

# Community Partnership for Energy Planning

## Leadership Team & Community Working Group – A (Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk)

### Meeting Summary

Franklin Templeton Conference Center – St. Petersburg, FL  
May 6, 2009

Time: 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

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



## Attendees

LT & CWG Members Present:	Guests:
Suzanne Cooper (for Manny Pumariega) – Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council	Gail Simpson – Progress Energy Florida
Jim DeGennaro – Central Florida Development Council	Tonya Elliott – Progress Energy Florida
Susan Latvala – Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners	Pat Nasko – Progress Energy Florida
Steve McGlocklin – Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners	Bob Phillips – Progress Energy Florida
Tom Aderhold – Keystone Civic Association	
David Ash – Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations	
David Edwards – Pasco County	
Ken Hoyt – KSH International, Inc.	
Jim Martin – Pasco County	
Jerry Miller – Progress Energy Florida	
Melissa Seixas – Progress Energy Florida	
Larry Watson – Progress Energy Florida	

Bill Moye and Chris Kenny of STAR Group welcomed the Leadership Team and Community Working Group 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. The group discussed the recently completed Site Certification Application (SCA) hearings. Gail noted that the hearings were sparsely attended with the most attendees coming to the hearing in Inglis in Levy County. Comments on the project ranged from environmental and safety concerns to the potentially beneficial economic impacts. Several participants from the Community Partnership for Energy Planning and other community leaders spoke in support of the project at one or more of the hearings.



Gail noted that the Administrative Law Judge is expected to issue his recommendation to the Siting Board (which consists of Governor Crist and the cabinet) regarding the SCA by June 2009. The Siting Board likely will make its decision in August and that decision would become final approximately 30 -45 days later.

Gail discussed a recent PEF press release in which PEF announced that it was withdrawing its Limited Work Authorization application in response to a decision by the federal Nuclear Energy Regulatory Commission limiting the amount of work that PEF may conduct prior to receiving a Combined Operating License for the Levy plant. That license is not expected to be issued before 2011, resulting in approximate minimum 20-month schedule shift to the project timetable.

Gail noted that PEF remains committed to the Levy plant and the Baseload Transmission project, but the company must now re-evaluate many of the activities it had planned to undertake between now and 2011. She added that the company still anticipates completing its route study for the Baseload Transmission project by the end of 2009. Potentially some field activities associated with surveying and engineering may take place, but all plans are on hold until a new schedule reflecting the schedule shift is created.

Larry Watson noted that survey crews and rights-of-way assessments will continue for the next several months. In response to a question, Larry noted that PEF is still examining its existing easements but at this point has no plans to acquire any homes or additional rights-of-way in Hillsborough County.

Gail then discussed PEF's recent announcement regarding electric rates. She reviewed the different rate components and when the various components are reviewed by the PSC for change. She explained that the recent rate filing made by PEF is to pay for investments in infrastructure including the repowering of the Bartow plant and transmission upgrades to PEF's system. She pointed out that rates are impacted by several factors, the most volatile of which are fuel costs. PEF ratepayers have seen fuel charges fluctuate on their bills, with an increase in the fuel charge in

January followed by a decrease in April. This is because PEF simply passes its actual fuel costs on to consumers. Since a large percentage of PEF's fuel comes from natural gas, the volatility in prices for those fuels has been reflected on customers' bills in recent years. Gail also noted that one reason PEF wants to build the Levy plant is to reduce that kind of fuel price volatility, which can have a significant impact on customers who live on a fixed income.

In contrast to fuel costs, base rates are used to support PEF's infrastructure improvements and operating costs. PEF's base rates have not increased in more than 1% in the last 25 years. Public service hearings will be held by the Public Service Commission from July through September 2009. The Public Service Commission will make its ruling on the proposed base rate increase in September, with an effective date of January 1, 2010 for the new rates (if approved).

PEF has also filed to increase its early cost recovery for the Levy plant by 2%. The proposed increase reflects under-recovery on the Levy plant in 2009. The company also announced that because of the project shift that resulted from the NERC decision concerning the Limited Work Authorization, PEF has proposed spreading out the early cost recovery for the Levy plant by an additional 5 years. If passed, this will reduce the monthly amount collected for the Levy plant. It was noted that the early cost recovery, while impacting customer bills in now and up to operation of the plant, will save PEF ratepayers over \$13 billion on the Levy plant. It was also noted this is not easy for people to accept, particularly in difficult economic times.

