



Ken Proctor
Environmental Services
Florida Power & Light Company
700 Universe Blvd.
Juno Beach, Florida 33408

August 6, 2014

Re: Environmental Assessment for St. Lucie Substation Switchyard Expansion

Dear Mr. Proctor:

Ecological Associates, Inc. (EAI) was contracted by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) to conduct an environmental assessment in support of switchyard expansion at St. Lucie Substation, located at the St. Lucie Plant on Hutchinson Island in unincorporated St. Lucie County, Florida (Figure 1 and 2). The work will involve construction of new access roads, parking, and a stormwater retention area (Appendix A).

The purpose of this assessment was to evaluate any potential environmental constraints to the proposed activities, including presence of wetlands, protected flora and fauna, and/or other sensitive resources. This assessment is based on photos and other information provided by FPL, and review of available desktop research material. Additionally, a site visit was conducted on August 6, 2014.

Wetlands and Permitting

Existing site conditions are shown in Figures 3 and 4. That portion of the site targeted for improvements was bordered by scattered native live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*) and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) trees. The understory vegetation was mowed and consisted of St. Augustine grass (*Stenotaphrum secundatum*), Mexican clover (*Richardia brasiliensis*), fogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*), sand blackberry (*Rubus cuneifolius*) beggarsticks (*Bidens alba*), crowfoot grass (*Dactyloctenium aegyptium*), pinebarren flatsedge (*Cyperus ovatus*), coastal sunflower (*Helianthus debilis*) and coastal sandbur (*Cenchrus spinifex*). Based upon information provided by FPL, aerial and other photographs, and data obtained from the National Wetlands Inventory, the work areas are located within uplands. As such, local, State and federal environmental permits are not required.

Conservation Lands

The proposed work is not located within or adjacent to any known public or private conservation lands.

Tree Protection

Proposed ground breaking activities will not encroach on native trees and thus, none are likely to be affected by this project (Figure 2).

Threatened and Endangered Species

According to data maintained by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), there are no known wading bird colonies, burrowing owl colonies, or bald eagle nests located within prescribed disturbance buffers around the work site. No scrub jay, gopher tortoise or wood stork habitat will be affected, and no protected species were observed during the site visit. As such, there should be no constraints pertaining to these protected species for this project.

Erosion Control Measures

Land clearing is proposed at this site. Appropriate precautions (e.g., silt fence) should be taken at each of these locations to ensure that disturbed sediments do not enter adjacent stormwater retention areas or other unintended areas.

Hazardous Substance Management

Equipment should be checked regularly for potential leaks of hazardous substances. Spill kits should be kept in close proximity to any vehicle with the potential to discharge fuel or other hazardous substances. Contact the Ops/Construction Lead immediately in the event of an equipment fuel or other fluid leak or spill. Spills need to be isolated and contained as soon as possible. In addition, contact Frank Nesbihal (FPL) at 561-762-6278 cell) who will coordinate any clean-up and/or agency reporting actions that may be required.

All hazardous products should be properly labeled, stored in closed containers and on impermeable surfaces. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) should be readily available.

Ecological Associates, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to be of service to FPL. Should you have any questions regarding this assessment, I can be reached at (772) 334-3729.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie Grablo".

Katie Grablo
Senior Scientist

c: Daniel Moretz/FPL
Vince Munne/FPL
Bob Ernest/EAI
R. Erik Martin/EAI

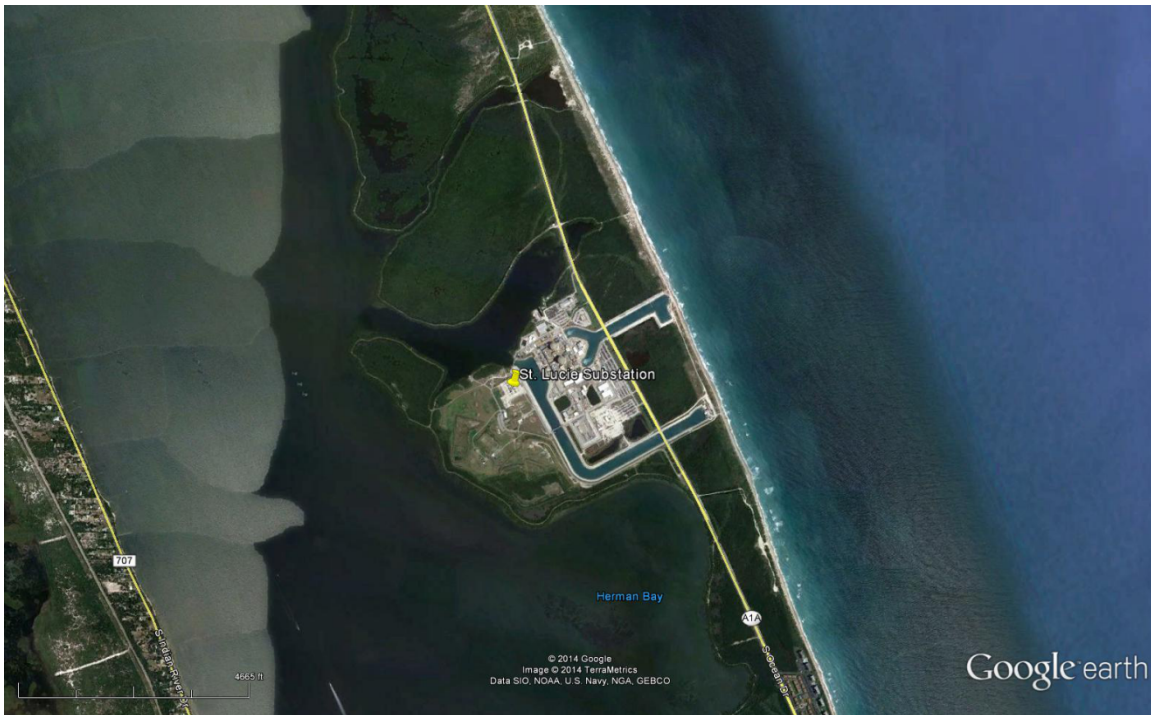


Figure 1. Location of St. Lucie Substation at the St. Lucie Nuclear Plant.



Figure 2. Location of survey area (red) at St. Lucie Substation. The colored circles show the location of the following tree species; live oak (green), cabbage palm (blue), and strangler fig (purple).



Figure 3. Existing conditions at St. Lucie Substation, facing north.



Figure 4. Existing conditions at St. Lucie Substation, facing east.

Appendix A
Construction Plans

