

# Community Partnership for Energy Planning

## Community Working Group – C

(Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties)

# Meeting Summary

Wildwood Community Center – Wildwood, FL  
September 9, 2008

Time: 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

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



## Attendees

<u>CWG Members Present:</u>	<u>Guests:</u>
Greg Beliveau – Urban & Regional Planners	Gail Simpson – Progress Energy Florida
Marty Dzuro – The Villages	Tonya Elliott – Progress Energy Florida
Chris Gray – Power Technology Southeast	Connie Rook – Progress Energy Florida
Kathy Judkins – SECO Energy	
Paul Marraffino – Rainbow River Conservation	
Michael May – Marion County	
Chris McKendree – Florida Department of Environmental Protection	
Albert Peek – Ocala Development, Inc.	
Jean Waid – Progress Energy Florida	

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

Members engaged in a brief conversation regarding issues relating to the Baseload Transmission project that were being discussed among their respective stakeholder groups. Members reported that the following issues or concerns were on the minds of people in the area:

- Landowners have expressed appreciation regarding the process and generally feel that PEF is listening to their concerns.
- The proposed rail line in Dunnellon is an important and controversial topic. Nearby residents, in particular, are concerned that the rail line will be used for nuclear fuel and/or waste.
- There are concerns regarding the width of the easements. Some feel the corridors under evaluation are too wide and there remains confusion regarding the width of the final right of way used for this project.
- There are concerns regarding whether project might have on the Withlacoochee River.
- CWG members would like more information regarding the economic impact of the new plant on the area and PEF needs to do more to explain the positive impacts that the plant and related transmission lines might have on the region.

- One member brought forward a letter that has been sent to individuals by a law firm seeking to represent them. PEF has also seen samples of these solicitations that are creating fear and unnecessary confusion.
- Area media have printed that power costs will increase due to the new plant. PEF needs to provide factual information on this topic.

Gail Simpson provided information about the possible rail line in Dunnellon. She noted that the portion of the rail line near Dunnellon would be constructed within an existing railway ROW that PEF has owned since the 1980's. The line would be used primarily for the Levy plant construction and thereafter for occasional maintenance needs for the plant. PEF estimates that, at the height of construction, the rail line would be used approximately 3 to 4 times per week and that the line would be used up to two times per year for maintenance once the plant is in operation. PEF does not plan to transport spent or used fuel on this line. The line is being considered in addition to other alternatives including barging or trucking equipment and materials to the site.

Gail also gave a brief update on the regulatory filings for the Baseload Transmission Project that have been made since the last CWG meeting in May. In June PEF filed the Site Certification Application (SCA) with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the proposed Levy plant and related transmission corridors. In addition, PEF filed an application for a Combined Operating License (COLA) for the proposed Levy plant with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on July 31. The SCA filing may be viewed on DEP's web site: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/siting/Highlights/applications.htm>, then scroll down and click on the link to Progress Energy Levy County Nuclear. The COLA may be found on the NRC's site: <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/levy.html>.

Gail demonstrated PEF's new Interactive Transmission Map on the web site. The map, which works best with a high-speed connection (wireless and dial-up connections are not recommended), enables users to search with a parcel number, an address or by simply pointing and clicking on a property with their cursor. The map tells the user the distance of the parcel from (1) the edge of the study corridor and (2) any existing transmission lines in the area. The tool may be viewed at the Baseload Transmission web site: <http://www.progress-energy.com/energyplanning>.

Gail also reported that PEF is working with its environmental consultant on the various route studies. These studies will identify the possible locations for the actual transmission line within the study area, including the right-of-way. As

these route studies are completed, PEF plans to host several open houses to present the conclusions of the route studies and to receive public input on the results.

Gail gave the group an overview of the Open House meetings. Based on feedback received at the last series of Open House meetings, as well as feedback provided by the CWG, PEF is developing a video that will be shown at the upcoming Open House meetings. The purpose of the video is to provide the general public with an overview of the project as well as information about the involvement and input from the community.

Other information provided regarding the Open House meetings:

- The Open House meetings will be held in October, November and December as the Route Study Areas are completed. The open houses in this area will be the final set.
- PEF's existing Rights of Way (ROW) will be shown at the Open House meetings.
- The goal is to engage people and develop understanding.
- PEF will send letters, advertise, provide information to city and county staff and officials, etc. to get the word out.
- Will ask for feedback again on design options and try to use the input where we can.

