

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20220045-EI

PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF NEED
FOR SWEATT-WHIDDEN 230 KV TRANSMISSION
LINE IN OKEECHOBEE, DESOTO, HIGHLANDS,
AND GLADES COUNTIES, BY FLORIDA POWER
& LIGHT COMPANY.

_____ /

PROCEEDINGS: HEARING

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN ANDREW GILES FAY
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK
COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO

DATE: Monday, May 16, 2022

TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.
Concluded: 9:41 a.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DANA W. REEVES
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING
112 W. 5TH AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 WILLIAM P. COX, ESQUIRE, 700 Universe
3 Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida 33408-0420, appearing on
4 behalf of Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).

5 ASHLEY J. WEISENFELD and MATTHEW JONES,
6 ESQUIRES, FPSC General Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak
7 Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, appearing on
8 behalf of the Florida Public Service Commission Staff.

9 KEITH C. HETRICK, ESQUIRE, General Counsel;
10 MARY ANNE HELTON, ESQUIRE, Deputy General Counsel,
11 Florida Public Service Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak
12 Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, Advisor to
13 the Florida Public Service Commission.

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I N D E X
WITNESSES

NAME :	PAGE
FRANCISCO PRIETO	
Prefiled Direct Testimony inserted	12

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

EXHIBITS

NUMBER:

ADMITTED

1 Comprehensive Exhibit List

10

2-12 Stipulated exhibits

10

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: All right. Good morning. This
3 is the May 16th hearing I'll call to order. Staff,
4 please read the notice.

5 MS. WEISENFELD: A notice is issued on March
6 22nd, 2022. This time and place has been set for
7 hearing in Docket No. 20220045-EI. The purpose of
8 this hearing is more fully set out in the notices.

9 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you. We will now
10 take appearances, starting with Florida Power and
11 Light. You're recognized.

12 MR. COX: Good morning, Chairman Fay,
13 Commissioners. William Cox appearing on behalf of
14 Florida Power and Light Company.

15 CHAIRMAN FAY: Staff.

16 MS. WEISENFELD: Ashley Weisenfeld and Matthew
17 Jones with Commission staff.

18 MS. HELTON: And Mary Anne Helton is here as
19 your advisor. I'd also like to enter an appearance
20 for your General Counsel, Keith Hetrick.

21 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you. Next we
22 will move on to preliminary matters. Ms.
23 Weisenfeld, are there any preliminary matters on
24 this docket?

25 MS. WEISENFELD: Staff is not aware of any

1 preliminary matters.

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Great. We will now move
3 to opening statements. We will start with you, Mr.
4 Cox.

5 MR. COX: Good morning, again, Chairman Fay,
6 Commissioners. FPL has petitioned the Commission
7 for an affirmative determination of need for the
8 construction and operation of electrical
9 transmission line, which is the Sweatt-Whidden 230
10 kV transmission project. I'll refer to it as
11 Sweatt-Whidden.

12 In FPL's 2021 transmission analysis, FPL
13 determined that it has a reliability need in 2025
14 and, therefore, needs to construct the
15 Sweatt-Whidden project by December of 2025. This
16 is particularly for serving customers in FPL's west
17 region, which presently has an increasing imbalance
18 of load generation due to population growth in this
19 area, as well as serving customers along the route
20 of the existing 69 kV line where this project will
21 run.

22 The project will consist of a new 230 kV
23 transmission line extending from FPL's Sweatt
24 substation in Okeechobee County, FPL's Whidden
25 substation in Desoto County. It uses the

1 construction of approximately 21 miles of new
2 single-circuit 230 kV transmission line in
3 Okeechobee County and the conversion of
4 approximately 59 miles at the existing 69 kV
5 transmission line in Okeechobee, Highlands and
6 Desoto counties. That's all subject to final
7 certification by the Florida Transmission -- under
8 the Florida Transmission Line Siting Act. It will
9 also include the rebuild of four substations along
10 the route.

11 The need for the project is based on three
12 primary areas. One is the need to provide
13 additional transmission path capability to increase
14 the east to west power transfer capabilities on
15 FPL's system. It's also the need to improve FPL's
16 reliability for serving FPL customers from the
17 existing 69 kV circuit that runs parallel to where
18 this product will run between the Okeechobee and
19 Whidden substations.

