THE POWER SOURCE

IGNITING THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA

July 2026
Ariel Coreth, PMP
Nuclear Development Project Manager
Senior Technical Manager
WSP

Can you share your perspective on the opportunities available for veterans transitioning into the energy industry? How can the industry better recognize and leverage the valuable skills and experiences that veterans bring?
Veterans represent one of the energy industry's strongest talent pipelines. They bring a mission-focused mindset, adaptability, technical discipline and leadership under pressure—all qualities that align naturally with the challenges of the energy sector........Read More

With Plant Vogtle now fully operational, nuclear energy is experiencing renewed momentum. In your view, how close are we to seeing additional nuclear generating capacity come online in the United States?
Closer than many people realize. Right now, we're seeing strong alignment between federal policy, private investment and rapidly growing electricity demand. President Donald Trump's 2025 executive orders aimed at accelerating advanced reactor deployment, reforming Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing, strengthening the domestic nuclear supply chain.......Read More

To date, what has been your most rewarding project? Looking back on your career to date, what project has been the most rewarding, and why?
The first is a large-scale bus depot microgrid project featuring solar, battery energy storage, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and future hydrogen fueling capabilities. It also happens to be my very first project as a project manager here at WSP.......Read More

Included In This Issue:

Read Full Interview

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation Announces Florida Energy Pathway Project

Chesapeake Utilities Announces $1.2 Billion Florida Energy Pathway Project

Chesapeake Utilities and its subsidiary, Peninsula Pipeline Company, have announced the Florida Energy Pathway (FEP), a proposed 24-inch intrastate natural gas pipeline connecting Palm Beach County to Miami-Dade County. The project is designed to relieve natural gas supply constraints in South Florida, improve system reliability, and support the region's continued population and economic growth.

The pipeline is backed by firm transportation commitments totaling nearly 250,000 dekatherms per day from multiple investment-grade shippers, with upstream capacity provided through Florida Gas Transmission's Phase IX expansion. Chesapeake estimates the project will require approximately $1.2 billion in investment and is targeting an in-service date of 2030, while exploring partnerships that could allow third parties to own up to 49% of the project.

Company leadership said the project will expand natural gas transportation capacity, support long-term energy reliability, and help meet rising energy demand driven by Florida's rapid growth, particularly following Chesapeake's acquisition of Florida City Gas. Read More

White House Unveils Ratepayer Protection Pledge for AI Data Centers

The White House announced the Ratepayer Protection Pledge, a voluntary commitment from leading AI and hyperscale technology companies to ensure that the rapid expansion of data centers does not increase electricity costs for American households. Under the pledge, participating companies agree to build, procure, or finance all of the generation and transmission infrastructure needed to power their facilities, rather than shifting those costs to existing utility customers.

Key commitments include:

- Paying the full cost of new generation and grid infrastructure required to serve data centers.
- Negotiating separate rate structures with utilities where appropriate.
- Supporting investments that strengthen grid reliability and expand electricity supply.
- Protecting residential and small business ratepayers from subsidizing AI-driven energy demand.

The pledge was signed by major technology companies including Amazon, Google, Meta, Microsoft, OpenAI, Oracle, and xAI. The administration framed the initiative as a way to advance U.S. leadership in AI while maintaining affordable, reliable electricity and encouraging private investment in new energy infrastructure. **Read More**

NRC Proposes Modernized Transportation Rules to Support Advanced Nuclear Technologies

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has proposed a significant update to its regulations governing the transportation of radioactive materials, replacing decades-old, prescriptive requirements with a more flexible, risk-informed framework. The proposal is intended to support the deployment of advanced reactors, next-generation nuclear fuels, and emerging nuclear technologies while maintaining the NRC's stringent safety standards.

Key changes include:

- Adopting risk-informed methodologies for transportation package certification.
- Updating package approval requirements to accommodate advanced reactors and new fuel types.
- Providing applicants greater flexibility in demonstrating compliance, helping streamline regulatory reviews.
- Eliminating paper-based reporting by allowing electronic submission of certification documents.

The proposal advances the NRC's broader regulatory modernization efforts under the ADVANCE Act of 2024 and Executive Order 14300. Read more and **join us at FWELF 2026 to hear a keynote from Commissioner David A. Wright,** United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Duke Energy Florida delivers $50 million in customer savings, avoids 2027 base rate increase through innovative tax strategy

"Our customers count on us to continually look for ways to keep our costs in check and help ease their overall financial burden – especially as prices continue to rise in seemingly every aspect of our daily lives," said Melissa Seixas, Duke Energy Florida state president.

Duke Energy Florida announced it will deliver $50 million in customer savings in 2027 by accelerating the return of federal investment tax credits associated with its Powerline Battery Energy Storage System. Instead of spreading the tax credits over the project's typical 15-year life, the utility will return the benefits to customers within one year, allowing it to avoid the 2% base rate increase previously outlined in its 2025–2027 rate agreement.

