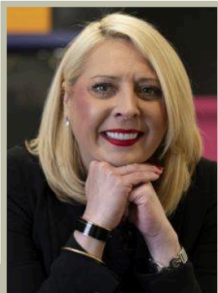


THE POWER SOURCE

IGNITING THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA



May 2024

Joanna Osawe

Sr. Business Development Manager

Burns & McDonnell Canada

Joanna, describe the work of Burns & McDonnell with the energy industry and your role in particular.

With over 15 years of experience in managing renewable and energy sector companies in Canada and the United States, I am proud to be part of the Burns & McDonnell family as a Senior Business Development Manager for the Transmission & Distribution group. The firm's commitment to safety, clients, diversity and inclusion closely mirrors my own.....[Read More](#)

How does your company support and increase the interest of women to pursue a STEM-related career (more particularly within the energy industry)?

Burns & McDonnell employs a variety of innovative strategies to encourage and support women who are interested in STEM careers, especially in the energy sector. Recognizing the importance of early engagement, the company collaborates extensively with schools, colleges, community organizations and non-profits, such as Higher Orbits and the Orlando Science Center..... [Read More](#)

When did you launch WiRE and describe your passion for doing so?

Women in Renewable Energy (WiRE) was officially launched in 2013 in Toronto, Ontario, and has since expanded to have a global or international presence. WiRE is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the role of women within the renewable energy sector..... [Read More](#)

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Chesapeake Utilities Corporation Names Head of Investor Relations — Company Welcomes Lucia Dempsey



Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (NYSE: CPK) recently welcomed Lucia Dempsey as the new head of investor relations, starting April 15. In her role, Dempsey will focus on communicating the company's strategic vision and dedication to delivering sustainable energy solutions across its service areas. She will act as a primary liaison with the financial community, highlighting Chesapeake Utilities' unique value proposition, investment opportunities, and sustainability efforts.

Beth Cooper, the company's executive vice president and CFO, expressed confidence in Dempsey's appointment, citing her extensive experience in investor relations and finance, particularly within the energy sector. Dempsey's background includes notable achievements such as managing a SPAC acquisition and de-SPAC IPO at Sunlight Financial, as well as roles in investment banking with Goldman Sachs & Co. and Barclays Capital, and in investor relations and regulatory affairs with Portland General Electric.

Dempsey holds an MBA from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree in administration and finance from the University of Portland. Beyond her professional endeavors, she is actively involved as a board member for Trail Blazers, a nonprofit organization focused on providing outdoor programs to empower youth. With her expertise and leadership, Dempsey is expected to bolster Chesapeake Utilities' investor relations outreach and contribute to its continued growth and success. [Read More](#)

Nuclear Plant Vogtle's Unit 4 Powering Jacksonville Customers



JEA recently announced that Unit 4 of the Plant Vogtle nuclear facility has commenced supplying power to its customers, following the earlier operationalization of Unit 3. This milestone represents a significant step towards JEA's clean energy objectives, with the two units collectively contributing approximately 13% to the utility's energy mix. As JEA strives to diversify its portfolio and enhance sustainability, the incorporation of carbon-free nuclear energy from Plant Vogtle aligns with its commitment to providing reliable and environmentally friendly power to the community.

Despite the long-term agreement with Vogtle, which entails substantial costs, JEA's focus remains on advancing clean energy initiatives and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, aiming to achieve 35% clean energy by 2030 as outlined in its integrated resource plan.

Situated in Waynesboro, Georgia, Plant Vogtle's completion of Units 3 and 4 signifies a significant milestone in the United States, marking the first newly constructed nuclear reactors to enter service in over three decades. Although JEA is not a part of the ownership consortium, its purchase power agreement with the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) underscores its strategic collaboration within the energy landscape. Despite challenges such as construction delays and cost overruns, the commencement of operations at Units 3 and 4 exemplifies a joint effort among stakeholders to advance clean energy solutions and contribute to a sustainable future. [Read More](#)



Chesapeake Utilities Corporation Gains Approval to Establish Energy Efficiency Programs in Delaware

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation announced that the Delaware Public Service Commission has approved its proposal to introduce a suite of natural gas energy efficiency programs for Delaware residents. Teaming up with the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility, Chesapeake Utilities aims to provide solutions for lowering energy costs and promoting sustainability in the state.

