

THE POWER SOURCE

IGNITING THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA



July 2024
Gretchen Dolson, PE (NE), MBA,
LEED AP
Renewables Director, HDR

Gretchen, what led you to pursue a career in energy and what inspires you to stay involved?

For the first part, I graduated in Biological Systems Engineering from the University of Nebraska which and led me to a consulting firm where I worked towards my Professional License in Civil Engineering in Transportation of all things.....[Read More](#)

Describe HDR and the services HDR offers in the Southeast in particular.

At HDR (employee-owned), we specialize in engineering, architecture, environmental and construction services. While we are most well-known for adding beauty and structure to communities through high-performance buildings and smart infrastructure, we provide much more than that. We create an unshakable foundation for progress because our multidisciplinary teams also include scientists, economists, builders, analysts and artists..... [Read More](#)

With much interest in promoting STEM-related careers especially for women, do you find yourself in the minority as an engineer in the renewable energy space? If so, what can the industry do to participate in promoting these careers?

Candidly, I find the renewable space significantly farther ahead than our peer energy industries or even the general engineering profession. I participate on education committees for several industry organizations and the lack of diversity I still see at general energy conferences is tough to see for technical sessions.....[Read More](#)

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Chesapeake Utilities Receives Approval for New Infrastructure to Support Three Renewable Natural Gas Projects in Florida



Florida RNG Projects Approved



Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (NYSE: CPK) recently announced that its subsidiary, Peninsula Pipeline Company (PPC), received approval from the Florida Public Service Commission for three projects that expand natural gas infrastructure to benefit customers of Florida City Gas (FCG), also a subsidiary of Chesapeake Utilities.

The projects, located in Florida's Brevard, Indian River and Miami-Dade counties, will bring renewable natural gas produced from local landfills into FCG's natural gas distribution system.

Benefits of these PPC projects include increased gas supply to serve expected FCG growth, strengthened system reliability and additional system flexibility. The projects represent a combined capital investment of \$46 million and are estimated to be completed in the first half of 2025.

"These renewable natural gas infrastructure projects further demonstrate Chesapeake Utilities' commitment to both growth and sustainability. These projects use methane that would otherwise escape into the environment and allow this renewable, locally sourced gas to be transported into our system for the beneficial use of our customers," said Kevin Webber, senior vice president and chief development officer. "They highlight our ability to meet customer demand by leveraging our transmission and distribution systems to safely and reliably deliver renewable natural gas into growing markets." [Read More](#)

Allume Will Serve as a Project Pipeline Partner Florida's \$156M Winning Solar for All Coalition



Allume recently announced, the company will serve as a project pipeline partner for the winning Solar for All Coalition in Florida. In April, [Solar Energy Loan Fund \(SELF\)](#), [Solar United Neighbors](#), and [The Nature Conservancy](#) announced that they are recipients of [\\$156 million](#) from the EPA's Solar for All federal funding.

Together, they will develop initiatives that will enable thousands of low-income Floridians to access affordable solar energy. With our expertise in multifamily solar, Allume will provide a pipeline of multifamily solar projects to benefit low-income residents in the Sunshine State.

With behind-the-meter solutions like [SolShare](#), low-income residents in multifamily buildings can directly consume rooftop solar for the first time, resulting in an average of 30-50% lower utility bills. We look forward to further breaking down barriers to solar for multifamily residents and ensuring the benefits of solar reach every community in Florida. [Read More](#)

You can see the Allume team in action and learn more at Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum 2024, where a member of the Allume team will present on the Collaboration in Economic Development Panel.



Duke Energy Florida, Consumer Groups Reach Comprehensive Agreement



Duke Energy Florida, consumer representatives and business groups reached a comprehensive agreement that increases reliability and advances the clean energy vision for the state, while focusing on ways to assist and pass on savings to customers.

If approved by the Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC), the agreement will allow for an increase in base rates, among other provisions, yet the company still expects overall customer bills to decrease in January 2025, compared to January 2024. The 2022 fuel under-recovery, storm restoration cost recovery and some legacy purchased power contracts will expire by year-end 2024. The removal of these costs will lower customer bills.

