FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jay Collins
Lt. Governor

Alexis A. Lambert
Secretary

June 25, 2026

Sent by Electronic Mail – Document Access Verification Requested

Jay Chesser
Station Manager, Hines Energy Complex
7700 County Road 555
Bartow, FL 33830
Jay.Chesser@duke-energy.com

RE: Duke Energy Florida Hines Energy Complex
Modification to Conditions of Certification
DEP Case Number PA 92-33L
OGC Case Number 25-0799

FINAL ORDER MODIFYING CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION

Mr. Chesser:

On January 27, 1994, the governor and cabinet sitting as Siting Board issued a Site Certification to the Florida Power Corporation, now known as Duke Energy Florida (DEF), for the construction and operation of Hines Energy Complex (Hines) Unit 1. On June 6, 2001, September 11, 2003, and June 8, 2005, the Siting Board issued Site Certifications to DEF for the construction and operation of Hines Units 2, 3, and 4, respectively. The Department has modified the Conditions of Certification (Conditions) for Hines by Final Order on 11 other occasions.

The Department has reviewed DEF's petition dated April 3, 2025, for a modification to Hines' Conditions pursuant to Section 403.516(1)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to authorize the construction and operation of a brine handling system including lined evaporation ponds, forced evaporators, tanks, and pumps to support reverse osmosis facilities at the site.

On May 7, 2026, all parties to the certification proceeding were provided notice of the Department's intent to modify the Conditions for Hines. On May 12, 2026, notice of the Department's intent to modify the Conditions for Hines was also published in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR).

Pursuant to Section 403.516, F.S., and Rule 62-17.211, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), all parties to the certification proceeding have 45 days from the issuance of notice in which to file a written objection to the modification. Pursuant to Section 403.516, F.S., and Rule 62-17.211, F.A.C., any person who is not already a party to the certification proceeding and whose substantial interests will be affected by the requested modification has 30 days from the date of publication of the public notice in the FAR or newspaper to object in writing. Failure to act within the time frame constitutes a waiver of the right to become a party.

These timeframes have expired and no objections to the modification have been received by the Department. Therefore, the Conditions for Hines are modified as described in the Department's Notice of Intent to Modify the Conditions of Certification dated May 7, 2026. The Notice of Intent can be viewed and downloaded from the following site: https://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/Siting/Outgoing/DEF%20Hines/Modifications/ModL_BrineSystem/20260507_DEF_HinesModL_NOI.pdf.

The final version of the modified Conditions can be viewed and downloaded from the following website: https://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/Siting/Outgoing/DEF%20Hines/Modifications/ModL_BrineSystem/Conditions/20260625_DEF_Hines_ModL_FinalOrderConditions.pdf.

Copies of the Conditions and/or attachments may also be obtained by contacting the Department of Environmental Protection, Siting Coordination Office, 2600 Blair Stone Road, M.S. 3500, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400, (850) 717-9000.

Any party to this Order has a right to seek judicial review of it pursuant to Section 120.68, F.S. by filing a Notice of Appeal, pursuant to Rule 9.110, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Department of Environmental Protection in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal, accompanied by the applicable filing fees, with the appropriate District Court of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date this Order is filed with the Clerk of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Sincerely,

Robert Robertson Digitally signed by Robert Robertson
Date: 2026.06.25 15:20:59 -04'00'

Rob Robertson, Environmental Administrator
Siting Coordination Office

CC by electronic mail:
Kelley Boatwright, Southwest District Director, DEP: Kelley.M.Boatwright@FloridaDEP.gov
Bob Sellers, Southwest District Liaison, DEP: Robert.Sellers@FloridaDEP.gov
Ilia Balcom, Lead EHS Consultant, DEF: Ilia.Balcom@duke-energy.com

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT
FILED, on this date, pursuant to §120.52 Florida Statutes, with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

Kaiden Miller Digitally signed by Kaiden Miller Date: 2026.06.25 15:57:30 -04'00' 6/25/2026

Clerk Date

Service List: ***Sent by Electronic Mail – Received Receipt Requested***

Kelley Corbari, Esquire
Department of Environmental Protection
Office of General Counsel
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 35
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
Kelley.Corbari@FloridaDEP.gov
Rachel.Earlywine@FloridaDEP.gov

Elizabeth M. Fernandez, Esquire
Assistant General Counsel
Southwest Florida Water Management District
7601 US Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
Elizabeth.Fernandez@swfwmd.state.fl.us
James.Golden@swfwmd.state.fl.us

Michael P. Jilek, Esquire
Joseph Meyer, Esquire
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
Michael.Jilek@MyFWC.com
ConservationPlanningServices@myfwc.com

Jon Morris, Esquire
Department of State - DHR
R.A. Gray Building 4th Floor
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
Jon.Morris@dos.myflorida.com
CompliancePermits@DOS.MyFlorida.com

Valerie Wright, Esquire
Department of Commerce
107 East Madison Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Valerie.Wright@commerce.fl.gov
Scott.Rogers@commerce.fl.gov

Susan L. Herendeen, Esquire
J. Ashley Peacock, Esquire
Assistant General Counsel
Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 58
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0458
Susan.Herendeen@dot.state.fl.us
Ashley.Peacock@dot.state.fl.us
Monica.Zhong@dot.state.fl.us

Shaw P. Stiller, Esquire
Florida Public Service Commission
Office of General Counsel
2450 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
SStiller@psc.state.fl.us

Randy Mink, Esquire
County Attorney
Polk County
330 W. Church Street, Drawer AT01
P.O. Box 9005
Bartow, Florida 33831
RandyMink@polk-county.net