The announcement reflects Duke Energy Florida's broader strategy to modernize the electric grid while minimizing customer costs. Over the next decade, the company plans to deploy 1.4 gigawatts of battery energy storage, generating more than $500 million in investment tax credits that will ultimately be passed on to customers. Battery storage will complement the utility's expanding solar portfolio by storing excess energy for use during periods of high demand or when solar generation is unavailable.

The Powerline Battery Energy Storage System in Citrus County, expected to come online next year, will become Duke Energy Florida's seventh battery storage facility. The utility is also developing 12 new solar sites by the end of 2028, projects expected to save customers approximately $3 billion in fuel costs over their operational lifetimes. In 2025 alone, Duke Energy Florida returned $65 million in solar production tax credits to customers, lowering residential electric rates by at least $2.50 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity used.
Read More

FPSC Reports Show Continued Growth in Customer-Owned Renewable Energy

The Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) reported continued growth in customer-owned renewable energy systems across the state, with renewable energy interconnections increasing approximately 9% in 2025, from 292,284 systems in 2024 to 319,068 statewide. Total installed customer-owned renewable generation capacity also increased 12% year over year, reaching nearly 3.15 million kilowatts, with solar photovoltaic systems remaining the most popular renewable technology.

The growth reflects the state's interconnection and net metering framework, first established by the FPSC in 2008, which allows eligible customer-owned renewable systems to connect to the electric grid, offset on-site electricity use, and receive credit for excess power sent back to the grid. Since the rule's adoption, the number of interconnected customer-owned renewable systems has grown from 577 in 2008 to more than 319,000 in 2025. Florida's investor-owned utilities are required to provide an expedited interconnection process, while municipal utilities and electric cooperatives must offer standardized interconnection agreements and net metering programs. **Read the report here**

Energy Department Announces Up to $65.5 Million to Advance Domestic Oil and Natural Gas Production and Delivery

The U.S. Department of Energy has announced up to $65.5 million in cost-shared funding to support research, development, and deployment projects that strengthen domestic oil and natural gas production, improve critical energy infrastructure, and enhance supply chain resilience. The initiative supports the Administration's "Unleashing American Energy" agenda by investing in technologies that expand energy reliability, reduce waste, and improve operational efficiency.

The funding opportunity focuses on three priority areas:

- Maximizing the value of stranded and underutilized resources by converting flared or otherwise unusable oil and natural gas into high-value products.
- Enhancing infrastructure reliability and supply chain resilience through advanced materials, equipment, and technologies that reduce product losses and improve energy delivery.
- Accelerating digitalization by deploying artificial intelligence, digital twins, continuous monitoring systems, and smart test sites to optimize operations and lower costs across the oil and natural gas sector.
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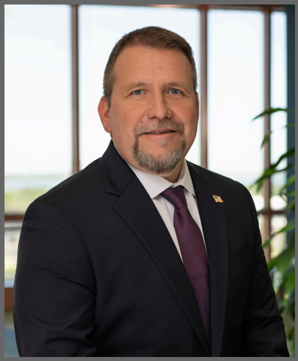
Applications are due September 22, 2026, and the announcement follows a separate $150 million DOE funding opportunity focused on unconventional oil and gas production, hydraulic fracturing technologies, and produced water management. Read More

Scott Bishop Appointed Interim General Manager of Lakeland Electric



Lakeland City Manager Shawn Sherrouse has appointed Scott Bishop as Interim General Manager of Lakeland Electric, citing his more than 25 years of utility industry experience, operational expertise, and collaborative leadership. Bishop, who joined Lakeland Electric in 2012, most recently served as Assistant General Manager for Energy Delivery, where he helped oversee major operational and technological initiatives while ensuring reliable electric service for customers. Throughout his tenure, Bishop has played a key role in advancing the utility's modernization efforts.