20 Finally, the need to mitigate potential
21 overloads in low-voltage conditions under
22 contingency events that may cause customer
23 interruptions, such as a generating unit being
24 unavailable, followed by a loss of a transmission
25 element or line.

1 As demonstrated in our petition, and the
2 testimony of our witness, Francisco Prieto and
3 exhibits, the project will maximize our system
4 reliability, it will increase power transfer
5 capability, and it will meet local load area
6 requirements.

7 Looking at this project, we evaluated three
8 alternatives, three transmission alternatives for
9 the project to meet the identified need, and that
10 ultimately resulted in the selection of the
11 Sweatt-Whidden project. Utilizing the existing 69
12 kV right-of-way Sweatt-Whidden project presents the
13 best and the most cost-effective alternative,
14 taking into account demand for electricity,
15 enhancing system reliability and integrity,
16 addressing the need for abundant low-cost energy to
17 serve Florida's citizens, and also the appropriate
18 starting and ending points of the line. It meets
19 area load requirements for serving potential future
20 industrial, commercial and residential load, again,
21 all while maximizing system reliability and
22 minimizing the cost to our customers.

23 Chairman Fay and Commissioners, there are no
24 intervenors in this proceeding and FPL and
25 Commission staff have worked together to reach

1 stipulations on all identified issues. FPL has
2 also responded to three sets of discovery questions
3 from the Commission staff, providing additional
4 details about the project, and all that information
5 is included in staff's comprehensive exhibits.

6 Respectfully today we would request that you
7 would approve the stipulations on the identified
8 issues and that you would approve FPL's petition
9 for an affirmative determination of need for the
10 Sweatt-Whidden project pursuant to Section 403.537,
11 Florida Statutes. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN FAY: Thank you for that opening
13 statement. Next we will move -- I'll check with
14 staff. I don't believe we have anybody for public
15 testimony. Is that correct at this time?

16 MS. WEISENFELD: No, Chairman. That's
17 correct.

18 CHAIRMAN FAY: Okay. Great. We will then
19 move on to exhibits. Staff are there any
20 stipulated exhibits?

21 MS. WEISENFELD: Yes, Chairman. Staff has
22 compiled a comprehensive exhibit list, which
23 includes the prefiled exhibits attached to the
24 witness testimony in this case, and a number of
25 staff exhibits. The list has been provided to FPL,

1 the Commissioners and the court reporter. This
2 list is marked as the first hearing exhibit and the
3 other exhibits should be marked as set forth in the
4 chart. The staff exhibits and the prefiled
5 exhibits have all been stipulated. At this time,
6 staff asks that the comprehensive exhibit list
7 marked as Exhibit 1 be entered into the record.

8 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you. Exhibit
9 1 -- show Exhibit 1 entered.

10 (Whereupon, Exhibit No. 1 was received into
11 evidence.)

12 MS. WEISENFELD: Staff asks that the
13 stipulated Exhibits 2 through 12 be included in the
14 record.

15 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. And we will show
16 Exhibits 2 through 12 entered into the record.

17 (Whereupon, Exhibit Nos. 2-12 were received
18 into evidence.)

19 CHAIRMAN FAY: Next staff -- I guess, we'll
20 address the agreement of witness testimony. I
21 believe there's only one?

22 MS. WEISENFELD: Correct. No Commissioner had
23 an objection to the excusal of Witness Prieto.
24 Staff asks that Witness Prieto's testimony be
25 included into the record as though read.

1 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you.

2 (Whereupon, prefiled direct testimony of

3 Francisco Prieto was inserted.)

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF FRANCISCO PRIETO

DOCKET NO. 20220045-EI

APRIL 1, 2022

Table of Contents

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY..... 3

II. OVERVIEW OF FPL’S TRANSMISSION SYSTEM..... 6

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE SWP..... 8

IV. FPL PLANNING PROCESS 9

V. NEED FOR THE PROJECT..... 11

VI. DISCUSSION OF TRANSMISSION ALTERNATIVES..... 14

VII. ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY OR DENIAL OF THE SWP 15

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. My name is Francisco Prieto. My business address is 4200 W. Flagler Street, Miami, Florida 33134.

