

**STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**

**IN RE: TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY,
POLK POWER STATION,
POLK 2-5 COMBINED CYCLE
CONVERSION PROJECT PA-32-A3**

DOAH CASE No. 12-3369

**POLK POWER STATION 2-5 COMBINED CYCLE CONVERSION
PROJECT COMPLETENESS
SUBMITTAL-POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION LINES**

The Applicant, Tampa Electric Company, by and through undersigned counsel, and pursuant to the provisions of § 403.5066 (2) (d) and §403.5252 (2) (d), Florida statutes, hereby submits completeness information and states as follows:

1. On November 13, 2012 the Department of Environmental Protection determined that the Power Plant and Transmission Line portions of the Site Certification Application for the referenced project are incomplete.
2. Tampa Electric Company responded to the Department of Environmental Protection's determination on November 26, 2012.
3. With respect to the power plant completeness determination, Tampa Electric Company agreed that although all of the items raised in the agency responses did not relate to completeness as statutorily defined, some of the items identified raise completeness issues and the Site Certification Application as it relates to the power plant was incomplete. Tampa Electric Company further agreed to address the completeness items to make the application complete within the thirty day time period allowed by the Florida Electrical Power Plan Siting Act, and as contained in the approved schedule adopted by Order dated October 23, 2012.

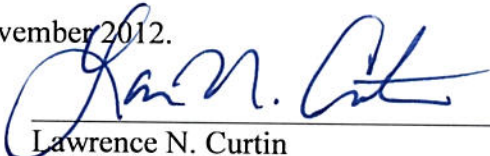
4. With respect to the Transmission Line portions of the Site Certification Application, Tampa Electric Company agreed that although all of the items raised in the agency responses that formed the basis for determination of incompleteness do not relate to completeness as the term is statutorily defined, some of the items relate to completeness and requested until December 4, 2012 to file the required completeness information to make the application complete.

5. Exhibit 1 is the completeness information for the Site Certification Application. The completeness submittal is divided into two sections addressing the Plant and Associated Facilities and addressing the Transmission Lines.

6. The completeness submittal addresses the completeness responses received from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Hillsborough County, Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

7. Tampa Electric Company requests that the Department of Environmental Protection find the Site Certification Application complete based on the responses contained in Exhibit 1.

Respectfully submitted this 30th day of November 2012.



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I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by **ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY** to the following service list this 30th day of November, 2012

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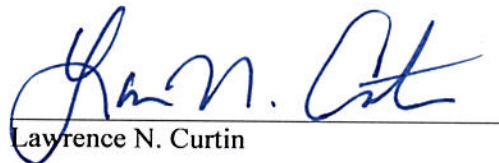

Lawrence N. Curtin

EXHIBIT 1

POLK 2-5 COMBINED CYCLE CONVERSION PROJECT COMPLETENESS RESPONSES

PLANT AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES (Other than Transmission Lines)

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SOUTH- WEST DISTRICT, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PROGRAM (ERP)

FDEP/SWD/ **Polk Power Station:**
ERP-1

1. The SW District ERP Section acknowledges the plan-view and conceptual drawings submitted in the Site Certification Application for the New Polk 2-5 Conversion Facilities. However, no cross-section drawings were provided for any of the proposed structures and no detail drawings for the intake and discharge structures located along the margin of the cooling reservoir were provided. It is discussed in Appendix 10.4 and Section 4.8 of the application that the proposed project will not change the approved, existing drainage patterns and systems nor have any adverse impacts to wetlands or surface waters. While it is understood that the existing surface water management system is designed to properly handle the stormwater runoff from the proposed structures, the information provided does not provide enough detail to confirm there will be no changes to the existing systems or allow as-built certifications to confirm structures are built as authorized. Pursuant to Section XXVII (a) of the Conditions of Certification PA 92-32N, "Prior to the commencement of construction of new facilities and/or associated facilities the Licensee shall provide to the appropriate DEP District's Environmental Resource Permitting Section(s) for review, all information necessary for a complete Joint Application for Environmental Resource Permit (ERP), DEP Forms 62-343.900(1), and 62-312.900(1), as applicable." Please provide cross-section drawings and detail drawings which included elevations for all new proposed structures (refer to Chapters 3.1.1, 3.2.1, and 3.2.2.4 of the SWFWMD Basis of Review (B.O.R.)). If agreed, the applicant may also provide this detailed information as part of a post-certification submittal.

Response:

Tampa Electric Company (Tampa Electric) agrees to provide the applicable environmental resource permit (ERP) information as a postcertification submittal prior to commencement of construction of the new facilities. Also note that the correct condition of certification (COC) reference should be A.XXVIII.A.1.a.

2. Section 5.3 of the application states that temporary construction dewatering will last for approximately one year and that water withdrawn during the dewatering operations will be routed to the existing stormwater pond or cooling reservoir. The dewatering effluent is not stormwater and cannot be approved for disposal in a stormwater management system in accordance with Section 1.7.37 of the B.O.R., which states that a stormwater management system is designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges necessitated by rainfall events.

Dewatering activities that will involve produced water being discharged into surface water bodies will fall under one of the two activities listed below.

1-Discharges from Petroleum Contaminated Sites

To qualify for this permit, a Notice of Intent must be submitted to, and approved by, the FDEP prior to discharge. Requirements are outlined in this generic permit (http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/iw/docs/62-621.300_1.pdf).

2-Discharge of Produced Ground Water from any Non-Contaminated Site Activity

The generic permit for the dewatering of a non-contaminated site is available if the reported values for the parameters listed in Table 1 of the generic permit do not exceed any of the listed screening values, except for total organic carbon (TOC). If none of the Table 1 parameters are exceeded, then the discharge may be covered under the generic permit without further action from the FDEP. Note that sampling activity and records retention requirements are outlined in the generic permit.

If TOC is exceeded, then an exemption may be requested with the submittal of a Notice of Intent to FDEP. See the generic permit for additional information and requirements (including potential sampling requirements). FDEP must approve the Notice of Intent prior to discharge. See the generic permit for additional information (http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/iw/docs/62-621.300_2.pdf).

Information for these two permits can be accessed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wastewater/iw/genperm.htm>. Chapter 62-621, Florida Administrative Code, can be accessed at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/rulesprog.htm#ww>.

