

Community Partnership for Energy Planning

Community Working Group – B

Meeting Summary

Plantation Inn
March 20, 2008

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Facilitated By: STAR Group, LLC
www.stargroupconsulting.com

Attendees

<u>CWG Members Present:</u>	<u>Guests:</u>
Janey Baldwin – Withlacoochee River Basin Board	Jim Bierly – Audubon Society
Jimmy Brooks – SWFWMD	Karen Raihill – Golder Associates
Duane Dueker – Sugarmill Woods Civic Association	Gail Simpson – Progress Energy Florida
Curt Ebitz – Citrus 20/20, Save Our Waters Committee	
Rose Fagler – Progress Energy Florida	
Carl Flanagan – Citrus County Chamber of Commerce	
Bill Geiger – City of Brooksville	
Roger Goettelmann – Crystal River Redevelopment Agency	
Carla Groleau – Progress Energy Florida	
Morris Harvey – Citrus County Homeowners Association	
Dixie Hollins – Hollinswood Ranch	
Susan Kirk – City of Crystal River	
Katie Lucas – Citrus Memorial Hospital Health System	
Gary Maidhof – Citrus County	
David Miles – Hernando County	
Nicolas Nicholson – Nicholson Engineering	
Wilbur Priest – Florida Division of Forestry	
Harold Ross – Ross Hammock Ranch	
Roy Smith – Inglis Police Department	
Eugene Trimpert – Withlacoochee River Regional Planning Council	
Larry Watson – Progress Energy Florida	

Chris Kenny and Regina Chavez of STAR Group welcomed the Community Working Group (CWG) members and guests, reviewed the ground rules for the meeting, and reviewed the agenda.

Gail Simpson gave an update of the Project noting that the Open Houses (13 in ten counties) were complete and that Progress Energy Florida (PEF)



continued to set up additional meetings with individual homeowners' associations that had requested further information. She thanked the CWG for their input on community outreach as their suggestions had been implemented at the Open Houses. She reported that the information gathered from the Open Houses and surveys was being reviewed by the PEF project planning team. Preferred corridors will be selected by June 2008 and will be communicated to the public via website and letters. In some areas the identified corridor may be less than a mile wide but in all cases the identified corridor will be no more than one mile wide. At that point, Progress will evaluate these corridors for the final locations of the rights of way within the corridors.

Members were asked to provide their reactions to the Open House meetings. Some expressed concern that the maps presented at the Open House meetings contained additional information that had not been presented to the Utility Search ConferenceSM (USC) participants. Members expressed particular concern regarding the additional study areas depicted on the Open House maps (e.g., from the proposed new Levy power plant site down to the existing Crystal River power plant). Gail explained that these additional study areas were the result of the Baseload Transmission Project Team's ongoing work since the USC event and that these additional corridors were on some of the maps at the USC event. She also clarified for the group that PEF's filing in June will include 2 generating units at the Levy site and four new 500kV lines coming out of the site.

Some members felt that sending letters to everyone in the one mile study areas depicted on the Open House maps may have been unduly alarming. It was suggested that in the future PEF only show those areas in which it might actually consider constructing new facilities so as not to unduly alarm people that they might be displaced from their homes. Others felt that, PEF did the right thing to include so many in the process - that, if they did not, people would be equally upset about not being included.

Some members expressed disappointment that PEF was not better prepared for the number of people who attended some of the Hernando County Open House meetings.

Members of the CWG noted that PEF still needs to improve its communication of the following issues:

- To what uses can property owners put their land in the areas that lie underneath or adjacent to a transmission line?
- To what degree can the corridors become "multi-use" (e.g., for recreation and/or wildlife habitats)?

- What can be done to ensure that trimming vegetation near the lines is done properly and does not unnecessarily damage the vegetation?
- To what degree can transmission lines and gas lines be co-located within the same corridor?
- What are the cost issues associated with building an overhead transmission line vs. an underground transmission line?
- Why is PEF locating the plant up in Levy (making long transmission lines necessary) vs. locating the plant in a more central location or in a location closer to the power demand? Is there a savings with a centralized plant instead of near Levy?

Members also felt that it would be helpful to have a PEF attorney attend the next CWG meeting to address some of the legal questions members have, such as PEF's rights and obligations with respect to displacing individuals and businesses for ROW acquisition.

Others applauded PEF for the format and content of the meetings, noting that PEF had done a very good job of notifying individuals, presenting information, answering questions and treating the Open House attendees with patience and respect. The group generally agreed that it was far better for PEF to engage the public at this early stage than to wait until many of PEF's decisions had already been made.

Chris presented CWG members with a summary of the survey responses received from Open House meeting participants (a copy of the data presented to the CWG members is attached to these notes), noting that members should be careful not to draw too many definitive conclusions from the survey results as the results were not intended to be statistically valid. Of the 580 survey responses received to date:

- 91% identified themselves as homeowners.
- 67% said the open house format was helpful. Others indicated they wanted a presentation and some indicated they didn't like the Project.
- 63% said the need for the project had been explained adequately; some indicated it depended on which corridor was chosen, and again, some said they didn't like the Project.
- Corridor Criteria Ranking was set with 1 as the highest or most important criteria and 12 was least important. The most important criterion was to minimize the number of residences within the corridor and the least important criteria was to minimize the length of the herbaceous wetlands. The least important for the other two CWGs was the cost of construction.

