BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDING FOR DETERMINATION OF NEED FOR PROPOSED ELECTRICAL POWER PLANT

TO

FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

AND

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

IN RE: DOCKET NO. 020953-EI

PETITION TO DETERMINE NEED FOR HINES UNIT 3 IN POLK COUNTY BY FLORIDA POWER CORPORATION.

ISSUED: September 12, 2002

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Rule 25-22.080(3), Florida Administrative Code, that the Florida Public Service Commission has received a Petition for Determination of Need for an Electrical Power Plant from Florida Power Corporation ("FPC"). FPC proposes to construct a 582 megawatt (nominal) natural gas-fired, combined cycle electrical power plant in Polk County, Florida, to commence commercial operation in December, 2005. This matter has been assigned Commission Docket No. 020953-EI.

Copies of the Petition and supporting documentation are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the following location:

Florida Public Service Commission Division of Commission Clerk and Administrative Services Room 110, The Betty Easley Conference Center 4075 Esplanade Way Tallahassee, Florida

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The final hearing in this docket has been scheduled for December 4-5, 2002.

By DIRECTION of the Florida Public Service Commission this 12th day of September, 2002.

> BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services

By: Kay Flynn Chief

Bureau of Records and Hearing

Services

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LDH