Response:

The specific need and/or plans for temporary construction dewatering have not been determined at this time. If dewatering is required, the applicable Notice of Intent for Discharge of Produced Groundwater information will be provided as a postcertification submittal prior to commencement of dewatering activities.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SOUTH-WEST DISTRICT, INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER PROGRAM (IW)

<i>FDEP/SWD/ IW-1</i>	<i>1. Within six months of the Units 2-5 combined cycle conversion project, a waste stream characterization of the effluent is required to better assess the quality of the wastewater discharged [See Condition I.B.10. of Attachment C to the existing Conditions of Certification for PPS]. The sampling results could be included as a post-certification item.</i>
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Response:

Comment noted. Appropriate sampling information will be provided as a postcertification submittal.

<i>FDEP/SWD/ IW-2</i>	<i>2. On section 7 – Chapter 5, the facility stated “During the underground and civil works, some limited, temporary dewatering activities may be required in the areas of certain plant facilities that have relatively deep foundations”. Water withdrawn during the dewatering operations will be routed to the existing stormwater pond or cooling reservoir. Base on that, the facility may require a Generic Permit for the Discharge of produced Ground water from Noncontaminated site activity, Rule 62-621.300(2), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C)</i>
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Response:

The specific need and/or plans for temporary construction dewatering have not been determined at this time. If dewatering is required, the applicable Notice of Intent for Discharge of Produced Groundwater information will be provided as a postcertification submittal prior to commencement of dewatering activities.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

SWFWMD-1 1. Please explain the components of the auxiliary cooling loop and define the source water for the auxiliary cooling loop /Unit I at 70 million gallons per day (mgd), and the auxiliary cooling loop /Polk2 CC at 20 mgd, as depicted in the water balance flow diagrams (figures 4.5.0-1 and 4.5.0-2). Also provide calculations in support of the water quantities needed for the new six-cell cooling tower.

Response:

The auxiliary cooling loops for Units 1 and 2 provide cooling to components associated with the power generation process. The components include generator cooling, lubricating oil cooling, and various pieces of equipment associated with the gasification process on Unit 1. The referenced 70 million gallons per day (MGD) for Unit 1 and 20 MGD for Unit 2 are the flows that circulate through the proposed cooling tower and not consumption amounts. The water quantities need for the cooling tower are based on the calculated evaporation and blowdown rates as follows:

- Total makeup rate to the cooling tower basin is the sum of evaporation, drift, and blowdown. For the peak case, makeup = 957 gallons per minute (gpm) (765 gpm + 0.3 gpm + 191 gpm). For the average case, makeup = 682 gpm (545 gpm + 0.3 gpm + 136 gpm). The balance of the response will apply to the peak case, although the same logic applies to the average case.
- Evaporation of 765 gpm was calculated based on standard industry practice for the cooling tower heat rejection rate at the indicated 90 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) and 57-percent relative humidity ambient conditions.
- Drift of 0.3 gpm is estimated based on 0.0005-percent drift rate times the cooling tower flow rate of 62,450 gpm (48,350 gpm + 14,100 gpm).
- Blowdown of 191 gpm was calculated based on evaporation rate and a cycles of concentration value equal to 5. Blowdown = $765 \div (5 - 1) = 191$ gpm

SWFWMD-2 2. *The District will require an annual cooling reservoir performance report to include graphs and narrative describing and analyzing the performance of the reservoir in terms of water level elevation in relation to precipitation, evaporation, ambient temperature, water quality, itemized estimates of inflows and outflows, and electric power production. Please provide the latitude / longitude for each staff gauge located within the existing cooling reservoir. A staff gauge will be needed near the cooling reservoir intake structure. What is the minimum operating surface water elevation for the reservoir (the critical water level under which the pumps cannot operate)? The application identifies an average operating elevation at 136 feet for maintaining an adequate freeboard. However, in Chapter 6 of the site certification application, it is stated that an average 2 mgd will be discharged at Outfall D-001 to 'avoid a buildup of dissolved solids' in the reservoir. Please explain why this blowdown discharge cannot be rerouted through the pretreatment system and reused in plant operations with the reject water to the injection well, to further reduce the groundwater demands for makeup water.*

Response:

The first part of this item appears to be a proposed COC and not a completeness concern; however, Tampa Electric is not able to measure evaporation from the reservoir. The best method to meet the intent of this request will need to be discussed further with the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to meet this postcertification requirement.

With regard to the minimum operating surface water elevation, based on design drawings, the minimum reservoir level for safe pump operation is 131 feet (ft). The lowest actual level at which Tampa Electric has operated based on data provided in the application was 132.7 ft, so Tampa Electric cannot confirm that the pumps can safely operate below this level.

The 2-MGD average discharge from the reservoir is needed to avoid a buildup of dissolved solids and maintain compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limitation on conductivity. While it is conceptually feasible that this discharge stream could be processed in the reclaimed water treatment facility currently under construction, it was not a consideration in the design of this facility. At a mini-

mum, treating this additional stream would require significant expansion of the treatment plant as well as permitting and construction of one or more additional injection wells. In addition to costs associated with the construction of these additional facilities, there would be an ongoing additional cost for treatment chemicals and waste disposal that would be borne by Tampa Electric's customers.

Further, during the initial certification process for the Polk Power Station (PPS), SWFWMD expressed the need to have discharges from the cooling reservoir to maintain flows in the downstream receiving water bodies, i.e., Little Payne Creek and Payne Creek, and ultimately the Peace River, since the power plant and cooling reservoir areas historically drained to these water bodies. Therefore, the proposed 2-MGD annual average discharge from the reservoir are needed to provide these flows.

SWFWMD-3 3. Please provide a cooling reservoir fluctuation plan that documents TECO's ability to minimize groundwater pumpage and maximize alternative water sources. This plan should indicate how reclaimed water will be used to augment the cooling pond to the fullest extent before groundwater is used. The plan should specify how offsite discharges will be minimized, establish a cooling reservoir elevation above which groundwater is restricted from augmentation with sufficient freeboard below Outfall D-001 elevation, and below which groundwater may be utilized if other sources are unavailable or of insufficient quantity.

Response:

In the regional reclaimed water partnership funding agreement with SWFWMD, Tampa Electric has agreed, to the greatest extent possible, to maximize its use of reclaimed water for operation of its existing facilities and any additional generating unit to offset its groundwater use to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, Tampa Electric is committed to minimize the use of groundwater for cooling reservoir makeup and other plant uses by use, to the greatest extent possible, of the available reclaimed water.

