

Paul R. Philip, Chief of Staff

**SUBJECT: REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT A SOLAR ENERGY DEMONSTRATION SYSTEM FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS/FLORIDA ENERGY OFFICE, UNDER THE FLORIDA PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS FOR SCHOOLS EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM AND ENTER INTO A NO-COST FIVE-YEAR CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT WITH FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY TO INSTALL, SERVICE AND, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TERM, REMOVE THE PV SYSTEM**

**COMMITTEE: EDUCATION AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS**

The Florida Department of Community Affairs/Florida Energy Office (DCA/FEO) is sponsoring a program to promote solar energy demonstration projects in schools throughout the state. North Miami Beach Senior High School, Biomedical and Environmental Advancement Magnet has been selected as one of 30 Florida schools eligible to receive a solar electric photovoltaic (PV) system to produce electricity directly from sunlight.

This renewable energy project will be integrated into the curriculum in support of the Florida Sunshine State Standards for science in the area of environmental studies. The PV panels will generate four kilowatts of electricity and provide real-time data for students to monitor actual energy produced. Performance data will be processed by a computer connected to the Internet. This will enable students at other schools to also monitor the project.

The PV system at North Miami Beach Senior is co-sponsored by the Florida Solar Energy Center and Florida Power and Light Company (FPL). There is no cost to the District for installation, servicing and eventual removal of the PV system and its components. The approximate value of the project is \$40,000.

The goals of the DCA/FEO Photovoltaic Systems for Schools Program are to:

1. Foster long-term interest and promote expansion of solar energy by exposing students, teachers, and the local community to functional PV systems in a learning environment.

2. Educate thousands of students and teachers across Florida about the important role that solar energy can play in meeting a portion of the state's electric demand, promoting local economic development and providing energy security and a clean environment for future generations.
3. Provide significant and readily accessible sources of performance and economic data via the Internet that students can access and analyze as a component of existing curriculum requirements.
4. Link schools, electric utilities, and local communities together in partnerships that promote broader use of solar energy.

Installation will be performed by duly licensed contractors under the supervision of FPL engineers and in accordance with all District requirements, specifications, permits and inspections. The term of the agreement shall be five years, after which FPL will remove the PV system at no cost or reach another mutually acceptable agreement with the District. A Photovoltaic System for Schools Project Agreement between the District and FPL will be reviewed by the Board Attorney and be included in supplementary information provided separately to Board members.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida authorize the Superintendent to:

1. accept a solar energy demonstration system under the Florida Photovoltaic (PV) Systems for Schools Educational Enhancement Program;
2. enter into a five-year no cost agreement with Florida Power and Light Company to install, service and, at the conclusion of the term, remove the PV system.