

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition for determination of need for DeLand West-Dona Vista Transmission Line in Volusia and Lake Counties, by Duke Energy Florida, LLC. | DOCKET NO. 20250078-EI
| DATED: July 7, 2025

**DUKE ENERGY FLORIDA, LLC'S
PREHEARING STATEMENT**

Duke Energy Florida, LLC (“DEF”), pursuant to the Order Establishing Procedure in this proceeding, Order No. PSC-2025-0182-PCO-EI dated May 30, 2025, hereby submits its Prehearing Statement:

A. **Known Witnesses** – DEF intends to offer the direct testimony of:

Witness	Subject Matter	Issues
Dave Rahman	Provides an overview of the DEF transmission system; describes the DeLand West-Dona Vista transmission line project, including the design and operating voltage of the proposed transmission line, the starting and ending points of the line, the approximate cost of the project and the projected in-service date; addresses the specific conditions, contingencies, and factors which demonstrate the need for the transmission line, including a discussion of DEF’s transmission planning process and the reliability benefits of the DeLand West-Dona Vista project; presents the major transmission alternatives to the project that were evaluated and rejected by DEF in favor of the DeLand West-Dona Vista project; and discusses the adverse consequences to DEF’s electric system and customers if the DeLand West-Dona Vista project is delayed or denied.	1 - 4

B. **Known Exhibits** – DEF intends to offer the following exhibits:

Witness	Proffered By	Exhibit #	Description	Issue #
None	DEF	None	Notices of Final Hearing and Affidavits of Publication	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	None	Appendix to the Petition to Determine Need for DeLand West – Dona Vista Transmission Line in Volusia and Lake Counties CONFIDENTIAL	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-1	DEF Electric Facilities Map (DEF general map)	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-2	DeLand West to Dona Vista Reliability Upgrade Project Map	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-3	Schedules 3.1.1 and 3.2.1 of DEF’s Ten Year Site Plan, filed April 1, 2025	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-4	Load Flow Summary Table CONFIDENTIAL	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-5	DEF Transmission Planning Criteria	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-6	Alternative Projects Load Flow Summary Table CONFIDENTIAL	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-7	DeLand West to Dona Vista 230 kV Line Project Indicative Schedule of Licensing, Design, and Construction	1 - 4
Dave Rahman	DEF	DR-8	Project Decision Matrix	1 - 4

C. **Statement of Basic Position**

DEF submits that the proposed DeLand West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line is necessary to ensure the continued reliability and adequacy of the transmission system in Central Florida. The new 230 kV transmission line, which extends approximately 26.5 miles from DEF's DeLand West Substation in Volusia County to DEF's Dona Vista Substation in Lake County, is projected to be in service January 2030. This project is a key component in DEF's long-term system planning and aims to (1) improve reliability for customers served by existing 69 kV circuits; (2) increase east-to-west power transfer capabilities; (3) relieve potential overloads and low voltage conditions; and (4) reduce line loading on existing circuits.

In addition to the proposed DeLand West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project, DEF has evaluated four alternative projects for meeting the identified need and determined the proposed DeLand West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project was the most efficient and cost-effective solution, having considered the demand for electricity, enhancing electric system reliability and integrity, and addressing the need for abundant, low-cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the citizens of this state.

The Commission should approve DEF's petition for determination of need for the DeLand West to Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line to preserve electric system reliability and integrity in the area and to maintain low-cost electrical energy for the economic well-being of the residents of Florida.

D. **Issues and Positions** - DEF's positions on the issues identified in this proceeding are as follows:

Duke Energy Florida, LLC

ISSUE 1: Is there a need for Duke Energy Florida, LLC's proposed DeLand West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line, taking into account the need for electric system reliability and integrity, as prescribed in Section 403.537, Florida Statutes?

DEF: Yes, as demonstrated in DEF's Petition, testimony, and exhibits.

ISSUE 2: Is there a need for Duke Energy Florida, LLC's proposed DeLand West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line, taking into account the need for abundant, low cost electrical energy to assure the economic well-being of the citizens of the State, as prescribed in Section 403.537, Florida Statutes?

DEF: Yes, as demonstrated in DEF's Petition, testimony, and exhibits.

ISSUE 3: Are Duke Energy Florida, LLC's Deland West Substation in Volusia County and its Dona Vista Substation in Lake County the appropriate starting and ending points for the proposed DeLand West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line?

DEF: Yes.

ISSUE 4: Should the Commission grant Duke Energy Florida, LLC's petition for determination of need for the proposed Deland West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project?

DEF: Yes, DEF satisfies the statutory elements for granting an affirmative determination of need for the proposed Deland West-Dona Vista 230 kV transmission line project pursuant to Section 403.537, Florida Statutes.

E. **Stipulated Issues** - None at this time.

F. **Pending Motions** - DEF has no pending motions at this time.

G. **Requests for Confidentiality** - DEF has the following pending requests for confidential classification:

- June 9, 2025 - DEF's Request for Confidential Classification regarding certain information and documents contained in appendix A to petition and Exhibits DR-4 and DR-6 (DN 04436-2025 x-ref 04338-2025).
- June 23, 2025 - DEF's Request for Confidential Classification regarding information provided in Response to Staff's First Set of Interrogatories (Nos. 1-5) (DN 05255-2025 x-ref 05134-2025).

H. **Objections to Qualifications** - At this time, DEF has no objection to the qualifications of any expert witnesses in this proceeding.

I. **Requirements of Order**- DEF believes that this prehearing statement complies with all the requirements of the Order Establishing Procedure.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of July, 2025.

/s/ Dianne M. Triplett

DIANNE M. TRIPLETT

Deputy General Counsel

299 First Avenue North

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

T: 727.820.4692

F: 727.820.5041

E: Dianne.Triplett@Duke-Energy.com

MATTHEW R. BERNIER

Associate General Counsel

106 E. College Avenue, Suite 800

Tallahassee, FL 32301

T: 850.521.1428

F: 727.820.5041
E: Matt.Bernier@Duke-Energy.com

STEPHANIE A. CUELLO

Senior Counsel
106 E. College Avenue, Suite 800
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
T: 850.521-1425
F: 727.820-5041
E: Stephanie.Cuello@duke-energy.com
FLRegulatoryLegal@duke-energy.com

Attorneys for Duke Energy Florida, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Docket No. 20250078-EI

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished via electronic mail to the following this 7th day of July, 2025.

/s/ Dianne M. Triplett
Attorney

<p>Adria Harper / Jennifer Augspurger Office of General Counsel Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd. Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850 aharper@psc.state.fl.us jaugspur@psc.state.fl.us</p>	
---	--