

# Community Partnership for Energy Planning

## Community Working Group – A

(Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk)

# Meeting Summary

Franklin Templeton Conference Center – St. Petersburg, FL  
April 24, 2008

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Facilitated By: STAR Group, LLC  
[www.stargroupconsulting.com](http://www.stargroupconsulting.com)



## Attendees

CWG Members Present:	Guests:
Tom Aderhold – Keystone Civic Association	Gail Simpson – Progress Energy Florida
David Edwards – Pasco County	
Ming Gao - FDOT	
Ken Hoyt – KSH International	
Colleen Kruk - SWFWMD	
Jim Martin – Pasco County Energy Management	
Melissa Seixas – Progress Energy Florida	
Larry Watson – Progress Energy Florida	

The Community Working Group (CWG) for Progress Energy Florida's (PEF) Community Partnership for Energy Planning held a meeting at the Franklin Templeton Conference Center on April 24, 2008. Bill Moyer of STAR Group welcomed the CWG members and reviewed the ground rules and agenda for the meeting.

Gail Simpson provided the group with an update on the transmission corridor selection process (a copy of Gail's presentation is attached with these notes). She informed members that PEF plans to announce the preferred corridors prior to the June Site Certification Application filing date, so that communities could be informed about the preferred corridors as soon as possible. In addition to a press release, PEF will be sending letters out to all who had received invitations to the Open House meetings – both those whose property remains in the final preferred study corridor and those whose properties are no longer within the final preferred study corridor, as well as to all property owners within 500 feet of a selected corridor. Gail noted that in many cases, the preferred corridor that is announced will be fairly narrow and might be significantly less than the 1 mile corridors that were presented during the open house meetings.

In response to a question raised by a CWG member, Gail noted that any person who receives a letter indicating that their property no longer is within one of the preferred study corridors would still be permitted to access



information about the project and would be able to participate in any public process related to the project. Members recommended that letters going out to individuals whose properties no longer were within the preferred study corridor should be reminded that the actual route for the line has not yet been determined, that PEF will conduct further evaluations to determine the specific right of way within the preferred corridors, and that PEF likely will not receive approval of these corridors for about a year. Moreover, the preferred corridors may not be certified by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and, in this case, alternate corridors would be determined.

Larry Watson informed the group that immediately following the SCA filing in June, PEF will begin a route study to identify the specific route for the new transmission lines. PEF plans to conclude the route study by November 2008. In order to keep property owners informed, PEF currently plans to host Open House meetings as each key portion of the study is completed. PEF also plans to hold meetings with specific organizations and homeowner associations as the route study progresses so that these organizations and potentially affected homeowners are kept informed throughout.

One member expressed concern that if the final corridors were limited to existing corridors, PEF might miss an opportunity to help develop the types of multi-use corridors that had been discussed at the Utility Search Conference (USC). Gail responded that PEF was considering all of the input received to date, including the suggestion to develop multi-use corridors as well as input provided at the USC and at the Open House meetings that PEF give strong consideration to placing new infrastructure for this project within existing rights of way wherever possible. She also noted that PEF would be incorporating that concept into its future planning processes largely as a result of the input on that topic received during this process. Finally, Gail told the group that PEF presently is discussing this option with some agencies in its service territory and would continue to work with those agencies to identify possible long-term opportunities for developing multi-use corridors.

Members asked about some of the next steps in the process, including whether Legislative approval is required for the project. Gail responded that neither Legislative nor local government approval is necessary but that several government agencies are required to approve the project before it may be built. DEP oversees the process under which PEF's proposed plant site and preferred corridors are considered for approval. The Siting Board (made up of the Governor and members of the Governor's cabinet) makes the final determination of whether to certify the plant site and related transmission line corridors. The Florida Public Service Commission must approve the need for



the Levy plant. And the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission must grant PEF a license to operate the Levy plant.

