

# Community Partnership for Energy Planning

## Community Working Group – C (Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties)

### Meeting Summary

Wildwood Community Center – Wildwood, FL  
January 23, 2009

Time: 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

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



## Attendees

CWG Members Present:	Guests:
Dwayne Carlton – Ellison Property Management	Gail Simpson – Progress Energy Florida
Chris Gray – Power Technology Southeast	Tonya Elliott – Progress Energy Florida
Kathy Judkins - SECO	Lola Stein – Progress Energy Florida
Paul Marraffino – Rainbow River Coalition	John Whitney – Progress Energy Florida
Albert Peek – Ocala Development	
Robert Smith – City of Wildwood	
Aimee Webb – Sumter County Board of County Commissioners	

Chris Kenny of STAR Group welcomed the members and reviewed the ground rules and agenda for the meeting.

Gail Simpson provided members with an update on activities related to the Baseload Transmission Project, including:

- As members of the group were aware, Progress Energy Florida (PEF) filed its Site Certification Application (SCA), which included the 1-mile preferred corridor, with the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in June 2008. DEP will continue to the review process and as part of that process, will hold hearings in 2009 including technical hearings that will take place primarily in Levy and Citrus Counties from February – March 2009. Gail informed members that if they were interested they could provide their comments to DEP as part of the process and this could be done in person or in writing, and she pledged to provide members with a schedule of hearing dates as soon as those become available.
- The order by DEP approving or denying the SCA is anticipated by late summer 2009.
- While the SCA is considered by DEP, PEF continues to move forward with its potential route identification analysis, including obtaining public input through the Open House Meetings held in November 2008 to January 2009. Based on finalization of the Preferred Corridor

- with the State, as well as analysis and input from the public, PEF expects to finalize the potential routes by the end of 2009.
- Gail demonstrated the interactive mapping tool used at the Open House Meetings to show the Sumter Line to the group and to show the proposed routes for the entire line. This has helped members of the public identify their property and other key information regarding the proposed routes. She noted that this same technology is available on PEF's website and that PEF plans to stay within its existing rights of way through Hillsborough and Polk Counties, though there is one location in Polk County where PEF may need to acquire additional rights of way of up to 40 feet. This will not affect any homes. Across the entire length of the project (approximately 200 miles), PEF only needs to acquire roughly 20 miles of new corridor. In the remaining areas it will stay within or adjacent to existing corridors. This is in direct response to strong public sentiment that PEF attempt to stay within existing rights of way where feasible.
  - There are fewer than 35 homes in the proposed routes and fewer than 55 additional parcels that have homes on them (where the route crosses the parcel but where the home itself is not within the route). PEF has either made direct contact or sent overnight information to those property owners.
  - From the Levy Plant to the area of the proposed Citrus County substation, PEF will need a 700 foot wide route. Approximately half of that route will be on existing Progress Energy property.
  - PEF has decided not to build a rail line to the proposed Levy plant site and has decided instead to use barges and trucks to bring materials and equipment to the plant. This will save millions of dollars in land acquisition and construction costs.

After reviewing the study corridors depicted on the maps, a member asked Gail about the fact that the proposed study area in Sumter County appeared to have been expanded on one side of the turnpike, rather than halfway around the turnpike. Gail said that she would find out why this is the case and report back to the group. She also promised to send out the one page information sheet distributed at the most recent Open House meetings for the area.

A member asked Gail whether, in its assessment of the proposed routes thus far, PEF had encountered any significant environmental issues. Gail explained that the studies are ongoing but that to date no significant or unexpected issues had been identified.

A question was asked about "Smart Grid" technology and whether the proposed new transmission infrastructure would include Smart Grid technology. Gail responded that PEF, like many utilities, continues to look for cost-effective technologies to improve its systems. PEF does have an internal team looking at Smart Grid technologies but has not finalized its study.

The new project video was shown to the group.

After viewing the project video, Mickey Wilson of STAR Group presented the public information survey results from the January 2009 Open House Meetings that were held in this area. Approximately 119 surveys were turned in. Nearly all of the respondents were property owners. Nearly one-half of the respondents were served by PEF; 37 percent said they were served by SECO; and 11 percent were served by Withlacoochee Electric Cooperative. 89 percent felt the project need was well explained. 92 percent felt the Open House format was good. 54 percent favored galvanized steel over weathered steel. The public was evenly divided on the question of whether PEF should use single-pole (monopole) design or H-frame construction. There also was an even split on keeping the poles where they are today (with the addition of new mid-point structures) versus rebuilding the entire line (which could result in new pole placements).

Members were asked to comment on the results from the Open House meetings. Members commented that they felt PEF had done an excellent job presenting information.

Lola Stein discussed PEF's Speaker's Bureau. Lola explained that the creation of the Speaker's Bureau was a direct result of the recommendations generated at the 2007 Utility Search Conferences®



conducted by PEF for the Baseload Transmission Project. PEF now has 125 employees who are subject matter experts on topics such as transmission, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and that these individuals are available to speak to local organizations. Lola noted that the Speaker's Bureau already has been very active, having conducted 75 – 80 presentations between April and December 2008.

Members were asked for their input regarding topics and organizations for the Speaker's Bureau's consideration. Suggestions included a presentation regarding the safety and security of the nuclear plant, including the plant design, as well as information regarding the amount of nuclear waste material produced over the life of the plant and how that waste is stored. Another suggestion was to explain customer bills and rates, as well as the fact that PEF will conduct free energy audits for customers to identify energy saving opportunities. Members recommended that PEF make presentations to the Kiwanis Club, homeowners' associations, and environmental groups. Lola encouraged members to contact her with specific requests and additional suggestions members might have for future Speaker's Bureau engagements. Lola may be reached at (727) 820-4720 or [lola.stein@pgnmail.com](mailto:lola.stein@pgnmail.com).

Members were introduced to John Whitney, PEF's Forester. John spoke to the members about PEF's ongoing environmental mitigation measures. John provided pictures of rights of way, maintenance activities, wildlife, and flora. He discussed ways in which transmission rights of way may be established and maintained in a manner that benefits habitats for birds, animals, insects and flora.

PEF's focus on transmission rights of way maintenance has shifted from mowing to selective applications of herbicides to eliminate non-native and high growing species.

Members noted that people are interested in learning more about how PEF maintains its rights of way, including the types of herbicides PEF uses, and that the aesthetics of the rights of way are important to the community.



Chris Kenny of STAR Group asked members to discuss the group's ongoing work as well as the possibility of identifying and selecting additional members for the CWG. The group agreed that it could provide more meaningful recommendations on this topic when the group reconvenes again in April 2009, following the conclusion of DEP's hearings regarding the Site Certification Application.

Before adjourning, the CWG provided feedback regarding today's meeting during the Plus/Delta exercise:

Plus:

- + Feedback from Open House meetings was generally positive
- + Gail's update was very helpful
- + John Whitney's presentation

Delta:

- Δ There were no Delta's reported at this meeting

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>City</b>
(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	Citrus	Carla	Groleau	Progress Energy Florida	Crystal River
(C) Utility	Polk	Jerry	Miller	Progress Energy Florida	Lake Wales

