

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

HIGHLANDS NEWS-SUN

Published Daily

SEBRING, HIGHLANDS COUNTY, FLORIDA

CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR(S)

STATE OF FLORIDA,

COUNTY OF HIGHLANDS

Before the undersigned authority, Nancy Whirley, personally appeared who on oath says that she is an employee of Highlands News-Sun, a newspaper published at Sebring in Highlands County, Florida; that the attached copy or reprint of the advertisement being a Public Notice, was published in said newspaper by print in the issues of or by publication on the newspaper's website, if authorized, on:

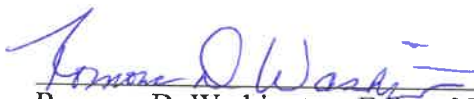
MAY 6, 2022

Affiant further says that the Highlands News-Sun newspaper complies with all legal requirements for publication in chapter 50, Florida Statutes.

SIGNED:


Nancy Whirley

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of May, 2022 by Nancy Whirley, who is personally know to me.


Romona D. Washington, Editor, Notary Number: GG 333543
Notary expires: June 20, 2023



ROMONA D WASHINGTON
Commission # GG 333543
Expires June 20, 2023
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services

NOTICE OF FILING CERTIFICATION APPLICATION FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDOR(S) TO BE LOCATED IN OKEECHOBEE, GLADES, HIGHLANDS, AND DESOTO COUNTIES

Florida Power & Light Company Sweatt – Whidden 230 kV Transmission Line Application No. TA22-19 for certification to authorize location of a transmission line corridor, construction, operation and maintenance of a 230-kilovolt electrical transmission line(s) commonly referred to as Sweatt - Whidden and maintenance of the transmission line right-of-way from, Okeechobee County Florida to DeSoto County, Florida was received by the Department of Environmental Protection on April 18, 2022. The case is pending before the Division of Administrative Hearings, Case No. 22-001246, prior to action by the Governor and Cabinet (sitting as the Siting Board), or the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, pursuant to the Florida Transmission Line Siting Act, Chapter 403, Part II, F.S. The proposed corridor(s) pass through the following local government jurisdictions: Okeechobee, Glades, Highlands, and Desoto Counties (see accompanying map).

State agencies, water management districts, and local governments will be reviewing the application and preparing reports regarding the compliance of the proposal with applicable laws, and any needed conditions of certification to assure such compliance. It is recommended that interested individuals 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 the Department of Environmental Protection’s Siting Coordination Office, (2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 5500, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400, (850)717-9113, Ann Seiler). The application for certification which more specifically depicts the proposed transmission line corridor is available for public inspection at the following locations: Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Siting Coordination Office, 2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 5500, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400; Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast District Office, 3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 7210-1, West Palm Beach, Florida 33406; Florida Power & Light Company, 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL, 33408; Okeechobee County Public Library, 206 SW 16th Street, Okeechobee, Florida 34974; Glades County Public Library, 201 Riverside Drive, Moore Haven, Florida 33471; Lake Placid Memorial Library, 205 West Interlake Boulevard, Lake Placid, Florida 33852; Arcadia Public Library, 125 North Hillsborough Avenue, Arcadia, Florida 34266. The application is also available on the Internet at Department of Environmental Protection’s Siting Coordination Office website by clicking on <https://floridadep.gov/air/siting-coordination-office/content/applications-process>

Unless the administrative law judge cancels the certification hearing pursuant to Section 403.527(6), F.S., based on a stipulation of the parties to the proceeding that there are no disputed issues of material fact or law, a certification hearing will be conducted by the administrative law judge pursuant to Section 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., at a central location in proximity to the proposed corridor(s). Notice of the date and location of the certification hearing will be published in this publication at least 65 days before the date set for the hearing.

The Transmission Line Siting Act provides, among other things, that:

- (1) Subject to the conditions set forth therein, certification shall constitute the sole license of the state and any agency as to the approval of the location of transmission line corridors and the construction, operation, and maintenance of transmission lines. The certification is valid for the life of the transmission line, if construction on, or condemnation or acquisition of, the right-of-way is commenced within 5 years after the date of certification or such later date as may be authorized by the board.
- (2)

(a) The certification authorizes the licensee to locate the transmission line corridor and to construct and maintain the transmission lines subject only to the conditions of certification set forth in the certification.

(b) The certification may include conditions that constitute variances and exemptions from nonprocedural standards or rules of the department or any other agency which were expressly considered during the certification review unless waived by the agency as provided in s. 403.526 and which otherwise would be applicable to the location of the proposed transmission line corridor or the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission lines.

Any person wishing to participate in the proceedings, as a party, must file an appropriate pleading with the Division of Administrative Hearings following the procedures in Chapter 28-106, F.A.C., and Section 403.527(2)(c), F.S., which provides that:

- (1) Parties to the proceeding shall be: Florida Power & Light Company, The Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Public Service Commission, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Transportation, the South Florida Water Management District, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Okeechobee County, Glades County, Highlands County, and DeSoto County. Any of these parties, other than the Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Power & Light Company, may waive its right to participate in this proceeding if the listed party fails to file a notice of intent to be a party on or before the 30th day before the certification hearing.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 120, F.S., to the contrary, upon the filing with the administrative law judge of a notice of intent to be a party by an agency, corporation, or association described in subparagraphs (a) and (b) below or a petition for intervention by a person described in subparagraph (c) below no later than 30 days before the date set for the certification hearing, the following shall also be parties to the proceeding:

(a) Any agency not listed in subparagraph (1) above as to matters within its jurisdiction.

(b) Any domestic nonprofit corporation or association formed, in whole or in part, to promote conservation of 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 transmission line or corridor is to be located.

(c) Any person whose substantial interests are affected and being determined by the proceeding.

For further information about the certification process please see: <https://floridadep.gov/air/siting-coordination-office/content/rules-and-statutes>Persons not wishing to participate in the proceedings as a party may nevertheless offer sworn testimony during the public hearing portion of the certification hearing, if a certification hearing is needed.

Any notice of intent to be a party or motion to intervene must be sent to; Re: DOAH Case No. 22-001246, Division of Administrative Hearings, 1230 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060, and must contain the following: reference to the application number; the 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 Department’s Siting Coordination Office at the physical address above.)

Consideration may be given in this proceeding to corridors alternate to the corridor(s) preferred by Florida Power & Light Company. Persons other than the applicant may propose alternate corridors for portions of or all of the corridor(s) proposed by the applicant. To propose an alternate corridor, persons must request to become a party to the proceedings, and then must file a notice of proposed alternate corridor with the administrative law judge pursuant to Section 403.5271(1), F.S., all parties, and any local governments in the jurisdiction of which the alternate is proposed, by no later than 45 days prior to the originally scheduled certification hearing. The filing must include the most recent United States Geological Survey 1:24000 quadrangle maps with the alternate corridor boundaries specifically delineated on it, a description of the proposed alternate corridor, and a statement of the reasons the proposed alternate should be certified.

Each party proposing an alternate corridor shall have the burden to provide the data necessary for the agencies listed in Section 403.526, F.S., to prepare a supplementary report, to provide public notice in accordance with Section 403.5363(2), F.S., and the burden of proof on the certifiability of the alternate corridor at the certification hearing. See Section 403.5271, F.S., and Florida Administrative Code Rule 62-17.543 for further information and requirements. <https://floridadep.gov/air/siting-coordination-office/content/rules-and-statutes>

Issues relating to the use of, connection to, or the crossing of properties and works of the following agencies: the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Department of Transportation, Highlands County, and Okeechobee County may be addressed in this certification proceeding.

