



TECO

TAMPA ELECTRIC

July 2, 2013

Ms. Ruth Brown
Chairman, FishHawk Community
Development District II
3434 Colwell Avenue
Suite 200
Tampa, Florida 33614

Re: Tampa Electric Company
Polk 2-5 Combined Cycle Conversion
Project-Polk to FishHawk Transmission Line Project

Dear Ms. Brown:

I have received and reviewed your letter of June 18, 2013, expressing concerns with the plans Tampa Electric Company has for constructing a transmission line as a part of the Polk 2-5 Combined Cycle Conversion Project, a portion of which will go through the FishHawk Community. We appreciate you sharing the concerns of the FishHawk Community, as Chairman of the FishHawk Community Development District II.

As you know, the Florida Public Service Commission, which regulates investor owned utilities such as Tampa Electric Company, has determined that a need exists for the Polk 2-5 Combined Cycle Conversion Project and the associated transmission lines. The Project is currently under review as a part of the siting process mandated by the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act and both the public testimony and certification hearings were held last week in Lithia and Bartow, respectively. I understand that you provided comments at the public testimony portion and attended at least a part of the certification hearing in Bartow. We appreciate your participation.

The transmission lines for this Project are necessary to transmit the bulk power from the point of generation to various substations where it can be converted to a voltage that is suitable for distribution to end users. Because the existing FishHawk substation is an area in which the electricity is needed, it is necessary to have a transmission line that moves the power from the Polk Power Station, to the existing Mines substation, then to the proposed Aspen substation, and then to the FishHawk substation. The transmission line requires a starting and ending point and there are a limited number of pathways to utilize.

For such projects, Tampa Electric Company engages in public outreach and that was done for this Project. Two mailings totaling approximately 10,294 letters were sent to homeowners, property owners, renters and homeowners' associations in the vicinity of the Project advising that the Project was being undertaken, and three open houses were held in April of 2012 to provide information about the Project, including the associated transmission lines. Members of your community attended at least one of these open houses. The purpose of the open houses, and the mailings and other outreach activities, is to obtain input on the issues that the public believes to be important in the siting of transmission lines. That was done in this case. We also exercised the option available under the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act to permit alternate corridors to be proposed. No alternates were proposed in the certification process.

The process that Tampa Electric Company utilizes generally involves the establishment of a study area map detailing siting constraints and a review of various options for siting of the transmission lines. The Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act permits an applicant to establish a corridor which subsequently will be narrowed for the smaller right-of-way. The right-of-way is the area in which the transmission line will be located. This process provides flexibility for the actual location of the right-of-way to avoid sensitive areas and to minimize impacts. The Polk to FishHawk proposed corridor was selected in this way.

Contrary to some of the comments that I understand were made at the public testimony portion of the hearing, Tampa Electric Company did examine an option to utilize Boyette Road instead of the proposed corridor for this transmission line. Our review indicates that more residential properties would be directly impacted and potentially taken by eminent domain, for that route and that it would result in more impacts than the proposed route. The portion of the route through FishHawk, like the other portions of the transmission lines, is collocated along existing rights-of-way which include Tampa Electric Company rights-of-way. This reduces impacts and is the preferred method of routing of these types of facilities. Based upon the review that was done by our internal engineering staff and environmental staff and our consultants, the route that was proposed for the Polk to FishHawk transmission line corridor is the least impactful and the best route, based upon all of the factors considered, for this area.

We understand that there are concerns about aesthetics, health and safety associated with the transmission line project. We note that the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission lines within the corridor will meet all of the agency requirements including those relating to safety and electric and magnetic field affects. You may have heard our experts testify that the line will meet the requirements of the Department of Environmental Protection rule relating to electric and magnetic fields and will be protective of human health. The FishHawk Community currently has 230 kilovolt transmission lines and activities are routinely carried out under the transmission lines including biking, hiking, and tennis and basketball. Similar activities are carried out in other locations within the Tampa Electric Company service area and we expect that such activities will be permissible should the proposed corridor be approved, after Tampa Electric Company has had an opportunity to review those activities.

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The siting of such a project involves a complex and lengthy process that takes into account a number of factors and interests. Although we understand your disappointment in the proposal that has been made, we believe that the route that has been selected is the most appropriate route based upon all of the factors considered. We plan to continue to communicate with the public as the process continues.

Thank you for your comments and your continued interest in the Project.

Sincerely,



Gordon Gillette

President

Tampa Electric Company & Peoples Gas