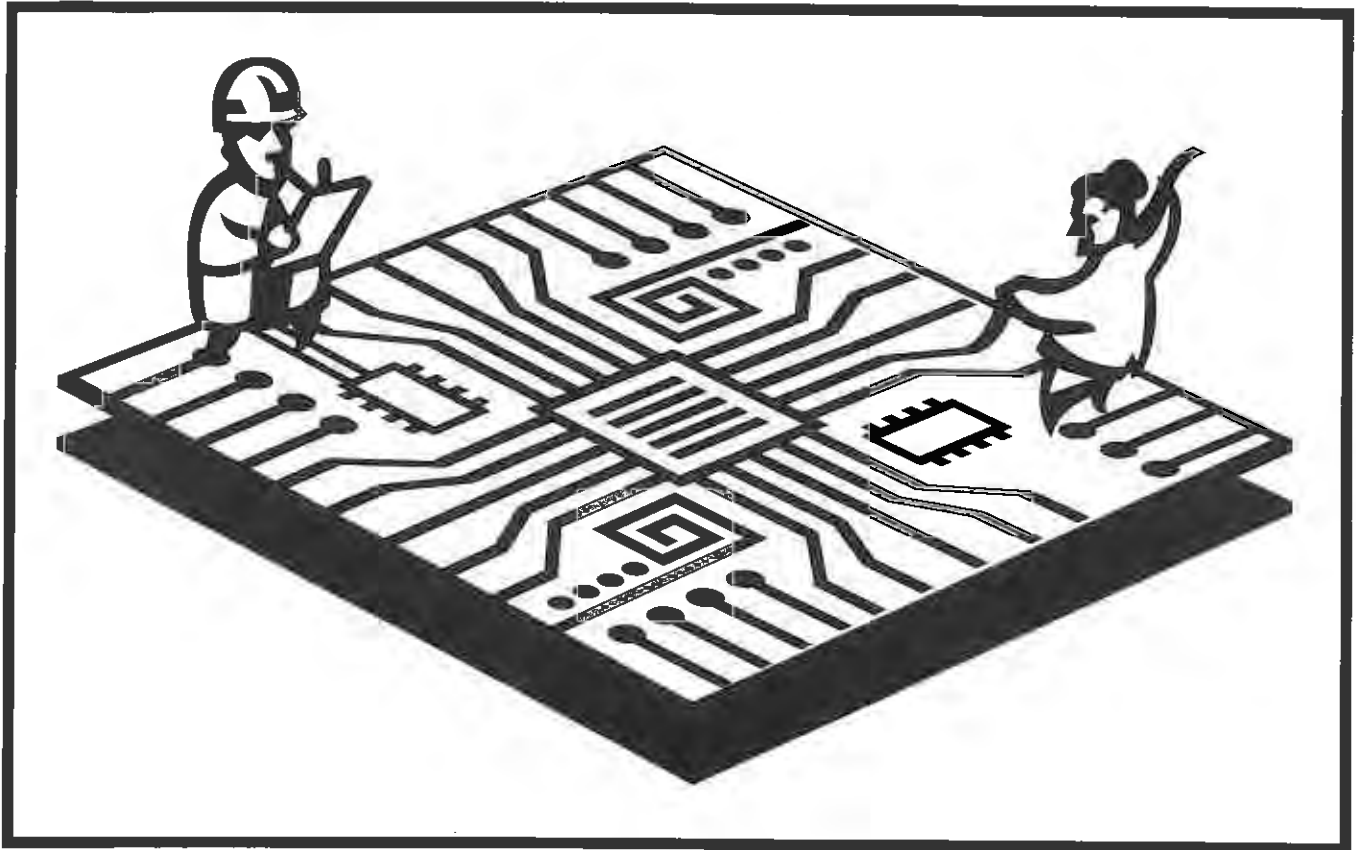


# RELAY

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June 1998



Tallahassee Markets Year 2000 Solution

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1998 Mutual Aid Directory



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June 1998



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## OHM PAGE



Barry J. Moline  
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### Can Public Power Survive?

