

# Seminole Electric plans to appeal rejection of coal-burning unit

## FDEP denies site certification for third Putnam County power unit

Marcia Lane

marcia.lane@staugustine.com

Publication Date: [08/22/07](#)

Seminole Electric Cooperative plans to appeal the state's rejection of its request for a third coal-burning unit at their Palatka location.

"Seminole believes that the decision to deny this project is contrary to Florida law," said Timothy Woodbury, Seminole's general manager, in a statement.

"We regret this decision leaves Seminole no alternative but to file an appeal to the courts," Woodbury said. "Seminole is confident that the courts will agree that this project serves and protects the broad interest of the public."

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection denied site certification for the project on Friday, and later that afternoon Seminole announced plans to fight the decision in the courts.

FDEP concluded Seminole hadn't shown the project minimizes "the adverse effects on human health, the environment and the ecology of the land."

"This project was initiated more than two years ago under Florida's Power Plant Siting Act," Woodbury said. "The Florida Public Service Commission determined that this project is needed to meet Seminole's growing demand for electricity."

"Seminole completed an extensive environmental review process and reached settlements with all participating parties including the Sierra Club and the FDEP staff."

Seminole Electric has said the planned 750-megawatt unit was necessary to keep up with the demand for power. Tampa-based Seminole Electric is a non-profit, member-owned, wholesale power supplier to 10 member distribution cooperatives.

The project has been seen as a major economic boost for Putnam County, where the company already has two coal-burning units generating 1,300-megawatts. Those units are the primary energy resource for Seminole's member systems, according to the company's Web site.

The \$1.4 billion project includes about \$300 million to make significant pollution control improvements to the two existing units in Palatka.

Seminole recently announced plans to get proposals for a carbon dioxide capture demonstration project for the proposed unit. Carbon dioxide capture is a technology aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from burning fossil fuels.

Denial of the project was reportedly the first one since the agency began reviewing coal-fired generators under Florida's 2006 Energy Act.

Gov. Charlie Crist recently signed executive orders to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Click here to return to story:

[http://staugustine.com/stories/082207/news\\_4789614.shtml](http://staugustine.com/stories/082207/news_4789614.shtml)

© The St. Augustine Record