IS NUCLEAR ENERGY OUR FUTURE?

page 22
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Al Gore’s movie about global warming, An Inconvenient Truth, is a great movie about how to sell a theory. Judging from the media blitz and resulting letters-to-editors in support of taking action, I think the sales job is working. More on that later. First, a few observations:

Al’s PowerPoint presentation is by far the best lecture I have seen, including high school, college and years of professional conferences. It’s like Sesame Street for adults – the graphics are great, it flows quickly, and while there are no puppets, there are moving charts, lots of brilliant video and even a cartoon or two.

Al is a regular guy. In the movie he goes through airport security just like you and me. He flies coach. He works on a laptop. He even carries his own suitcase.

Al is running for president. The movie has about 15 minutes of biography interspersed throughout the slide show about events in Al’s life that changed the way he thinks. These are legitimate events, but they are presented in a way that is, well, campaign like. His sister died of lung cancer, which caused Al’s father to stop growing tobacco. His son was hit by a car (and survived), which changed the priorities in his life toward protecting the planet. His summers were spent on the family farm, “learnin’ the land and lovin’ nature.” In the realm of presidential campaigns, these emotional biographical snippets are exactly what presidential hopefuls want the public to know.
I could be wrong, but I’ll bet that this isn’t the last we see of Al Gore.

Al disses his opponents deftly. We’ve heard the commercials telling us four out of five dentists recommend sugarless gum for their patients who chew gum. But what did that fifth dentist recommend? As it turned out, she suggested that her patients chew no gum at all. That’s how Al handles scientists.

You never hear from that fifth one. He asserts that the science of global warming is decided. He emphatically states that all scientists agree that the planet is warming (Al doesn’t say by how much); there’s no dissent among the scientific community; and humans are the cause.

It could take pages to dispute this; but I’ll try to balance it in a nutshell. In the past 100 years, the planet has warmed by 0.6 degrees Celsius. There is a scientific dispute about how the measurements are taken. That is, my body temperature is different if I take it in my mouth, ear, under my arm or, in well, somewhere else. You have to adjust the scale a bit for what is considered a normal temperature. Ninety-eight point six may be normal under the tongue, but not elsewhere. Likewise, there’s dispute about how to take Earth’s temperature: on the surface, from a satellite, the northern versus the southern hemisphere, etc. There’s uncertainty about how far back in time temperature readings are accurate. There is dissention regarding whether or not global warming is caused by humans, lots of dissention, in fact. Al simply calls the dissenters “outliers with megaphones.” He says they’re funded by large energy companies (oil and coal). Still, that fifth dentist has an important and different opinion that should be heard.

Al may be right and he may be wrong. For what we need to do, however, it really doesn’t matter.

“Truthiness” is the quality by which a person purports to know something emotionally or instinctively without regard to evidence or intellectual examination. Stephen Colbert, Comedy Central “Anchorman” of the satirical television program “The Colbert Report”, created this definition of the word during the first episode in October 2005. If it feels true in your heart, or in your gut, by George, it IS true! It’s truthy!

This movie is truthy. Some of it definitely is true. Some of it is a definite stretch. If you’re a believer, your belief will be even
stronger; because now you’ll really feel it in your heart and gut. If you’re a skeptic, you may believe the theory even less.

But all that is meaningless, because there are things we must do regardless of the facts:

1. We must continue to research all aspects of global warming. Too often research is influenced by the funder. Science needs to get its differing sides together to seek an uncompromised answer. Yes, more scientists support the theory that the Earth is warming. But plenty don’t and they are not all wackos. Many are highly respected.

2. We must conduct research on carbon capture, prevent and lower emissions from burning fossil fuels, and expand use of alternatives like ethanol, and non-carbon fuels such as solar, wind and nuclear power. Economist Robert Samuelson contends that existing technologies won’t get us on the path to significantly reducing emissions. We need a new generation of answers to cut CO2 emissions. He’s right. Not only should we begin moving away from fossil fuels, but we will become less dependent on the Middle East oil we pump into our gas tanks, pay rising prices for, burn through our exhaust pipes, and which funds world-wide terrorism.

3. We need to stop whining about China and India reducing their emissions. Author Michael Crichton presents an interesting argument that complaining about their emissions is racist. The United States had our dirty industrial revolution and now that they are in the midst of theirs, U.S. elitists are trying to limit it through emission reductions. If we’re going to make changes, there are enough good reasons to cut CO2 emissions without worrying about China and India. We should lead by example, not by consensus. If we develop new technologies, other countries will adopt them.

4. Finally, and most importantly, we need to take efficiency seriously. We can be more efficient in everything we do. It’s amazing how much energy we waste. Recently on a trip to Italy I walked out of the Rome airport and thought I’d landed at EuroDisney’s “It’s a Small World Page continued
World. All of the cars were teeny tiny! In three weeks I saw thousands of cars and fewer than 10 were SUVs. That’s 10 cars, not 10 percent. There were a few minivans too, but not many. Two-seater smart cars and scooters were all the rage. Why? At $6 a gallon it makes good sense to get 55 miles per gallon.

There are dozens of other energy-efficiency ideas we all can implement, but it begins by taking efficiency seriously as an option to limit energy demand and consumption.

An Inconvenient Truth proves once again that you can fool a lot of people some of the time. It's happened many times before: The electric deregulation fallacy, Tide’s “New and Improved” laundry detergent, and “The Wizard of Oz.” While we should definitely check the facts of that man behind the curtain, we should not hesitate to be more energy efficient ourselves, and help our customers do the same. If Al is right, we’ll still get into heaven; and if he’s wrong, our resources will last longer and we’ll be less dependent on the unstable regions controlling the majority of the world’s oil.
President Bush recently released the Advanced Energy Initiative. The Initiative addresses the future of United States energy-source development. Stating that the U.S. has “the technology and the know-how to meet the principal energy challenges we face: promoting energy conservation, repairing and modernizing our energy infrastructure, and increasing our energy supplies in ways that protect and improve the environment,” the Initiative provides for a 22 percent increase in funding for clean-energy technology in the areas of fueling vehicles and powering homes and businesses.

