



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida



February 2020
Power Profile: Barbara Quinones,
Director Electric Utilities
City of Homestead

Your city is in the middle of significant regional growth. What role does your electric department play in encouraging new business growth and infrastructure development?

Our first goal is always to provide a safe, reliable, low cost quality product to our residents and businesses. But we also see ourselves as community partners. [Read More Here](#)

Over the years, you have played a major role in hardening the electric infrastructure facilities in the light of the increased weather activity correct?

Yes, that's true. I was working in the electric utility industry in Miami during Hurricane Andrew and also in Palm Beach and Broward during the extremely active hurricane..... [Read More Here](#)

Having worked in both a privately-held electric company and now with the City of Homestead energy department, are the issues your organization experiences that might be different from those of privately held electric companies in providing electric service?

In the electric utility industry, whether a privately-held company, a municipal utility or a cooperative, we all face a number of similar challenges.....[Read More Here](#)

[Read Barbara's Full Power Profile Here](#)

Volume 1 Issue 2



Lila Jaber
Founder, Florida's
Women in Energy
Leadership Forum
850-545-8207
[Email](#)

In This Issue:

- * Power Profile: Barbara Quinones
- * Congratulations Corner: Sandy Sims
- * FPL Launches Incubator
- * EV Infrastructure Expands
- * Gulf Power and Drone Technology
- * SGA's Women and Leadership Workshop
- * Clearwater Gas Extends Natural Gas Service
- * Cruising Clean
- * Why Californians are Asking About Florida Cow Manure
- * Seminole Electric Expands Solar Facilities
- * NARUC White Paper: Exploring Coal Ash Policy
- * Florida PSC Authorized Hurricane Surcharge for Duke Energy



Congratulations Corner:
Sandy Sims, Director of External Relations, Gulf Power Company

Gulf Power's Sandy Sims was recognized as a 2019 Pinnacle Awards Recipient. This award spotlights leading women in business who hold themselves to high standards and contribute to the betterment of the community. Sandy has been with Gulf Power for 35 years and has experienced almost every aspect of the business by starting as a drafting clerk, now Director of External Relations.

[Read Sandy's Full Interview Here](#)



Florida Power & Light Launches Startup Incubator

Florida Power & Light has launched the 35 Mules Project, an initiative aimed at sparking innovations in energy and water. This project will allow inventors with compelling ideas to apply for space at FPL's Juno Beach campus including guidance from FPL's team and \$50,000 in cash to help fund ongoing projects. 35 Mules will unite entrepreneurs from around the world with FPL's experts to create a "two-way exchange of ideas". Power Source reached out to FPL's Director of Economic Development, Crystal Stiles to comment on the project.



Crystal Stiles
Director, Economic
Development
Florida Power & Light

"Entrepreneurs in the 35 Mules program will be able to take advantage of resources across Florida, which is and has long been a technology and innovation hub in its own right," said Crystal Stiles, senior director of economic development at Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). "And this is why we're so excited about 35 Mules. It's a chance for FPL to get even more involved in this space to continue moving Florida forward. We, of course, are just one piece of this puzzle. We look forward to working with all of our partners more as 35 Mules gets off the ground."

Florida Expands Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

In 2018, Florida received authorization to spend \$166 million through the multi-state Volkswagen Settlement Mitigation Trust Fund to improve air quality. Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) recently created a state mitigation plan to allocate funds. The approved mitigation plan includes prioritizing the expansion of Florida's electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure by increasing the number of charging stations along Interstate highways. In accordance with the plan, FDEP announced a competitive grant funding opportunity for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. To find out how to apply for these grants

[Click here](#) to download the Request for Application (RFA) For Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Phase 1 or visit [FDEP's Volkswagen Settlement](#) page, which includes information on project eligibility and instructions for how to apply.

If you have questions or want to learn more about The Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program (DEMP) and the FDEP grant funding opportunities, please contact : [Gunster's Government Affairs Team](#)

Gulf Power Begins Using Drones

Gulf Power is taking advantage of drone technology by using them to preform equipment assessments on overhead power lines, providing more reliable services even in inclement weather. This new technology will be a proactive approach to locate potential problem areas before the outage happens. Drones will also be able to quickly access damage in areas that may not be accessible to crews immediately following a storm. You can find out more about [Gulf Power's use of drone technology here](#).

workshop: Women and Leadership



The Women and Leadership workshop features renown industry experts & speakers, Cari Coats, Co-Founder & Managing Partner at Accendo Leadership Advisory Group and Dr. William Sparks, Chair of Leadership at the McColl School of Business at Queens University of Charlotte

This workshop is targeted to build your competency in developing executive presence and personal brand, emotional intelligence: self-awareness and self-management, and influencing others without authority.