For the Polk 2-5 Conversion Project, the sources of makeup water for the cooling reservoir will be the treated reclaimed water, rainfall and site runoff, blowdown from the new cooling tower, certain treated plant wastewaters, and, as needed, groundwater. The prima-

ry uses of makeup water supplied to the reservoir are to manage water quality and replace water lost through evaporation. The blowdown discharges from the reservoir are also required for water quality management to avoid buildup of dissolved solids and maintain compliance with NPDES permit limitations.

Based on its more than 15 years operational experience with the cooling reservoir, Tampa Electric has found that long-term water quality in the reservoir is not directly related to water levels in the reservoir. Therefore, since the other sources of makeup water are relatively fixed (i.e., treated reclaimed water, cooling tower blowdown, and treated wastewaters) or relatively unpredictable (rainfall and site runoff), limiting the use of groundwater based on a cooling reservoir level would limit Tampa Electric's ability to effectively manage suitable water quality conditions in the reservoir. Such a limitation appears to Tampa Electric to be inappropriate given the 15 years of operational experience at this facility. Moreover, Tampa Electric has an incentive to use the available treated reclaimed water as makeup to the greatest extent possible to manage water quality in the reservoir since the treated reclaimed water will be of better quality than groundwater.

Based on its operational experience with the reservoir, Tampa Electric has found that managing the reservoir level to an average of approximately 136 ft provides for the effective, reliable operation of the reservoir, as well as water quality control. The invert elevation of blowdown pipe discharge from the reservoir is set at 135 ft, and a valve is in place to control and minimize discharges while managing water quality conditions. The outfall structure also has an emergency spillway at an elevation of 140 ft to provide adequate freeboard to avoid overtapping and safe operation of the reservoir berms, which have an elevation of approximately 145 ft.

In summary, Tampa Electric will minimize the use of groundwater for cooling reservoir makeup, while maximizing the use of treated reclaimed water. The use of groundwater as makeup water as well as discharges from the reservoir are primarily needed to manage suitable water quality conditions in the reservoir, and these uses do not necessarily correlate to the reservoir water levels. Therefore, Tampa Electric does not believe that a cool-

ing reservoir fluctuation plan and additional limits on the use of groundwater based on water levels in the reservoir are necessary.

SWFWMD-4 4. A standby quantity of 7.6 mgd and 10.4 mgd, annual average and peak month, respectively, has been requested due to the potential unavailability of reclaimed water for an extended period of time. With the Southern Water Use Caution Area effective January 1, 2003, the groundwater withdrawal quantities are restricted to 4.3 mgd on an annual average basis and 7.6 mgd on a peak month basis. pursuant to the current site certification conditions. Please provide an impact analysis for any increase above the current authorized quantities to demonstrate that no adverse impacts to water resources and existing legal users will occur.

If a change of withdrawal quantities associated with "New Quantities" not authorized in the existing site certification may cause adverse impact, TECO shall be required to provide a Net Benefit. The increase of withdrawal quantities may result in increased impacts on the Salt Water Intrusion Minimum Aquifer Level and on the established minimum flow levels of the Alafia River. The District will approve the increase in requested quantities with the implementation of a Net Benefit as described in Section 4.3 8.4, of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's Basis of Review for Water Use Permits. The Net Benefit measures proposed must offset the predicted impacts of the proposed withdrawals and provide an additional positive effect on the water body equal to or exceeding 10% of the predicted impacts. If you are still requesting an increase of quantities, please provide reasonable assurance that the proposed Net Benefit will mitigate the predicted impacts by implementing one or more of the following measures, and submit an explanation of their feasibility provided with the response to this letter.

- a. *Implement a mitigation plus recovery measure which results in permanently retiring from use the reasonable-beneficial, historical used quantity, recharging the aquifer and withdrawing water such that there remains a net positive impact on the Floridan aquifer potentiometric surface at least 10% greater than the proposed impacts, and undertaking other actions to offset the proposed impact of the withdrawals plus 10%.*
- b. *Use of quantities created by District Water Resource Development Projects, provided the Applicant demonstrates that the proposed withdrawal affects the same Minimum Flow and Level (MFL) water body source associated with the water resource development project; the quantity developed in excess of the quantity reserved*

or otherwise designated for the MFL has been determined; and the proposed Net Benefit quantities will not interfere with quantities reserved or otherwise designated by the District for water resource development.

- c. Implement Groundwater Replacement Credit (GRC) in the SWUCA to reduce ground water withdrawals. The GRC is proposed as an incentive for water users to provide water use permit holders with alternative supplies.*

Response:

Upon review of this SWFWMD comment, Tampa Electric recognizes that some of the language in the site certification application (SCA) regarding the potential need for and availability of emergency standby quantities (SQs) may not have clearly conveyed or communicated Tampa Electric's intentions. It should be noted that Tampa Electric's potential need for SQs of groundwater withdrawals due to the temporary loss of the alternative water supply is recognized in the regional water partnership funding agreement between SWFWMD and Tampa Electric.

After recent discussions with SWFWMD staff, Tampa Electric is hopeful that the following summary provides clarification on this matter and represents a reasonable approach for both SWFWMD and Tampa Electric.

In SCA Section 4.5 on pages 4-29 and 4-31 (plus Figures 4.5.0-1 and 4.5.0-2), Tampa Electric indicates the average annual and peak month allocation needs for ground water under routine operations will be 2.9 and 5.7 MGD, respectively. Subsequently on page 4-32, Tampa Electric requests that the current SCA authorized average annual and peak month groundwater allocations be 4.3 and 7.6 MGD, respectively, for full buildout of PPS. These authorized allocation limits allow Tampa Electric operational flexibility to reliably and safely operate the plant during short-term emergencies, such as a loss of the alternative water supply of reclaimed water and extended periods of extremely low rainfall.

In the following table, a potential short-term emergency scenario is presented that represents the need for an additional 5.7 MGD of groundwater for 90 days if the alternative reclaimed water supply is unavailable. It is Tampa Electric's intention for the PPS annual average withdrawal amounts to remain at or below the existing authorized limit of 4.3 MGD even under these types of emergency conditions:

<u>Loss of Reclaimed Water Peak Month</u>	<u>Annual Average</u>	<u>Emergency Standby</u>	<u>Annual Average with Emergency</u>
Pumping rate (MGD)	2.9	5.7	4.3
Duration (days)	365.25	90	365.25
Volumes (million gallons)	1,059.2	513	1572.2

Although Tampa Electric would intend to comply with its annual average groundwater withdrawal limit if the reclaimed alternate water supply is unavailable, Tampa Electric anticipates that the peak month authorized limit of 7.6 MGD would likely be exceeded under such a scenario. If the reclaimed water supply is lost for any reason and consistent with the water use permitting requirements, Tampa Electric will take the following actions:

- Notify SWFWMD of the situation within 72 hours of the event occurrence.
- Provide documentation of the loss of reclaimed alternate water supply source to SWFWMD within 15 days of the event.
- Continue such monthly notifications to SWFWMD until the reclaimed alternative water supply system is returned to operational status.

