

Notes from conversations with FDEP staff

1. Ashwin Patel, Hazardous Waste Supervisor:

No specific information, as he was not familiar with Alachua County Programs.

2. Tim Dohaney, Storage Tank Section, Environmental Manager:

Mr. Dohaney spoke highly of the ACEPD. He did not recognize any direct duplication of work. Instead he explained that all counties do this function however those counties with no EDP usually did the work through either the health department or the building department. He also commented on the efficiency of the ACEPD specifically.

3. Jack Price Hazardous Waste Collection, Environmental Manager:

No duplication of work

Small generator program in Alachua County is one of 10 counties that provide these services. This program is the most mature and the best county program in the state. The program insures that small generators will be monitored on a higher level than would be by the state. The state FDEP has only 4 such inspectors to look after the entire state, meaning that only The AC EPD program helps businesses stay in compliance rather than just act as an enforcement arm. The state program is moving to this method as well.

4. Tom Seal Watershed Monitoring, Environmental Specialist:

Mr. Seal explained that there is an existing contract to monitor 3 Alachua County wells and 1 Marion County well. Although the contract between FDEP and ACEPD is a small one (about \$10,000), the work done under it is impeccable ("top notch"). There is no duplication for this work and it saves the state funds since there is less travel required to monitor these test wells. The 4 wells under this contract have very reliable data and another well may be added due to the quality of the work.

Mr. Seal also commented that this is one of only two counties in the state that follow the Florida Building Law - Title 44 FEMA requiring permitting for docks or within special flood plain.

Additionally, he commented that the ACEPD have been participating in the planning for the new Nitrogen and Phosphorus regulations coming from the Legislature.

5. Matthew Kershner Wetland Resource Management, Compliance/Enforcement:

Mr. Kershner explained that Alachua County is a unique county of the 20 counties in the NE district; it is the most proactive environmentally, allowing better regulation of wetlands. There is overlap due to the fact that Alachua County is within the NE state district, but work that is done by the county would not be done by the state since the NE FDEP location requires travel and planning for travel. With a non-emergency compliance/enforcement issue it might take up to 48 hours to respond to a complaint. Whereas with the county program these issues can be addressed with shorter reaction times.

Mr. Kershner commented on the decentralization within the Water Management Districts, leaving more responsibilities for counties and more coordination within the different WMDs.