In the area of fueling vehicles, the Initiative calls for the development of advanced battery technologies that allow a plug-in hybrid-electric vehicle to have a 40-mile range operating solely on battery charge. It also calls for fostering the breakthrough technologies needed to make cellulosic ethanol cost-competitive with corn-based ethanol by 2012, enabling greater use of this alternative fuel to help reduce future U.S. oil consumption. The initiative increases research funding for the costs of producing advanced biofuels, ethanol and biodiesel by 65 percent to $150 million for 2007.

The Initiative allows for the development of technologies that will allow competitively priced ethanol to be made from cellulosic biomass, such as agricultural and forestry residues, material in municipal solid waste, trees, and grasses. Bush set aside an additional $46 million toward hydrogen technology research. Under Bush’s FreedomCAR program, the Department of Energy is conducting research in partnership with industry to make components needed for hybrid-electric and hydrogen vehicles more affordable. The Initiative calls for the development of improved materials and methods that will allow for economic and effective hydrogen storage in vehicles and at refueling stations.

The Department of Energy estimates that, if hydrogen reaches its full potential, the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative and FreedomCAR program could reduce our oil demand by more than 11 million barrels per day by 2040, about the same amount of crude oil the U.S. imports today.

Powering Homes and Businesses
The Initiative proposes investments and policies in clean coal technology, nuclear power and renewable solar and wind energy. The budget includes $281 million for coal research including $54 million set aside for the FutureGen initiative, a public-private sector partnership to develop technologies for a nearly emissions-free coal plant that captures and stores the carbon dioxide it produces rather than releasing it into the atmosphere.

The plan sets aside $250 million for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP). Under this partnership, the U.S. will work with nations including France, the United Kingdom, Japan, and Russia that have advanced civilian nuclear-energy programs to develop advanced reactors and methods to recycle nuclear waste.

The plan proposes a $148 million Solar America Initiative to accelerate the development of advanced photovoltaic materials that convert sunlight into electricity with the goal of making solar PV cost competitive with other forms of renewable electricity by 2015. The plan also includes $44 million for wind-energy research toward the goal of improving the efficiency and lowering the costs of conventional wind-turbine technologies and developing small-scale technologies for low-speed wind environments.
Facts and Figures of the Florida Utility Industry Now Available

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has released the 2006 edition of “Facts and Figures of the Florida Utility Industry”. Facts and Figures serves as a reference manual for information about the electric, natural gas, telephone, and water and wastewater industries in Florida. Most data refers specifically to Florida, but information about other states and national averages is included for comparison.

The guide contains electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and water and wastewater segments with helpful quick facts, customer and rate information and maps. The electric segment also contains a subsection on municipals and cooperatives offering typical electric bill comparisons. To view the publication, visit the publications section of the PSC’s Web site, www.floridapsc.com.

Taylor Energy to Move Forward with Coal Plant

Taylor Energy Center partners will move forward with plans to build a coal power plant in Taylor County near Perry. The partners received alternate proposals from Walter Properties and Southern Company. The proposals were reviewed for compliance with minimum requirements and evaluated on average cost per MWh hour and found to be more expensive than the Center’s plan. The $1.5 billion, state-of-the-art 800 MW power plant will create 1,500 construction jobs and 180 permanent jobs.

“Building the plant ourselves is more economical in this case for primarily two main reasons,” said Mike Lawson, project manager for the Taylor Energy Center. “First, the utilities involved in this project are all not-for-profit entities. It’s safe to assume there is a profit margin in the power sale proposals. Second, the utilities involved in this project can issue tax-exempt financing for the power plant. This is a lower cost of borrowing that makes a difference on a capital-intensive project like a coal plant.”

“Completing this market comparison is another milestone in our project’s development,” Lawson said. “Now that we know this plant is our best option, we look forward to proceeding with the permitting process.”

The plant will be jointly owned by four community-owned electric utilities: Florida Municipal Power Agency, JEA, the City of Tallahassee, and the Reedy Creek Improvement District.

FMPA Power Plant Construction Approved

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the Florida Cabinet, sitting as the Power Plant Siting Board, unanimously approved Florida Municipal Power Agency’s (FMPA) proposal to construct a natural gas-fired power plant in St. Lucie County, Fla. near the city of Fort Pierce.

“This power plant is essential to supply the electric needs of our customers, so we appreciate the Siting Board’s approval and the approvals we received at the state and local levels,” said FMPA General Manager and CEO Roger Fontes. “Through the rigorous one-year approval process, we showed that this plant best serves the public’s interest by being the most cost-effective option with minimal environmental impact.”

FMPA will build a high-efficiency, natural gas-fired unit that will generate 300 MW, enough electricity to serve about 60,000 Florida homes. The plant is expected to be one of the lowest emission and highest efficiency plants in Florida.

The 69-acre Treasure Coast Energy Center site is located in the Midway Industrial Park, southwest of Fort Pierce along Glades Cut Off Road. This industrial area previously was approved for a power plant project. The FMPA site also has been identified for up to three similar units in the future, subject to issuance of required approvals.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall and take up to two years. Unit 1 is scheduled to begin operation in 2008.

Treasure Coast Energy Center will be wholly owned by FMPA, but will operate under contract by Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA). FMPA selected the plant’s location because it is near several FMPA cities currently experiencing increased electricity demand.

“We believe Treasure Coast Energy Center is a positive addition to our community,” said Elie J. Boudreaux III, former director of utilities for FPUA. “Treasure Coast will be the future of our power generation for Fort Pierce.”
OUC has been working with their customers including members of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform NOW (ACORN) to recognize and respond to community members’ needs. The utility underwent a third-party evaluation of their policies and used that information to develop policies that address community needs. Shannon Graham, OUC senior community relations coordinator, guided the utility through discussions with ACORN and other customers.

With the hottest days of the year quickly approaching, the utility made policy changes that will keep electricity flowing for those who cannot pay their bills when the temperature rises to 95 degrees or above. The utility changed the disconnect notification process to include a letter that specifies the amount owed and when services will be disconnected. Additionally, the new policies include a lower fee for reconnecting power once it has been disconnected.

“We saw that there was a need concerning low-income residents,” said Grant Heston, OUC communication manager. “We wanted to help balance those needs with the needs of all of our customers.”

The utility has done away with its roommate debt policy that attached one renter’s utility debt to another and developed an efficiency program for renters. The pilot renter-efficiency program offers renters an energy audit and recommendations on repair such as weather stripping, caulking, and cleaning air-conditional coils. Renters who qualify can receive financial assistance for up to 85 percent of improvement costs.

