



**Applied
Environmental
Services, LLC**

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Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor
Office of the Governor
State of Florida, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
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**Re: URGENT TIME-SENSITIVE INFORMATION FOR EVERGLADES CONFERENCE
Continuing Everglades Destruction Cloaked as Restoration
“Reservoirs” = Mining and Aquifer Dewatering, NOT “Storage”**

Dear Governor Crist,

On September 11, 2007 I wrote to you regarding Florida’s destructive approach to Everglades “Restoration” that you inherited from the preceding governorship. Specifically, the South Florida Water Mismanagement District (SFWMD), with the Army Corps of Engineers’ (Corps) blessings, actually was promoting large-scale mining throughout the Everglades - combined with hundreds of aquifer injection wells – as “restoration.” In my opinion, the destructive nature to the Everglades and the aquifer system of both of these actions is tantamount to the destruction that occurred on September 11th at the Twin Towers in New York.

“Reservoirs” = Mining and Aquifer Dewatering, NOT “Storage”

Attempts to convince Congress and the public that mining = Everglades “restoration” diminished after your new appointments to the SFWMD Governing Board and widespread legal action against mining in south Florida at the federal, state and local levels. Unfortunately, the new ploy from the same sources is to convince the same naive audience that giant, bermed, so-called “storage reservoirs,” proposed for design and construction throughout the Everglades, also is Everglades “restoration.”

In my opinion, these proposed multi-million dollar engineered boondoggles merely are a green-washed version of the mining originally proposed as Everglades “restoration.” These giant, bermed, so-called “storage reservoirs,” would result in precisely the same type of environmental destruction and dewatering of the Everglades and aquifer system as the originally proposed mining and aquifer injection. In fact, the millions of cubic yards of material to construct the berms will have to be mined.

We don’t have to speculate about the magnitude of environmental damage that would occur from the proposed giant bermed pits. I will gladly take you and any other concerned individuals to FPL’s Martin County power plant where a similar structure – going under the name of a “cooling pond” – has dewatered surrounding wetlands. Unfortunately FPL is attempting to prohibit access to that public waterway using thinly veiled claims of national security concerns.

We also don’t have to speculate about the fact that these proposed giant, bermed pits would not “store” water, as claimed, but actually would dewater the aquifer system. Results from a USGS study conducted by Swancar, Lee and O’Hare and published in 2000 documented that evaporation from large bodies of water, like the so-called “storage reservoirs” exceeded estimated “pan evaporation” (routinely used for engineering calculations) by approximately 10 inches per year. The conclusion of this study was that net groundwater flow from the surrounding area is important in attempts to maintain levels, particularly during times of limited rainfall. In simple terms, that means particularly during annual dry seasons and years of low rainfall, these “reservoirs” pump water out of the ecosystem non-mechanically.

Largest Fossil Fuel Plant in the Country Proposed in the Heart of the Everglades

Although damage to the Everglades from the proposed giant, bermed pits would be significant, that damage would be compounded by the largest fossil fuel plant in the country proposed by FPL adjacent to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and south of the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Damage from construction and operation of that proposed new FPL facility would include, but not be limited to:

- 1 – Permanent Alteration of Aquifer Rock - Construction/Testing of Injection Well
- 2 – Hydroperiod Alteration – Water Levels, Duration, Seasonality
- 3 – Habitat Conversion – Gas Pipeline/Well Construction/Hydrologic Alteration
- 4 – Alien Species Invasion - Gas Pipeline/Well Construction/Hydrologic Alteration
- 5 – Habitat Fragmentation - Gas Pipeline/Well Construction/Hydrologic Alteration
- 6 – Disease/Pest Outbreaks - Hydrologic Alteration/Bark Beetles/Fungal Pathogens
- 7 – Physical Habitat Disruption - Gas Pipeline/Well Construction/Hydrologic Alteration
- 8 – Loss of Animals for Hunting (from loss of game habitat)
- 9 – Loss of Birds for Bird Watching (from loss of trees/other bird habitat)
- 10 – Loss of Other Native Wildlife (from loss of wildlife habitat)
- 11 – Loss of Threatened/Endangered Species (from loss of habitat critical for recovery)
- 12 – Saltwater Intrusion/Upconing (from water withdrawals)
- 13 – Altered Fire Regime - Uncontrolled Wildfires
- 14 – Death of Pine/Cypress Trees/Forests – (from less water/uncontrolled wildfires)
- 15 – Increased Residential/Public Energy Use – Less Shade from Tree Loss (from less water/wildfires)
- 16 – Smoke Pollution - Increased Wrecks (from uncontrolled wildfires)
- 17 – Air Pollution - Increased Particulate Matter (asthma from uncontrolled wildfires)
- 18 – Air Pollution – Millions of Tons of Greenhouse Gases (sea-level rise from burning fossil fuel)
- 19 – Private/Public Property Loss/Damage – Increased Sea-Level Rise (from burning fossil fuel)
- 20 – Groundwater Contamination - Toxic Chemicals Leaching from Gas Pipe Line (formaldehyde, etc.)
- 21 – Groundwater Contamination - Aquifer Injection of Industrial Wastewater (hexavalent chromium, etc.)
- 22 – Groundwater Contamination - Aquifer Injection of Sewage Effluent (hormone disruptors, etc.)
- 23 – Coastal Water Contamination (from groundwater injections of industrial wastewater/sewage effluent)
- 24 – Loss of Recreational Fishing (from aquifer injections of industrial wastewater/sewage effluent)
- 25 – Loss of Commercial Fishing (from groundwater injections of industrial wastewater/sewage effluent)
- 26 – Cumulative (Combined) Impacts of FPL Power Plant and Mining (next to Power Plant)
- 27 – Cumulative (Combined) Impacts of FPL Power Plant and County Water Supply
- 28 – Cumulative (Combined) Impacts of FPL Power Plant and Cities Water Supply
- 29 – Cumulative (Combined) Impacts of FPL Power Plant and Private Water Supply Wells
- 30 – Groundwater Contamination - Toxic Chemicals Leaching from Mining/Liquifying Gas for Pipe Line
- 31 – Water Depletion - from Mining/Liquifying Gas for Pipe Line
- 32 – Destruction of Habitat Critical for the Survival and Recovery of Federally Listed Species

Impacts will not be confined to the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. In addition to the damage to these two important public lands, damage will occur to:

Loxahatchee Slough

Loxahatchee Riverbend Park

Jonathan Dickinson State Park

Palm Beach Pines State Recreational Area

Okeehoelee Park

Lake Okeechobee

Nearshore reef areas

Private Property

Your Keynote Speech – 2009 Everglades Coalition Conference

I urge you to consider these critical new proposed assaults on the Everglades as you deliver your Keynote Speech at the 2009 Everglades Coalition Conference in Miami this week. In my opinion, these new proposed threats, singly or combined, will ensure the final demise of the Everglades.

It is not surprising that Congress has withheld federal funding from the Everglades “restoration” effort. As a concerned scientist and third-generation Floridian, I will encourage every member of Congress to continue withholding federal funds for Everglades restoration until the state ceases its assault on the Everglades under the guise of “restoration.”

As Florida’s governor, you have the power to stop the devastating new FPL fossil fuel plant in the Everglades, as well as to enlighten the SFWMD Board members regarding actions their misinformed staff or Executive Director are encouraging them to approve. I sincerely hope that you choose to exercise that power and save the Everglades.

Sincerely,



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