

Clean Up Crystal River Power Plant Consumers Demand Renewable Energy

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bill Newton
813-877-6712

Tampa, FLA - Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN) today announced a “Good Neighbor” campaign aimed at persuading Progress Energy to clean up its Crystal River coal-fired power plants and adding renewable energy sources. According to the EPA toxic release inventory (TRI) Crystal River is the nation’s 12th dirtiest power plant and has had that “honor” for three years running. Crystal River is Florida’s second largest polluter. (A paper mill is number 1.)

The consumer group called on Progress Energy to “Clean Up Crystal River.” Bill Newton, FCAN Executive Director, said, “Progress Energy hasn’t lifted a finger to clean up this plant. It’s time they stopped polluting our communities.” FCAN pointed out that Progress has cleaned up its power plants in North Carolina, but not in Florida. “Tampa Electric has cleaned up its power plants. Why can’t Progress?” continued Newton.

The consumer group also called on Progress to give consumers a choice of using renewable energy sources. Progress Energy has a “green power” program in North Carolina, but not in Florida. Tampa Electric has a very popular renewable energy program and FP&L has enough renewable resources to replace 10 conventional power plants.

“Progress Energy is considering building a nuclear power plant at Crystal River, and they haven’t even begun to try conservation and renewable resources,” Bill Newton pointed out. “We shouldn’t even consider a nuke until 20% of their portfolio is renewable,” said Newton.

According to TRI reports, Crystal River emissions include arsenic, barium, beryllium, chromium, cobalt, dioxin, fluoride, lead, mercury, selenium, vanadium, and zinc among other toxic chemicals. The largest amounts of chemicals released are hydrochloric and sulfuric acid compounds that lead to acid rain. Fossil fuel burning power plants also emit large amount of CO₂ which contributes to global warming.

FCAN is Florida’s largest consumer group with 40,000 members throughout the state. FCAN is a non-profit organization that works on environment, insurance, utility, and health care issues.

Attachments: Progress Energy web page listing emissions