Q. By whom are you employed and what position do you hold?

A. I am employed by Florida Power & Light Company (“FPL” or the “Company”) as Senior Manager, System Planning.

Q. Please describe your duties and responsibilities in that position.

A. My responsibilities include the direct supervision of engineers in the development of transmission plans for interconnection and integration of generation, transmission service for wholesale customers, and inter-utility ties ensuring compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) standards associated with transmission planning functions. I have held this position and performed these responsibilities since April of 2012.

Q. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.

A. I graduated from Florida International University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in May of 1990. From 2008 through April 2012, I worked as a Senior Manager of System Operations in charge of supervising the FPL Transmission System Operation personnel to ensure safe, reliable operation of the FPL Bulk Electric System (“BES”) in compliance with NERC Reliability Standards. During this time, my primary duties and

1 responsibilities included the operation and coordination of the FPL
2 Generation, Transmission, and Substation system in order to provide reliable
3 service to FPL's customers in an efficient manner. In this role, I ensured on-
4 going personnel training needs were met on all processes and procedures
5 necessary to maintain situational awareness during normal and emergency
6 conditions.

7 **Q. Are you sponsoring any exhibits in this case?**

8 A. Yes. I am sponsoring Exhibits FP-1 through FP-4, which are attached to my
9 direct testimony.

- 10 • Exhibit FP-1 FPL Electric Facilities Map (FPL general map)
- 11 • Exhibit FP-2 Map of Study Area with Existing Facilities and SWP
- 12 • Exhibit FP-3 Sweatt-Whidden Expected Construction Schedule
- 13 • Exhibit FP-4 List of Contingencies

14 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

15 A. The purpose of my testimony is to sponsor and support FPL's request for a
16 determination of need for the Sweatt-Whidden 230kV Transmission Project
17 ("SWP" or "Project"). Specifically, my testimony presents the following
18 information in support of the SWP:

- 19 • General overview of the FPL transmission system
- 20 • A general description of the SWP including the design and operating
21 voltage of the proposed transmission line, the starting and ending
22 points of the line, the approximate cost of the SWP, and the projected
23 in-service date

- 1 • The specific conditions, contingencies, and factors which demonstrate
2 the need for the SWP, including a discussion of FPL’s transmission
3 planning process and the reliability benefits of the SWP
- 4 • The alternatives to the SWP that were evaluated and rejected by FPL
5 in favor of the SWP
- 6 • The adverse consequences to FPL’s electric system and customers if
7 the SWP is delayed or denied.

8 **Q. Please summarize your testimony.**

9 A. FPL is proposing to build a new 230kV transmission line extending from
10 FPL’s Sweatt Substation in Okeechobee County to FPL’s Whidden Substation
11 in DeSoto County. This transmission line would convert portions of FPL’s
12 existing Okeechobee-Whidden 69kV line to address the anticipated reliability
13 limitations beginning in 2025, which were identified in FPL’s transmission
14 planning process. An analysis of transmission alternatives resulted in FPL’s
15 selection of the project as the most cost-effective and efficient means to: (a)
16 improve reliability for FPL customers served from the existing 69kV circuit
17 between Okeechobee and Whidden Substations; (b) increase east to west
18 power transfer capabilities of the transmission network by providing a
19 resilient, hardened 230kV circuit between the east and west areas of FPL’s
20 territory north of Lake Okeechobee; (c) relieve potential overloads and low
21 voltage conditions under contingency events; and (d) reduce line loading on
22 existing transmission circuits. The project is the most cost-effective
23 alternative, taking into account the demand for electricity, enhancing electric

1 system reliability and integrity, and addressing the need for abundant, low-
2 cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the citizens of this
3 state. Furthermore, the project meets area load requirements by serving
4 existing customers and allowing for future industrial, commercial, and
5 residential load growth. The estimated construction cost for the project is
6 \$213.5 million. The final cost of the project is subject to the ultimate line
7 routing, length, and conditions of certification required by the Transmission
8 Line Siting Board. FPL asserts that the estimated cost of the project is
9 reasonable, and the transmission line will assure the economic well-being of
10 the citizens of the state by providing electric service to projected new load in
11 the region and improving the region's electric reliability by minimizing the
12 region's exposure to double contingency events.