“We always say ‘we’re one of the few industries in the world that encourages our customers to use less of our product,’” said Heston. “Conservation helps customers save money.”

These policy changes are in addition to OUC’s Project Care program that has been in place since 1994. The program collects funds from customers and utility employees to assist customers experiencing financial difficulties. OUC triples program contributions. The program has raised close to one million dollars since its inception.
The Energy Authority to Acquire Power Resource Managers Assets

The Energy Authority (TEA) and Power Resource Managers (PRM), a Northwest-based public power resource-management, trading- and risk-management organization, have signed a memorandum of understanding for TEA to acquire the assets and hire the personnel of PRM.

“The PRM Board is very pleased with the additional expertise and resources TEA brings to the Northwest and with the expanded capabilities that the combination of PRM and TEA will bring to public power throughout the West,” said Jim Sanders, general manager of Benton PUD and one of PRM’s owners.

The organizations hope the arrangement will expedite TEA’s expansion to provide services to public power organizations in the West and improve risk-management and trading services to PRM’s customers.

Supreme Court Considers EPA for Carbon Dioxide Regulation

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to consider whether the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should regulate carbon dioxide from power plants and other emissions. Twelve states and cities and three environmental groups claim the Agency should regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act.

“It’s just plain English and common sense,” said David Doniger, policy director for the Natural Resources Defense Council Climate Center. “Carbon dioxide is an air pollutant and curbing the pollution that causes global warming is EPA’s job under the Clean Air Act.”

Under White House orders, EPA claims it does not have this authority and that carbon dioxide is not an air pollutant.

This Supreme Court consideration follows an inconclusive court decision in July about whether or not the EPA should regulate carbon dioxide from U.S. cars, trucks and SUVs and the central question, whether EPA may regulate may regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act.

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FPUA Educates Middle School Students

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) employees recently taught students about utility industry careers through the Dan McCarty Middle School Career Program.

“We want every student to know there are many ways to succeed in life,” said Tim Trewyn, FPUA’s Electric Engineer. “We want them to have hope and healthy ambition.”

Employees from FPUA’s electric engineering, water reclamation and natural-gas departments gave hands-on presentations to students ages 13 through 15. Presentations about each department’s operations included equipment, samples, pictures and computer programs. Students also toured their school’s electric facility.

Employees from the natural gas department spoke with students about careers in gas operations. Students also dressed in safety suits and learned about natural-gas safety.

In addition to learning about the departments, students saw photos of an industrial-system user’s misuse of the wastewater collection system and viewed the bacteria used to treat wastewater through a microscope.

“FPUA was fulfilling its mission statement to ‘enhance the quality of life in our community’ by authorizing its employees to demonstrate to students a wide array of career options,” said Trewyn.
Technology TIPS

Know Your Way Around WiFi
Work from anywhere with WiFi service. Visit www.wififreespot.com for a state-by-state directory of cafes and other spots offering free Wi-Fi services.

Get Free Tech Help
Here’s a tech solution that’s not as fast as a call to Windows tech support, but is perhaps less frustrating. Call the Tech Support Guy at www.helponthe.net. Post your question to one of the site’s two dozen forums, or search more than 300,000 threads for an answer.

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On The Move

Fort Pierce Names Director of Utilities

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) has selected William G. Theiss to serve as director of utilities. Theiss succeeds Elie J. Boudreaux III. Theiss formerly served FPUA in positions including senior sanitary engineer, supervising engineer and director of wastewater systems.

KUA Marks 105 Years of Service

KUA has marked its 105th anniversary. The utility was born on June 28, 1901, when the Kissimmee City Council passed a resolution authorizing the city’s purchase of Kissimmee Electric Light Company from W.C. Maynard for $4,293.59.

The utility’s first purchase was a 15-kilowatt generator enough to power 150 100-watt light bulbs.

FMEA Welcomes New Board Members, Officers

Board Members
Gregg Paulson, Electric Utility Director, Homestead Energy Services
Gregg Griffin, Electric Utility Director, City of Green Cove Springs
Paul Kalv, Electric Director, City of Leesburg
Rohan Berry, Director of Utilities, City of Quincy
Camille Yates, Manager of Community & Corporate Relations, Ft. Pierce Utilities Authority
Don Ouchley, Utilities Director, Beaches Energy Services

Officers
President: Teala Milton, Vice President, Regulatory & Legislative Affairs, JEA
President-Elect: Kevin McCarthy, Utilities Director, City of Clewiston
Vice President: Lynne Tejeda, General Manager, Keys Energy Services
Secretary-Treasurer: Ed Regan, Director of Strategic Planning, Gainesville Regional Utilities

KUA experienced tremendous growth with the opening of Walt Disney World in the 1970s.

Hart Named to KUA Board of Directors

KUA has announced that Bill Hart will serve a second five-year term on
On The Move continued

the utility’s Board of Directors. Hart is vice president of Franklin Hart and Reid, a Kissimmee surveying and engineering firm. As a Board of Directors member Hart will continue to set KUA policy including annual budgets and setting rates.

Hart will be sworn in during KUA’s Board meeting. He will serve until September 30, 2011.

Arlen Joins OUC Board
Orlando Utilities Commission has announced that Maylen Dominguez Arlen has been elected to serve the unexpired term of Tico Perez on the OUC governing board.

“Maylen’s experience in the Central Florida business area and her history of community involvement will be a great asset to OUC,” said Lonnie Bell, OUC board president. “I am confident she will represent our customers and stakeholders very well.”

Perez served on the OUC board for more than eight years before resigning to serve on the state university system’s Board of Governors. Arlen’s term will expire Dec. 31, 2007.
Based on an initial review of the 532-page proposed rule, APPA found a lot to like. "It appears that most of the proposed reforms to the OATT are consistent with policies recommended by APPA," APPA President and CEO Alan Richardson said. He noted that the commission is focusing on important but incremental improvements supported by 10 years of actual experience, rather than radical surgery or abrupt policy departures.

Market-based rates are second on a short list of FERC proceedings to watch. On May 18, the commission issued a proposal to refine and codify its standards for granting authority to sell wholesale power, capacity or ancillary services at market-based rates. The commission has been playing catch-up on market-based rates for some time now—with good reason. FERC’s early history with market-based rates was unforgivably lax.

