

LAWSUIT from page A1

Department of Energy sions on a term sheet for a federal loan guarantee.

When it acquired the Port St. Joe project in April 2011, Rentech announced it was in discus-

Later in the year, it was announced the loan guarantee was on hold because of a lack of government

funding.

"The Company stopped development of large scale projects that required larger development spending by Rentech in order to meet deadlines for government funding," last month's release stated. "For example, in the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2011, Rentech abandoned its large-scale projects that relied on DOE funding and took losses of more than \$58 million based on prior investment in those projects."

Among the three projects abandoned was the NWFREC, the release detailed.

While the company may no longer rely on DOE financing for commercial projects, the release stated the company would pursue other grants and forms of support as well as partner-

ships.

As Rentech was soundly retreat on its Port St. Joe project, a series of lawsuits were filed challenging the permitting of the NWFREC.

On Dec. 19, six Port St. Joe residents filed a pair of lawsuits in Circuit Court seeking to rescind the city of Port St. Joe's development order for the project.

The development order was issued Nov. 17 and the suits challenge the local permitting of the plant on the grounds that officials claimed the biomass plant "quiet" and "clean" based on erroneous information provided by a contingent of local elected officials and business leaders regarding a visit to a much smaller plant at the University of South Carolina.

While local officials

claimed the plant was not noisy, smelly or an eyesore on the USC campus, The State newspaper published a series of articles in 2009 concerning chronic problems at the plant.

"Although there have been some reports that Rentech is cancelling the project for lack of funding, the city's development order and the state's air and water permits remain in effect. Rentech is still searching for funding, and it can transfer the development approval to another company," said Landy Luther, one of the plaintiffs in the development order appeal.

The city development order is in effect for 18 months; state water management and air emissions permits are good for five years.

In its final meeting of

2011, Port St. Joe city commissioners took no action on the lawsuits as the city had yet to be served with any paperwork.

Further, three other Port St. Joe residents filed a complaint with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, asserting that the state committed a civil rights violation by issuing an air emissions permit for the biomass plant in close proximity to a predominantly African-American neighborhood.

The plant, if built, would have been within 1-2 miles of North Port St. Joe.

A letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection during the permitting process last year threatened such a lawsuit.



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SPECIAL TO THE STAR

An artist's rendering of the Northwest Florida Renewable Energy Center, a project that has been abandoned because of a lack of funding.

WEEKLY ALMANAC

Date	High	Low	% Precip
Thu, Jan 5	68°	46°	10 %
Fri, Jan 6	68°	54°	10 %
Sat, Jan 7	70°	55°	30 %
Sun, Jan 8	71°	50°	30 %
Mon, Jan 9	67°	45°	10 %
Tues, Jan 10	62°	47°	10 %
Wed, Jan 11	69°	46°	20 %

TIDE TABLES MONTHLY AVERAGES

To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from these given for APALACHICOLA:

	HIGH	LOW
Cat Point	Minus 0:40	Minus 1:17
East Pass	Minus 0:27	Minus 0:27

To find the tides of the following areas, subtract the indicated times from those given for CARRABELLE:

	HIGH	LOW
Bald Point	Minus 9:16	Minus 0:03

ST. JOSEPH BAY

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
5	Th	648pm 1.3		443am -0.6	
6	Fr	732pm 1.3		526am -0.7	
7	Sa	815pm 1.4		606am -0.8	
8	Su	856pm 1.4		642am -0.8	
9	Mo	936pm 1.3		714am -0.8	
10	Tu	1016pm 1.2		741am -0.8	
11	We	1059pm 1.0		802am -0.6	
12	Th	1146pm 0.8		814am -0.4	
13	Fr			809am -0.1	
14	Sa	1244am 0.4	329pm 0.4	733am 0.0	1110pm 0.0
15	Su	325am 0.1	322pm 0.8	507am 0.0	
16	Mo	348pm 1.0		102am -0.2	
17	Tu	432pm 1.2		209am -0.6	
18	We	528pm 1.3		312am -0.7	

APALACHICOLA BAY, WEST PASS

Date	Day	High Tide	High Tide	Low Tide	Low Tide
5	Th	332pm 0.9	1118pm 1.1	738am -0.4	623pm 0.9
6	Fr	402pm 1.0		821am -0.5	725pm 1.0
7	Sa	1208am 1.1	429pm 1.0	900am -0.6	814pm 0.9
8	Su	1258am 1.2	454pm 1.0	934am -0.6	855pm 0.9
9	Mo	147am 1.2	516pm 1.0	1006am -0.6	934pm 0.8
10	Tu	235am 1.2	536pm 1.0	1035am -0.6	1014pm 0.7
11	We	325am 1.1	555pm 1.0	1103am -0.5	1057pm 0.6
12	Th	418am 1.1	615pm 1.0	1131am -0.3	1147pm 0.4
13	Fr	515am 1.0	636pm 1.0	1200pm -0.1	
14	Sa	622am 0.9	701pm 1.0	1245am 0.3	1230pm 0.1
15	Su	746am 0.7	729pm 1.1	155am 0.1	1258pm 0.3
16	Mo	940am 0.6	804pm 1.1	319am 0.0	122pm 0.6
17	Tu	846pm 1.2		448am -0.2	
18	We	939pm 1.2		606am -0.4	

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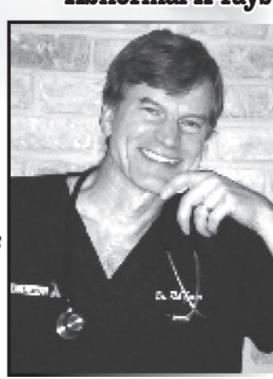
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Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustee Council

Help Restore the Gulf

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment
PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Trustees want to hear from you! A draft plan of proposed early restoration projects is available for public review and comment. The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment describes eight projects, two in each of these states: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi. The projects are intended to benefit injured marshes, coastal dune and nearshore habitats, oysters, and human uses (on water recreation).

The trustees will conduct two public meetings in Florida where you can learn more about the draft restoration plan and comment on it.

FLORIDA PUBLIC MEETINGS

Jan. 11, 2012	6:00 – 7:00 PM 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Open House Meeting	Emerald Coast Convention Center 1250 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Jan. 12, 2012	6:00 – 7:00 PM 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Open House Meeting	Univ. of W. FL Conference Center 11000 University Parkway, Pensacola, FL 32514

To learn more about Early Restoration, review and comment on the draft plan, visit www.gulfpillrestoration.noaa.gov or www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon. For more information by phone, please contact, Kristin Lock, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 850.245.2112, or Nanciann Regalado, Dept. of the Interior, 678.296.6805.

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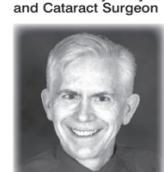
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