13

14 II. OVERVIEW OF FPL'S TRANSMISSION SYSTEM

15

16 **Q. Please describe FPL's transmission system.**

17 A. The FPL transmission system is comprised of approximately 9,174 circuit
18 miles of transmission lines and 828 substations which integrate FPL's
19 generation and distribution system. FPL transmission system interconnects
20 with a larger transmission network that includes other utilities in Florida and
21 the Eastern Interconnection ("EI") transmission network. The EI is a
22 transmission network which provides electrical energy to a large area of the
23 United States from the Great Plains to the Atlantic Ocean and also includes
24 four Canadian provinces. The EI has multiple points of interconnection with

1 other utilities that enable power to be exchanged during planned and
2 unplanned scenarios.

3 **Q. How does FPL design its transmission system?**

4 A. The FPL transmission system is designed to integrate all of FPL's generation
5 resources to serve FPL's customers and to meet FPL's firm long-term
6 transmission service obligations in a reliable and cost-effective manner. FPL
7 plans, designs, and operates its transmission system to comply with NERC
8 Reliability Standards. The Transmission System Planning Performance
9 Requirements Reliability Standard (TPL-001-4) defines scenarios and
10 expected levels of system performance that the BES should comply with in
11 the long-term planning horizon.

12 **Q. Please provide a brief description of the existing load and electric
13 characteristics.**

14 A. FPL's load characteristics consist primarily of residential and commercial
15 load with limited industrial load. FPL's summer peak demand in recent years
16 has been as high as 24,499 MW and the winter peak demand has been as high
17 as 19,718 MW, serving approximately 5.7 million customers. An overview of
18 FPL's existing electrical transmission network indicating the general location
19 of generating plants, substations, and transmission lines is shown in Exhibit
20 FP-1.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE SWP

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

Q. Please describe the proposed SWP transmission line for which FPL is seeking a determination of need in this docket.

A. The SWP will consist of a new 230kV transmission line extending from FPL's Sweatt substation in Okeechobee County to FPL's Whidden substation in DeSoto County. It includes the construction of approximately 21 miles of a new single 230kV transmission line in Okeechobee County (to Basinger substation) and the conversion of approximately 59 miles of 69kV transmission line to 230kV transmission line in Okeechobee, Highlands and DeSoto Counties (subject to final certification under the Florida Transmission Line Siting Act or "TLSA"). The SWP will also include the rebuild/conversion from 69kV to 230kV of Brighton, Basinger (owned/operated by Glades Electric Cooperative, Inc. or "GEC"), Morgan Henderson (GEC), and Dorr Field substations.

The entire SWP will serve existing and future FPL distribution substations in FPL's service territory and increase capacity of the transmission network with a resilient, hardened 230kV line. This Project has the most cost-effective and efficient means to: (a) improve reliability for FPL customers served from the existing 69kV circuit between Okeechobee and Whidden substations; (b) increase east to west power transfer capabilities of the transmission network by providing an additional hardened, resilient 230kV circuit between the east and west areas of FPL's territory north of Lake Okeechobee; (c) relieve

1 potential overloads and low voltage conditions under contingency events; and
2 (d) reduce line loading on existing transmission circuits.

3

4 Exhibit FP-2 is a map showing the SWP corridor route, along with the
5 existing electrical facilities in the area. The corridor route is conceptual and
6 for illustrative purposes only. The ultimate route will be selected through the
7 TLSA process.