The May 18 proposal would consolidate the commission’s current four-prong test for market-based rates into a two-part analysis of a seller’s horizontal and vertical market power, but “the proposed rules do not mark a dramatic departure in the commission’s market-based rate policies,” Kelliher said. However, the latest set of proposed rules is important because it is part of an ongoing proceeding that began in April 2004 with a dramatic departure in FERC’s market-base rate policies.

Proposed reliability standards are the third item on my list of FERC proceedings to keep an eye on. These were submitted by the North American Electric Reliability Council (along with NERC’s application to be certified as the electric
reliability organization responsible for developing and enforcing mandatory-reliability standards). The institution of a system of enforceable, mandatory reliability standards for the grid is a major milestone for the electric utility industry. It will require changes in daily system operations for many APPA members, and increased attention to NERC standards and requirements.

Kelliher said the commission hopes to act on the standards by September. FERC will either approve, approve on an interim or conditional basis, or remand to the electric reliability organization (presumably NERC), Kelliher said. However, that schedule looks optimistic as commission staff cited various deficiencies in more than half of the 102 reliability standards that NERC proposed for approval as mandatory rules.

For the fourth item on my list of important FERC proceedings, I’m going to cheat and bust my budget (this is Washington, after all) take your pick of a number of regional proceedings, depending on where you’re located.

In PJM’s territory, it would be the ongoing battle over its version of a locational installed capacity system, the proposed reliability pricing model (RPM). In the Southeast, public power utilities are opposing FERC’s approval of Entergy’s package of an independent coordinator of transmission, participant funding for new transmission and a weekly procurement process for purchasing electricity. In California, public power utilities are grappling with the California Independent System Operator’s proposed resource adequacy requirements and with “Mr. Tu,” the ISO’s Market Redesign and Technology Upgrade (MRTU) plan for turning itself into a full-blown RTO with organized markets.

FERC has a lot more going on, with more coming in all the time; but these four (or so) proceedings are worth your time and attention.
Nuclear energy is the second largest source of electricity in the United States, supplying about 20 percent of U.S. power. Almost every home, business and industry in America receives at least some of its energy from one of the country’s 103 nuclear power plants. Floridians are no exception. Among the small towns, bustling cities, historic parks and beach-front high rises that make up Florida’s landscape are three of these nuclear power plants. Progress Energy’s Crystal River facility, and Florida Power & Light’s Hutchinson Island and Turkey Point plants produce about 2.1 billion MWh of electricity, enough to supply power annually for almost one million homes.

According to the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), 12 to 15 new nuclear power plants will be constructed in the U.S. by 2015 and existing plants are expected to continue to increase production. Proponents of this growing energy source claim nuclear energy will diversify fuel sources, improve air quality and lower costs. Others fear nuclear development is a Pandora’s Box of devastations that may be brought on by terrorist activity, acts of God and human error.

Growing Consumption, Diversity Efforts
There are few who would argue with the goal of energy diversity for Florida and the U.S. as a whole. Diversifying fuel sources becomes more important each year as demand for power increases. Nationwide, the Department of Energy (DOE) projects demand for electricity will increase by 50 percent during the next 20 years.

Is Nuclear Energy Our Future?

By Nicole Carlson Easley, Editor-in-Chief
1942
First man-made chain reaction in Enrico Fermi’s CP-1 reactor under the stands of Stagg Field at the University of Chicago

1946
McMahon Act establishes U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, keeping nuclear energy a government monopoly. Congress creates Joint Committee on Atomic Energy

1948
Navy establishes Nuclear Power Group under the direction of Hyman Rickover

1949
First electricity generated in kilowatt quantities by a nuclear reactor, Experimental Breeder Reactor 1, at the National Reactor Testing Station in Idaho

1951
President Eisenhower proposes Atoms for Peace program at the United Nations

1953
Atomic Energy Act modified to allow private companies to build and operate nuclear reactors, heralding the beginning of the commercial use of nuclear energy

1955
USS Nautilus - the world’s first nuclear-powered ship begins sea trials

1957
First U.S. nuclear plant begins operating - the Shippingport Atomic Power Station, in Pennsylvania

1963
Jersey Central Power and Light orders the 650-MW Oyster Creek reactor, the first nuclear power plant ordered totally on economic grounds and without government subsidy

1973
Arab oil embargo creates crisis in energy supply and cost, underscoring U.S. dependence on oil and the need for energy diversity

1975
Congress eliminates the Atomic Energy Commission and, in its place, establishes the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Energy Research and Development Authority

1977
The Joint Committee on Atomic Energy in the U.S. Congress is abolished and its functions divided among other congressional committees

1977 continued
The Energy Research and Development Authority is abolished and the Department of Energy is organized

1979
Accident occurs at Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania

1983
For the first time, nuclear energy produces more electricity in the U.S. than natural gas, using 76 reactors with a generating capacity of 59,283 MW

1984
Nuclear energy produces more electricity than hydro-power, leaving it second in the U.S. only to coal

1986
Chernobyl nuclear accident in the former Soviet Union

1992
Energy Policy Act amends the licensing process to expedite the construction and operation of new nuclear power plants using standardized designs

1997-1998
Three advanced reactor designs are approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission

1998
Baltimore Gas and Electric and Duke Power become the first utilities to apply for renewal of nuclear plant licenses at the two-unit Calvert Cliffs plant in Maryland and the three-unit Oconee plant in South Carolina

1999
Entegy Nuclear’s acquisition of Boston Edison’s Pilgrim Station marks the first completed sale of a U.S. nuclear power plant

2000
Constellation Energy and Duke Power receive license extensions for Calvert Cliffs and Oconee plants; NRC begins implementing a new nuclear power plant oversight process

2005
The Energy Policy Act establishes financial support for utilities first to build a new generation nuclear power plant

2006
President Bush announces the Advanced Energy Initiative that sets aside $250 million for the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) to develop advanced reactors and methods to recycle nuclear waste.

Source: The Nuclear Energy Institute with additions by FMEA staff
The U.S. currently receives 55 percent of its petroleum products from foreign sources. And although the U.S.’s largest importers include Canada, Mexico and Venezuela, the country also receives great quantities of fuel from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq. Florida’s fast-growing population plays a significant role in this consumption, importing about $32 billion worth of fuel annually to meet its ever-growing energy needs.

