

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for determination of need for
Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line in
Okeechobee, DeSoto, Highlands, and Glades
Counties, by Florida Power & Light Company.

DOCKET NO. 20220045-EI
ORDER NO. PSC-2022-0196-FOF-EI
ISSUED: June 3, 2022

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

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

FINAL ORDER APPROVING DETERMINATION OF NEED
FOR AN ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE

APPEARANCES:

WILLIAM P. COX, ESQUIRE, 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida
33408-0420
On behalf of Florida Power & Light Company.

ASHLEY J. WEISENFELD and MATTHEW JONES, ESQUIRES, 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.

KEITH C. HETRICK, 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 March 2, 2022, 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, F.A.C., Florida Power & Light Company
(FPL) filed its Notice of Intent to File Petition for Determination of Need for Electrical

Transmission Line. FPL filed its Petition for Transmission Line Need Determination for the Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV Transmission Line on April 1, 2022.

In this docket, the Florida Public Service Commission (Commission) makes that need determination. Separate public hearings will be held before an Administrative Law Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings to consider environmental and other impacts of the Sweatt-Whidden 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-2022-0123-PCO-EI, was issued on March 21, 2022. A Prehearing Conference was held on May 5, 2022. The administrative hearing was held on May 16, 2022, and no issue was contested. By our bench decision, we approved the affirmative stipulation of all issues as set forth below.

DECISION

1. Whether there is a need for FPL's proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line, taking into account the need for electric system reliability and integrity, as prescribed in Section 403.537, F.S.

The record in this case demonstrates that if FPL does not add or improve transmission capacity in the projected service area by December 2025, then sufficient transmission capacity would not be available to prevent overloads of the thermal line rating for certain existing lines under certain contingencies.

FPL has demonstrated a need for the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line project, taking into account the need for electric system reliability and integrity. This transmission line is needed to: (a) improve the reliability for FPL customers served from the existing radial 69kV circuit between Okeechobee and Whidden substations; (b) increase the east to west power transfer capabilities of the transmission network of FPL's territory north of Lake Okeechobee; (c) relieve potential overloads and low voltage conditions under contingency events; and (d) reduce line loading on existing transmission circuits. Therefore, the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230kV transmission line project should maintain and improve the reliability and power transfer capability to FPL's customers in the area.

2. Whether there is a need for FPL's proposed Sweatt-Whidden 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, F.S.

FPL has demonstrated a need for the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line project, taking into account the need for abundant, low cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the citizens of the state. The record in this case demonstrates that the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line project is the most cost-effective and efficient means to improve reliability for customers served from FPL's existing 69kV circuit between Okeechobee and Whidden substations, provide a transmission route to increase east to

west power transfer capability, mitigate potential overloads and low voltage conditions under contingency events, and reduce line loading on existing transmission circuits.

The estimated cost of the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230kV transmission line project is \$213.5 million. Approximately 75% of the new transmission line will be located within an existing 69kV transmission line right-of-way. While the final cost is subject to the final route and other conditions that could be imposed through the Transmission Line Siting Act process, the estimated cost appears reasonable.

FPL evaluated two transmission alternatives to the proposed project. Both involved the construction of new 230 kV transmission lines connecting to the Whidden substation, starting from the Ft. Drum substation in Indian River county for Alternative I, and the Martin substation in Martin County for Alternative II. Both had higher estimated construction costs on a nominal and cumulative present worth revenue requirement basis and did not improve reliability in the project service area to the same degree as the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line project.

3. Whether FPL's Sweatt Substation in Okeechobee County and its Whidden Substation in DeSoto County are the appropriate starting and ending points for the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line.

A new transmission line sited west from FPL's existing Sweatt Substation in Okeechobee County to FPL's existing Whidden Substation in DeSoto County would be the most reliable, cost-effective means to serve the projected load and demand growth within Okeechobee, DeSoto, Glades, and Highlands Counties and all of the counties in FPL's West Region. The record demonstrates that the appropriate starting and ending points are the Sweatt Substation and the Whidden Substation, respectively. The Department of Environmental Protection and ultimately the Transmission Line Siting Board will make the final determination concerning the length and route of the proposed transmission line.

4. Whether the Commission should grant FPL's petition for determination of need for the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line project.

FPL has demonstrated a need for the Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line project starting in December 2025, taking into account the need for electric system reliability and integrity and the need for abundant, low-cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the residents of this state. The appropriate starting and ending points of the line are the existing Sweatt Substation in Okeechobee County and FPL's existing Whidden Substation in DeSoto County, respectively. The Department of Environmental Protection and ultimately the Transmission Line Siting Board will make the final determination concerning the length and route of the proposed transmission line.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that there is a need for Florida Power and Light Company's proposed Sweatt-Whidden 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 Florida Power and Light Company's proposed Sweatt-Whidden 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 Florida Power and Light Company's Sweatt Substation in Okeechobee County and Whidden Substation in DeSoto County are the appropriate respective starting and ending points of the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230 kV transmission line project. It is further

ORDERED that Florida Power and Light Company's petition for determination of need for the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 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 3rd day of June, 2022.



ADAM J. TEITZMAN
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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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.