

Notice of Filing of Application for Electrical Power Plant Site Certification

JEA filed an application [PA81-13A2] for certification with the Department of Environmental Protection on June 5, 2026, to authorize construction and operation of a natural gas and ultra-low sulfur diesel fired combined-cycle generating facility and associated facilities at the St. Johns River Power Park (SJRP) located in Duval County, Florida. This Project, known as SJRP Unit 3, will have a gross nominal output of 706 MW, with a nominal net generating capacity of 678 MW. The location of the Project includes onsite associated facilities including an administration building/control room, mechanical draft cooling tower, exhaust stacks, above ground water storage tanks, ammonia storage tanks, a fuel storage tank, fire protection pumps, stormwater management system, water treatment area, piping tie-ins, and other facilities necessary to integrate with existing water supply and discharge infrastructure. The proposed SJRP Unit 3 does not involve any proposed off-site associated facilities.

The case is pending before the Division of Administrative Hearings, Case No [26-2894EPP] prior to action by the Governor and Cabinet, or the Secretary, pursuant to the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act, Chapter 403, Part II, Florida Statutes (F.S.).

The application for certification is available for public inspection electronically at <https://floridadep.gov/water/siting-coordination-office/content/projects-process> and during normal business hours at the following physical locations: Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Siting Coordination Office, 2600 Blair Stone Road, Tallahassee, FL 32399; FDEP Northeast District Office, 8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256; JEA, 225 N. Pearl St., Jacksonville, Florida 32202, and Jacksonville Public Library – Main Library, 303 N. Laura St., Jacksonville, FL 32202.

State agencies and local governments will be reviewing the application and preparing reports and recommendations on the proposed facility for the certification hearing. Interested individuals should review the application and bring matters of concern to the appropriate agency's attention as soon as possible. Information regarding the appropriate contact persons in the agencies may be obtained from FDEP's Siting Coordination Office (2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 3500, Tallahassee, FL 32399, (850) 717-9111, Nate Senn, SCO@dep.state.fl.us).

Any person wishing to participate in the proceedings, either as a party or without party status, must follow either Section 403.508(3) or (4)(b), F.S. Section 403.508(3) provides: Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 120, F.S., upon the filing with the administrative law judge of a notice of intent to be a party no later than 75 days after the application is filed, the following shall also be parties to the proceeding: 1. any agency not listed in paragraph a as to matters within its jurisdiction; 2. any domestic nonprofit corporation or association formed, in whole or in part, to promote conservation or natural beauty; to protect the environment, personal health, or other biological values; to preserve historical sites; to promote consumer interests; to represent labor, commercial, or industrial groups; or to promote comprehensive planning or orderly development of the area in which the proposed electrical power plant is to be located. Other parties may include any person, including those persons enumerated in paragraph c who have failed to timely file a notice of intent to be a party, whose substantial interests are affected and being determined by the proceeding and who timely file a motion to intervene pursuant to chapter 120 and applicable rules. Intervention pursuant to this paragraph may be granted at the discretion of the designated administrative law judge and upon such conditions as he or she may prescribe any time prior to 30 days before the commencement of the certification hearing.

Section 403.508(4)(b) provides: When appropriate, any person may be given an opportunity to present oral or written communications to the designated administrative law judge. If the designated administrative law judge proposes to consider such communications, then all parties shall be given an opportunity to cross-examine or challenge or rebut such communications.

Any notice of intent to be a party or motion to intervene must be sent to Administrative Law Judge E. Gary Early, Division of Administrative Hearings, 2001 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32311, and must contain the following: reference to the application number; name, address, and telephone number of the agency or person; and, allegations sufficient to demonstrate the agency or person is entitled to participate in the proceeding. The notice or motion must be sent by mail to the applicant and to all parties. A list of parties may be obtained from the FDEP Siting Coordination Office at the address above. Those wishing to intervene in these proceedings, unless appearing on their own behalf, must be represented by an attorney or other person who can be determined to be qualified to appear in administrative proceedings pursuant to Chapter 120, F.S., or Rule 28-106.106, F.A.C.

Subject to the conditions set forth therein, any certification shall constitute the sole license of the state and any agency as to the approval of the location of the site and any associated facility and the construction and operation of the proposed electrical power plant, except for the issuance of FDEP licenses required under any federally delegated or approved permit program and except as otherwise provided in 403.511(4) which states: This act shall not affect in any way the ratemaking powers of the Public Service Commission under chapter 366; nor shall this act in any way affect the right of any local government to charge appropriate fees or require that construction be in compliance with applicable building construction codes.

In regard to variances or other relief, Section 403.507(3), F.S., requires that agency reports include a notice of any nonprocedural requirements not specifically listed in the application from which a variance, exemption, exception, or other relief is necessary in order for any proposed electrical power plant to be certified. Subsection 62-17.133(1), F.A.C., similarly requires that agencies identify in their reports any such needed variances or other relief. Failure to provide such notice shall be treated as a waiver from nonprocedural requirements of FDEP or any other agency. However, no variance shall be granted from standards or regulations of FDEP under any federally delegated or approved permit program, except as expressly allowed in such program.

The certification may include conditions which constitute variances, exemptions, or exceptions from nonprocedural requirements of the department or any agency which were expressly considered during the proceeding, including, but not limited to, any site specific criteria, standards, or limitations under local land use and zoning approvals which affect the proposed electrical power plant or its site, unless waived by the agency and which otherwise would be applicable to the construction and operation of the proposed electrical power plant. No variance, exemption, exception, or other relief shall be granted from a state statute or rule for the protection of endangered or threatened species, aquatic preserves, Outstanding National Resource Waters, or Outstanding Florida Waters or for the disposal of hazardous waste, except to the extent authorized by the applicable statute or rule or except upon a finding in the certification order that the public interests set forth in s. 403.509(3) in certifying the electrical power plant at the site proposed by the applicant overrides the public interest protected by the statute or rule from which relief is sought.

A related application will be filed for a Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit. JEA will also seek a revision to its existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Pursuant to Section 380.23, F.S., electrical power plants are subject to the federal coastal consistency review program. Issuance of certification shall constitute the state's certification of coastal zone consistency.