**O**n the future of the electric industry, we frequently wonder how best to spend our effort. Which debates are the most important to participate in? In Congress? The Florida Legislature? What about customers? Their ability to choose may be the ultimate measure of success. Where should you focus your time?

You can find the answers at Amelia Island, June 30-July 1, during the FMEA-FMPA Annual Conference. You'll learn:

*You can find the answers at  
Amelia Island, June 30-July 1,  
during the FMEA-FMPA  
Annual Conference.*

**What's the latest on retail wheeling?** This is a critical time in the electric utility industry. Nearly every aspect of utility operations will be affected. We'll hear from Alan Richardson, APPA's Executive Director, on the many consumer issues created by deregulation, and what must happen for consumers to truly win.

**Should public power support deregulation today?** Mike Huey thinks so. He's the chief supporter of deregulation in Florida today, representing the Retail Federation. He will present his views on why municipal utilities should join his cause.

**Which utility structure is better: authority or city management?** Dan Aschenbach of Moody's Financial Service will offer his opinion from the perspective of a rating agency.

**What's the latest from California, Pennsylvania and elsewhere?** Several speakers will share with us the lessons learned from the pilot project in Pennsylvania and actual experiences in California, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

**Will munis and coops be players in a restructured industry?** Bob Dyer of The Energy Authority, the first truly public power marketer, will give his prognosis. John Johnson of U.S. Generating Company will offer advice on how power marketers can work with public power so that both survive and thrive.

**What leadership skills do you need to succeed?** Professional speaker Dean Alford, President of the Allied Utility Network, will get your motor running to take action and accomplish what needs to be done in the developing competitive utility market.

**How can your utility offer service like the Ritz?** The Ritz-Carlton is famous world-wide for the finest service in the hotel industry. (You will be amazed during your stay at our conference.) Is it chance or a well-planned and implemented effort? A Ritz-Carlton representative will show you how it's done, and tell you how you can do it too.

**Can small utilities compete?** Of course they can. Paul Erickson, award-winning general manager of Wahoo Utilities in Iowa, will share his community's secrets on how to provide successful, profit-making services that customers love.

**You've got a brand, but what is it and what do customers think of it?** Hear how the Southern Company and several of Florida's public utilities are promoting their image to customers and how they are creating a perception that, whether we like it or not, becomes reality.

**When will customers weigh-in about the impacts of deregulation and what will they say?** A consumer advocate will tell us how consumers were impacted in other deregulated industries and how the consumer debate may unfold in Florida.

**What direction might the Florida Public Service Commission take?** New Commissioner Leon Jacobs will share his views on the issues that the PSC must confront in the electric deregulation debate.

We are addressing many questions at this conference. I think you'll agree that the answers are important. Make plans today to attend.

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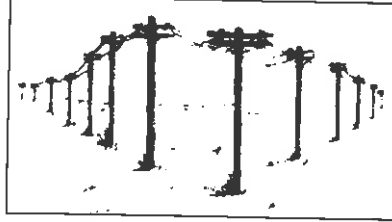
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## NEWS LINES



### Tallahassee Power Plant Vote Kills Sale Proposal

On Tuesday, May 14, Tallahassee city commissioners voted 4-1 to approve tax-free financing to fund the new Purdom Unit 8, and in doing so, killed any possibility of a sale of the city's electric utility. Federal law will not allow the city to issue nontaxable loans to fund the \$109-million generator if the city is considering

selling the electric system to a privately owned company.

"We are no longer in a sale mode," explained City Treasurer-Clerk Bob Inzer.

The only dissenting vote on the five-member commission was Mayor Scott Maddox. "This vote is all about stopping a sale . . . and I would be remiss if I didn't say that," he said in the May 14 *Tallahassee*

*Democrat*. Maddox added that he thinks it's a mistake for the city to shut off the sale option.

In early March, Tallahassee's City Commission voted 3-2 to stop all sale preparations so that city administrators and staff could focus on ideas to maintain local control of the electric utility. The city is still considering forming a

separate electric authority to manage electric utility operations.

