

July 15, 2022

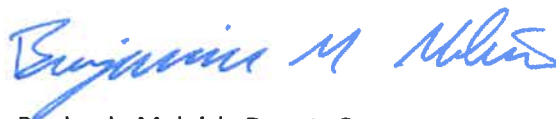
Ms. Cindy Mulkey
Siting Coordination Office
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blairstone Road, MS 5500
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

RE: Florida Power and Light Company Sweatt-Whidden 230KV Transmission Line
Site Certification Application TA22-19

Dear Ms. Mulkey:

Please find enclosed the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's "Agency Report," prepared and submitted pursuant to Section 403.526, Florida Statutes, for the Florida Power and Light Company Sweatt-Whidden 230KV Transmission Line Site Certification Application TA22-19. On April 18, 2022, Florida Power and Light Company filed its site certification application for the Sweatt-Whidden 230KV Transmission Line under the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act, Chapter 403, Part II, Florida Statutes. If you have any questions concerning this Agency Report, please contact Scott Rogers, Regional Planning Administrator, at (850) 717-8510, or by email at Scott.Rogers@deo.myflorida.com.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Melnick, Deputy Secretary
Division of Community Development

BM/sr

Enclosure: DEO Agency Report

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
AGENCY REPORT
ON
FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
SWEATT-WHIDDEN 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION NO. TA22-19**

On April 18, 2022, Florida Power and Light Company (FPL) filed its Certification Application (Application No. TA22-19) for the Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Line (Project) under the Florida Electric Transmission Line Siting Act (Sections 403.52 through 403.5365, Florida Statutes (F.S.)). Under the Act, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) coordinates the certification process with input from various state, regional, and local agencies, along with interested citizens. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity “Agency Report” on the FPL Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Line (Certification Application TA21-18) is pursuant to Section 403.526, F.S., of the Florida Electric Transmission Line Siting Act and Rule Chapter 62-17.590, Florida Administrative Code.

I. Project Summary

FPL proposes the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Sweatt-Whidden 230 kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line. The proposed electric transmission line extends approximately 80.5 miles within a transmission line corridor located in DeSoto County, Glades County, Highlands County and Okeechobee County. The termination points of the proposed transmission line are FPL’s existing Sweatt Substation in Okeechobee County and FPL’s existing Whidden Substation in DeSoto County.

The maximum anticipated width of the right-of-way for the proposed transmission line is 100 feet. The proposed transmission line will be constructed using monopole self-supported spun concrete or steel structures. The typical aboveground structure heights will range from approximately 75 feet to 110 feet. The typical span lengths between structures will range from approximately 300 feet to 750 feet. FPL proposes that the transmission line will be completed and in service by December 2025. According to the Certification Application, the proposed transmission line project is needed in order to improve reliability for FPL customers currently served from the existing 69-KV transmission line between the Sweat Substation and Whidden Substation, increase the east-west power transfer capabilities of the transmission network, and to mitigate potential overloads and low voltage conditions.

II. Recommendations: State Comprehensive Plan (Section 403.526(2)(a)3., F.S.)

The proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Line is consistent with the following goals of the State Comprehensive Plan (SCP) (Section 187.201, F.S.):

a. SCP Goal 15 Land Use (Section 187.201(15), F.S.): *"In recognition of the importance of preserving the natural resources and enhancing the quality of life of the state, development shall be directed to those areas which have in place, or have agreements to provide, the land and water resources, fiscal abilities, and service capacity to accommodate growth in an environmentally acceptable manner."*

In support of development, the transmission line will enhance the service capacity of the electric power system to accommodate growth in an environmentally acceptable manner (furtheres Goal 15).

b. SCP Goal 17 Public Facilities (Section 187.201(17), F.S.): *"Florida shall protect the substantial investments in public facilities that already exist and shall plan for and finance new facilities to serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner."*

The transmission line enhances the existing and future electric power system and will serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner (furtheres Goal 17). The transmission line enhances the provision of a stable supply of electrical power that assists emergency management activities, including emergency preparedness, response and recovery to serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner (furtheres Goal 17).

c. SCP Goal 21 The Economy (Section 187.201(21), F.S.): *"Florida shall promote an economic climate which provides economic stability, maximizes job opportunities, and increases per capita income for its residents."*

The transmission line will help provide Florida with a stable source of electric power and thus enhance the economic stability of the state (furtheres Goal 21).

III. Local Government Comprehensive Plans and Land Development Regulations **(Section 403.526(2)(a)3., F.S.)**

Each local government in Florida is required to adopt a local comprehensive plan as provided in the Community Planning Act (Act) under Chapter 163, Part II, F.S. Pursuant to the Act, each local government is required to adopt land development regulations that implement and are consistent with the comprehensive plan. Additionally, development orders are required to be consistent with the comprehensive plan and land development regulations. Under Section 163.3164(14), F.S., of the Act, "development" is defined by express reference to Section 380.04, F.S., which states, in part, that *"The following operations or uses shall not be taken for the purpose of this chapter to involve 'development' as defined in this section" ... "(b) Work by any utility and other persons engaged in the distribution or transmission of gas, electricity, or water, for the purpose of inspecting, repairing, renewing, or constructing on established rights-of-way any sewers, mains, pipes, cables, utility tunnels, power lines, towers, poles, tracks, or the like."* Thus, the Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Line is exempt from constituting "development" for the purpose of local comprehensive plans and land development regulations adopted

pursuant to the Act; and therefore, approval of the Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Line contingent on consistency with the comprehensive plans and land development regulations.

IV. Section 403.526(2)(b)1., F.S.

Pursuant to Section 403.526(2)(b)1., F.S., the Agency Report shall contain “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 the proposed electrical power plant to be certified.*” The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has not identified any such nonprocedural requirements in the application.

V. Recommendation for Approval or Denial of the Application (Section 403.526(2)(b)2., F.S.)

Pursuant to Section 403.526(2)(b)2., F.S., the Agency Report shall contain “A *recommendation for approval or denial of the site certification application.*” The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity concludes that the proposed Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Line furthers goals of the State Comprehensive Plan and is an efficient use of an existing electric power transmission line right-of-way. Therefore, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity recommends approval of the Certification Application (Application No. TA22-19) for the FPL Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Line contingent on the Project meeting all applicable certification requirements.

VI. Proposed Conditions of Certification (Section 403.526(2)(b)3., F.S.)

Pursuant to Section 403.526(2)(b)3., F.S., the Agency Report shall contain “Any *proposed conditions of certification on matters within the jurisdiction of such agency. For each condition proposed by an agency in its report, the agency shall list the specific statute, rule, or ordinance which authorizes the proposed condition.*” The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has no proposed conditions of certification.