“Duke Energy Florida works hard to meet the unique needs of the diverse customers we serve. We remain committed to delivering on what customers want from us, their local utility,” said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president. “This agreement delivers the smarter, cleaner energy future customers deserve while prioritizing reliability and price stability.”

Based on current projections, Duke Energy Florida expects a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours to see a decrease in their January 2025 bill of \$8.26, a 5% decrease when compared to December 2024.

This collaborative agreement will allow Duke Energy Florida to continue making investments to reduce outages, shorten response times, meet future energy demands, increase clean, solar generation and explore innovative technologies to generate cost savings for its 2 million customers in Florida.

Some of the key takeaways from the proposed 2025-2027 agreement include:

- Continued grid modernization to serve increased population growth through improved reliability, resulting in fewer outages and shorter restoration times.
- Ongoing power plant enhancements and efficiencies to allow them to produce more power with the same amount of fuel – generating savings for customers.
- Building 12 new solar plants between 2025 and 2027, adding another 900 megawatts (MW) of clean energy to Florida’s grid.
- Continued investments in innovative renewable energy technologies such as utility-scale battery storage to meet growing energy needs, improve reliability and build a stronger, smarter energy grid.

[Read more](#)



HData Offers Roadmap for State Commissions to Revolutionize Data Collection

Energy regulatory technology company HData recently released a new white paper, [Streamlining Energy Oversight: The Case for XBRL Adoption by State Commissions](#), that highlights the benefits for state energy regulators to embrace XBRL. This publication argues for integrating eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) into state energy regulation processes, the standard used by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to revolutionize its energy regulatory data. The paper outlines its transformative potential, paired with practical implementation strategies inspired by the work from the FERC.

"States have an opportunity to modernize their entire energy regulation using XBRL," said Hudson Hollister, CEO of HData. "Just as the FERC realized in 2019 when it adopted XBRL reporting, state commissions can drive innovation, improve data quality, realize efficiencies, and ultimately build a more resilient and sustainable energy sector."

XBRL simplifies the interpretation and analysis of financial and regulatory data by converting traditionally static formats—such as paper or PDF—into machine-readable, actionable datasets. This translation allows computers to ingest, quickly clean, and process data, unlocking the data for faster and more accurate compliance in the short term, while offering standardized, cleansed data to the industry for in depth discovery and analysis. [Read More](#)

FWELF 2024

The Power of Collaboration

October 21-23, 2024 | JW Marriott Tampa

Keynote Speaker



WILLIE PHILLIPS
CHAIRMAN, FERC

www.flwomeninenergy.com

FWELF Announces Chairman Willie Phillips

We are honored and excited to announce FERC Chairman Willie Phillips will join us as a Keynote Speaker for Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum 2024.

Chairman Phillips will give the lunch keynote address the second day of FWELF 2024: The Power of Collaboration. Register today at:
www.flwomeninenergy.com



New NARUC Report Acts as Framework to Improve Interregional Transmission Amidst the Evolving U.S. Electricity Landscape

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners released a new report, Collaborative Enhancements to Unlock Interregional Transmission. This report underscores the importance of enhancements to interregional transmission infrastructure as the United States prepares for significant transformation in its electricity system.

After a decade of relatively flat electric loads nationwide, expectations for load growth have surged. This growth is driven by electrification trends, expanding industrial development and rising demand from data centers. Simultaneously, the aging fossil-fueled generator fleet is nearing retirement, spurred by clean energy and carbon reduction goals at both state and federal levels.

"Public utility commissions recognize the critical importance of proactively planning our electricity infrastructure to meet evolving demands," said Kansas Corporation Commission Chairperson Andrew French. "As our existing grid is forced to respond and adapt to emerging needs, regulators are increasingly interested in assessing how new interregional transmission infrastructure can drive value for customers. This timely report provides PUCs a straightforward assessment of existing barriers preventing robust interregional transmission planning and a suite of potential solutions for regulators and other stakeholders to consider. By identifying practical solutions to enhance interregional transmission capabilities within our jurisdiction and influence as state regulators, the report equips us with essential strategies to ensure reliable and efficient electricity delivery across jurisdictions."