All of this consumption, projected growth and the nationwide desire to diversify fuels for reliability and environmental reasons has spurred discussion and research among power providers of solutions including conservation efforts, traditional power plant development such as coal and promising renewable-energy resources including wind, water and biomass. As with most solutions to growing problems, each fuel source has its pros and cons including environmental impacts, convenience and the sheer amount of energy produced for the effort. For many, the desire for diversity and projected increase in power consumption has made nuclear energy the proverbial elephant in the room – it has many advantages, but few want to acknowledge it.

President Bush has made it clear that he views nuclear energy as one of many fuel sources that are important to fuel diversity. In a letter preceding his Advanced Energy Initiative President Bush stated, “For the sake of our economic and national security, we must reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy – including the natural gas that is a source of electricity for many American homes and the crude oil that supplies gasoline for our cars. To achieve this objective, we will take advantage of technology.” Bush’s energy goal is, “To change how we power our homes and offices...” by investing in zero-emission coal-fired plants, revolutionary solar and wind technologies, and “clean, safe” nuclear energy.

The Science
Nuclear power plants produce energy much like other energy-generating plants. Steam produced by boiling water turns a turbine and produces electricity. But in a nuclear plant the heat used to generate the steam is produced by the fission of uranium atoms rather than the combustion of fossil fuels. The uranium is in the form of half-inch long solid pellets stacked by the hundreds into long, thin fuel rods. About 550-800 of these fuel bundles make up a reactor core. Heat-absorbing control rods and
water control the reaction level to accomplish the desired steam and prevent the power-producing reaction from leading to fire or an explosion.

In the U.S. there are two types of reactors, pressurized water reactors (PWR) and boiling water reactors (BWR). PWRs work by passing water through a core reactor that is under high pressure preventing the water from boiling. The water is then fed into a steam generator. The steam drives the turbine and then passes through tubes in a condenser that cools the steam turning it back into water that again passes through the reactor, continuing the cycle.

In a BWR, heated water passes through the core and then boils. The steam from the boiled water drives the turbine. Similarly, the steam that has passed through the turbine, returns to a liquid state in the condenser and begins the cycle again.

**The Environmental Impact**

Because nuclear plants create energy through a reaction rather than a combustion process, they don’t produce the gases other fuel sources produce such as nitrogen oxide or sulfur dioxide that are believed to cause ground-level ozone formation, smog, and acid rain. Nuclear plants also do not produce the greenhouse gases that are believed to cause global warming.
The President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology reports that between 1973 and 2000 the generation of electricity by U.S. power plants has resulted in about two billion fewer metric tons of carbon emissions than if the same amount of energy had been produced by coal plants and that nuclear energy accounted for 90 percent of all carbon emission reductions. Proponents of nuclear energy claim that for these reasons, nuclear energy will help improve the U.S.’s and possibly the world’s environment.

Nuclear plants do, however, produce a very toxic waste in the form of used, radioactive bundled fuel pellets that are too weak to power a reactor and lower-level radioactive materials such as plant hardware, filters, tools and personal protective materials. Combined, U.S. nuclear plants produce about 2,000 metric tons of used fuel annually. In 2000, U.S. plants had produced almost 40,000 tons of waste. This dangerous, but non-explosive material must be disposed of permanently.

In 1982, Congress charged the DOE with the task of storing spent fuel. But because of the lack of a designated mass storage area, fuel continues to be stored at individual plants in either steel-lined, water-filled concrete vaults or in stainless steel or concrete containers. Lower-level radioactive materials are buried at disposal sites in Hanford, Washington; Barnwell, South Carolina; and Clive, Utah.

In 2002, Congress approved, and the President signed into law, the Yucca Mountain Development Act approving the development of a waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. DOE plans to begin storing fuel at the site in 2010. The nuclear industry responded favorably.

“The industry fully supports the fundamental need for a repository so used nuclear fuel and the byproducts of the nation’s nuclear weapons...
program are safely and securely managed in a specially designed, underground facility,” said Frank L. “Skip” Bowman, NEI President and CEO. “World-class science has demonstrated that Yucca Mountain is the best site for such a facility.”

Bush also requested $250 million in FY2007 for the Global Energy Partnership, a program that would partner the U.S. with France, Japan and Russia to develop advanced nuclear technologies including reprocessing spent nuclear fuel by separating plutonium and uranium from the used fuel pellets which then can be used to again fuel reactors. While some support this development, others such as the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent nonprofit alliance of more than 100,000 citizens and scientists, worry separating plutonium will make it easier for terrorists to obtain the building blocks of nuclear weapons.

Safety Considerations
The culture of fear about nuclear energy centers on the security of these radioactive materials and controlling the fission reactor that produces it. Although radiation exists in the environment at lower levels, human contact with the level of radiation that exist in a nuclear reactor, spent fuel and to a lesser degree in used plant materials can cause severe damage to living tissue. High levels of radiation react with the atoms of living tissue causing damage to DNA resulting in immediate sickness and death.

Radiation also is believed to cause the development of leukemia, breast, bladder, colon, liver, lung, esophagus, ovarian, multiple myeloma, and stomach cancers as long as 20 years after contact. Additionally, Department of Health and Human Services literature suggests a possible association between ionizing radiation exposure and prostate, nasal cavity/sinuses, pharyngeal and laryngeal, and pancreatic cancer. Never the less, nuclear proponents feel confident that safety measures are top-notch and that the numerous back-up systems in U.S. plants effectively protect the public and the environment from uncontrolled nuclear reactions and secure radioactive spent fuel.

“All plants are built with redundant systems, valves and back-up pumps,” said Mitchell Singer of the NEI. “If something fails, something else kicks in. People who run plants are knowledgeable and dedicated to make sure that they run safely.”

Nuclear plants block radiation with physical barriers. The reactor is encased within a steel structure inside...
a concrete building. Radioactive waste also is blocked with physical barriers in either a fuel pool or a dry storage facility. Fuel pools store used pellets in a steel-lined concrete vault filled with water. The water cools the fuel as it decays. The water never leaves the facility.

Dry storage facilities block radioactive materials from the public with steel or steel-reinforced concrete 18 or more inches thick and leaded. The containers are stored horizontally in a concrete vault or stand upright on three-foot thick concrete pads that nuclear professionals are confident will withstand earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and sabotage. Since the September 11 attacks, U.S. plants have added thousands of guards to their security teams and added physical barriers including bullet-proof shields. The nuclear industry measures its performance regularly for proper operational and safety.

