



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida



May 2020
Power Profile: Rachel Klinger
Principal Engineer, BCEE
Geosyntec Consultants

As an engineer doing work within the power industry, do you find that the interest in STEM-related careers has increased or decreased?

Based on my experience, I absolutely think the interest has increased. About a year ago, I visited a local high school to talk with students about careers in environmental engineering..... Read More

What inspired you to pursue an engineering career?

As a young child, I loved nature and loved helping my dad fix things around the house. It wasn't until a summer high school internship with an environmental engineer that I realized I could combine the two things in a professional career..... Read More

At Geosyntec, you work with both water and electric companies. Do you find similarities in the responsibilities?

As an environmental engineer, I focused on solving my clients' most challenging problems no matter who they are. For my power clients, I am committed to navigating the challenges..... Read More

Read Rachel's Full Power Profile Here

Volume 1 Issue 5



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Women in Energy
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Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum 2020 Announces Keynote Speaker: Joy Ditto, President and CEO, American Public Power Association

FWELF is excited to announce that Joy Ditto will be joining the 2020 forum as a keynote speaker. Joy is President and CEO of the American Public Power Association. Before joining the APPA, Joy served as president and CEO of the Utilities Technology Council, a global trade association representing electric, gas, and water utilities on their mission-critical information and communications technologies.

[Register for FWELF 2020](#), Nov 11-13 2020, at the JW Marriott, Orlando



Florida Power & Light and Gulf Power Set to Merge in 2022



NextEra Energy, the parent company of Gulf Power and FP&L, has announced the two will merge in 2022. This merger would create a utility from Miami to Pensacola Florida, with a combined customer base of over 5.5 million. NextEra released a review of the company's quarterly earnings, reflecting the plan to merge FP&L and Gulf Power in 2022. "Based on this review, the companies expect that a merger will create both operational and financial benefits for customers. As a result, the companies plan to take additional steps to merge over the coming months."



An accompanying earnings presentation said FPL and Gulf expect to file a combined base-rate case in 2021 at the Public Service Commission, with new rates effective in 2022. The filing with the PSC includes NextEra's plan to complete a new 161 kV transmission line that will enforce and enhance the electrical connection between both systems. The plan states "this enhanced connection will benefit customers in both systems by better enabling the siting of clean, reliable, low cost generation, and the transmission of energy from those facilities, to all customers."

Florida PSC Approves Accelerated Electric Bill Reductions

The Florida Public Service Commission approved accelerated bill reductions for customers to assist with the economic effects of COVID-19. "With electric utilities experiencing lower fuel costs, it is the right time to accelerate these savings as bill reductions to help customers experiencing financial hardships as a result of COVID-19," said PSC Chairman Gary Clark. "Together, we are navigating this unprecedented time, and I am pleased with all of Florida's investor-owned utilities' actions to assist customers and ensure reliable service continues." customers of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), Duke Energy Florida, LLC (DEF), and Gulf Power Company (Gulf) will receive a one-time bill reduction in May to reflect over recovery of fuel and capacity cost recovery factors. [Read More Here](#)

PG&E Seeks Change in Board Members

PG&E is planning to replace three quarters of its board of directors in an effort to emerge from bankruptcy after wildfires scorched Northern California spawning from the utility's neglected electrical grid.. Only three of the fourteen current board members will remain if PG&E can win court approval of its \$25.5 billion dollar plan to cover losses from the wildfires. Replacing the board members will be heavily scrutinized process with an emphasis on placing individuals on the board that have safety expertise.

Sebring Gas Modifies its Tariff to Benefit Customers

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) approved Sebring Gas System, Inc.'s emergency petition to waive customer late payment charges. Sebring has already announced that it will not disconnect service during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the new Commission-approved tariff modifications furthers customer protections. Sebring's current tariff does not allow the utility to waive late payment charges for any reason. With the Commission approval, Sebring can now relieve its customers from worrying about additional bill charges during government-authorized emergencies. [Read More](#)

Five New Utilities Earn RP3 Designations



Congratulations to Florida public power's five newest American Public Power Association Reliable Public Power Providers for earning their RP3 designation for providing reliable and safe electric service. The City of Homestead Energy Services, Beaches Energy Services in Jacksonville Beach, Keys Energy Services, and Ocala Electric Utility earned Diamond RP3 designation, while the City of Leesburg, Florida earned Platinum RP3 designation.

RP3 recognizes best-in-the-nation public power utilities in four key areas: reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement.

WEBINAR

**Personal Agility: The Foundation
for Leading Through Uncertainty
and Disruption**



FLORIDA'S WOMEN IN ENERGY
LEADERSHIP FORUM

Wednesday, May 20
9:30 AM-10:30 AM



Signature
LEADERS

Carol Seymour

CEO and Founder, Signature Leaders and author of

Wisdom Warriors, Women with the Courage to be True to Themselves

Join us for a webinar on “The 5 Stays of Personal Agility” – your foundation for leading through uncertainty and disruption by creating forward momentum for you and your teams.

Wednesday, May 20

9:30 AM- 10:30 AM EST

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