The increased demand on the electricity grid calls for more progress in constructing interregional transmission projects, which are essential for efficiently integrating renewable energy sources and balancing electricity supply across regions. The report identifies barriers in planning, permitting and operational frameworks as key challenges hindering the development of these vital transmission lines. The report also delves into actionable solutions that are designed to empower states, federal entities and planning regions alike, fostering a flexible framework that accommodates regional nuances to address identified barriers.

Key ideas from the report include streamlining the planning process to support proactive transmission planning across planning regions, enhancing state regulatory processes for permitting and optimizing operational frameworks for efficient electricity delivery. The report, supported through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment Office, and developed in collaboration with stakeholders from state governments, federal agencies and planning regions, aims to catalyze dialogue and action among policymakers and industry leaders.

To read and download the full report, [Click Here](#). Preparing for its release, an informational webinar was hosted by NARUC and E3 to discuss essential concepts found within the report. [Watch the recording of the webinar](#) and view the [webinar presentation slides](#).



FWELF 2024

The Power of Collaboration

Announcing Agenda
Titles and Times



We are thrilled to announce Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum 2024 *The Power of Collaboration*, agenda titles and times and a sneak peek into our keynote speakers. A full agenda will be released late summer with speaker details. Early bird rates are extended through June 2024 and hotel rooms are filling up quickly, **reserve your spot today.**

Day 1

Monday, October 21st, 2024

- **11:00 a.m.** Registration Desk Opens (*Will remain open for the entirety of the Forum*)
- **1:00 p.m.** Welcome Remarks

- **1:15 p.m.** Keynote: Helen Wesley, President and CEO, Peoples Gas
- **1:45 p.m.** Presentation of FNG Scholarship Awardees
- **2:00 p.m.** Unveiling the Future: Predictive Insights Into the Energy Industry
- **3:00 p.m.** Keynote: Chairman Mike La Rosa, Florida Public Service Commission

- **3:30 p.m.** Networking Break

- **3:50 p.m.** Keynote: Chris Womack, President and CEO, Southern Company
- **4:45 p.m.** Panel Discussion: Impact of Natural Gas on Booming Economy
- **6:00 p.m.** Welcome Reception hosted by Gunster

- **7:30 p.m.** Dinner (**On Your Own**) Please NETWORK

Day 2

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

- **7:00 a.m.** Breakfast (On Your Own) Please NETWORK
- **8:15 a.m.** Keynote: Armando Pimentel, Jr., President and CEO, Florida Power & Light Company
- **9:00 a.m.** Panel Discussion: Synergy in Collaboration: Bridging Engineering and Energy for a Sustainable Future
- **10:00 a.m.** Fireside Chat: CEO Perspective on Collaboration in the Energy Industry, Archie Collins, President, TECO and Melissa Seixas, President, Duke Energy Florida
- **11:00 a.m.** Networking Break
- **11:20 a.m.** Fireside Chat: Breaking Down Silos: How Organizational Culture Can Enable the Energy Transition
- **12:30 p.m.** Presentation of FWELF/AABE Florida Scholarship and Siemens Energy Scholarship
- **12:45 p.m.** Lunch Keynote Presentation, FERC Chairman Willie Phillips
- **2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Session:** Community Collaboration in Renewable Energy
- **2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Session:** Collaboration in Economic Development
- **3:00 p.m.** Coffee Break
- **3:15 p.m.** Keynote TBA
- **3:45 p.m.** Panel Discussion: The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Energy Delivery and Customer Experience
- **4:45 p.m.** Keynote: Sandhya Ganapathy, CEO, EDP Renewables NA
- **6:00 p.m.** FWELF Annual Dinner (Open to All Forum Attendees)

Day 3

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

- **7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast (provided)
- **8:30 a.m.** Dale Carnegie Workshop: How to Connect with Confidence
- **9:45 a.m.** Panel Discussion: A Collaborative Legislative Process
- **10:45 a.m.** Best Practices in Developing Florida's Energy Workforce Collaboration with Education Institutions
- **12:00 p.m.** Closing Remarks and Adjourn