

ORIGINAL

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
BILL WISHARD
BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
ON BEHALF OF
CHARLOTTE COUNTY, a political subdivision of the
STATE OF FLORIDA
DOCKET NO. 990223-TL

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE
03742 MAR 23 2003
FPC-RECORDS/REPORTING

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Q. Please state your name and your business address for the record.

A. Bill Wishard, Florida Power & Light, 272 East Virginia Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida.

Q. What is your position with Florida Power and how long have you been with the company?

A. I am the Major Accounts Manager and have been with Florida Power & Light for 28 years. I am also a graduate of Leadership Charlotte & Leadership Southwest Florida, and currently serve as President for Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce.

Q. Docket No. 990223-TL is before the Florida Public Service Commission to review the proposed numbering plan relief for area code 941. The 941 NPA Exhaust Recommended Relief Plan recommends splitting the existing 941 area code into two sectors, with the South Sector acquiring a new area code. The North Sector (which would retain the 941 area code) would include Polk, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties, including the communities of Bartow, Bradenton, Haines City, Lake Wales, Lakeland, Palmetto, Venice and Winter Haven. The South Sector (which would receive a new area code) would include Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, and Okeechobee counties, including the communities of Arcadia, Avon Park, Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Naples, North Naples, North Fort Myers, Okeechobee, Port Charlotte and Sebring. According to the Relief Plan, the revised 941 area code service area is forecast to exhaust in about 5.2 years. The new area code service area (including Charlotte County) would exhaust in about 5.9 years. As President for Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, do you have any concerns about this proposed split and the predicted exhaust period?

A. Splitting the area code within Charlotte County would significantly alter our sense of community. Notable progress has been made to bring together all the geographic areas of Charlotte County. To mark a river or a road as a cut-off point for the area code would be a man-made barrier which could cripple our community.

1 Charlotte County is positioning itself throughout the United States through the marketing
2 efforts of the Chamber, Visitors Bureau, Economic Development Council and the Airport
3 Authority. The material sent is inclusive and describes the entire community. Imagine the
4 confusion as potential new residents, visitors or businesses have to utilize two different area
5 codes to contact one County.

6 In addition, there is a substantial expense and inconvenience to both businesses and residents
7 who would have to change their printed material.

8 **Q. If the Commission were to consider alternatives to the proposed North/South split,**
9 **would you have any recommendation?**

10 A. Yes. The Public Service Commission should look at the possibility of adding more area
11 codes, rather than changing the area codes so often.

12 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

13 A. Yes, it does.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28