

## Why does Progress Energy Florida need to build these transmission lines?

Florida is the nation's fourth most-populous state and ranks third nationally in overall energy consumption. Homes are bigger – with central air conditioning, computers, large-screen TVs and all our modern appliances (even energy-efficient ones) – and the average home today uses more electricity than ever before.

Even considering the current short-term economic slowdown, we have calculated that demand for electricity in our service area will grow by 25 percent in the next 10 years. Growth within local electric cooperatives and municipal utilities is expected to keep similar pace. This growth and associated energy use requires long-term planning and long-range solutions.

Progress Energy Florida is able to meet today's energy needs in our region because of careful planning years ago. Just as we need to plan to build new roads and schools to stay ahead of growth, we must also plan to ensure the electric system we depend on is as reliable tomorrow as it is today. Progress Energy Florida has a legal responsibility to meet our customers' growing energy demand – including the cooperatives and city-owned utilities that receive power from the company – and to propose solutions that maintain reliable service.

Progress Energy Florida has developed a balanced solution to meet the challenge of growth, which includes:

- Expanding the use of alternative energy sources and renewable energy, to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Expanding the nation's most innovative and successful energy-efficiency programs and initiatives, to assist our customers to make the most of their energy dollars.
- Building new, state-of-the-art plants to meet Florida's growing energy needs.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy sources cannot supply all of the expected energy demand. That is why Progress Energy is planning to add additional power plants and transmission lines to provide sufficient and reliable electrical service to its customers. The company plans a decade in advance to allow sufficient time to plan for the lines, obtain required state and local approvals, and build new transmission equipment.

When selecting the route of transmission lines, Progress Energy looks at a number of possibilities, considering:

- environmental impacts, including on wetlands, soil, vegetation and wildlife
- economics
- construction accessibility
- the distance from homes, businesses, historic sites and public facilities
- the visibility and length of the proposed line
- federal and state safety and reliability standards
- long-range planning and effectiveness

Progress Energy will continue to work with local communities to analyze these and other factors to determine the best route for the new transmission lines.

For more information, visit us online at [www.progress-energy.com/energyplanning](http://www.progress-energy.com/energyplanning)