With respect to the manner by which PEF announces its preferred corridors, the group suggested the following:

- It will be important to get as much information as possible to government officials as soon as possible because those officials likely will be receiving calls and questions as soon as the press release is issued.
- Be sure to have PEF representatives available to speak with the media.
- Be certain to have a call center that is staffed adequately – particularly in the time period immediately following the announcement – to handle calls and answer questions.
- Communicate facts about the project to state, regional and local officials so that they have a good understanding about the energy issues facing Florida, the public processes that have occurred to date and those that are being planned for the future, the regulatory approval processes applicable to this project, and the steps that PEF will be taking to keep the public informed about the project.

The group then discussed a supplemental report that will be written by Bob Bellemare of UtiliPoint International. The report is designed to inform the general public about the project, the outreach that has occurred to date, and the opportunities that individuals have to become involved in the process as it moves forward. Members recommended that the report be sent to County Planning offices and City planning offices as well as to local elected officials and municipal and county administrators. Bill asked for 1 – 2 CWG members to provide input to this report. David Edwards and Ken Hoyt volunteered.

The group discussed one of the important non-transmission related recommendations from the USC: that PEF find ways to coordinate this and future projects with local and regional planning organizations and key infrastructure developers. Members were asked to identify some of the key organizations with which Progress Energy should be proactively engaged. Members listed the following:

- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
- TBARTA
- All Regional Planning Councils within PEF's service territory (e.g., Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, St. Johns Regional Planning Council, etc.)



- Tampa Bay Partnership
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Association of Counties
- Florida League of Cities
- SWFWMD
- 1000 Friends of Florida
- Associated Industries of Florida

Finally, the group agreed to hold its next meeting (which will be a joint meeting of the Leadership Team and the CWG) on Monday, May 19, 2008 from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m. The location of this meeting has not yet been determined and will be circulated to members within the next week.

## Community Working Group Roster (Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Polk)

Category	County	First	Last	Organization	City
(A) Business	Hillsborough	Kenneth	Hoyt	KSH International, Inc.	Tampa
(A) Business	Pasco	Randy	Stovall	Pasco-Hernando Community College	Dade City
(A) Business	Hillsborough	Wilbert	Malphus	Malphus & Son General Contractors	Tampa
(A) Civic Groups	Hillsborough	Tom	Aderhold	Keystone Civic Association	Tampa
(A) Civic Groups	Hillsborough	Dee	Layne	Coalition 4 Responsible Growth Inc.	Lutz
(A) Environmental/Alternative Energy Advocates	Pasco	Annemarie	Hammond	Pinellas County Utilities	New Port Richey
(A) Environmental/Alternative Energy Advocates	Pasco	Ronald	Daniel	Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program	New Port Richey
(A) Environmental/Alternative Energy Advocates	Polk	Marian	Ryan	Sierra Club	Winter Haven
(A) Environmental/Alternative Energy Advocates	Pasco	Ken	Mathewson	Pinellas County Utilities	New Port Richey
(A) Governmental	Hillsborough	Elba	Lopez	Florida Department of Transportation District 7	Tampa
(A) Governmental	Pinellas	Kenneth	Herd	Tampa Bay Water	Clearwater
(A) Governmental	Pasco	Jim	Martin	Pasco County	New Port Richey
(A) Governmental	Pasco	David	Edwards	Pasco County	New Port Richey
(A) Land Use Planners	Hillsborough	Juan	Lopez	Hillsborough City - Public Works Right of Way	Tampa
(A) Land Use Planners	Hillsborough	Paul	Flora	Hillsborough County Planning Commission	Tampa
(A) Land Use Planners	Hillsborough	William	Lambo	Hillsborough County	Tampa
(A) Large Energy Users	Pasco	John	Soler	District School Board of Pasco County	New Port Richey
(A) Large Landowners	Hillsborough	Frank	Starkey	Longleaf Development Company	Odessa
(A) Large Landowners	Hillsborough	Thomas	Griggs	Newland Southeast	Tampa
(A) Large Landowners	Pasco	Colleen	Kruk	Southwest Florida Water Management District	Brooksville
(A) Utility	Hillsborough	Larry	Watson	PEF	Lake Mary
(A) Utility	Pinellas	Melissa	Seixas	PEF	Clearwater
(A) Utility	Polk	Jerry	Miller	PEF	Lake Wells