

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for determination of need for
DeLand West-Dona Vista Transmission Line
in Volusia and Lake Counties, by Duke Energy
Florida, LLC.

DOCKET NO. 20250078-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2025-0291-FOF-EI
ISSUED: July 29, 2025

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

MIKE LA ROSA, Chairman
ART GRAHAM
GARY F. CLARK
ANDREW GILES FAY
GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

FINAL ORDER APPROVING DETERMINATION OF NEED
FOR AN ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE

APPEARANCES:

DIANNE M. TRIPLETT, MATTHEW R. BERNIER and STEPHANIE A.
CUELLO, ESQUIRES, 299 First Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
On behalf of Duke Energy Florida, LLC (DEF).

JENNIFER AUGSPURGER, ESQUIRE, Florida Public Service Commission,
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
On behalf of the Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

MARY ANNE HELTON, ESQUIRE, Deputy General Counsel, Florida Public
Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-
0850
Advisor to the Florida Public Service Commission.

ADRIA E. HARPER, ESQUIRE, General Counsel, Florida Public Service
Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
Florida Public Service Commission General Counsel.

BY THE COMMISSION:

BACKGROUND

On May 9, 2025, pursuant to Section 403.537, Florida Statutes (F.S.), Chapter 120, F.S., and Rules 25-22.075, 25-22.076, and 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), Duke Energy Florida, LLC (DEF) filed its Notice of Intent to File Petition for Determination of Need for Electrical Transmission Line. On June 9, 2025, DEF filed its Petition to Determine Need for Electrical Transmission Line concerning the proposed DeLand West – Dona Vista 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line.

In this docket, the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) makes that need determination. Separate public hearings will be scheduled before an Administrative Law Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings to consider environmental and other impacts of the DeLand West – Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line, as required by the Florida Electric Transmission Line Siting Act, Sections 403.52-403.5365, F.S.

An Order Establishing Procedure, Order No. PSC-2025-0182-PCO-EI, was issued on May 30, 2025. A Prehearing Conference was held on July 14, 2025. The administrative hearing was held on July 22, 2025, and no issue was contested. By our bench decision, we approved an affirmative stipulation of all issues, as set forth below.

DECISION

1. Is there a need for Duke Energy Florida, LLC’s proposed DeLand West - Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line, taking into account the need for electric system reliability and integrity, as prescribed in Section 403.537, Florida Statutes?

As evidenced in the record, DEF has demonstrated that if it does not add transmission capacity in the projected service area there are sufficient transmission risks that would result in power outages in the event of a double contingency event in Lake, Volusia, Seminole, and Orange Counties. While DEF has implemented an Under Voltage Load Shedding (UVLS) scheme to prevent a larger, more catastrophic collapse of the larger electric grid, the customers in the area would experience extended outages. If a double contingency event occurred today, the record indicates that an estimated 29,000 customers would experience extended power outages due to the UVLS activation. Over the next 10 years, DEF demonstrated that the Dona Vista areas’ load will grow by an average of 25%, which would further exacerbate this issue.

The record further supports the necessity for this 230 kV transmission line based on its ability to: (a) improve the reliability of service for DEF customers connected to the existing 230 kV circuits in Lake, Volusia, Seminole, and Orange Counties; (b) increase north-to-south power transfer capabilities, providing an additional transmission path and optimizing power flow distribution within Volusia and North Orlando areas; (c) mitigate potential overloads and address low voltage conditions during system contingencies; and (d) decrease the loading on existing transmission circuits. Therefore, we find that DEF has demonstrated a need for the proposed

DeLand West to Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project, taking into account the need for electric system reliability and integrity.

2. Is there a need for Duke Energy Florida, LLC's proposed DeLand West - Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line, taking into account the need for abundant, low cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the citizens of the State, as prescribed in Section 403.537, Florida Statutes?

DEF has demonstrated that the selected project is the most cost-effective and efficient alternative that provides improved reliability for customers served in DEF's service area. Therefore, we find that the proposed DeLand West to Dona Vista 230 kV Transmission Line is needed, taking into account the need for abundant, low-cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the residents of the state.

The approximate cost of the selected project, with its starting and ending points at DeLand West Substation and the Dona Vista Substation, respectively, has a projected in-service cost of \$165 million. As supported by the record, these starting and ending points would enable the new transmission line to stay primarily within the existing corridor, potentially reducing the need for new easements. DEF considered four alternative transmission projects which were subsequently rejected for various reasons such as costs or siting concerns.

3. Are Duke Energy Florida, LLC's DeLand West Substation in Volusia County and its Dona Vista Substation in Lake County the appropriate starting and ending points for the proposed DeLand West - Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line?

DEF has demonstrated that a new transmission line sited from DEF's existing DeLand West Substation in Volusia County to DEF's existing Dona Vista Substation in Lake County would be the most reliable, cost-effective means to serve the existing and projected load growth within the area. The record demonstrates that these starting and ending points would enable the new transmission line to stay primarily within the existing corridor, potentially reducing the need for new easements. Therefore, we find that the appropriate starting and ending points are the DeLand West Substation and the Dona Vista Substation, respectively. The proposed transmission line's corridor would be approved under the Transmission Line Siting Act (TLSA), with final approval resting with the Transmission Line Siting Board, or, if undisputed, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

4. Should the Commission should grant Duke Energy Florida, LLC's petition for determination of need for the proposed DeLand West - Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project?

We find that DEF has demonstrated that the DeLand West to Dona Vista 230 kV Transmission Line Project is needed taking into account the need for system reliability and integrity and the need for the delivery of abundant, low-cost electrical energy to retail customers. The appropriate starting and ending points of the line are the existing DeLand West Substation in Volusia County and the Dona Vista Substation in Lake County. The corridor within

which the proposed 230 kV transmission line will be sited will be determined under the TLSA, with final approval resting with the Transmission Line Siting Board, or, if undisputed, the FDEP.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that there is a need for Duke Energy Florida, LLC's proposed DeLand West – Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project, taking into account the need for electric system reliability and integrity, in accordance with Section 403.537(1)(c), Florida Statutes. It is further

ORDERED that there is a need for Duke Energy Florida, LLC's proposed DeLand West – Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project, taking into account the need for abundant, low cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the residents of the state, in accordance with Section 403.537(1)(c), F.S. It is further

ORDERED that Duke Energy Florida, LLC's DeLand West Substation in Volusia County and Dona Vista Substation in Lake County are the appropriate respective starting and ending points of the proposed DeLand West – Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project, in accordance with Section 403.437(1)(c), F.S. It is further

ORDERED that Duke Energy Florida's petition for determination of need for the proposed DeLand West – Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project is hereby granted. It is further

ORDERED that this docket shall be closed after the time for filing an appeal has run.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 29th day of July, 2025.



ADAM J. TEITZMAN
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 413-6770
www.floridapsc.com

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing or judicial review of Commission orders that is available under Sections 120.57 or 120.68, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing or judicial review will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Any party adversely affected by the Commission's final action in this matter may request:

- 1) reconsideration of the decision by filing a motion for reconsideration with the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, within fifteen (15) days of the issuance of this order in the form prescribed by Rule 25-22.060, Florida Administrative Code; or
- 2) judicial review by the Florida Supreme Court in the case of an electric, gas or telephone utility or the First District Court of Appeal in the case of a water and/or wastewater utility by filing a notice of appeal with the Office of Commission Clerk, and filing a copy of the notice of appeal and the filing fee with the appropriate court. This filing must be completed within thirty (30) days after the issuance of this order, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure. The notice of appeal must be in the form specified in Rule 9.900(a), Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.