Fran P. Mainella, Director, National Park Service, all located at 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240, Pat Hooks, Regional Director, National Park Service Southeast Region, 100 Alabama St. SW, 1924 Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30303, Fred Gaske, State Historic Preservation Officer, 505 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee FL. 32399-0250.

Section 5: This Resolution shall become effective on the date written below.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the 21st day of March, A.D., 2007.

Mayor Mario DiGennaro _____
Mayor Pro Tem Dixie M. Spehar _____
Commissioner Charles "Sonny" McCoy _____
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy _____
Commissioner George Neugent _____

(SEAL)
Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By _____
Deputy Clerk

By _____
Mayor/Chairman