Based on recent communications with SWFWMD staff, Tampa Electric understands that a COC would be written whereby, with the notification described previously, Tampa Electric could temporarily exceed the peak month daily limit, if the annual average allocation limit was not exceeded. This approach would eliminate the need for Tampa Electric to specifically request an additional and separate emergency standby quantity.

In the event the reclaimed alternative water supply from the City of Lakeland is unavailable to Tampa Electric on a long-term basis for any reason, Tampa Electric is requesting a COC wherein SWFWMD would work with Tampa Electric at that time to modify the au-

thorized allocation amounts to include any other viable alternate water supply source and/or groundwater withdrawals to provide for the long-term, reliable operation of PPS, and that such a change could be handled as postcertification submittal and only to be implemented following review and approval by SWFWMD.

TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDORS

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SOUTH-WEST DISTRICT, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PROGRAM (ERP)

FDEP/SWD/
ERP-1 **Transmission Lines:**

It is understood from the application that additional information and submittals will be provided to address final corridor location for the proposed transmission lines and substations, and to address in detail the location of structures, wetland impacts, mitigation, floodplain compensation, and Sovereign Submerged Lands easements in accordance with the Conditions of Certification. The information provided at this time is not sufficient for the SW District ERP Section to authorize any new transmission line related structures. Please note that The SW District ERP Section will be looking specifically for elimination and reduction of wetland impacts pursuant to Section 3.2.1, B.O.R in these subsequent submittals. It appears that the majority of impacts can be confined to existing roads, cleared land, and railroad grades. It is also understood that approvals for substations associated with this project are being sought outside of the certification process and additional information and submittals will be separately provided for those projects.

Response:

Comment noted. Applicable ERP and other information for the final transmission line rights-of-way will be provided as a postcertification submittal.

FDEP/SWD/
ERP-2 *Please note that a Public Easement will be required for crossing the South Prong of the Alafia River. TECO is currently pursuing a Public Easement at this location as part of the City of Lakeland Reclaimed Water Pipeline Project.*

Response:

Comment noted. The Preferred Corridor crossing of the South Prong Alafia River, north of PPS, is at a location where Old Highway 37 and an existing Tampa Electric easement cross the river. The reclaimed water pipeline crosses along State Road (SR) 37 instead. However, for any additional state lands proposed to be included in the transmission line right-of-way across the South Prong Alafia River, Tampa Electric will apply for the necessary approvals from the state.

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, SOUTH-
WEST DISTRICT, SITING COORDINATION OFFICE (SCO)**

FDEP/SCO-1 A request has been made to TECO to submit the EMF data used to prepare the EzEMF reports submitted in the SCA to confirm compliance with 62-814, F.A.C.

Response:

Tampa Electric provided the electric EzEMF data files for the cross-sections to Mr. Bobby Bull of the FDEP Siting Coordination Office via e-mail on November 8, 2012.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

FDEO-1 A. How does the applicant intend to address compatibility issues between the transmission line and the two adjacent residential areas? How does the applicant intend to screen, buffer or otherwise mitigate any visual, noise or other impacts of the transmission lines from adjacent residential areas?

Response:

The area between the two residential areas (i.e., Fishhawk Ranch to the west and Channing Park to the east) is an existing 100-ft fee-owned right-of-way acquired by Tampa Electric in 1987 prior to those developments being built. In fact, the Fishhawk developments to the west (Bridgewater and Bridgewalk subdivisions) depicted the potential powerline location in their community sales brochures. Additionally, in 1998, the developer granted Tampa Electric an additional two easements totaling 200 ft to the west of the fee-owned right-of-way. The easements specifically allow transmission facilities. No additional right-of-way will be required in this area to build this line.

Therefore, no compatibility issues are expected. Anticipated noise levels are detailed in the SCA, Section 9.5.5.2. Once the Project has completed the certification process, Tampa Electric will begin the design and selection of the rights-of-way. Consideration of design alternatives and pole placement locations will occur at this point, and Tampa Electric anticipates keeping the public informed of progress.

FDEO-2 B. Does the development order for Fishhawk DRI and/or Channing subdivision address land uses within the proposed corridor? If so, what are the provisions in the respective development orders for the land located within the proposed corridor?

Response:

The development order (DO) for the Fishhawk Ranch Development of Regional Impact (DRI) and numerous changes to the DRI resulting in changes to the DO do not address the proposed corridor, because Tampa Electric's right-of-way is not part of either development. The zoning conditions of approval for the Planned Development that has become

Channing Park do not address land uses on the western adjacent property and do not require connectivity to any development to the west.

FDEO-3 *C. Aerial photographs of this segment of the proposed corridor appear to show a multi-use trail or walking trail on or adjacent to the right of way between the Fishhawk Ranch and Channing Park developments. Please provide more information regarding how this trail will be affected by transmission line construction and operation, and whether impacts to the trail will be mitigated.*

Response:

The trail, as noted in Comment FDEO-3, that parallels Tampa Electric's easement in the Fishhawk area, was not reviewed by the Tampa Electric Land Use Committee and is not specifically included in the easement areas granted by the developer in 1998 and modified in 2003. This trail was installed in the 1996 to 1998 time frame. The portion of the trail that crosses Tampa Electric's right-of-way near Dorman Road is addressed and has specific language to the effect that the trail must not interfere with Tampa Electric's use of the right-of-way. Tampa Electric has no plans to permanently affect this trail. Once construction is completed, any damage to the trail will be repaired, and residents will be allowed to continue use of the trail along the right-of-way, subject to the same easement agreement with the landowner.