8 **Q. What is FPL's timetable for licensing, design, and construction of the**
9 **SWP?**

10 A. For an indicative schedule of licensing, design, and construction, please see
11 Exhibit FP-3.

12 **Q. What is FPL's estimated construction cost of the SWP?**

13 A. The estimated construction cost of the SWP is \$213.5 million (\$226.4 million
14 CPVRR).

15 **Q. What is the proposed in-service date for the SWP?**

16 A. The projected in-service date is December 2025.

17

18 **IV. FPL PLANNING PROCESS**

19

20 **Q. How does FPL determine the need for new transmission lines?**

21 A. FPL identifies and analyzes the need for new transmission lines through its
22 transmission planning process. The transmission planning process consists of
23 five major steps: (1) the preparation of system models, (2) the assessment of the
24 transmission system performance to comply with NERC Reliability Standards,

1 (3) the development and evaluation of transmission expansion alternatives, (4)
2 the selection and approval of the preferred alternatives, and (5) the
3 incorporation of the expansion plan into the Florida Reliability Coordinating
4 Council (“FRCC”) Regional Planning Process.

5
6 FPL plans, designs, and operates its transmission system to comply with
7 NERC Reliability Standards. The TPL-001-4 defines scenarios and expected
8 levels of system performance that the BES must comply with in the long-term
9 planning horizon. In general, the system will remain stable and both thermal
10 and voltage limits will be within applicable facility ratings for each of the
11 contingency categories listed on Table 1 of TPL-001-4. In addition to the
12 NERC reliability standards, FPL proposes projects in the short-term planning
13 horizon to address additional changes across the BES. These include changes
14 of power transfers across areas associated with transmission service, generator
15 interconnection requests or generation retirements, potential generation-to-
16 load area imbalance, and improvements to the overall reliability of the BES,
17 such as providing loop service to customers and the addition of relay points on
18 transmission lines with several distribution stations. The planned transmission
19 system, with its expected loads and transfers, must be stable and within
20 applicable ratings for all categories of contingency scenarios.

21

1 The design of new transmission connections should consider and minimize, to
2 the extent practical, the adverse consequences of all contingency categories
3 and improve system reliability.

4 **Q. Did FPL perform any studies to determine the need for the SWP?**

5 A. Yes. Transmission assessment studies were conducted by FPL in 2021. These
6 studies identified potential system limitations that will require reliability
7 improvements for Okeechobee, Highlands, DeSoto, Collier, Lee, Sarasota,
8 and Manatee Counties. The studies also identified that by 2025, customer
9 demand is increasing generation imbalance in the West Region of FPL's
10 territory which can be alleviated by increasing the transfer capability into the
11 area. Currently, the east to west power transfer capability under several
12 contingency scenarios, such as generation unavailability and loss of the
13 existing cross state 500kV transmission line, is limited and the existing 69kV
14 line is operating normally open to avoid potential thermal overloads and
15 unacceptable voltage levels.

16 **Q. Please describe the contingencies that support the need for reliability
17 improvements and increased transfer capacity.**

18 A. FPL transmission assessment studies identified the contingency events shown
19 in Exhibit FP-4 as the most critical scenarios for the Project Service Area.

20

21 **V. NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

22

23 **Q. Please explain the need for the SWP.**

24 A. The need for the SWP is based on the following considerations:

- 1 • The need to improve reliability for FPL customers served from the
- 2 existing 69kV circuit between Okeechobee and Whidden substations;
- 3 • The need to provide an additional transmission path to increase east to
- 4 west power transfer capabilities; and
- 5 • The need to mitigate potential overloads and low voltage conditions
- 6 under contingency events.

7 The existing Okeechobee-Whidden 69kV line is operated in a radial
8 configuration due to contingency loading limitations, with a normal open
9 switch at Childs 69kV substation. As a result of the radial configuration,
10 customers along this line have experienced service interruptions for single
11 contingency scenarios in the transmission system. As discussed previously,
12 transmission assessment studies conducted by FPL in 2021 have identified
13 potential system limitations that will require reliability improvements for
14 Okeechobee, Highlands, DeSoto, Collier, Lee, Sarasota, and Manatee
15 Counties. These studies have also identified that by 2025, customer demand is
16 increasing generation imbalance in the West Region. The east to west power
17 transfer capability under several contingency scenarios is limited, supporting
18 the need for an additional transmission path.

19 **Q. Please explain the benefits of the SWP.**

20 A. The construction of the SWP provides the following benefits to the Project
21 Service Area:

- 22 • Provides a more reliable delivery of power to FPL customers now and
- 23 into the future while addressing future customer load growth.

