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Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition, Co-Chair

Greetings,

I will not be able to attend the upcoming USCRTF meeting, but wish to submit comments and questions to be considered at the meeting and filed on public record:

There is no longer any question about the impacts of global warming. Coral reef habitat is one of the most widely recognized and referenced direct results of human induced climate change. The leading greenhouse gas, CO₂, is still unregulated. One direct documented example of CO₂'s impact is in the reduction of alkalinity in the ocean, which is impeding corals ability to secrete calcium carbonate skeleton. This emissions needs immediate regulation.

Yet State and Federal agencies are continuing to permit projects that will have incredible contributions to CO₂ emissions (among other known pollutants).

What is the USCRTF doing to address human-induced global warming?

Here in South Florida, home to some of the last few living coral reef in the country, there are two large fossil-fuel burning power plants proposed by FPL in the permitting process totaling more than 24 MILLION TONS of CARBON DIOXIDE a year.

The proposed coal plant in Glades County, the Glades Power Park will cause 16 million and the so-called 'clean' natural gas plant in Loxahatchee, West County Energy Center, will emit another 8-12 million tons. Our generation is making a decision to eliminate the last coral reefs off Florida's coast by raising the temperature of the planet for our over-consumption of electricity.

Here in Palm Beach County, we are requesting that our new Governor revisit the December 19th 2006 decision to certify the West County Energy Center due to its impact on global warming, among other concerns (including the proposed deep well wastewater system, which is bound to make it's way out towards coastal reefs.)

We are also requesting that the air quality classification of the A.R.M Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge be moved from CLASS II to CLASS I under the Clean Air Act to increase the ability for to limit heavy industrial use around the waters which eventually make their way out to the reefs. This, by default, will also limit greenhouse gas emissions.

Clean, sustainable energy and unprecedented innovations in energy conservation must be the only acceptable options in this crisis facing sensitive coral reef habitat, and, in fact, all life on this planet.

We hope to have your support in our efforts at an immediate, massive decrease in global warming emissions.

Other issues the Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition is concerned about is the practice of dredge and fill 'beach renourishment and coastal sewage outfalls for the negative impact these actions have on reefs.

Thank you for your work and courage.

Panagioti E. Tsoikas