FDEO-4 *D. Are there any requirements for connectivity between the two developments? If so, how does the applicant intend to address or preserve connectivity between Channing Park and Fishhawk Ranch DRI?*

Response:

There are no requirements for connectivity between the property comprising the Fishhawk Ranch DRI property and Channing Park, which is not part of the Fishhawk Ranch DRI. A review of the Fishhawk DRI DO indicated no reference to the Tampa Electric property separating the two developments. None of the rezoning conditions for the Planned Development that is Channing Park addresses the Tampa Electric property. One of the notes on the General Site Development Plan indicates that future pedestrian access to the west will be provided if access easements can be acquired from adjacent

property owners. To date, Tampa Electric has not granted an easement across their linear property.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

HC-1

RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT

1. *Tampa Electric Company (“TECO”) shall utilize and adhere to the County’s Utility Accommodation Guide and Rights-of-Way Use Procedure Manuals, including, but not limited to, the provisions relating to County design and construction standards, protection of existing traffic controls, overhead and underground power lines installations procedures, permanent restorations for areas beyond the edge of pavement, and permanent pavement restorations.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA).

HC-2

2. *TECO needs to contact the Greater Tampa Utilities Group (GTUG) as well as individual private and public utilities located within the County’s right-of-way and coordinate the design and construction of the proposed transmission lines with such entities.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-3

3. *In some areas, the Preferred Route for the proposed transmission line will share existing rights-of-way. Has TECO taken into account whether the rights-of-way will need to be increased to accommodate current or future road widenings? Additionally, the County requests that TECO minimize the proposed routes along publicly-owned right of way and along residential areas.*

Response:

Tampa Electric always takes into account the possibility of road widenings wherever proposed transmission line projects may collocate with or cross existing public roads.

This was first done in development of the Preferred Corridor, which is wide enough to allow flexibility when locating the right-of-way. An example is along SR 674 where the Preferred Corridor is 500 ft wide to allow location on either side of the road and at varying distances. The route will minimize location within residential areas by following such linear roads and existing transmission line easements and rights-of-way.

HC-4	4. <i>When performing civil engineering related work in the County's rights-of-way, TECO shall employ and/or utilize the services of a professional Civil Engineer certified or registered by the Construction Industry Licensing Board in the State of Florida.</i>
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Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-5	5. <i>The TECO list of impacted roads appears to be missing some roadways. If the alignment only impacts the north side of SR 674, it seems to cross Bethlehem Road and Earl Reynolds Road. If the alignment also impacts the south side of SR 674, it will also cross Taylor Gill Road. The County needs clarification as to whether the north-south alignment of the proposed installation paralleling the west right-of-way line of Bledsoe Loop will impact Bledsoe Loop right-of-way. (TECO's easement at that location extends to the approximate center-line of Bledsoe Loop). Overall, a complete listing of impacted roads is needed along with information as to the extent of the impact of each. Details of the road crossings should include the width of the public rights-of-way.</i>
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Response:

Table 9.3.6 2 in Tampa Electric's SCA provided a listing of major roads that may be affected by transmission line placement, either from crossing or from right-of-way use (collocation). There are other public roads found within the Preferred Corridor in Hillsborough County but not necessarily likely to be affected. As requested, following is a list of all named roads and streets found within the Preferred Corridor in the county, although they are not all confirmed as county roads:

- SR 674.
- County Road (CR) 672.
- Bethlehem Road.
- Taylor Road.
- Earl Reynolds Road.
- Joiner Road.
- Taylor Gill Road.
- CR 39.
- Bledsoe Loop.
- Southeast Landfill Road.
- Dupree Road.
- Balm Boyette Road.
- Hobson Simmons Road.
- Boyette Road.

Sources: Hillsborough Street Atlas, 2007. Map Source, Inc., Tampa, Florida.
Hillsborough County, <ftp://ftp.hillsboroughcounty.org/gis/pub/corporate_data/DefRds_County.zip> (accessed 11/13/12)
Florida Department of Transportation, <ftp://ftp.dot.state.fl.us/fdot/co/planning/transtat/gis/shapefiles/county_roads.zip> (accessed 11/13/12)

Details of how Tampa Electric will collocate with or cross existing roads will be determined postcertification after a specific right-of-way is selected and final line design is completed.

HC-6 6. *If TECO anticipates heavy clearing in unused right-of-ways, TECO needs to comply with the County's Tree Protection Regulations in Section 4.01.06 of the County's Land Development Code. TECO did not identify any tree protection methods to be utilized for existing trees that remained in the corridor. What are TECO's plans for protecting these trees?*

Response:

Comment noted. The first part of this comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the application. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will propose COCs as authorized by the PPSA. The procedures for construction and maintenance of the rights-of-way once selected, in the postcertification phases, are specified in Sections 9.4 and 9.5, respectively, of the SCA.

HC-7

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY'S LARGE FACILITIES ORDINANCE

Because TECO's transmission poles are expected to range between 40 feet to 120 feet in height, they will be subject to the provisions of the County's Large Facilities Ordinance.

- 1. TECO shall adhere to the County's Utility Accommodation Guide provisions that relate to large facilities in the rights-of-way for transmission poles.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-8

- 2. TECO shall conduct regular public hearings (at a minimum, two public meetings) throughout the permit application phase, the design phase, and the construction phase of the project. TECO shall satisfactorily address the concerns of citizens, groups, and organizations affected by the construction of the transmission line.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the application. The hearings that will be conducted are those required by the PPSA. If the Project is certified, COCs will be issued that will govern construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission lines, including those located in Hillsborough County. Tampa Electric will comply with those COCs.

HC-9

PUBLIC WORKS

1. *TECO shall contact the departments within the County that are responsible for managing the design and construction of Capital Improvement Programs, infrastructure projects, and resurfacing programs and shall coordinate permitting issues with these departments. At a minimum, the following departments, division, sections, and agencies should be contacted: Public Utilities Department and the Public Works Department (Engineering Division, Transportation Maintenance Division, County's Resurfacing Program, Road and Bridge Maintenance Department, Storm Water Management Section, Right-of-Way Management Office, Design Engineering Services, Projects Management, Traffic Division), Parks and Recreation Department, Real Estate Department, and any other departments that is involved in the planning, design, and construction of infrastructure projects.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-10

2. *TECO shall coordinate and resolve any and all conflicts with the above mentioned agencies, departments, sections, not only with the existing infrastructure and utilities, but also with proposed and future utilities and infrastructure work, Capital Improvement Programs, etc.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-11	3. <i>TECO needs to contact Sunshine One Call and obtain a listing (design and construction tickets) of all of the existing underground utilities within the proposed Preferred Route in the County.</i>
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Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-12	4. <i>Sections 5.12 and 5.7.3 of TECO's application do not address the County roads that will be utilized during construction. Section 9.3.4 of TECO's application states "The access to the transmission line right-of-way will be from county roads or state roads. Access roads along the right-of-way, turnarounds, and structure working pads are necessary for installation and maintenance of the transmission line." These sections should also address the potential impact on County roads, the number, size, and weights of load trips anticipated and measures to be taken to rebuild, repair, and/or restore those roads. Of particular concern, are Balm Boyette Road, Dorman Road, and local roads with the Fishhawk community. The County would want a commitment from TECO to repair any damage done to County roads and to effectuate such repair in accordance with County standards.</i>
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Response:

Comment noted. It is Tampa Electric's policy to repair any damage to public roads that may result from construction of any project.

