

Chairman Julie Brown Highlights Florida's Storm Recovery Efforts

PSC Chairman Julie Brown and PSC Chief of Safety Rick Moses joined Governor Rick Scott and Emergency Management Director Brian Koon at the Florida Sheriffs' Association Winter Conference on January 31, 2017 in Jacksonville to speak on storm recovery.

After a decade of mild storm seasons, 2016 broke Florida's dry spell. Hurricane Hermine hit Florida's Big Bend in September and Hurricane Matthew skirted the state's east coast in October. The PSC is responsible for staffing the Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Support Function for Energy during and following major storm events. Both Hermine and Matthew required around-the-clock staffing for days following the storms to coordinate electric outage recovery information and assistance.

By maintaining contact with electric and natural gas utilities serving the affected areas, the PSC helps assess damage and service restoration efforts. Data collected and maintained from these coordinated efforts include areas affected, number of customers without electric power or natural gas service, status of fuel supply and estimated restoration time to return to normal service. The EOC uses this information to determine the most efficient allocation of resources in response to regional recovery efforts.



PSC Chairman Julie Brown (left) and Executive Director Braulio Baez (right) congratulate Rick Moses (center) on receiving the Gunter Award.

Rick Moses, who is the PSC's chief liaison at the EOC, recently received the Gerald L. Gunter Distinguished Service Award for regulatory excellence. He and his staff work tirelessly, effectively, and patiently during preparation for and restoration after storms. Rick has worked diligently and thoughtfully to ensure that customers receive safe and reliable service and quality interactions with utilities, which is the foundation of the Commission's mission.