



October 18, 2013

Ms. Bentina Terry, Chair  
Escambia County RESTORE Advisory Committee  
Gulf Power Company  
1 Energy Place  
BIN 100  
Pensacola, FL 32504


Dear Bentina:

As you know, funds will be available to our community as a result of the BP oil spill of 2010 and it is my understanding that these funds can be used for projects other than environmental restoration. Funds could be used to create workforce and economic development, promote tourism and improve infrastructure and transportation; all of which can impact persons with disabilities in positive ways. For example, programs could be developed that would provide greater access to beaches, recreational fishing, tourism venues, jobs and workforce opportunities that have not been accessible to persons with disabilities in the past. To make sure the funds allocated to Escambia County are used wisely, the Escambia County Board of Commissioners established the RESTORE Advisory Committee (RAC).

I hope that RAC would give priority to funding programs that provide maximum inclusion for groups that have historically been disadvantaged and underserved, including minorities and persons with disabilities. Furthermore, I hope that projects receiving funds from the RESTORE ACT comply with all federal accessibility laws as mandated by the US Treasury Department, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1963 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. This enhanced inclusion and accessibility should be a priority in the criteria for any rating system established for allocation of projects funded with RESTORE ACT funds.

Bentina, thank you for your consideration and for your service on this extremely important committee. If you desire further information regarding this matter please contact Frank Cherry, Executive Director of CIL at (850) 595-5566, Ext. 16.

Sincerely,

  
John B. Clark  
President/CEO

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