

# Community Partnership for Energy Planning

## Community Working Group – A

(Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Polk)

# Meeting Summary

Feather Sound Country Club – Clearwater, FL  
January 13, 2009

Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

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



## Attendees

CWG Members Present:	Guests:
David Ash – Hillsborough County	Gail Simpson – Progress Energy Florida
David Edwards – Pasco County	Tonya Elliott – Progress Energy Florida
Chuck Geanangel – Audubon Society	Lola Stein – Progress Energy Florida
Ken Hoyt – KSH International, Inc.	John Whitney – Progress Energy Florida
Dee Lane – Coalition 4 Responsible Growth, Inc.	
Jim Martin – Pasco County	
Ken Mathewson – Pinellas County Utilities	
Marian Ryan – Sierra Club	
Jerry Miller – Progress Energy Florida	
Melissa Seixas – Progress Energy Florida	

Chris Kenny of STAR Group welcomed the members and reviewed the ground rules and agenda for the meeting. Chris also requested and received permission from the members to allow STAR Group to film today's meeting, with the understanding that the video would not be used other than to enable STAR Group to provide prospective clients with a better understanding of how STAR Group facilitates meetings.

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 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.

- Individuals and organizations have until January 26, 2009 to file as interveners, though there will be plenty of opportunities for the public to provide input and testimony. To date only a handful of individuals or organizations have filed as interveners in the SCA process. A decision on the order by DEP approving or denying the SCA is anticipated by late summer 2009.
- PEF is working with DEP, Hillsborough County, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, SWFWMD and other agencies in the process to collaborate on a single set of conditions upon which any approval of the preferred corridors by DEP would be conditioned. 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.
- The Open House meetings held in November for Polk, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties were modestly attended, with the highest attendance occurring in Polk County. A total of approximately 210 individuals attended the three Open Houses.
- Gail demonstrated the interactive mapping tool used at the Open House Meetings to show the Kathleen 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.
- 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.
  - At the end of December 2008, PEF signed a contract with Westinghouse for two AP1000 units, which are the nuclear reactors that will generate power at the new Levy plant.

A member asked Gail whether PEF had received opposition to the proposed Levy plant based on recent shifts in the economy and population projections for Florida. Gail remarked that this issue has indeed been raised. PEF has responded that while there is a slow-down in growth in the near term, they expect demand and customer growth to continue and new generation will be needed to meet the current and anticipated demand. PEF also by announced that it intends to close 2 coal units at its existing Crystal River facility once the new Levy nuclear plant is operational. Shutting down these 2 units reflects not only the changes in projected population growth in Florida but also PEF's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Gail also noted that PEF is spending billions to upgrade 2 other coal fired units at its existing Crystal River plant as part of its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions).

Chris Kenny reviewed the public information survey results from the November 2008 Open House Meetings that were held in Polk, Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. 85 surveys were turned in. Nearly all of the respondents were property owners. Not surprisingly, virtually all respondents were served by TECO, a municipality or a regional electric cooperative. 80 percent felt the Project need was well explained. 96 percent felt the Open House format was good. 45 percent liked the proposed rights of way; 14 percent preferred a different option or no project; 12 percent were concerned about pole placement; 12 percent wanted more information; 11 percent had health/safety concerns; and 6 percent had property value concerns.

Respondents were evenly split between galvanized steel (silver) and weathered steel (brown) poles. Nearly all preferred monopoles versus H-frame design. There 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).

A member asked about PEF's efforts to inform university students about the Open House Meetings and PEF's efforts to reach this younger but very active group. Gail explained that PEF has used a broad based outreach such as general advertising and media outreach. Melissa Seixas explained that PEF has a partnership with the University of South Florida.

The new project video was shown to the group.

Members were introduced to John Whitney, PEF's Forester. John spoke with members about PEF's ongoing environmental mitigation measures. John provided pictures of rights of way, maintenance activity, 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.

A question was asked about the gopher tortoise. John responded that the gopher tortoise is prevalent in many of PEF's rights of way. It was suggested that perhaps the rights of way could be used as gopher tortoise relocation sites. John agreed that could be a possibility and expressed his willingness to work with members on this idea. He also addressed a list of written questions regarding rights of way uses from one of the members.

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



numerous subject matter experts (on topics such as transmission, energy efficiency, and renewable energy) who 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. Lola encouraged members to contact her with requests or suggestions they may have for future Speaker's Bureau engagements. Lola may be reached at 727-820-4720 or via email at [lola.stein@pgnmail.com](mailto:lola.stein@pgnmail.com).

A comment was made about the recent Florida energy bill and it was suggested that PEF should discuss what it is doing to address key elements of that bill (e.g., the electric demand that could develop if electric vehicles make inroads in the Florida market). It was requested that experts come to a future Community Working Group (CWG) meeting to discuss hybrid power plants such as wind turbine, natural gas, or solar alternatives.

Bill Moye 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. Members felt the group should be reconstituted and its mission redefined. It was suggested that representation from the neighborhoods nearest to the new transmission routes would be desirable additions to the CWG. Members also suggested reviewing other recommendations from the USC and inviting appropriate individuals to future CWG meetings to address those recommendations.

Gail Simpson informed members that David Ash and Bryan Johnson of Hillsborough County would be joining the group in the future and they represent neighborhoods in Hillsborough County that are located near the proposed route.

Bill informed the group that they would reconvene again in late March or early April, following the conclusion of DEP's technical hearings.

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



Plus:

- + Speakers Bureau information
- + Update was beneficial
- + Working to refocus mission
- + Idea of getting new participants – David Ash will look for possible participants from his area
- + The rights of way management discussion

Delta:

- Δ Noise from the meeting in the adjoining room (hold the next meeting at the Raymond James facility, if possible)
- Δ Have A/V pretested before group arrives
- Δ Have an expert speaker, such as from transmission

**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	Ming	Gao	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) Land Use Planners	Hillsborough	William	Lambo	Hillsborough County	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