

## Consumer Group Questions Florida Power & Light Coal Plant Proposal

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**Ft. Pierce, FL** – Florida Consumer Action Network (FCAN,) the state’s largest consumer group, today raised questions about Florida Power & Light’s proposed supercritical pulverized coal plant and asked whether it represented the best choice for consumers.

Ray Worley, Vice President of FCAN and an Okeechobee resident, asked, “What are we not considering more renewable resources like solar? What about conservation and energy efficiency? Shouldn’t we do as much reduce demand as we can before we build a dirty and dangerous coal plant?”

The consumer group said that much more could be done in Florida with renewables and conservation. FCAN pointed out that the State of New York will meet 24% of its energy needs with clean, renewable energy by 2013.

“People in Florida used more solar power in the 1940’s than now,” said Worley. “We’re the Sunshine State. Of course we can produce more solar but people need rebates on installation costs.” Studies show energy cost savings of 30% to 50% are possible with current conservation technologies.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) web page at [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org), “Electric power plants are the single largest source of some of the worst air pollutants, including deadly particulate matter, acid-rain-forming sulfur dioxide, and toxic mercury. They are also the single largest emitters of global warming pollution in the United States.”

FCAN is concerned about proposals and plans to build coal and nuclear power plants in several areas of the state. Florida is growing quickly and demand is increasing, but FCAN warns that increasing dependency on coal, a non-renewable, fossil fuel source, is risky. Clearly, there are public health, economic and environmental considerations every time we build a new power plant. We are shortsighted not to look at reducing demand through conservation and energy efficiency first. Next we must explore all the options renewable energy affords and lastly, if a plant is built, it must employ the cleanest technologies available.

Florida Consumer Action Network, a statewide consumer organization with 40,000 members, advocates on health care, environment, insurance, and utilities issues. FCAN is affiliated with the Consumer Federation of America and USAction.

1. <http://www.nrdc.org/air/energy/rep/chap2.asp> “A Responsible Energy Plan for America” Chapter 2 “Providing America with Clean, Affordable Electricity”