The portfolio includes three programs: Home Energy Counseling and Checkup (HEC), Home Performance with Energy Star (HP), and Assisted Home Performance with Energy Star (AHP). These initiatives are tailored to deliver cost-effective energy and demand savings, with a focus on assisting lower-income customers. Collectively, they are projected to save approximately 36,052 MMBtu in natural gas consumption over two years.

HEC offers residential customers a complimentary energy checkup, identifying efficiency opportunities and providing energy-efficient products. Participants also receive a home weatherization kit. HP and AHP involve comprehensive energy assessments for eligible consumers, offering recommendations, rebates, incentives, and financing to enhance energy efficiency in homes.

Shane Breakie, Vice President of Sustainability and Organic Growth at Chesapeake Utilities, emphasized the company's commitment to community and environmental stewardship. These programs mark a significant step towards promoting energy efficiency and sustainability in Delaware, with further details to be released as the initiatives are launched. [Read More](#)

JEA Board Names Vickie Cavey Interim Managing Director and CEO



At a special board meeting in Jacksonville, the JEA board of directors accepted the resignation of Managing Director and CEO Jay Stowe, who emphasized the importance of rebuilding trust within the organization and the community during his tenure. Following Stowe's resignation, the board appointed Vickie Cavey, a 32-year veteran of JEA, as interim managing director and CEO. Cavey, known for her deep knowledge of JEA operations and extensive ties to the Jacksonville community, expressed humility and gratitude for the appointment, pledging to prioritize reliable utility services at reasonable rates and prudent financial management.

With a background spanning from mechanical engineering to strategic leadership roles, Cavey's appointment signifies a continuation of JEA's commitment to effective leadership and community engagement. Stowe will continue to serve as an on-call consultant until August 15, 2024, as Cavey assumes her new role effective immediately. [Read More](#)



Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Georgia and Florida Join Forces with SouthStar Energy Services in Sustainability Partnership

SouthStar Energy Services®, part of the Southern Company family, has forged a groundbreaking alliance with two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) within its multi-state business footprint. Partnering with Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, and Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida, SouthStar aims to reduce the institutions' emissions footprints from natural gas use through its innovative Greener Life® for Business program. Recognizing the significance of sustainability and the pivotal role of educational institutions in shaping future leaders, SouthStar's collaboration underscores a shared commitment to environmental responsibility and educational excellence.

Mike Braswell, President and CEO of SouthStar Energy Services, expressed enthusiasm for supporting the sustainability goals of these esteemed HBCUs, emphasizing the company's pioneering role in establishing such innovative partnerships. The Greener Life for Business program, an industry-leading initiative, will assist the partnering HBCUs in offsetting carbon emissions from natural gas usage. This is achieved through investments in carbon offset projects like reforestation and methane capture. Additionally, each school will support carbon offset programs in their respective states, contributing to eco-friendly practices in their communities. Dr. Cheryl Evans Jones, President of Paine College, highlighted the partnership's significance in setting an example for carbon neutrality and environmental stewardship within higher education institutions. [Read More](#)

TECO & USF Power a Bright Future Together



TECO and the University of South Florida (USF) have deepened their partnership with the renaming of USF's Clean Energy Research Center to the TECO Clean Energy Research Center. Established in 1974, this collaboration focuses on advancing renewable energy projects to enhance clean energy usage and environmental sustainability. Through the center, TECO and USF engage in innovative research endeavors, including the development of solar energy applications, aiming to shape a cleaner and more reliable energy future.

Archie Collins, President & CEO of Tampa Electric, highlighted the significance of this partnership in addressing the challenges of power generation, emphasizing the collaborative efforts between TECO and USF. Dr. Yogi Goswami, Center Director, underscored the legacy of the partnership in attracting top-tier students and faculty, empowering them to become energy leaders and environmental problem-solvers. With a history of collaboration spanning over 50 years, TECO and USF have worked on various clean-energy solutions, contributing to a resilient and sustainable environment for future generations. The commitment to innovation and partnership reflects a shared passion for advancing energy research and solutions. [Read More](#)



Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$26 Million to 37 State, Local, and Tribal Governments to Support Clean Energy Projects

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has allocated over \$26.9 million to nine states, 27 local governments, and one Tribe as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, in alignment with President Biden's Investing in America agenda. These funds, provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, aim to support clean energy and infrastructure upgrades, reduce energy consumption, cut fossil fuel emissions, and enhance energy efficiency. Managed by DOE's Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP), this initiative is integral to advancing the nation's clean energy transition and achieving the administration's goal of a net-zero economy by 2050. U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm underscored the importance of energy-efficient upgrades in lowering costs and bolstering resilience for communities nationwide, emphasizing the transformative impact of President Biden's agenda in driving tangible clean energy actions across the country.