CWG members recommended the following with respect to the Open House meetings:

- Members asked that photos of pole options be displayed at the Open House
- PEF should demonstrate how input from this process, including the last round of Open House meetings, has affected decisions made to date regarding the project.
- Hold the Open House meetings as close to affected areas as possible. Evenings generally are better.
- Members made recommendations for facilities that might work with the open house format. They will continue to explore other options.

The group then discussed PEF's plans for moving several other Utility Search Conference recommendations forward. Gail mentioned that in response to the recommendation that PEF be more engaged in regional planning efforts, PEF is forming an internal group to develop a system-wide approach to regional planning for transmission, substations, etc. Members of the CWG recommended that PEF help smaller communities develop energy guidelines to define efficiencies and better building practices. If PEF decides to reach out

to the broader community with this group, PEF should consider engaging a broad range of skill sets and perspectives and radio advertisements about the web site.

Gail noted that many of the other USC recommendations dealt with the need to educate people on a variety of energy-related topics. In response, PEF has re-established its Speaker's Bureau, a group of PEF employees who are well-versed in energy-related topics and who are willing and able to speak with community organizations throughout the region. CWG members are encouraged to contact Gail if they know of groups that would be interested in having someone from PEF address their organization. One member requested information on energy use reduction that could assist if federal mandates are placed on communities to reduce use.

CWG members recommended that local libraries and retirement community media are excellent ways to distribute information regarding topics such as energy audits, energy use reduction, etc. Many retirement communities have their own media outlets for their residents and they are often looking for meaningful material to include. Brief radio commercials that direct people to the Baseload Transmission web site could also be helpful.

#### Next Steps:

- Route studies will be completed
- Open House meetings will be scheduled on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- CWG will meet again after the Open Houses to discuss outcomes
- CWG members should contact Chris Kenny or Gail Simpson with any other ideas about the Open House meetings or about other groups PEF should be contacting regarding this project



## Community Working Group Roster (Marion, Lake & Sumter Counties)

Category	County	First	Last	Organization	City
(C) Alternative Energy & Energy Providers	Lake	Kathy	Judkins	SECO Energy	Sumterville
(C) Business	Marion	Pete	Tesch	Ocala/Marion County EDC	Ocala
(C) Business	Polk	Tracy	Bryant	Rinker Materials	Davenport
(C) Business	Marion	Albert	Peek	Ocala Development, Inc.	Ocala
(C) Civic Groups	Marion	Monica	Bryant	Children's Alliance	Ocala
(C) Education	Marion	Wally	Wagoner	Marion County Public School	Ocala
(C) Environmental Advocates	Lake	Chris	Gray	Power Technology Southeast, Inc.	Leesburg
(C) Environmental Advocates	Lake	Sean	Parks	Lake County Water Authority Board of Trustees	Oakland
(C) Environmental Advocates	Marion	Mary Ann	Hilton	CRA Advisory Board Member	Dunnellon
(C) Environmental Advocates	Marion	William "Bill"	Ray	Bowyer Singleton & Associates	Ocala
(C) Environmental Advocates	Marion	Paul	Marraffino	Rainbow River Conservation, Inc.	Dunnellon
(C) Environmental Advocates	Levy	Chris	McKendree	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Inglis
(C) Government Staff - City/County	Sumter	Aimee	Webb	Sumter County Board of County Commissioners	Bushnell
(C) Government Staff - City/County	Lake	Paul	Kalv	City of Leesburg	Leesburg
(C) Government Staff - City/County	Sumter	Robert	Smith	City of Wildwood	Wildwood
(C) Landowners/Developers	Sumter	Martin	Dzuro	The Villages	The Villages
(C) Landowners/Developers	Marion	Dwayne	Carlton	Ellison Property Management Inc.	Ocala
(C) Landowners/Developers	Levy	Todd	Martin	Florida Farm Bureau Federation	Newberry
(C) Landowners/Developers	Lake	Greg	Beliveau	Urban & Regional Planners, Inc.	Mt. Dora
(C) Utility	Marion	Jean	Waid	Progress Energy Florida	Ocala
(C) Utility	Citrus	Carla	Groleau	Progress Energy Florida	Crystal River
(C) Utility	Polk	Jerry	Miller	Progress Energy Florida	Lake Wales