



The Power Source

Igniting the Future of Florida



July 2021

Power Profile: Rachel Williams

Senior Project Manager
Tetra Tech

Rachel, in your bio, you note that you are both an environmental professional at Tetra Tech, and a women's leadership coach. How did that happen?

I have always loved science and nature, so when I was graduating college with a B.S. in Biology, I found environmental consulting which combined both of those passions. I started my career as an environmental scientist performing wetland..... [Read More](#)

Having served as an environmental professional within the energy industry and consulting to the industry as long as you have, are you seeing more opportunities for women and, for which careers?

Within the energy industry, in my experience, I have seen more women in the environmental permitting and wildlife space than men. I feel like we've started seeing more women get promoted to higher levels of leadership, which is great.....[Read More](#)

How does your involvement with the Southern Gas Association's Women and Leadership Committee fit into all of the things that are important to you?

Like my participation in the Tetra Tech Professional Women's Network, participating in the SGA Women and Leadership Committee combines so many things that I am passionate about: leadership, women in STEM, energy, networking, and personal growth.....[Read More](#)

Leadership coaching is more than an example of your entrepreneurship, why did you become a leadership coach?

I believe the strongest teams are composed of complimentary opposites. Therefore D&I is so important for companies, and why I believe we need more women and minorities.....[Read More](#)

[Read Rachel's Full Interview](#)

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Congratulations Corner: Florida Public Power Leaders Recognized with National Awards

“The Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) and Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) recently announced four Florida public power leaders were honored with American Public Power Association (APPA) national awards. Recognized were Amy Zubaly, FMEA Executive Director, Frederick (Fred) Bryant, former FMPA and FMEA General Counsel, Chris Gent, Kissimmee Utility Authority (KUA), Paul McElroy (retired CEP of JEA) Vice President of Corporate Communications, and Michael Perri, Jr., Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) Board member. The awards were presented at the APPA National Conference & Public Power Expo in New Orleans. APPA is the national trade association for more than 2,000 U.S. community-owned electric utilities.

- ◆ Amy Zubaly received the Harold Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award, which recognizes individuals for their exceptional service to APPA. An active member of the organization for 18 years, Zubaly is a member of the APPA Advisory Council, Legislative and Resolutions Committee, Mutual Aid Working Group and PowerPAC.
- ◆ Also receiving the Harold Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award, Chris Gent has served in leadership roles in the utility industry at the local, state and national level.
- ◆ Paul McElroy received the Mark Crisson Leadership and Managerial Excellence Award, recognizing managers who raise their organizations to new levels of excellence and inspire their employees and staff to improve processes, services, and operations.
- ◆ Frederick Bryant is this year’s recipient of the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award for his significant contributions to the electric utility industry and public power utilities.
- ◆ Michael Perri Jr. was the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award, which is given to elected or appointed officials who have made substantial contributions to the APPA’s goals and to their communities.

[Read The Full Press Release](#)

eTransEnergy named by GM as a preferred provider for fleet electrification

eTransEnergy, a Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK) company, was recently named by GM as a preferred provider to help GM fleet and BrightDrop customers transition to electric vehicles through the GM Ultium Charge 360 service.



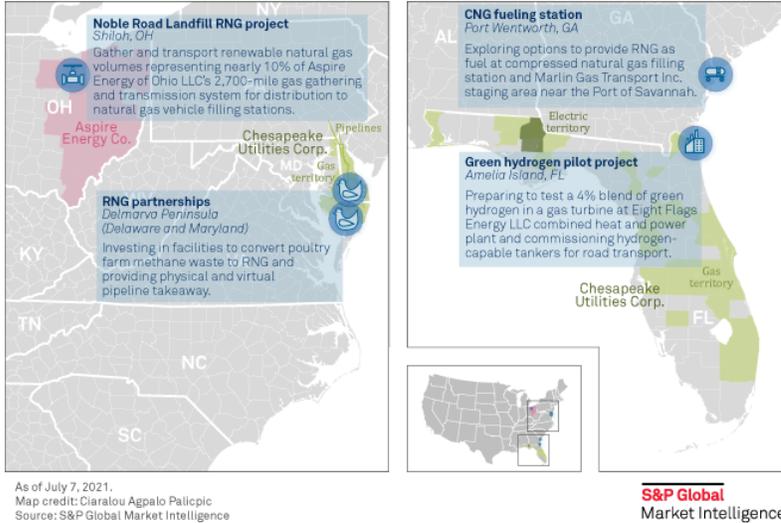
According to a press release, “Duke Energy introduced eTransEnergy in February 2021 as a wholly owned subsidiary created to offer energy transportation services to logistics, services, and last-mile delivery companies, as well as school districts and transit agencies. “We are so pleased eTransEnergy was named by GM as a preferred provider for the electrification of its fleet,” said Greg Fields, eTransEnergy vice president. “This speaks to the strength of our program and the value of our service as a realistic solution for customers seeking to transform their fleets.”