To find out more visit [SGAs Website](#)



Cruising Clean: Cruise Ships Switching Fuel to LNG



U.S. Cruise ships are beginning to make the switch from a dense version of diesel to a cleaner liquefied natural gas, preventing harmful pollution and lowering the cost of fuel. With over 70 percent of the United State's cruise industry based in Florida, Port Canaveral will be the first port to offer the new fuel, with 5 other Florida ports gearing up. The change to LNG comes after demands from the EU and environmental groups to reduce greenhouse gases and emissions.

Many cruise lines are already producing LNG burning ships but the cost of these ships is slightly higher and crews must be trained to handle the freezing fuel. 26 new LNG ships will be delivered by 2026, according to Cruise Ship Order Book, a trade publication. The companies are Carnival, Disney Cruise Line and Royal Caribbean International.

[Read More Here](#)

Seminole Electric Contracts Solar Facilities with Florida Renewable Partners

“Seminole has contracted with Florida Renewable Partners, LLC—part of Juno Beach, Florida based NextEra Energy—to build new solar generating facilities to provide solar power to Seminole's nine member distribution electric cooperatives through purchased power agreements. The four new photovoltaic solar sites—which will be constructed, owned, and operated by FRP—are expected to generate 298 megawatts, or 74.5 megawatts per facility, enough to power approximately 60,000 homes. The proposed solar facilities are located across north Florida.”

[Read Seminole Electric's Full Press Release Here](#)

PSC Authorizes Hurricane Surcharge for Duke Energy

“The Florida Public Service Commission approved an interim storm restoration recovery surcharge allowing Duke Energy Florida, LLC to recover costs related to 2019 Hurricane Dorian and Tropical Storm Nestor. DEF reported costs of \$171.3 million, including interest. With the Commission's approval, a monthly residential 1,000 kilowatt-hour customer bill with increase \$5.34—effective March 2020 through February 2021. The interim storm restoration recovery charge is subject to refund with interest pending PSC review of the utility's actual restoration costs.

[Read The PSC's Full Press Release Here](#)

Clearwater Gas System to Extend Natural Gas Service

“Clearwater Gas system, in partnership with Lennar Homes, will be extending natural gas service to more than 660 single-family homes in Pasco County over the next few years. The gas service partnership will include the installation of energy-efficient gas water heaters, gas ranges and gas dryers in each home. At current rates, natural gas is approximately 65 percent cheaper to operate compared to electricity. The direct use of natural gas achieves 92 percent efficiency, far better than any other energy source, and it cuts carbon emissions nearly in half.

[Read Clearwater Gas System's Full Press Release Here](#)

Coal Ash Policies Explored in New NARUC White Paper

“A new white paper commissioned by the national Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners offers a comprehensive look at coal ash policies and challenges for utilities, state utility regulators, and other stakeholders related to its management disposal.” “Coal ash presents a unique set of challenges for state utility regulators. By understanding the historic context of environmental regulation and options for managing coal ash, including beneficial reuse markets, state regulators can better manage costs and risks to customers,” said Danielle Sass Byrnett, director of NARUC's Center for Partnerships and Innovation

[Read NARUC's Full Press Release Here](#)

Why are Californians Asking About Florida Cow Manure?

Brightmark Energy, a California based company is one of multiple companies “soliciting Florida dairy farmers to turn their cow poop lagoons into money-making biogas machines”. “ Federal renewable energy policy as well as California law allows fuel companies to reduce their pollution debt by purchasing g credits from entities overachieving in carbon reduction efforts. Improved technology that can spin cow excrement into renewable natural gas in addition to the burgeoning carbon credit market is attracting pioneers—called developers—that build he projects, pay for the manure, then reap the benefits of selling earth-friendly fuel and credits.” With over 80 dairy farms, 124,000 dairy cows, and a 19th place ranking in milk production, Florida is becoming a hot spot for this new market.

“The project, which could take two years to complete, is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the dairy manure at a rate of 57,400 metric tons annually.”

With increased pressure on farmers to reduce their environmental footprint , Florida farmers also benefit from the new market, monetarily and environmentally.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)



FWELF 2020
ENERGY DRIVING INNOVATION
November 11-13, 2020
JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes

Register today at:
www.flwomeninenergy.com
For sponsorship opportunities contact:
Lila Jaber 850-545-8207 or
ljaber@gunster.com

Presented By:



The Power Source is presented by:

