



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida



April 2020
Power Profile: Crystal Stiles
*Senior Director,
Economic Development
Florida Power & Light*

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) launched 35 Mules to spur innovations in energy, water and energy-adjacent fields. What impact do you think the innovation hub will have on economic development?

First, it is important to acknowledge that we're going through a challenging time with COVID-19. this pandemic is changing the landscape of economic development. With that in mind, the goal for 35 Mules.....[Read More](#)

35 Mules is centered on entrepreneurship with the idea of developing bold ideas into Florida businesses. Where did the idea of the program stem from?

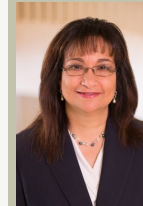
35 Mules takes us back to our history of how FPL and our parent company NextEra Energy started. In 1925, a very unlikely patchwork of enterprises combined to form the precursor to NextEra Energy.....[Read More](#)

When choosing applicants for 35 Mules, what are you looking for and how do you determine who will participate?

We are looking for the next best thing. We want to help someone turn a great idea into a business. The applicants twill go through a rigorous review process that includes different committees of experts.....[Read More](#)

**Read Crystal's Full
Power Profile Here**

Volume 1 Issue 4



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In This Issue:

- * Power Profile: Crystal Stiles
- * Save the Date: FWELF 2020
- * Duke Energy Takes Action Against COVID-19
- * NARUC Recognizes Essential Utility Workers
- * Chesapeake Utilities Responds to Covid-19
- * Gulf Power : Continuing Excellence in Customer Service During Pandemic
- * Gunster's COVID-19 Resource Page
- * TECO:COVID-19 Response
- * OUC to Contribute \$12.5 Million to COVID-19 Response
- * Florida Power and Light Issuing Covid-19 Relief to Customers



Save the Date

FWELF 2020
NOVEMBER 11-13
JW MARRIOTT ORLANDO
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Duke Energy Takes Action to Assist Customers During Pandemic

Duke Energy Florida's President, Catherine Stempien weighed in on the pandemic, "As COVID-19 takes a toll on the health of our state, I'm encouraged by the spirit of Floridians. I've been inspired by the selfless acts of those on the front-lines—from healthcare workers fighting the virus, to sore clerks stocking food shelves, and so many more." [Read Catherine's Op-Ed Here](#)

* Duke Energy is taking steps to reduce residential customer bills by nearly 21% in May due to the coronavirus. The company is fast-tracking fuel savings to customers, significantly reducing bills for the May 2020 billing cycle. Duke is requesting approval from the Florida PSC to offer immediate assistance by giving customers annual fuel savings in a single bill. [Read More Here](#)

* Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas announced a comprehensive set of steps to help customers, communities, and employees manage the economic impact of COVID-19.

- The company will waive late payment fees and discontinue service disconnections for unpaid bills

- The Duke Energy Foundation donated \$1.3 million to support hunger relief and help local health and human service nonprofits

- Some Duke employees will receive cash payments to help offset virus-related expenses.

[Read More Here](#)

NARUC Recognizes Utility Workers as Essential

NARUC has joined the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in recognizing the value and role of utility workers to the critical infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic. President Brandon Presley and FERC Chair Neil Chatterjee urge state governments to confer essential worker status to this group. FERC Chairman Neil Chatterjee stated "It is vital for the safety and security of our nation that there is no disruption in the services that Homeland Security identified. Including those involving energy, during this unprecedented emergency."

[Read NARUC'S Press Release Here](#)

Chesapeake Utilities Responds to COVID-19

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation's President & CEO, Jeff Householder issued a statement announcing \$200,000 in donations to organizations supporting communities impacted by the spread of the corona virus. These generous donations accompany the Chesapeake's decision to waive late payment fees, extend payment terms, and suspend service disconnections to help customers during this unprecedented time.

Householder also issued a video statement addressing pandemic response and communications

[Read The Full Video Statement Here](#)

Gulf Power: COVID-19 Response

Gulf Power is continuing the company's excellence in customer service by aiding customers and the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Communications Manager Sarah Gatewood said "customers should see a much lower power bill in May." Gulf Power has asked the Florida Public Service Commission to approve a plan for a one-time fuel charge refund in may that would be about 40% for the average residential customer. Gulf Power is also:

- Donating \$250,000 to United Way of West Florida to help both individuals and nonprofits with economic hardships due to the pandemic.
- Suspending service disconnections
- Providing bill relief to customers
- Helping local small businesses across Northwest Florida

[Gulf Power's Response to COVID-19](#)



Gunster's COVID-19 Resources & Insights



Visit Gunster's COVID-19 resource page with updates from state agencies, executive orders, and webinars detailing the impact of COVID-19 on industries statewide. Gunster is committed to keeping you informed and engaged in the face of this pandemic

[Gunster.com/covid19/](https://www.gunster.com/covid19/)

OUC to Contribute \$12.1 Million to Help the Community During Pandemic

"As the hometown utility, we are committed to doing the right thing by helping our community get through this tough time," said **Clint Bullock**, OUC General Manager & CEO. "We believe this multifaceted approach will bring relief to customers now and in the months ahead."

OUC will contribute \$12.1 million to help the community throughout this crisis, the proposal offers immediate relief by lowering utility bills and provides additional solutions to customers. The proposal includes:

- \$7.5 million to lower electric fuel rates for May bills by 39%
- \$2.6 million contribution to Project CARE for qualified residential customers
- \$1.5 million for utility bill payment assistance to qualified small businesses
- \$500,000 for new OUC Power Pass Customers
- Suspension of electric and water disconnections for on payment and waiving late payment fees
- Payment plans and deferred payment arrangements for customers

[Read OUC's Press Release Here](#)

TECO Donates \$1 Million to Coronavirus Effort

Tampa Electric and TECO Peoples Gas are donating \$1 million to local charities that will benefit people financially affected by the pandemic.

- \$500,000 will be donated to the SHARE program supporting customers who cannot pay their utility bills.

- \$500,000 will be donated to other charitable partner organizations working on the frontlines of the pandemic.

"We understand many customers may be experiencing financial hardship during this difficult time," said Nancy Tower, president and chief executive officer. "These community partners can help ease that burden for thousands of people."

[Read The Press Release Here](#)

Florida Power & Light Responds to COVID-19 Pandemic

FPL is responding to the ongoing crisis by lowering customer bills for the second time this year. Lower fuel costs are enabling FPL to issue a one-time decrease of nearly 25% for residential customers beginning May 1st. FPL Plans to issue the savings through a one-time bill decrease to accelerate savings to customers. FPL is implementing the companies pandemic plan and continues to stay committed to continuously delivering reliable and affordable electricity. Additionally, FPL, its fellow NextEra Energy companies, and employees have so far committed nearly \$2.75 million to COVID-19 emergency assistance funds that will be distributed directly to those in need and to partner organizations working on the frontlines of the crisis.

[Read More Here](#)

Utility Service Has Never Been More Important



If you're planning landscaping or any other digging projects, contact 811 first. Kids tele-learning and adults telecommuting will thank you. April is National Call 811 Month, call before you dig!

[Call811.com](https://www.call811.com)

The Power Source is presented by:



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