HC-13	5. <i>The County would like to know what public roadways TECO plans to use for the transportation of the transmission poles, the type of carriers and wheel pressures that will be utilized, and the times of day for the transport of said transmission poles.</i>
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Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-14

6. *During the construction of the proposed transmission line, all construction truck traffic going to the construction site must follow the County's Truck Route Plan and Resolution No. RO. 5-22. Copies of both are available on the 20th floor of the County Center at 601 East Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Florida 33601. The County requests that truck drivers who will be transporting equipment and materials for the new transmission line be respectful of residential neighborhoods and surrounding land uses when traveling to and from the construction site.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-15

7. *Does TECO anticipate closing any public road during the project? If so, TECO will need to contact the County's Right-of-Way Management Office and coordinate the work and, if applicable, obtain a Temporary Traffic Control Permit (TTC) whenever TECO plans to impede traffic in any manner whatsoever and/or when TECO is working within 15 feet of the edge of the pavement. TECO may also need to submit a signed, sealed, site specific Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) plan to the County for review and approval. Additionally, TECO will need to provide to County a MOT plan for construction of entrances and exits. This process will also apply to all lane or road closure requests from TECO.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-16	8. <i>TECO's design and construction plans shall be certified by professional engineers certified or registered by the Construction Industry Licensing Board in the State of Florida for all applicable disciplines required for this project, including, but not limited to, civil, structural, mechanical, and soil.</i>
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Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-17	9. <i>The County needs TECO to minimize the impacts of the transmission line on intersection improvements by locating all proposed transmission line poles outside the ultimate configuration for all current and potential future signalized intersection.</i>
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Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-18	<u>SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT</u>
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The proposed corridor for the transmission line runs along the southern property boundary of the Southeast County Landfill at 15960 CR 672 Picnic, Florida. This portion of the project could potentially impact the future land use of the landfill and/or the Maran Grove property to the south, which is owned by the Public Utilities Department. Our records indicate that the existing TECO easement along the property boundary is 200 ft. wide, but the Site Certification Application documents reference a 400 ft. wide easement in that area. TECO needs to contact the Public Utilities Department (Solid Waste Management Group) to discuss any changes to the size or alignment of the easement. The drawings, maps, and accompanying documents in the Site Certification Application indicate additional or replacement power transmission line support poles, and two major transmission lines to be added to the existing transmission infrastructure, but nowhere in the document text or supporting documents reviewed was there the active Class I Southeast County Landfill identified, discussed, or labeled. The County recommends that the TECO's Project

Team schedule a meeting or teleconference to open the proper lines of communication with the appropriate staff in the Solid Waste Management Group to ensure the County's needs and/or concerns are appropriately addressed.

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-19 **WATER RESOURCES SERVICES**

1. *The County understands that the Preferred Route is general and identifies a corridor of varying widths. However, once the corridor's boundaries are determined with respect to specific roads and easements, the County reserves the right to review this corridor to ensure that there are no issues such as corrosion of existing (ion) water transmission lines caused by electrical currents from the proposed transmission lines.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

- HC-20**
2. *The County owns and maintains a 42-inch potable water transmission main along the end of the proposed route. The water line starts at the intersection of Balm Boyette Road and Hobson Simmons Road and extends to Lithia Pinecrest Road before turning northwest. This is a main transmission line coming out of the Lithia Water Treatment Plant. Also, within this section are 1,200 feet of 6-inch force main from Bridgepark Drive to Thames Fare Way, and a 10-inch force main starting at Fishhawk Boulevard and extending beyond Lithia Pinecrest Road. Due to the potential for utility conflicts within this corridor, the County requests a detailed route map of the proposed poles and transmission lines in this area, as well as assurance of coordination with the County Public Utilities Department.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-21 PARKS AND RECREATION

- 1. In order to review TECO's application for completeness, the County requests a copy of the detailed GIS files for the project. This will allow the County to make a more accurate determination of the routes and their proximity to County parks and ELAPP lands.*

Response:

The geographic information system (GIS) shape files for the transmission line corridors were requested in an e-mail from Ms. Autumn Schwab, GIS Project Manager, Real Estate/Geometrics Section, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, on November 2, 2012. The GIS shape files were e-mailed to Ms. Schwab on November 2, 2012.

- HC-22 2. TECO needs to comply with the County's Land Development Code and minimize the environmental impacts to habitat, flora, and fauna of the Balm-Boyette Scrub and the Fishhawk Creek Nature Preserves. The County reserves the right to more thoroughly review TECO's plans when the final corridor has been chosen.*

Response:

Comment noted. This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Tampa Electric anticipates that Hillsborough County will suggest COCs as authorized by the PPSA.

HC-23

MISCELLANEOUS

1. *Are there existing residential areas that will be impacted by the proposed transmission line?*

Response:

The proposed corridors follow existing linear features (roads, transmission lines, railroad beds) for the entire distance of the routes. Tampa Electric is proposing no new rights-of-way through residential areas, nor will there be a need to displace any current residences. In the area of the densest residential development (Fishhawk Ranch and Channing Park), Tampa Electric already owns sufficient right-of-way and easements are already in place in which to locate the transmission lines.

HC-24

2. *Has TECO identified any proposed developments that may be affected or future developments that may be limited by its choice of corridor for the Preferred Route?*

Response:

None have been identified because of the current land uses along the corridor and the opportunities to collocate with existing linear features and Tampa Electric rights-of-way and easements.

HC-25

3. *Will the creation of the corridor preclude other uses within the corridor and, if so, which ones?*

Response:

See Section 9.5.2 of the SCA. Multiple uses of the right-of-way can be compatible and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for right-of-way under Tampa Electric's control. Wherever Tampa Electric has an easement, the underlying fee owner may continue to use the right-of-way provided the use does not interfere with construction, maintenance, or operation of the transmission line.