- 1 • Substantially mitigates customer impacts during contingency events.
- 2 • Provides resilient, hardened transmission service to the area.
- 3 • Improves voltage support in the area to efficiently and effectively
- 4 serve existing and future customers in FPL distribution substations
- 5 along the route of the project.
- 6 • Increases east to west power transfer capabilities of the transmission
- 7 network by providing an additional circuit between the east and west
- 8 areas of FPL's territory north of Lake Okeechobee. The increase in
- 9 east to west transfer capability helps support customers in the
- 10 populated areas of the southwest portion of the FPL service territory
- 11 under several contingency situations that could occur during high
- 12 customer demand periods and/or storm situations.
- 13 • Reduces line loading on existing transmission circuits.
- 14 • Reduces transmission losses by approximately 3 MW at peak load
- 15 levels and approximately 2 MW at off peak load levels.
- 16 • Meets the Project Service Area's long-term reliability requirements.

17 **Q. Is the SWP the most cost-effective alternative to meet the identified need**
18 **based on the criteria in the applicable transmission line need**
19 **determination statute, Section 403.537, Florida Statutes?**

20 A. Yes. For the reasons discussed in my testimony, the SWP is the most cost-
21 effective alternative, taking into account the demand for electricity, enhancing
22 electric system reliability and integrity, and addressing the need for abundant,

1 low-cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the citizens of
2 this state.

3

4 **VI. DISCUSSION OF TRANSMISSION ALTERNATIVES**

5

6 **Q. Did FPL consider transmission alternatives to the SWP?**

7 A. Yes, FPL considered transmission alternatives to the SWP to meet the
8 identified need.

9 **Q. Please describe the transmission alternatives that were considered and
10 explain the reasons why they were rejected.**

11 A. FPL evaluated two transmission alternatives to the proposed SWP Project.

12 **Alternative I:** The Ft. Drum-Whidden Project consists of a new 230kV
13 transmission line extending from FPL's Ft. Drum substation in Indian River
14 County to FPL's Whidden substation in DeSoto County. The estimated
15 construction cost of this alternative is \$283.9 million (\$300.3 million
16 CPVRR). This alternative was rejected for the following reasons: 1) it does
17 not provide the needed reliability improvements for all customers served from
18 the existing 69kV circuit between Okeechobee and Whidden substations, 2)
19 the cost of the alternative is approximately \$70 million higher than the SWP,
20 and 3) this alternative does not provide for future transmission network
21 flexibility, nor does it substantially improve reliability in the Project Service
22 Area because it only allows for reconfiguration of existing infrastructure on
23 the 69kV network.

24

1 **Alternative II:** The Martin-Whidden Project consists of a new 230kV
2 transmission line extending from FPL’s Martin substation in Martin County,
3 to FPL’s Whidden substation in DeSoto County. The estimated construction
4 cost of this alternative is \$223.3 million (236.5 million CPVRR). This
5 alternative was rejected for the following reasons: 1) does not provide the
6 needed reliability improvements for all customers served from the existing
7 69kV circuit between Okeechobee and Whidden substations, 2) the cost of the
8 alternative is approximately \$10 million higher than the SWP, and 3) this
9 alternative does not substantially improve reliability in the Project Service
10 Area because it only allows for reconfiguration of existing infrastructure on
11 the 69kV network.

12

13 **VII. ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF DELAY OR DENIAL OF THE SWP**

14

15 **Q. Would there be adverse consequences to FPL’s customers in the SWP**
16 **Service Area if the SWP is not timely approved?**

17 A. Yes. If the SWP is not built by December 2025, then sufficient transmission
18 capacity would not be available to serve the existing and future industrial,
19 commercial, and residential customers in the Project Service Area and, by
20 virtue of the current radial transmission service configuration, system
21 reliability and integrity would not be at the same level delivered to other FPL
22 customers, which have normal looped transmission service.