This round of grants marks the fifth tranche of formula awards under the EECBG Program, totaling over \$430 million distributed to states, territories, local governments, and Tribes. Entities are empowered to select from 14 eligible categories of clean energy projects and programs to address their specific clean energy goals. Moreover, the program aligns with the Biden-Harris Administration's Justice40 Initiative by ensuring that 40% of overall benefits reach disadvantaged communities disproportionately affected by energy burdens, thus fostering equity in the clean energy transition. The awarded governments plan to utilize these funds for various initiatives, including the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, development of e-bike incentive programs, energy audits for municipal buildings, efficiency retrofits for low-income communities, and more, underscoring the diverse and impactful nature of clean energy investments at the local level. [Read More](#)

NARUC Executive Director Greg R. White Announces Retirement



Greg R. White, the Executive Director of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), announced his plans to retire at the end of 2024 after serving since December 2015. Throughout his tenure, White has been pivotal in enhancing NARUC's national prominence as the voice of state regulators. Under his leadership, the association experienced increased partnerships, expanded grant-funded resources, streamlined operations, and successful national meetings. White also held the position of Executive Director of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) during his time with NARUC.

Expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to serve, White commended the hardworking members of NARUC and the dedicated staff, acknowledging their support and engagement.

Julie Fedorchak, President of NARUC from North Dakota, lauded White's significant contributions to the association, emphasizing his leadership through periods of change and challenges such as the pandemic. Recognized for his collaboration with the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, consumer advocates, and industry members, White earned widespread respect within NARUC and beyond. Fedorchak extended appreciation on behalf of NARUC members nationwide, wishing White the very best in his retirement. [Read More](#)



L. Claudia Allen Senior Center Named PSC Helping Hand

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has recognized the L. Claudia Allen Senior Center as a PSC Helping Hand for its valuable assistance during National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) in March. The Center played a crucial role in raising awareness about energy and water conservation, utility-related scams, and the Lifeline Assistance telephone/broadband discount program. PSC Chairman Mike La Rosa expressed appreciation for the Center's support in hosting the PSC's outreach team and disseminating information to its clientele, highlighting the importance of partnering with local senior and community centers to reach Floridians who can benefit from such information. Through PSC Helping Hand partnerships, the Commission aims to empower consumers to avoid scams and manage their resources effectively to meet monthly bills. The partnership also facilitates the distribution of informational resources such as the "Where to Find Help in Florida" publication and the children's activity book, "Get Wise and Conserve, Florida!" Site Coordinator Dominique Edwards expressed gratitude for being named a PSC Helping Hand partner and emphasized the positive reception of the information by seniors during the educational forum, affirming the Center's commitment to continuing its partnership with the PSC. [Read More](#)

FERC Issues Landmark Transmission Planning, Cost Allocation Rule, With Dissent Over State Roles

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) passed a new rule, Order 1920, in response to the pressing need for reform in transmission planning and cost allocation in the United States. This decision follows a period of record-low construction of high-voltage power lines and outdated transmission planning requirements.

The rule mandates that transmission providers consider various forward-looking factors, including utility resource plans, state energy goals, and corporate energy commitments, over a 20-year horizon. It also requires them to evaluate economic and reliability benefits when proposing transmission projects, emphasizing the importance of handling extreme weather events.

Additionally, transmission providers must engage in a six-month discussion period with relevant state entities to determine how new transmission costs will be allocated. The rule also allows for the reevaluation of approved projects if their costs significantly increase and encourages the consideration of alternative transmission technologies.

However, there is disagreement among FERC commissioners regarding the rule. Commissioner Mark Christie, who dissented, criticized the rushed process and argued that the rule would disproportionately benefit certain interest groups while burdening consumers. He also raised concerns about the diminished role of states in the planning process.

In contrast, Commissioners Willie Phillips and Allison Clements defended the rule, emphasizing the unprecedented opportunity it provides for state involvement in transmission planning and cost allocation. They argued that the rule aligns with legal standards and promotes cooperation between federal and state entities.

Ultimately, the rule aims to address the urgent need for grid reliability and affordability while balancing the interests of various stakeholders. [Read More](#)