Pat Nasko and Bob Phillips from PEF made a presentation on some of the residential and commercial energy efficiency programs that PEF has available. These range from free energy audits to financial incentive programs for residential and business customers who make cost-saving changes to their properties. Pat and Bob reported that since 1981, customers have saved nearly \$911 million through PEF's energy-efficiency programs -- or more than 12.11 billion kilowatt-hours -- enough to power the city of Orlando for more than two years. These programs have helped eliminate almost 7.6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> (equal to removing more than 2

million cars off the road every year). More information on energy efficiency tips can be found at [www.savethewatts.com](http://www.savethewatts.com).

The group discussed ways in which PEF might publicize its energy efficiency programs and identified the following strategies:

1. Use public access TV
2. Make presentations to
  - a. Chambers of commerce
  - b. Economic development organizations
  - c. NAIOP/Builders and developers organizations
  - d. Rotary Clubs and other civic organizations
  - e. Conferences
  - f. Homeowners' associations (get personal stories from neighbors about how these programs helped them save money at their home or business; utilize HOA newsletters)
3. Use infrared flyovers to see which industrial properties are inefficient

The group discussed some of the achievements to date as well as issues that continue to warrant the group's attention. The accomplishments identified were:

- Some conversations have taken place to date with TBARTA, the Turnpike Authority and other regional organizations about planning for growth and multiple uses of corridors
- John Whitney is working with Marian Ryan and Chuck Geanangel on corridor use and species habitat ideas
- PEF's image has been increased since the initial announcement, thanks to entering into a genuine dialogue with the community on issues of importance. When first announced, this was a disaster waiting to happen. PEF used the process to get facts out on the table. The challenge will be to maintain that positive image given the recent announcement about the project shift until the COLA is issued.
- PEF listened to the input received at the USC, during CWG meetings and from the Open House feedback by keeping most of the transmission lines in existing corridors. Following through on this input has been important in earning the public's trust and acceptance of the project.

Members identified the following as issues on which they felt they could continue to make a contribution as well as additional communications opportunities for PEF to explore:

- a. The group might want to help PEF organize an annual power summit to keep communities informed of issues related to the Baseload project and other information (such as the energy efficiency programs that PEF offers).
- b. Help PEF evaluate its ongoing efforts in implementing recommendations through the use of a Balanced Scorecard.
- c. Re-cast the individual components of the Most Desirable Future statement from the Utility Search Conference® into measurable goals that can be pursued.
- d. Evaluate how the Tampa region is doing (vs. the region and the rest of country) in terms of electricity usage and demand reduction; identify additional measures that might be implemented to address these issues.
- e. Have PEF make a presentation to the group on safety and security issues relative to the proposed Levy plant and transmission lines.
- f. Discuss what PEF currently does to stay involved in the community (on which organizations does PEF have representation, which one(s) are missing, etc.?) Explain how PEF interacts with 4 regional planning councils, TBARTA, etc. and offer suggestions on ways in which PEF might increase its presence and effectiveness through these organizations.

Due to time constraints, the group did not participate in a Plus/Delta exercise at this meeting. The next meeting date, time and place will be communicated to the group via email.

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

<b>Category</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Last</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>City</b>
(A) Business	Hillsborough	Kenneth	Hoyt	KSH International, Inc.	Tampa
(A) Business	Pasco	Randy	Stovall	Pasco-Hernando Community College	Dade City
(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	Polk	Chuck	Geanangel	Audubon Society	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	Pasco	Jim	Martin	Pasco County	New Port Richey
(A) Governmental	Pasco	David	Edwards	Pasco County	New Port Richey
(A) Governmental	Hillsborough	Bryant	Johnson	Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations	Tampa
(A) Governmental	Hillsborough	David	Ash	Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations	Tampa
(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) Large Energy Users	Pasco	John	Soler	District School Board of Pasco County	New Port Richey
(A) Large Landowners	Hillsborough	Thomas	Griggs	Newland Southeast	Tampa
(A) Utility	Hillsborough	Larry	Watson	Progress Energy	Lake Mary
(A) Utility	Pinellas	Melissa	Seixas	Progress Energy	Clearwater
(A) Utility	Polk	Jerry	Miller	Progress Energy	Lake Wells