Commissioners still must give their final approval to begin construction of the new generator before a July 31 deadline. Construction of the natural gas unit is expected to begin in January, 1999, and be operational by May, 2000.

### Businesses Increasingly Dissatisfied with Energy Suppliers

According to a 1997 year-end survey conducted by RKS Research & Consulting, half of American businesses are dissatisfied with their current energy supplier and would consider switching to a different supplier, if choice were available.

The survey, which was given to 750 industrial and commercial customers and 400 key accounts (large energy users with multiple sites) customers throughout the United States, revealed that satisfaction with energy suppliers declined substantially over the second half of 1997, particularly in the areas of price and service. By a 2-1 margin, the businesses surveyed said they are

uncommitted to their present supplier or would change suppliers if allowed.

The study also showed that one-third of American businesses are aware of industry restructuring, and as a result, they want improvements in utility rates, power delivery, and response to service needs. One-fifth of those surveyed said they can remember advertising from other electricity providers.

Additionally, almost three-quarters (73 percent) of those surveyed said they had received an inquiry from a utility competitor during the last six months. This percentage showed a sharp increase from the 49 percent reported less than a year ago.

"These declining scores

are not a healthy trend for an industry approaching deregulation," said David J. Reichman, RKS president. "Business customers tell us that they want choice in terms of services, features, and reliability. They want a closer relationship with their energy supplier. And what they're seeing from their present utility is cost-cutting — not strategic investments in needed products and services."

Although the study pointed out areas where energy suppliers are lacking, it did provide some encouraging news about some services being offered. For example, business customers gave utilities high marks for their energy expertise,

supporting product offerings such as equipment installation, maintenance, and energy consulting. And scores from key accounts showed improvement across the board, particularly in the area of account management and client relationships.

"The improved key accounts' scores demonstrate that utilities can attain positive results when they reach out and target products, services and communications to a finite group of customers," said Reichman.

RKS is a national market research and opinion polling firm headquartered in North Salem, with offices in New Jersey, Florida and California.

### Operating Nuclear Plants Enjoy Record-Setting 1997

**A**ccording to recently released 1997 figures, U.S. nuclear power plants are increasing both efficiency and productivity. Among the nuclear units that operated during the year, the average capacity factor rose from 76.4 percent in 1996 to 77.8 percent for 1997. That's a record high among operating U.S. nuclear plants.

America's most efficient nuclear plant in 1997 was Southern Nuclear's Vogtle 2. The Georgia plant turned in a 100.47 percent capacity factor — third best in the world last year. Finishing close behind were Carolina Power & Light's Robinson's 2 and Alabama's Southern Nuclear Farley 2, which finished 1997 with capacity factors of 100.40 percent and 100.02 percent, respectively. In terms of production, Arizona Public

Service's Palo Verde 1 generated a U.S.-best 11.39 billion kWh of electricity. Entergy Operations' Grand Gulf 1 plant in Mississippi cranked out 11.2 billion kWh last year.

Overall, America's 107 nuclear units — including the 10 that didn't operate during 1997 — compiled an average capacity factor of 70.5 percent for the year. Shutdown plants, six more than in 1996, were also a major factor in the 6.5 percent decrease in nuclear generation — down from 674.8 billion kWh to 631 billion kWh. In spite of the decline, nuclear energy still accounted for almost one fifth of the electricity consumed in the United States last year.

From *Nuclear Energy Insight*, April 1998 issue.

### PSC Establishes Fuel Adjustment Charges

**D**uring its biannual fuel adjustment hearings, the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) established fuel adjustment charges that will minimally change customer costs for Florida's five privately owned electric utilities for the next six months. The commission also approved Florida Power and Light Company's (FPL) request for a one time change in their fuel adjustment charges from biannual to a nine month period, beginning April, 1998.

Also beginning in April, two of the state's private utilities increased their fuel charges. FPL's residential customers are paying \$.79 more per month for 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, an increase from \$74.33 to \$75.12. Customers of Florida Power Corporation are paying \$.89 more,

with their bills increasing from \$84.83 to \$85.72 for 1,000 kWh.