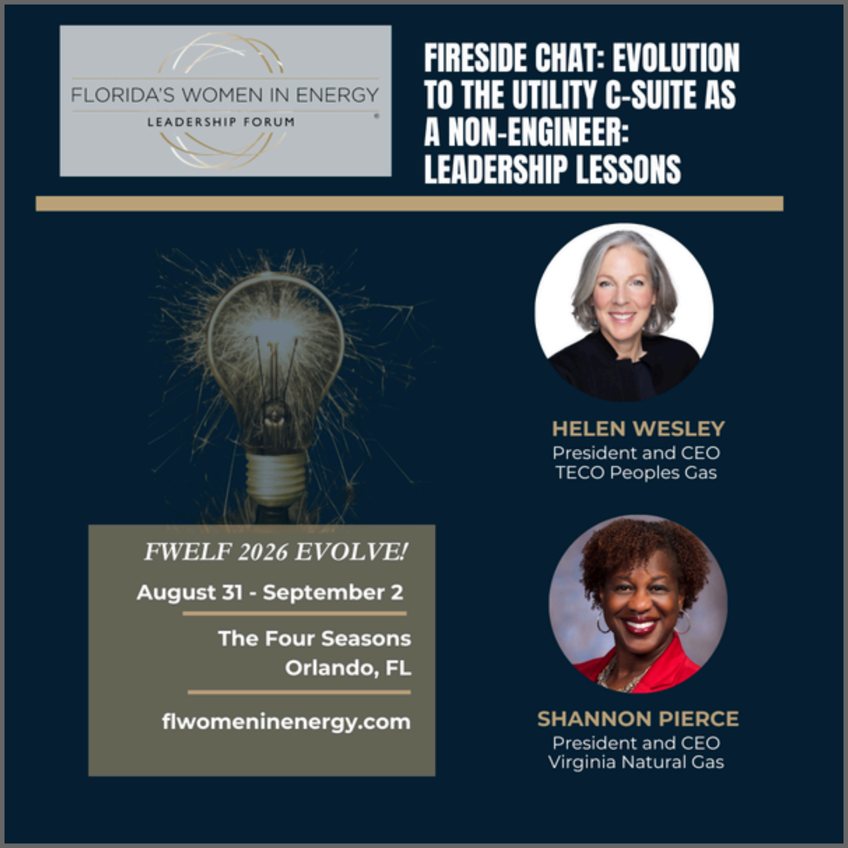
As the former Emerging Technology Manager, he led initiatives focused on renewable energy, battery storage, electric vehicle infrastructure, energy efficiency, and other innovative programs designed to prepare Lakeland Electric for the future. Prior to joining the utility, he spent 11 years with Georgia Power in leadership roles spanning system operations, advanced control systems, and utility technology. As interim leader, Bishop will oversee Florida's third-largest public power utility, maintaining reliable, affordable, and sustainable electric service while guiding the organization through its leadership transition.

Tampa Electric Storm Recovery Charge Ends One Month Ahead of Schedule

Beginning in August, Tampa Electric customers will no longer see the utility's storm recovery charge on their monthly bills, ending the surcharge one month earlier than originally projected. The change is expected to reduce customer bills by 11% to 12% compared to what they otherwise would have paid, with residential customers saving approximately $20 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity used. While high summer temperatures may continue to drive elevated energy usage in August, the utility expects customers to see more noticeable bill reductions this fall as cooling demand declines.

The storm recovery charge was implemented in March 2025 to recover costs associated with restoring service after Florida's historic 2024 hurricane season, including Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton. Tampa Electric spread the recovery costs over 18 months to lessen the impact on customers, but faster-than-expected cost recovery has allowed the surcharge to end ahead of schedule. The company emphasized that the charge is separate from ongoing investments in grid hardening and storm resilience.

Tampa Electric also highlighted recent infrastructure investments designed to improve reliability and lower long-term costs, including upgrades at Polk Power Station expected to save customers $152 million over the life of the project, expansion to 29 utility-scale solar facilities that have reduced fuel costs by more than $430 million since 2017, conversion of more than 270 miles of overhead lines to underground service, and continued investments in flood-resistant substations, stronger transmission infrastructure, and grid automation technologies. The utility also reminded customers of available bill assistance programs and energy-saving tools, including Budget Billing, Prime Time Plus, personalized energy audits, and payment assistance options. Read More



Hint Home Intelligence Launches Nationwide

Hint, the AI-powered home intelligence platform co-founded by Martha Stewart, Yih-Han Ma, and Kyle Rush, is now available as a free download on the Apple App Store. Designed to make homeownership easier and more affordable, the platform combines artificial intelligence, real-time property data, and home management expertise to help homeowners proactively manage maintenance, monitor costs, and make informed decisions that protect their investment.

The platform creates a dynamic digital profile for each home using public records, environmental and utility data, along with homeowner-provided documents such as inspections, warranties, appliance manuals, and maintenance records. Rather than reacting to problems after they occur, Hint continuously monitors a home's needs, alerting users to issues like expiring warranties, maintenance schedules, and changing utility rates before they become costly. The platform also provides personalized guidance on repairs, renovations, and trusted service providers while maintaining user ownership and privacy of all data.

Hint's core features include a Property Historian for organizing home records, a Personal Home Advisor offering tailored recommendations, Proactive Management that identifies potential issues before they escalate, and Personalized Commerce connecting homeowners with vetted service providers. Company leaders say the platform's long-term vision is to become the intelligence layer for homeownership—reducing the complexity of maintaining a home, helping homeowners lower utility, insurance, and maintenance costs, and ultimately protecting one of their largest financial investments. Read More