HC-26

4. *Once the assessment as to potential impacts on potential archaeological and historical sites and a cultural resources assessment have been performed, the County would like to know what measures, if any, TECO will take to minimize the impact of the proposed transmission lines on the archaeological and historical residences and listings which are located along the Preferred Route in the County.*

Response:

This comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the application. See Section 9.3.6.5 of the SCA. Tampa Electric has contacted the Division of Historic Resources (DHR) within the Department of State. DHR has provided a list of known cultural resource sites along the corridor. If requested by DHR, appropriate cultural resource assessments will be performed as a postcertification requirement, once the final alignment of the transmission line rights-of-way have been determined.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

HCEPC-1 **Transmission Line Operating Noise**

The sound level limits applicable in Hillsborough County are listed in detail for the A-scale limits and are summarized briefly for the octave band limits. All sound level limits must be measured as an Leq for a 10-minute period of time as required by Section 1-10.03(1), Rules of the EPC (copy attached). Please provide the expected noise level in terms of EPC's standards from the lines themselves and any proposed substations at the nearest residential property.

Response:

The maximum noise levels, at the edge of the right-of-way, as shown in Table 9.5.5-2 of the SCA, are L₅₀ A-weighted decibel (dBA) levels, which are equivalent to Hillsborough County's L_{eq} sound levels measured over a 10-minute period. The noise generated is in the 120-Hertz (Hz) octave band. The maximum audible noise produced by any of the proposed project configurations falls well below all Hillsborough County noise standards as found in Chapter 1-10.00, Rules of the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) of Hillsborough County.

HCEPC-2 **Transmission Line Construction Noise**

According to the applicant, construction noise expected to be experienced by residents near the transmission line will typically occur primarily during daylight hours. It should be noted that construction noise is specifically regulated in Section 1-10.04(11), Rules of the EPC, as follows: "Construction activities occurring between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday are exempt if reasonable precautions are taken to abate the noise pollution generated from those activities. Reasonable precautions shall include but not be limited to noise pollution abatement measures such as enclosure of the noise pollution source, use of acoustical blankets, and change in work practice. Construction activities occurring at all other times shall be subject to this Rule." Please provide information to demonstrate intended compliance with this rule.

Response:

Comment noted. Tampa Electric is aware of the rules of the EPC relating to noise levels. As noted in the SCA in Section 9.4.5, it is expected that, since much of the Preferred Corridors is proposed for rural areas and is away from residences, any inconveniences experienced by residents will be minimal. The noise expected from construction activities is primarily confined to noise from machinery used intermittently at varying locations along the right-of-way during construction. These activities typically take place during normal daylight working hours unless otherwise required by system requirements. Once the rights-of-way for the transmission lines to be located in Hillsborough County have been selected, and the construction schedule and methodologies have been finalized, Tampa Electric representatives will coordinate with EPC staff to ensure compliance with applicable noise rules.

HCEPC-3

Unconfined Particulate Emissions During Construction

The applicant mentions “Standard fugitive dust control methods used at construction sites will be implemented including the application of water to unpaved roads and other exposed surfaces on an as-needed basis.” However, the applicant does not discuss what monitoring of the construction work will be occurring to ensure the measures implemented are adequate. Please provide additional more specific information on how unconfined emissions will be controlled particularly when constructing in close proximity to residents.

Response:

Tampa Electric will continually monitor the construction areas for excessive dust and employ a variety of fugitive dust control methods, as needed, to ensure compliance with EPC rules. These controls may include frequent watering, landscaping, planting vegetation, or detouring and paving, to name a few.

HCEPC-4 Asbestos

The applicant should be aware that should their construction activities require the demolition of an existing structure or building, the demolition activity may be subject to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP), Subpart M, Asbestos. In Hillsborough County, the applicant should contact the EPC Air Management Division staff for more guidance. Please provide assurance that the applicant understands and will comply with these asbestos regulations.

Response:

The comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. No demolition of any existing buildings or structures will be required by construction of the transmission lines.

HCEPC-5 Open Burning

The applicant should be aware that pursuant to Chapter 1-4 (Open Burning), Rules of the EPC, the open burning of any vegetative materials generated from the clearing of rights-of-way and access roads must receive prior written EPC authorization. Please provide additional information that the applicant intends to comply with these open burning regulations.

Response:

The comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. If any burning is proposed of vegetative debris, it will be performed in accordance with all applicable local and state open burning requirements.

HCEPC-6

Waste

In the process of selection of the corridors and/or alternatives, the applicant should consider and should complete the necessary due diligence in order to determine if the selected corridors and alternatives are in proximity to and if installation of the power lines will have impacts on historic solid waste disposal areas, petroleum contaminated sites or waste clean-up sites where soils impacts, groundwater impacts or both exist. The following link to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Map Direct should prove useful in locating impacted sites within the corridor options. <http://ca.dep.state.fl.us/mapdirect/gateway.jsp>. It is recommended that the location of contaminated sites along the proposed corridors and alternative corridors be outlined in the referenced chapter.

Response:

Known contaminated sites found on the referenced source were mapped in relationship to the Preferred Corridor, and no currently identified contaminated sites were found within or adjacent to the proposed Preferred Corridor.

HCEPC-7

Wetlands

The preferred corridors will cross and impact numerous wetlands and other surface waters (OSW) in Hillsborough County. Every effort should be used in siting power poles to minimize disturbance to wetlands/OSWs. As forested wetland crossings will require permanent removal of the canopy, these areas should be avoided to the greatest extent possible. For example the western portion of the mile wide preferred corridor just north of SR 674 appears to have fewer creek crossings than the eastern portion of the corridor. Utilization of the western portion is recommended to avoid impacts to the forested creek systems on the eastern portion of the mile-wide corridor. Please provide additional information that the applicant intends to promptly remove all temporary fill in Hillsborough County wetland areas after construction and stabilize areas to prevent discharge of sediments into the undisturbed portion of the wetlands/OSWs. We further request a copy of the required Environmental Resource Permit upon completion of the Site Certification,

Response:

Comment noted. The comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. With respect to the mile-wide portion of the corridor just north of SR 674 and the Mines Substation, there is in place an existing 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line

easement. It would be the intent of Tampa Electric to collocate with that easement to minimize any additional wetland impacts. Once a corridor is certified and a right-of-way selected, Tampa Electric will provide the substantive information contained in an environmental resource permit (ERP) application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and include a copy to the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission (HCEPC).

