# **FMPA Solar Project**

**City of Alachua** 

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#### **FMPA Solar Project**

#### **Project Description**

- 1. Large multi site solar project
- 150-225 MW is size
- Located on 2-3 sites
- 2. Maximum size for each project is 74.5 MW
- Dictated by Florida's Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA)
- Plants smaller than 74.5 MW do not have to be permitted under the PPSA
- 3. Large project size results in economies of scale
- 4. Plant technology is single axis tracking
- 5. Probable developer is Florida Power & Light

#### **FMPA Solar Project**

#### **Contractual Arrangement**

- 1. Developer will build, own and operate the solar plant.
- 2. Each participating utility will be entitled to a prorata share of plant output.
- 3. Participating utilities will execute a Purchase Power Agreement obligating the utility to purchase the pro rata share of plant output at a specified price.
- 4. Participating utilities will only pay for plant output, no up front costs.

# Other Participating Utilities (preliminary)

- Orlando Utilities Comm.
- Kissimmee Utility Auth.
- Key West
- Ocala
- Bartow

- Winter Park
- Ft. Pierce
- Lake Worth
- Homestead
- Wauchula

# **Feasibility Analysis**

- □ Six municipal utilities retained WHH to perform a preliminary feasibility analysis
  - Alachua, Bartow, Wauchula, Ft. Meade, Winter Park and Green Cove Springs
- □ WHH concluded that at a PPA price of \$36 or below per MW-hr, participation in the FMPA solar Project was economically feasible (would result in savings in bulk power supply cost over the 20 year term of the project
- ☐ Optimum level of participation level of participation would require utility specific analysis

#### **Utility Specific Feasibility Analysis**

- Alachua, among others, retained WHH to perform additional analysis specific to Alachua.
- WHH has completed the analysis the purpose of this presentation is to present the results.

## **Background Information**

- Solar plant provides only energy not firm capacity
- Solar plant output cannot be scheduled to match electric system demand
- Solar plants require significant land area (about 7 acres per MW of plant rating)
- Proposed plants will require about 500 acres per 74.5 MW plant.

## Solar Plant Savings

- Two types of potential savings
  - □ Energy Costs Savings
    - Difference between Solar PPA energy price and bulk power supplier price are savings
    - For example, solar PPA price may be \$34 per MW-hr, price from bulk power supplier may be \$29 per MW-hr, difference is additional cost/savings
  - □ Demand Costs Savings
    - About 40 % of bulk power costs are Demand Costs
    - Demand Costs are based on PEAK usage in any hour during the month
    - Since solar plant will (most likely) be producing power during this hour, demand costs will be lower.

#### Solar Plant Savings

- Energy Costs Savings
  - Negative in early years
  - Become positive as natural gas price increase
- Demand Costs Savings
  - Represent the bulk of savings from solar project
  - ❖ Demand savings range from 60 to 100 % of total savings
  - Demand savings are realized in every year

### **Economic Analysis**

- WHH evaluated participation in the FMPA solar Project at levels of between 3MW and 19 MW
- System minimum load is a factor in determining optimum participation, solar participation above about 13 MW entails some additional risks.
- Analysis very dependent on future natural gas prices.
- WHH evaluated 3 natural gas price scenarios
  - 0.0% escalation, 1.3% escalation and 4.0% escalation

# **Results of Analysis**

20 YEAR SAVINGS						
	5 MW	7 MW	9 MW	11 MW		
o.o % Gas	\$0.8	\$0.5	\$0.3	\$0.1		
Escalation	million	million	million	million		
1.3 % Gas	\$2.0	\$2.3	\$2.6	\$2.8		
Escalation	million	million	million	million		
4.0 % Gas	\$5.2	\$7.6	\$9.0	\$10.7		
Escalation	million	million	million	million		

# **Results of Analysis**

#### RETAIL BILL IMPACT 1,000 KW-HRS

	5 MW	7 MW	9 MW	11 MW
o.o % Gas Escalation	-\$0.26	-\$0.17	-\$0.10	-\$0.03
1.3 % Gas Escalation	- <b>\$0.67</b>	-\$0.77	- <b>\$0.8</b> 7	-\$0.94
4.0 % Gas Escalation	-\$1.80	-\$2.55	-\$3.01	-\$3.59

#### Results of Analysis

Natural Gas Escalation is the **KEY** Uncertainty

- 1.US Government projects natural gas escalation at 3.0% 2020-2045 (AEO 2017)
- 2. Current NYMEX futures price indicate natural gas escalation at 1.3% (2018 thru 2029)

# Natural Gas Price History

Natural Gas Price Henry Hub \$/M2BTU



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#### **Conclusions**

- 1. Participation will result in savings under all likely natural gas pricing scenarios.
- 2. Savings are greatest with higher participation levels under most likely natural gas price scenarios.
- 3. COA will receive REC's (Renewable Energy Credits) for all solar output.
- 4. Participation will reduce environmental impact of bulk power supply.
- 5. Participation at 11 MW will fix the price of approximately 15% of COA's energy requirement for the next 20 years (two 5 year extensions are available)

#### **Conclusions (continued)**

#### **Risks**

- 1. Prices of solar plants may continue to decline (reduced opportunity to participate in future plants).
- 2. Assumed increases in bulk power supply costs may be high; WHH assumed 2% annual increase in capacity costs.
- 3. Savings are positively correlated with retail sales; WHH assumed 2.5 percent annual increase, reduced sales will lessen savings (not by much).

## **Questions and Answers**