Customers who choose eTransEnergy will benefit from comprehensive infrastructure planning, smart charging technology, on-site solar energy generation, battery backup options and other aspects of EV (electric vehicle) fleet management.” [Read More](#)



Chesapeake Utilities Expands Renewable Natural Gas

Chesapeake Utilities Corp. expands into renewable gas



In a pair of interviews with S&P Global Market Intelligence, Chesapeake Utilities executives discussed the RNG opportunity — one of five key strategic initiatives through 2025 — and their plans to establish a foothold in the emerging hydrogen economy. They expect that the plans could help Chesapeake grow and decarbonize its business and see the company expand its geographic footprint. However, when evaluating RNG opportunities, the company will continue to think locally, Jeff Householder said.

"Fundamentally, we like to think of the projects that we would be engaged in as solving a local problem or a local issue, addressing ... an environmental concern locally," Householder said.

Chesapeake has recently invested in two RNG facilities under development by the companies. It struck deals to transport the supplies through its Eastern Shore Natural Gas Co. transmission subsidiary and Marlin Gas Transport Inc. virtual pipeline business, which offers gas transport in tube trailers. Its Delmarva gas utility is exploring regulatory options to distribute the RNG to customers and will additionally supply CleanBay with natural gas for organic fertilizer production. In Ohio, Chesapeake is leveraging its Aspire Energy of Ohio LLC gas gathering subsidiary to offtake supplies from an landfill RNG project.

Additionally, About 130 miles south of Savannah down the Interstate 95, Chesapeake is planning its first green hydrogen pilot project. The company plans to inject a 4% blend of green hydrogen — a zero-carbon form of the fuel produced using renewable electric power — into the gas stream that feeds the turbine at its Eight Flags Energy LLC combined heat and power plant on Amelia Island, Fla.

[Read the full S&P article](#)

Duke Energy Foundation Awards \$734,000 in Grants to Support Workforce

Duke Energy is investing \$734,000 in strategic workforce development and education programs in Florida. The Duke Energy Foundation grants will help job seekers and students who are members of underrepresented groups, such as women and minorities, to prepare for employment, primarily in the energy sector. This support will further bolster and expand the state's existing skilled workforce.

"These grants support vital programs and help develop a diverse workforce needed to strengthen our communities and economies today and in the future." said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president.

All of the grants are administered through the Duke Energy Foundation, which is investing in workforce programs in the energy sector to help build the next generation workforce, as well as create access to training and job skills programs that meet community needs today.

[Read the full press release](#)



Ocala celebrates year using solar power through FMPA partnership



The city of Ocala is one of a few cities across the state that receives power from Harmony Solar and Taylor Creek Solar energy sites, which have contributed over 370,000 megawatt hours since they began operations last year. Ocala began its relationship with the Harmony Solar Energy Center and Taylor Creek Solar Energy Center in June 2020. The Harmony Solar Energy Center has nearly 300,000 solar panels on site.

“Community solar allows the generation of energy without installments on the home. Ocala Electric Utility wants to bring clean energy to our customers and lower emissions within our community,” reads a Facebook post from the Ocala Electric Utility, whose staff recently toured the farm.

According to the FMPA, over the past year, the Harmony and Taylor Creek solar sites have generated more than 370,000 megawatt hours. That is enough energy to power approximately 31,576 homes per year. The sites have also reduced carbon emissions equivalent to eliminating over 262,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide or taking more than 57,000 vehicles off the road annually. [Read More](#)

PSC Protects Customers’ Interests in Approving Gulf, FPUC Agreements

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) recently approved two utilities’ stipulation and settlement agreements to resolve all COVID-19 related issues. This includes the regulatory asset accounting mechanism that allows the utility to defer recovery of costs due to events beyond its control.

The Office of Public Counsel (OPC)—representing consumers—entered into separate stipulation and settlement agreements with Gulf Power Company (Gulf) and with Florida Public Utilities Company and the Florida Division of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (FPUC) on all issues concerning their petitions to charge customers for COVID-19 costs.

“The impact of COVID-19 is still affecting utilities and their customers. Both Gulf and FPUC experienced high COVID-19 related expenses due to write-offs for uncollectible accounts, as well as safety-related costs,” said PSC Chairman Gary Clark. “This settlement is in the public interest because it will provide regulatory certainty for Gulf and FPUC, while minimizing the impact to their customers.”

[Read the PSC’s press release](#)