“The stellar 2005 performance indicators exemplify the nuclear industry’s ability to achieve excellence over a period of many years,” said Bowman. “These performance measures clearly demonstrate that the U.S. continues to be a world leader in safe and secure nuclear-plant performance.”

Greenpeace International, perhaps the most vocal critic of nuclear development disagrees. While the group most recently has criticized nuclear development in Europe, the organization believes that nuclear development should be halted everywhere under the premise that no safety systems in place are enough to protect humans and the environment from radioactive materials. The organization is calling to halt all nuclear development indefinitely.

“Nuclear power is not only dirty, dangerous and economically insane, it also generates the very materials that can be used for nuclear bombs,” said Jan Vande Putte of Greenpeace.

The Cost of Energy
The cost of building power plants is broken down into kilowatt hours to show a true comparison between plant construction cost and the amount of fuel the plant will produce. Nuclear plants carry a higher capital cost, about $2 billion, compared to other energy plants that might cost between $500,000 and $1 million. While the kilowatt of capacity cost of nuclear is debated, and plant development in the past has cost more than projections, the NEI asserts that the next generation of nuclear power plants will have a per kilowatt of capacity cost of about $1,000-$1,200. Coal-fired plants run about $1,000-$1,100 per kilowatt of capacity. “Clean Coal” technology costs about $1,200-$1,500 per kilowatt of capacity. Combined-cycle gas-fired plants cost about $600-$700 per kilowatt of capacity. While natural-gas-fueled plants are cheaper to build, the cost of fuel significantly is higher than nuclear.

Development and Regulation
The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), an independent agency established by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, regulates U.S. commercial and institutional uses of nuclear energy including power plants. Its regulatory functions are to establish standards and regulations; issue licenses for nuclear facilities and users of nuclear materials; and inspect facilities and users of nuclear materials to ensure compliance with requirements.

Recent changes in the application process have made it much easier for new plants to be built. The Energy Policy Act of 1992 took new plant licensing from a two-stage to a one-stage process creating a Combined Construction and Operating License. Prior to this, companies had to file and gain approval for a construction license, build the plant and then apply with NRC for an operating license. Companies now can apply for both licenses at once allowing construction adjustments to be made during the building process. NRC takes about three years to review applications.

In 2005, President Bush signed a new energy act. The act provides loan incentives, production tax credits, and federal risk insurance for builders of new nuclear plants. The insurance protects builders from lawsuits and construction delays that are out of their control.

Looking Forward
The last nuclear plant constructed in the U.S. came online in 1996. According to NEI the next generation of nuclear plants, while they will be similar to the BWR and PWR plants currently running, will feature 50 percent fewer pumps and valves. Florida utilities are taking advantage of the streamlined licensing and new plant technology.

In 2006, Florida Power & Light (FP&L) notified the NRC of their intent to submit a license application in 2009 to build another nuclear power plant in Florida. The company does not expect to make a final decision about developing another nuclear plant for several years, and if a plant is built, FP&L expects the approval and construction process to take as many as 12 years.

Progress Energy currently is evaluating several sites to build a nuclear plant. The utility plans to make an announcement later this year about the potential site and the plant’s technology.

“Our objective is to provide a reliable and affordable supply of electricity that will meet the growing needs of our customers — and do it in a way that minimizes our impact on the environment,” said Buddy Eller, Progress Energy communications manager. “We believe the solution involves a balanced approach that includes investments in existing resources, strategic power purchases, evolving technologies, increased energy efficiency, and new generation.”
Chattanooga Makes a
Clean Sweep

By Erin Dupree, Assistant Editor

Once upon a time, Chattanooga, Tennessee, was branded the dirtiest city in America. Factories lining the riverfront dumped toxic waste into the meandering waters of the Tennessee River and smog blocked residents’ views of Smoky Mountain peaks. Then, the city discovered and embraced sustainable development and transformed itself from a city smattered with toxins to a southern metropolis the Washington Post has described as an “alluring Cinderella of the Tennessee River.”

Pollution Grows with Progress
In the 1960s, Chattanooga’s inexpensive land and low taxes and energy costs attracted textile mills and chemical plants, some of which produced the worst air pollution in the United States. By the 1970s, the city was in bad shape. Its air was filled with smog. Its downtown was decrepit. Often, citizens had to turn their car headlights on to see through mid-day smog.

Legend has it that Chattanooga’s air was so polluted women’s nylon stockings would disintegrate in the outdoors and men had to take an additional shirt to work because the first soon would be too soiled to wear.

City Cleans up its Act
The movement toward a cleaner Chattanooga began in the early 1980s when civic leaders held workshops and set goals toward improving the city. Ideas were introduced and work began in the late 1980s. Principal among the goals was a proposed...
$45 million Tennessee Aquarium featuring the river’s ecosystem. Built in 1992, the aquarium helped transform a downtown area teeming with industrial waste into a tourist attraction.

To improve the city’s air quality, a mass-transit system of environmentally friendly electric buses was planned and gained local, state, and federal backing. Joe Ferguson launched Advanced Vehicle Systems, now defunct, to build the buses. The Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) began running two of the vehicles in 1992.

CARTA has since replaced all of its original diesel buses with emission-free models. Today there are nearly 20 electric shuttles. Its transportation fleet is one of the largest in the country. Buses have shuttled more than 11 million passengers more than 1.9 million miles, saved the city about 65 tons of pollutants and 8 to 10 percent on maintenance costs. Parking fees collected from two city parking garages fund operation of the buses, allowing passengers to ride for free.

Chattanooga’s demand for electric buses spurred the creation of the Advanced Transportation Technology Institute (ATTI, formerly the Electric Transit Vehicle Institute). ATTI is a private not-for-profit organization that advances clean transportation technologies to promote a healthy environment and energy independence through research, education and technology transfer. ATTI introduced the concept of combining clean fuel with advanced technology to individuals and organizations throughout the country. Also attributing to less air pollution was the loss of some industry due to Chattanooga’s newly implemented air-quality improvement regulations.

Then Vice President Al Gore said that Chattanooga “has undergone the kind of transformation that needs to happen in our country as a whole.”