- Written comments from the surveys indicated that 27% supported using existing corridors, 17% of respondents expressed specific concerns about property values and 16% said to avoid populated areas.

Chris asked the group whether information obtained through the Open House meetings suggested that the recommendations developed at the USC should be modified. The group agreed that the Open House meetings generally affirmed the work conducted at the USC. Members did provide some additional recommendations for PEF, including:

- Maintain PEF's ongoing dialogue with FDOT regarding the Suncoast Parkway project.
- Determine whether proposed new gas lines and the new electric transmission lines can be co-located to avoid additional impact and costs.

Gail Simpson reported that PEF will mail letters to all those who had been invited to attend the Open House meetings, letting them know whether or not their property is within the final study corridor. CWG members were asked to provide recommendations concerning how PEF should communicate its final study corridor selection decision. Members offered the following recommendations:

- Share with the community the relative weighting value of the criteria that PEF uses to make its final study corridor selection (e.g., to what degree did PEF consider community values vs. technical issues?)
- Show that PEF is engaged in a dialogue with FDOT, as that is not evident to the public.
- Consider a workshop for those who remain in the final study corridor, to include a presentation on the entire project.
- Make the "Understanding ROW Acquisitions" booklet available in public places (such as libraries, county offices, etc.) as it is helpful.
- Be sure to address water issues in relation to the new Levy plant (PEF agreed to distribute a water usage fact sheet to members of the CWG).
- What is fallback option if the plant is not built? (PEF will continue their planning and look at other types of generation).
- Use visuals whenever possible and don't rely solely on the Internet, as many don't have Internet access. Use compact mobile display boards at public sites like the libraries, government buildings and even churches.
- Continue meeting with local editorial boards and be sure to provide them with accurate, factual information.

- Be sure to explain the positive aspects of the project, such as the number of jobs that will be created from construction and permanent jobs at the plant.

Finally, the group agreed that the next meeting should be held in late April or early May, with the specific date forwarded to the members as soon as practical.

Community Working Group Roster (Citrus, Levy, Hernando Counties)

Category	County	First	Last	Organization	City
(B) Civic and Community Organizations and Citizens/Local Elected Officials	Citrus	Curt	Ebitz	Citrus 20/20, Save Our Waters Committee	Homosassa
(B) Civic and Community Organizations and Citizens/Local Elected Officials	Citrus	John	Marmish	United Way of Citrus County	Lecanto
(B) Civic and Community Organizations and Citizens/Local Elected Officials	Citrus	Roger	Goettelmann	Crystal River Redevelopment Agency	Crystal River
(B) Civic and Community Organizations and Citizens/Local Elected Officials	Citrus	Scott	Carson	City of Inverness	Inverness
(B) Civic and Community Organizations and Citizens/Local Elected Officials	Citrus	Morris	Harvey	North Citrus Civic Association	Citrus Springs
(B) Civic and Community Organizations and Citizens/Local Elected Officials	Citrus	Duane	Duecker	Sugarmill Woods Civic Association	Homosassa
(B) Environmental/Public Landowners	Citrus	Pat	Casselberry	Audubon Society	Inverness
(B) Environmental/Public Landowners	Hernando	Janey	Baldwin	Withlacoochee River Basin Board	Brooksville
(B) Environmental/Public Landowners	Citrus	Wilbur	Priest	Florida Division of Forestry	Homosassa
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Citrus	Chuck	Dixon	Citrus County School District	Lecanto
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Hernando	Bill	Geiger	City of Brooksville	Brooksville
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Citrus	Kurt	Woerner	City of Crystal River	Crystal River
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Levy	Eugene	Trimpert	Withlacoochee River Regional Planning Council	Inglis
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Citrus	Gary	Maidhof	Citrus County	Inverness
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Citrus	Jimmy	Brooks	Southwest Florida Water Management District	Lecanto
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Levy	Bruce	Greenlee	Levy County Road Dept.	Bronson
(B) Government Staff/Planning Staff	Hernando	David	Miles	Hernando County	Brooksville
(B) Major Power Consumers	Citrus	Katie	Lucas	Citrus Memorial Hospital Health System	Inverness
(B) Major Power Consumers	Levy	Wally	Anderson	Cemex, Inc.	Inglis
(B) Major Power Consumers	Citrus	Vernon	Lawter	Central Florida Community College	Lecanto
(B) Major Power Consumers	Citrus	Dorothy	Pernu	7 Rivers Regional Medical Center	Crystal River
(B) Private Landowners	Citrus	Dixie	Hollins	Hollinswood Ranch	Crystal River
(B) Private Landowners	Hernando	Justin	Rooks	TBF Partners, LTD.	Brooksville
(B) Public Service/First Responders	Levy	Evan	Smith	Levy County	Bronson
(B) Public Service/First Responders	Levy	Roy	Smith	Inglis Police Department	Inglis
(B) Tourism and Economic Development	Hernando	Mike	McHugh	Hernando County	Brooksville
(B) Tourism and Economic Development	Hernando	Nicholas	Nicholson	Nicholson Engineering	Brooksville
(B) Tourism and Economic Development	Citrus	Carl	Flanagan	Citrus County Chamber of Commerce	Hernando
(B) Tourism and Economic Development	Citrus	Daryl	Seaton	Best Western Crystal River Resort	Crystal River
(B) Utility	Citrus	Rosemary	Fagler	Progress Energy Florida	Ocala
(B) Utility	Citrus	Larry	Watson	Progress Energy Florida	Lake Mary