Three utilities decreased their fuel charges. Tampa Electric customers received a fuel-charge decrease of \$.26, with their 1,000-kWh bill dropping from \$80.28 to \$80.02. Gulf Power customers received a \$.53 decrease, further reducing their rates from \$67.78 down to \$62.46 for 1,000 kWh.

And customers of Florida Public Utilities Company's (FPUC) Marianna division received a \$.23 decrease for 1,000 kWh, dropping down to \$64.75 from \$67.08. FPUC's Fernandina Beach division fuel charge adjustment resulted in a decrease of \$4.90, reducing rates from \$65.20 down to \$60.30 for 1,000 kWh.

From *PSC Agenda*, April issue.

### Cooperative Energy Loan Program Announced

**T**he National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) and the First National Bank of New England are teaming up to offer a unique loan program. The EC Commercial Loan program provides funding for electric cooperatives' commercial customers to invest in energy-efficient equipment and improvements. It also allows participating electric

cooperatives to offer non-traditional, value-added services to their commercial customers.

"The EC Commercial program is a win-win for both our cooperative owners and local commercial establishments, since the loan funds made available will stay in the communities they serve and support local growth," said Steve Slepian, assistant controller of CFC.

The first phase of the program began in May, 1998, with the CFC in charge of training and marketing efforts, and the First National Bank of New England processing commercial customers' applications. Although the program is still in its early stages, Slepian says he feels the program will benefit all its members. "We believe our membership will be very

receptive to the program due to its ability to develop customer loyalty and promote the growth of local business," said Slepian.

CFC is a not-for-profit financing cooperative with headquarters in Herndon, Va. Its member-owners serve approximately 30 million commercial and retail customers nationwide.



## Massachusetts Municipal offers Long-Distance Phone Service

The community-owned and operated electric and cable television utilities in Shrewsbury, Mass., are now offering long-distance telephone service to the town's residents.

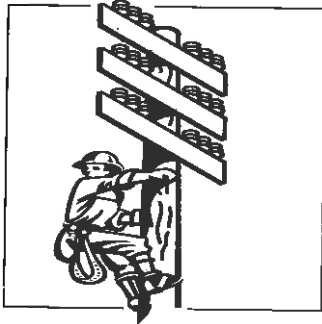
"The telecommunications industry is rapidly changing and Shrewsbury Light and Cable is now in a position to offer residents long-distance telephone service at competitive market prices," said general manager Tom Josie. "Our customers have come to rely on a long tradition of quality service, reliability and competitive rates in both light and cable services. They now can rely on the same with our long-distance phone service."

Josie said offering long-distance service is a way to use the municipal utility's electric and cable resources for the benefit of the town.

"The profits from our new service will stay with stockholders of Shrewsbury Light and Cable, the town's residents, Josie said.

"Buying long distance from your local, town-owned and operated utility benefits the town while buying from someone else puts the profits into the pockets of stockholders of large long-distance telephone companies."

Shrewsbury telephone will offer residents long-distance telephone service in alliance with New



England Municipal Telephone Associates, Inc., (NEMTA), a Framingham, Mass., company that is developing alliances with municipal utilities across New England.

The agreement with Shrewsbury is "a business relationship that extends the town's abilities to serve its own needs as well as provide benefits unique to towns which own and operate their own light and cable companies," said NEMTA President Bob Mancini. "Shrewsbury Telephone is all about keeping long-distance local."

Shrewsbury Telephone is offering long-distance service at a flat rate of 15 cents per minute or 10 cents per minute with a \$4.95 service fee. Both rates apply 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Also, users can earn an additional bill credit every quarter.

From *Public Power Weekly*, May 4, 1998 issue.

## Fuel Cell Technology Update

Commercialization of fuel cell technology has gained speed in recent months, with several projects deserving special note:

**Fuel Cell Coupe Unveiled:** Humboldt University's Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC) has unveiled a fuel cell version of the Danish Kewet, a small "neighborhood" car that seats two people.

