

All,

The Bluff Springs Camp Ground Board of Directors met in special session on 2 May in Robertsdale to listen to a representative of the Gulf Power/Southern Company as he shared the company's plan to purchase some 4000+ acres to construct a new power-generating facility. The upshot of the meeting is that they wish to include the BSCG property in their land acquisition. Although we've not received a firm offer, we are in receipt of a Letter of Intent to Purchase.

Since power companies produce a product that is essential to the public at large, if we take the "hard" stand and refuse to sell there is a good possibility that they will invoke "Eminent Domain": (in public law, in its widest sense, the right or power to take private property for public use. More precisely, it is the right of the nation, or those to whom the power has been lawfully delegated, such as railroads and public utility companies, to appropriate, by due process of law, the ownership and possession of private property, and to pay the owner of the property a just compensation) and our power to negotiate may be diminished. On the other hand, the Board sees that there are several options that will put us in a better position during the process of the negotiations and provide an opportunity to come out in this whole event in a better position than otherwise.

I've attached a document that will provide a more complete explanation. In the next several months we hope to be able to meet in sessions where all the members will have ample opportunity to ask questions and express their thoughts and feelings. I know that this is not information that you would have preferred to hear about the campgrounds; but we live in a world where things are constantly changing and our faith teaches us that we will be blessed by the Spirit that will lead us through this episode in our journey.

I am sending this to all the Delegates to the Campground Conference, all Pastors and Points of Contact in the Gulf Mission Center, as well as the

Members of the Gulf Mission Center Advisory Council, and any others for whom I have e-mail addresses. Please share this information in your congregations and in other places where the Saints gather.

I trust that you will all be prayerful about the days ahead as we struggle with this new challenge.

George M. Farnell

President, Gulf Mission Center

and Chairman, Campground Conference of Delegates