Officials Look to the Future
City leaders still are looking to the future. Within the last year Chattanooga has put into place an emissions test vehicles must pass to receive an auto tag. For their efforts, the city won a 1996 award from the President’s Council on Sustainable Development.

“Chattanooga has always been a city of innovation,” said Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield. “During the last 20 years, we have seen our community go from one of declining opportunity and low self-esteem, to a city which is the envy of many others throughout the country.”

“There has never been a better time to live, work, play and retire in Chattanooga.”
Now you can stay “stay green” on your next vacation or business trip. Check into a “Green Lodge” that features innovative programs for conserving and protecting Florida’s natural resources, reducing waste and minimizing pollution.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) recognizes hoteliers’ conservation efforts through the Florida Green Lodging Certification Program. The voluntary and non-regulatory program recognizes and endorses facilities that meet special criteria. Certified properties are granted One, Two or Three Palm status.

“Green Lodges are leaders in their industry,” said Colleen M. Castille, DEP secretary. “Their environmental commitment serves as an example and a challenge to other hotels to adopt innovative green practices, conserve resources and save money.”

To achieve green certification, a lodge must meet minimum criteria and demonstrate performance improvements that focus on water and energy conservation, waste minimization, recycling, indoor air quality, environmentally preferable purchasing, program sustainability

At the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs, an automated ECOSTAR system in washing machines optimizes water and chemical use.
and pollution prevention.

To achieve One Palm Certification, a property must have completed the core activities representing a minimum set of best-management practices in the areas of communication, water conservation, energy efficiency, waste reduction and clean air. It also must gain support from top management, form an active multi-disciplinary “Green Team” and operate in compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.

To earn Two Palm status, a facility must maintain One Palm status for 12 consecutive months, undergo an environmental baseline assessment and develop and implement “performance-improvement goals and green projects and evaluate their progress.

To achieve Three Palm status, a lodge must maintain Two Palm status and demonstrate continual improvement for three consecutive years. FDEP Green Lodging Assessors visit facilities and verify certification.

The Turtle Beach Inn in Port St. Joe, certified in November 2005, is a four-room bed and breakfast with big ideas. Guest rooms feature low-flow showerheads, faucets and toilets. Guests can opt to re-use towels. The Inn features a manual thermostat program and high-efficiency lighting.

On the other end of the spectrum, the 454-room Bonita Springs’ Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa also has taken great measures to go green. Management has upgraded toilet valves to prevent leakage, and installed wind sensors in courtyard fountains to turn off flow during high winds. Water is re-circulated in waterfalls and fountains, lawn irrigation and other non-contact water amenities. Boiler-room steam is re-circulated. An automated ECOSTAR system in washing machines optimizes water and chemical use and reports consumption rates.

An Automated Energy Management System collects data from each area of the hotel and forecasts energy needs. Heat recovered from condensers and corridors is used to preheat water before going to natural gas fired boilers. Fluorescent high-efficiency lighting also is used. Air conditioning filters are changed every three months and coils are washed every six months.

“Our participation in the program has helped us develop ways to increase the amount of recycling, decrease the amount of solid waste disposal and conserve energy and water,” said Karen Phillips, director of the Stillwater Spa located at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa.

“It has also enabled the hotel to book additional group business by being featured on the DEP Web site and attracting groups looking for environmentally conscious properties.”

“Florida’s Green Lodgings are helping to ensure a sustainable future for the environment and for the state’s $50 billion-dollar tourism industry,” said former DEP Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs and Energy Allan Bedwell. “Achieving designation provides consumers with an attractive choice, making economic, business and environmental sense.”

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In March, FMEA officially established the Lineman Assistance Fund to help Florida’s municipal electric utility line workers injured while working. The fund is available to FMEA-member utility lineworkers, groundmen, apprentices and equipment operators injured on the job.

FMEA LINEMAN ASSISTANCE FUND
Helping Florida’s municipal electric utility lineworkers in need

Information and Guidelines

What is the FMEA Lineman Assistance Fund?
The FMEA Lineman Assistance Fund (the Fund) provides Florida Municipal Electric Association member utilities’ lineworkers with emergency financial assistance as they deal with medical conditions. The Fund assists linemen and their families when an on-the-job injury creates a special need.

Where does Fund money come from?
The primary source of income for the Fund is through fundraising from FMEA members. Fundraising, including a raffle at the Annual Florida Lineman’s Competition, is conducted throughout the year. Other opportunities to raise funds also are pursued. The amount of funding available each year is limited only by the amount in the Fund. The Fund is active and no monies are held in reserve.

Who is eligible for assistance?
FMEA member electric utility lineworkers, groundmen, apprentices and equipment operators injured on the job are eligible for financial assistance. The employee must have a full-time position at the electric utility. The Fund will be used to assist individuals who have sustained serious injuries involving hospitalization, catastrophic illness, loss of limb, burn center and/or debilitating injuries. Sub-contractors do not qualify for assistance.

How may money be requested and how often?
A request for up to $500 may be submitted up to two times in a 12-month period. However, repeated funding cannot be guaranteed. If approved, the amount received may fluctuate according to the amount available in the Fund. The Fund is active and no monies are held in reserve.

On Saturday July 2, I was home engrossed in the television broadcast of the NASA shuttle launch. I had even peeled my nine-year old son away from his PlayStation long enough to catch his interest. As we watched, it became apparent that the inclement weather would delay the launch. I felt disappointed, not just for us but, for the NASA staff and crew members who had worked so hard toward that moment only to have it taken away by circumstances beyond their control. This happens in every profession. Projects and goals are delayed or cancelled because everyone does not agree on an approach. Board members don’t approve. Budget difficulties strain efforts.

This was not the case with the Lineman Assistance Fund. This was one mission that beat the odds. The project was the brain child of 2004-2005 FMEA Board of Directors President Lloyd Shank, who stated during a discussion of the Florida
Lineman’s Competition at a 2004 Board meeting:

“We need to go a step further. We need to develop a fund that will provide financial assistance on a state level when our lineworkers get critically injured.” From that moment, the project was launched.

Raising money for the fund was effortless. The Fund and its purpose were announced at the 2005 Florida Lineman’s Competition Welcome Reception. Artist and lineman Todd Harris’ wife, Penny Harris, provided artwork that was printed on the Lineman’s Competition t-shirt and framed for auction to benefit the Fund. Funds were collected at the reception, the competition and the awards banquet.