**Mitsubishi Experimental Fuel Cell Planned:** A 2000-kW molten carbonate fuel cell (MCFC) power plant will be built by Mitsubishi for demonstration and testing by Kansai Electric Power Company, with the goal of eventually building a large-scale MCFC system.

**N.Y. Fuel Cell Institute Established:** The New York Legislature recently voted to establish a fuel cell institute as part of its budget for the coming fiscal year. The state has committed \$500,00 to help fund and coordinate research projects and assist companies in New York.

**Connecticut Restructuring Boosts Fuel Cell Power:** The Connecticut legislature approved a utility restructuring plan that requires 5.5 percent of the state's power to come from solar, wind, sustainable biomass, and fuel cells, as well as other sources, by the year 2009. The plan must be adopted by two other large Northeastern states to take effect.

From *Fuel Cell Technology Update*, May 1, 1998 issue.

## Enron Partners with Real Estate Companies

A recently formed partnership will allow Enron to provide building management and related services to small industrial and commercial customers while waiting for energy markets to deregulate. The alliances with CB Richard Ellis of Los Angeles, Calif., and Insignia/ESG of New York, allow Enron to reach beyond its core effort of providing gas and electricity to large customers.

"It's not just looking at

energy efficiency, it's infrastructure replacement and improvement," said Alan Butcher, general manager of Enron Energy Services.

In addition to tasks such as retrofitting old chillers and upgrading lighting efficiency, Enron will also provide a gamut of related services, ranging from financing to design and engineering, as well as operations and maintenance. ■

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# ASSOCIATE BRIEFCASE



## ***Custima International Corporation Implements Billing & Customer Information System***

Custima International Corporation recently implemented a new billing and customer information system project called CUSTIMA for the Jersey New Waterworks Company. The new system includes features such as customer marketing, meter management, complex billing, credit management and customer contact processing.

The project was implemented to provide the Jersey New Waterworks Company with tools to meet demands of the year 2000 computer glitch and to significantly improve billing functions.

"The implementation of CUSTIMA has been a complete success and the Jersey New Waterworks can now use a strong and reliable system that will make their business lives easier.," said Barry Capal, chief executive of Custima International.

The project was completed on time and within budget by the Jersey New Waterworks, who provided a data cleaning process from their old Alpha Micro system. Custima International provided consulting services to the project, including staff training, business process consulting and conversion from the Jersey New Waterworks' old system.

Custima is an open customer information and billing system. The system operates on a Windows NT platform and utilizes the Progress Database.

## ***Black & Veatch to Design Movable Power Plants***

FMEA associate member PECO Energy recently hired the Kansas City engineering firm of Black & Veatch to develop the utility's plan to design and build transportable electric generating plants.

"This contract will give us an idea as to the commercial feasibility for modular power plants," said Annamaire Donley, manager of special projects in PECO's economic development unit. Peco officials added that although recent company restructuring has caused a slight delay in the project's start date, they hope the project will be up and running by the end of the year.

Black & Veatch will design a generic power plant that can be built in Philadelphia, then shipped in pieces for on-site installation. Black & Veatch is also an FMEA Associate Member, and is one of the world's leading builders of power plants. They will provide data regarding the project's costs, performance specifications and construction schedules.

The generators are expected to be driven by General Electric gas turbines that will generate 123 MW, enough to run more than 60,000 homes.

## ***Massachusetts' Nonprofits choose PECO Energy***

The PECO Energy Company PowerOptions Program and the Massachusetts Health and Educational Facilities Authority (HEFA) have teamed up to help nonprofits in Massachusetts save millions in electricity costs.

PECO, who has already signed more than 200 nonprofit institutions, hopes to save nonprofits at least \$10 million during the next five years, which is beyond the "standard offer" discounts mandated under the state deregulation legislation.

The Massachusetts nonprofit energy consumers choosing PECO Energy include public and private colleges and universities, cultural and scientific institutions, hospitals and museums.