<i>HCEPC-8 Although our Act does not cover electromagnetic fields, we do ask that you ensure that all applicable standards are met. Based on the aerials, there are existing residences along the proposed line.</i>

Response:

Comment noted. The comment does not seek information related to the completeness of the SCA. Section 9.5.5.1 of the SCA demonstrates how Tampa Electric will comply with the FDEP's EMF rules contained in Section 62-814, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The October 30, 2012, letter from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to FDEP specifies that it is a preliminary statement of issues, rather than a completeness response, and the items addressed in the letter do not identify any deficiencies related to completeness. The comments are noted herein with responses or clarifications as appropriate.

FWC-1

Potential Effects to Imperiled Species

The Tampa Electric Polk 2-5 Conversion Project's associated linear facilities include approximately 27 miles of 230-kilovolt (kv) new transmission lines and approximately 5.5 miles of upgrades to existing 230-kv transmission lines. These linear facilities will likely impact federally and state-listed species, as described by the application in Tables 3.3.6-2 and 9.3.7-3.

*Portions of the transmission line corridor fall within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's designated consultation areas for the federally endangered (FE) Florida grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*), the federally threatened Audubon's crested caracara (*Polyborus plancus audubonii*), and the federally threatened scrub-jay (*Aphelacoma coerulesens*). In addition, portions of the transmission line corridor lie within the Core Foraging Area of the federally endangered wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) and include nesting colonies 615105, Lake John, 616117, 616114 and NE Mulberry.*

Response:

Comment noted. Specific potential effects on listed species will be addressed postcertification once the rights-of-way are selected and appropriate field surveys have been conducted.

FWC-2 *More specifically, FWC provides the following Preliminary Statement of Issues:*

- *The applicant should coordinate with FWC staff to obtain and follow the current survey protocols for all listed species that may occur within the transmission line rights-of-way. These may include appropriate buffers as defined by the listed species' survey protocols, when legally accessible by the applicant, prior to conducting detailed surveys. Listed species surveys should be conducted prior to clearing and construction using approved species-specific survey protocols and the results of those detailed surveys will need to be provided to FWC staff.*

Response:

After the corridor is certified and the final alignments of the transmission lines have been determined, Tampa Electric will provide FWC the listed species survey protocols for review and approval. The listed species surveys will be conducted in accordance with the approved protocols as a postcertification requirement and prior to the beginning of construction. FWC will be provided with the results of those surveys.

FWC-3 • *Gopher tortoises and their burrows are protected by state law; therefore, the applicant will be required to conduct surveys for the presence of gopher tortoises before construction begins. Information on avoidance and relocation can be found at <http://myfwc.com/license/wildlife/gopher-tortoise-permits>, and specific guidelines are available at <http://myfwc.com/media/1410274/GTPermittingGuidelines.pdf>.*

Response:

Comment noted. Gopher tortoise surveys, including any relocation measures, will be conducted as a postcertification requirement after the final alignment of the transmission line rights-of-way have been determined and prior to construction.

FWC-4

- *An avian protection plan will be needed to minimize adverse interactions between avian species and transmission lines with the goal of reducing avian mortality.*

Response:

Comment noted. An avian protection plan will be provided as a postcertification submittal.

FWC-5

- *All roadway and transmission line corridors should be directed to those areas more heavily disturbed by human activities and directed away from native habitats and areas of high wildlife utilization. Further, mitigation for loss of fish and wildlife habitat should be provided where avoidance is not practicable.*

Response:

Comment noted. Tampa Electric has chosen a corridor that provides for collocation opportunities the entire distance, meaning that, where the corridors do cross higher value wildlife habitats, there is already a linear disturbance.

TAMPA BAY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

TBRPC-1 *The staff of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has completed its review of the above-referenced site certification application; specifically the proposal to add transmission lines between the Polk/Hillsborough county line and the Fishhawk Substation in Hillsborough County, within the jurisdiction of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.*

This letter is to advise the FL Department of Environmental Protection and the applicant that no additional information is needed by the Council to complete its review. The Council will consider a draft [mal report on this portion of the project at its November 12, 2012 meeting. Upon adoption of a final report, the report will be transmitted to the FL Department of Environmental Protection and the applicant.

Response:

Comment noted that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) finds the SCA complete. TBRPC did approve the staff report at its November 12, 2012, meeting and transmitted the report to FDEP.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE, DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

DHR-1 *We note that several of the proposed corridors have not been subject to a professional cultural resource survey, and that part of the Polk-Pebbledale preferred corridor is along Site P07140 (CSX Railroad), which is potentially eligible for the National Register, and should be avoided if possible. However, it is the understanding of this agency that TECO is committed to conducting cultural resource surveys of the selected corridors after the all-but-final alignments have been identified. This process/plan is consistent with our best practices for transmission corridor projects of this nature. Therefore, this agency finds the application complete.*

Response:

Comment noted. The Division of Historical Resources (DHR) finds the SCA complete.

DHR-2 *Should a license be issued, we request that the following conditions be included in the Conditions of Certification for PPS:*

- *The Licensee shall conduct a survey of sensitive cultural resource areas, as determined in consultation with the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (DHR). A qualified cultural resources consultant will identify an appropriate work plan for this project based on a thorough review of the Certified Facility. Prior to beginning any field work, the work plan will be reviewed in consultation with DHR. Upon completion of the survey, the results will be compiled into a report which shall be submitted to DHR. If feasible, sites considered to be eligible for the National Register shall be avoided during construction of the project and access roads, and subsequently during maintenance. If avoidance of any discovered sites is not feasible, impact shall be mitigated through archaeological salvage operations or other methods acceptable to DHR, as appropriate. If any significant cultural resources are discovered, consultation regarding avoidance, minimization or mitigation of impacts will be necessary to fulfill state and federal requirements.*
- *If historical or archaeological artifacts or features are discovered at any time within the Certified Facility, the Licensee shall notify the appropriate DEP District office (s) and the DHR, R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street, Rm 423, Tallahassee, Florida 32399- 0250, telephone number (850) 487-6333, and the Licensee shall consult with DHR to determine appropriate action.*

[Sections 267.061, 403.531, and 872.02, F.S.]

Response:

Comment noted that these are recommended COCs. It should be noted that very similar COCs from DHR are already included in the existing COCs for PPS in B.V.A. and B.V.B.