The auction raised $2,500. Additionally, the City of Tallahassee, host utility for the competition, surprised everyone donating proceeds from their television raffle. That summer, the Fund was introduced to FMEA-FMPA Annual Conference attendees at the closing banquet. Lloyd Shank explained the Fund’s purpose and then “passed the hat” collecting more than $1,200 in minutes.

The Safety and Training Committee developed policy and procedure guidelines and sent their recommendations to the FMEA Board of Directors for approval. Board members reviewed the guidelines and streamlined the process for recipients to receive funds quickly. The program was unanimously approved.

“There is a lot of trauma and stress associated with an injury or fatality and we want to show our support of linemen and their families through this fund,” said Tommy Buchanan, Gainesville Regional Utilities Safety and Training Manager.

The Fund recently reached its first recipient, an apprentice from the Kissimmeee Utility Authority (KUA).

“The Fund was a wonderful benefit for our employee,” said Michelle Scharfenberg, KUA Safety
death, a $1,000 check may be issued to the family for a one-time request.

Funds may be requested by any one of the following: city manager, utility director, senior city/utility management, immediate supervisor, foreman, or manager of the employee. The request may be made via telephone, email, fax or written correspondence. It should include the following information: the name of injured employee, name of the organization, general nature of the injury, injury date, amount requested, and postal address where the check should be sent. The information should be communicated to the FMEA office for review and consideration. Because of the immediate financial need a serious injury can create, it is best to call FMEA administration when an injury occurs and funds are needed (see contact information below).

Funds will be distributed equitably among all qualified applicants.

How may Fund monies be used?
Fund monies may be used for any injury-related need that may arise to assist the family or injured worker including child-care arrangements, transportation costs, utility bills, and personal or home support that may contribute to relieving stress or improving quality of life.

Who administers the Fund?
The FMEA Executive Director administers the Fund with oversight by a committee of FMEA members. The committee consists of the FMEA President, Chair of the FMEA Safety and Training Committee and the FMEA Executive Director. In the event the committee is unavailable for review, the Executive Director may disburse funds upon consultation with the FMEA President, if available, or any member of the FMEA Executive Committee, if available. The FMEA Director of Training and Member Services manages the fiscal component of the fund.

For more information, please contact Barry Moline, FMEA Executive Director, at 800-993-3632, ext. 1 or bmoline@publicpower.com. Fax: 850-224-2831, Cell: 850-251-5060.


& Workers’ Compensation Administrator. “This added support gave his family the much needed difference between regular wages and his workers’ compensation benefits. He is very appreciative and wants to thank all of those who contributed.”

So, what is left to be done? Three simple things from every member utility:

1) BE AWARE and familiar with the guidelines.
2) UTILIZE the Fund when the circumstance arises.
3) CONTRIBUTE to the Fund.

One thing I learned from working on this effort; when a project is the right thing to do, it has a clearly defined purpose and it hits the hearts of everyone involved. It is easy.
APPAPower Week 2006, held October 1-6, marks the 20th anniversary of the coordinated efforts of utilities across the country to celebrate the unique characteristics of public power and honor community ownership for affordable electricity. Throughout that week, FMEA member utilities will join the nation in celebrating public power and engaging the public through media outreach, poster contests and carnival-like public events, displays, demonstrations and tree giveaways.

“Public Power Week provides OEU with the opportunity to share our commitment to public service with the community,” said Becky Mattey, director, Ocala Electric Utility.

“We share with our customers what local ownership of the utility means: Customers’ energy dollars stay in the community, creating jobs and supporting the local economy.”

“Public Power Week affords us the opportunity to raise the awareness of Homestead Energy Services’ customers, policy makers, and employees of the electric utility’s efforts toward providing superior service and other benefits to our community thereby making it a better place in which to live and work,” said Kenneth Konkol, Homestead Energy Services assistant director.

The APPA 2006 Public Power Week Toolkit provides members with tools geared toward promoting public power. Visit the APPA’s Web site, www.appanet.org, under the special utilities program tab to download the kit and view reports and photos of past events.

Homestead offers school children utility tours and demonstrations during Public Power Week.

OEU staff celebrate Public Power Week by providing equipment and truck demonstrations to local school children at the Discovery Outdoor Science Center.
Preparations are underway for the 2006 Energy Connections Conference and Trade Show October 4-6 in Clearwater. ECC brings together electric utility personnel from Florida’s municipal and cooperative utilities in a forum to learn about industry events, new technologies, utility developments and technical occupational topics.

Held at The Hilton in Clearwater Beach, a full-service resort overlooking white-sand beaches, this year’s conference features a one-day general session and a day of concurrent educational sessions covering topics including transmission and distribution, generation and power supply, customer connections, safety and training and geographical information systems.

In addition to top-notch speakers, ECC includes a welcome reception, ice cream social and a first-rate trade show where vendors from across the United States will showcase industry-related products and services.

General Session Topics:
- Using Automatic Meter Reading for a Powerful Communication and Measurement Future
- Steps for Recruiting and Training Your Future Workforce
- A Pandemic Flu: What Your Utility Needs to Do Now to Prepare
- Building the Leader Within You and Your Team
- Why the Florida Public Service Commission is so Concerned About Reliability and Your Customers, Barry Moline, FMEA Executive Director

For information about additional Energy Connections Conference topics or to register, please visit www.publicpower.com.
Calendar 2006/2007

AUGUST
21-24  Public Utility Accounting Courses ........................................Orlando

SEPTEMBER
17-20  APPA Business and Financial Conference ........................................Minneapolis

OCTOBER
3-6    Energy Connections Conference and Trade Show ................................Clearwater
3-6    Power Line Design and Staking Certification (Level II) ................................Orlando
8-11   APPA Legal Seminar ........................................................................Cambridge, Mass.
22-25  APPA Community Broadband Conference ...............................................St. Louis

NOVEMBER
5-8    APPA Customer Connections Conference ........................................San Antonio
7-9    Electric Utility System Operations Workshop .........................................Jacksonville

DECEMBER
8      FMEA Board of Directors ................................................................Havana
12-15  Power Line Design and Staking Certification (Level III) ................................Orlando

2007
MARCH
16-17  Florida Lineman's Competition ................................................................Ocala

JULY
17-19  FMEA-FMPA Annual Conference .........................................................Palm Beach

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