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*continued on page 23*

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Pager: (850) 531-1497

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*Director of Utilities*  
Phone: (305) 247-1801, ext. 178  
Fax: (305) 247-4008  
Cellular Phone: (305) 734-6309

## **Jacksonville Beach**

*Charles W. Smith, P.E.*  
*Director of Electric Utilities*  
Phone: (904) 247-6281  
Fax: (904) 247-6120

## **Jacksonville Electric Authority**

*Jim Dickenson*  
*Vice President, Distribution Operations*  
Phone: (904) 632-6109  
Fax: (904) 632-7368  
Cellular Phone: (904) 868-9210  
Beeper: (904) 818-6109

## **Utility Board of the City of Key West**

*Larry Thompson, General Manager*  
Phone: (305) 295-1002  
Fax: (305) 295-1005  
Beeper: (888) 502-7197

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*President & General Manager*  
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Fax: (407) 933-2655  
Cellular Phone: (407) 446-0440  
*Kenneth L. Davis*  
*Director of Transmission & Distribution*  
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Fax: (407) 933-4178  
Cellular: (407) 873-0941

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*John Gibson*  
*Manager, T&D Operations*  
Phone: (941) 499-6748  
Home: (941) 647-2473  
Fax: (941) 499-6744  
Beeper: (941) 660-6010  
*Ron Tomlin*  
*Assistant Managing Director*  
Phone: (941) 499-8474  
Home: (941) 683-0089  
Fax: (941) 499-6362  
Cell Phone: (941) 660-5428

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**Harvey Wildschuetz**

*Utilities Director*

Phone: (561) 586-1665

Fax: (561) 586-1698

Cellular (561) 854-2803

**Anatole Bezugly**

*Assistant Utilities Director*

**Bill Collins**

*Superintendent, Electric T&D*

(561) 586-1666

**Leesburg**

**Joe Tardugno**

*Superintendent of Electric Utilities*

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**Moore Haven**

**John Boardman**

*Utilities Director*

Phone: (941) 946-0909

Fax: (941) 946-2988

**Mount Dora**

**Francis Cox, Jr., CPM**

*Electric Superintendent*

Phone: (352) 735-7155

Fax: (352) 735-1539

Beeper: (352) 314-1045 or

(352) 690-4851

Mobile: (352) 242-8231

**Dave Potter**

*Line Crew Foreman*

Mobile: (352) 242-7809

Beeper: (352) 314-1035

**New Smyrna Beach  
Utilities Commission**

**Peter A. Korelich**

*Chief Engineer*

Phone: (904) 423-7175

Fax: (904) 423-7175

**Gene J. Kopp**

*Manager of Electric Operations*

Beeper: (904) 831-7501

**Newberry**

**Blaine Suggs, Director of Utilities**

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Fax: (352) 472-7026

Cellular: (352) 214-4235

Beeper: (352) 412-7666

**Ocala Electric Utility**

**Dean G. Shaw**

*Director of Electric Utility*

Phone: (352) 351-6600

24-hr. Dispatch Fax: (352) 351-8353

Beeper: (352) 506-8764

**Richard Kent, Deputy Director**

Phone: (352) 351-6600

After Hours: (352) 351-6610

**Orlando Utilities Commission**

**Ken Ksionek**

*Vice President, Electric Business Unit*

Phone: (407) 384-4060

Fax: (407) 384-4148

Cellular Phone: (407) 765-0163

**Eddie Huggins**

*Director of Construction,*

*Maintenance & Operation*

Phone: (407) 384-4033

Cellular Phone: (407) 325-3854

**Quincy**

**Billy Presnal**

*Assistant Director of Electric*

Phone: (850) 627-7681

Fax: (850) 875-3733

Cellular Phone: (850) 524-4813

After Hours: (850) 627-9506

**St. Cloud**

**J. Paul Wetzal, City Manager**

Phone: (407) 957-7301

Fax: (407) 892-5110

Cellular Phone: (407) 873-0336

**Starke**

**William M. Weldon**

*City Operations Mgr./Utility Director*

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Fax: (904) 964-3998

Cellular Phone: (352) 538-9944

Beeper: (800) 714-6147

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*Superintendent of Electric T&D*