1 **Q. Should the Florida Public Service Commission (“Commission”) approve**
2 **the need for the SWP?**

3 A. Yes. For all the reasons described above, the Commission should determine
4 that there is a need for the Sweatt-Whidden 230kV transmission line to
5 preserve electric system reliability and integrity in the area and to maintain
6 low-cost electrical energy for the economic well-being of the residents of
7 Florida.

8 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

9 A. Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN FAY: Let's see. Next we will move
2 on to any stipulations.

3 MS. WEISENFELD: The proposed stipulations in
4 Section 10 of the prehearing order that -- have
5 been provided to the Commissioners and to the court
6 reporter. The stipulations present affirmative
7 answers on the four substantive issues and on the
8 closure of the docket. Staff asks that the
9 Commission approve the proposed stipulations for
10 all issues in this docket.

11 CHAIRMAN FAY: Mr. Cox.

12 MR. COX: Thank you, Chairman Fay. We want to
13 thank staff for working with us on these
14 stipulations, and we think that we've come to
15 reasonable stipulations addressing the four central
16 issues in the proceeding, ultimately addressing our
17 request for an approval of need determination. And
18 the stipulations address the key criteria under the
19 statute in terms of reliability and integrity,
20 abundant low-cost energy for serving Florida
21 citizens and of the appropriate starting and ending
22 points for the line. Staff made a good point and
23 asked that we also include that this is obviously
24 still subject to final approval under the
25 Transmission Line Siting Act by the Florida

1 Department Environmental of Protection and
2 ultimately the Florida Transmission Line Siting
3 Board. That was a good addition. So we would just
4 respectfully request that the Commission approve
5 the four stipulations on the issues and approve our
6 request for need determination.

7 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you, Mr. Cox.

8 And I will just add that I, at times, can be
9 sort of biased with our legal staff in praising
10 them. I thought technical did a very good job on
11 this in the discovery process. I had a number of
12 questions that were also asked in that process and
13 answered, so I appreciate their work on that.

14 Commissioners, with that, we have a
15 presentation of the item. I think we have a pretty
16 clear record. I'll be happy to take any discussion
17 or a potential motion or -- discussion?

18 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Just two very quick
19 questions, Mr. Chairman.

20 CHAIRMAN FAY: Sure.

21 COMMISSIONER CLARK: One of the things I did
22 not see I was curious about was addressing the line
23 losses. The conversion from 69 to 230 should
24 decrease line losses. Is that calculated in -- is
25 that included in your findings?

1 MR. COX: It is. It is. I think -- our
2 ultimate finding there, Commissioner Clark, is
3 that, you know, we have seen over the last five
4 years customer interruptions along this line, 13 to
5 14 outages that were beyond just a momentary, and
6 our belief is that with the addition of this 230 kV
7 line, those interruptions should completely, if
8 not -- should greatly reduce if not completely go
9 away.

10 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN FAY: Commissioner Graham, anything
12 from you? Didn't want to miss you.

13 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: No, sir.

14 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Commissioners, with
15 that, we've had discussion. I will take a motion
16 on this item. Commissioner Passidomo.

17 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO: Thank you, Mr.
18 Chairman. After reviewing the record and the
19 exhibits and the proposed stipulations, I think
20 it's clear that the proposed stipulations are in
21 the public interest. So, with that, I would move
22 approval of the four substantive issues and the
23 closure of the docket as presented.

24 CHAIRMAN FAY: Commissioners, we have a
25 motion.

1 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN FAY: We have a second. All those
3 approve say, aye.

4 (Chorus of ayes.)

5 CHAIRMAN FAY: None opposed. With that,
6 Commissioner Passidomo's motion passes.

7 With that, Commissioners, let me make sure
8 there aren't any other concluding matters on this
9 docket.

10 MS. WEISENFELD: There are no other matters.
11 Since a bench decision has been made, a final order
12 will be issued by June 6th, 2022.

13 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. And, Mr. Cox, anything
14 else from you?

15 MR. COX: No. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN FAY: Great. Thank you for being
17 here today.

18 With that, Commissioners, this hearing is
19 adjourned. Thank you so much.

20 (Proceedings concluded.)

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DANA W. REEVES, Professional Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED THIS 24th day of May, 2022.



DANA W. REEVES
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #GG970595
EXPIRES MARCH 22, 2024