Phone: (850) 891-5003

Fax: (850) 891-5033

Cellular Phone: (850) 556-2171

Beeper: (850) 657-0394

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**Rex Taylor**

*City Manager/Utilities Director*

Phone: (561) 978-4710

Fax: (561) 778-3856

Cellular Phone: (561) 532-1014

Beeper: (561) 751-2779

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**Ray McClellan**

*Superintendent of Public Works*

Phone: (941) 773-3535

Fax: (941) 773-6376

Cellular Phone: (941) 457-7941

**George Porter**

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Phone: (941) 767-0411

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**Brooks Holloway**

*City Manager*

Phone: (352) 528-3060

Fax: (352) 528-2877

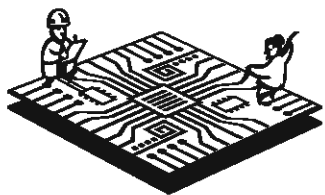
Cellular: (352) 898-6957



The FMEA mutual aid directory is updated throughout the year and published in Relay each June. Mid-year changes and information requests regarding the mutual aid agreement or directory should be sent to: Barry Moline, FMEA Executive Director, (850) 224-3314, ext. 1; or fax changes to (850) 224-2831.

Revised 6/1/98

# TECHNOLOGY



## Tallahassee Markets Year 2000 Solution

by Michael McCarthy  
Public Information Specialist  
City of Tallahassee

**W**hile businesses across the country are working to address the Year 2000 problem, the city of Tallahassee is partnering with a local business to provide an inexpensive and fast alternative. The city's Tallahassee Training Institute begins its first partnership with local businesses by promoting Alternative 2000, a partnership that has saved the city more than \$1 million.

The Year 2000 problem affects computer systems worldwide that only recognize the last two digits in a year. Through its Alternative 2000 effort, the city hopes to expose a local business to a larger market, provide an affordable solution to other government agencies, and benefit city services through the revenues earned.

"We had a problem, we solved it, and we want to share it," said Scott Joiner, Training and Development Administrator for the city of Tallahassee. "If you want to save time, money and resources with your Year 2000 installation, we can show you how."


The city of Tallahassee developed Alternative 2000 on its utility billing system and its finance system, processing eight applications, over 2,500 programs and 1.5 million lines of code in 6.5 months. "We had an opportunity to do the same task again on a different system. That gave us an opportunity to refine our process and make it better," said Gene Crawford, Project Manager for Information Systems Services.

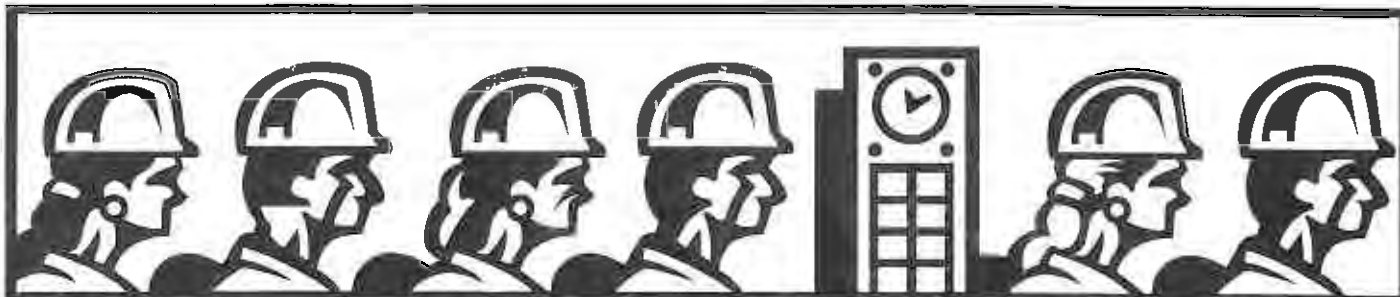
By working with a local business to market the product, the Tallahassee Training Institute is stimulating revenue for both the city and local entrepreneurs. "This is

*By working with a local business to market the product, the Tallahassee Training Institute is stimulating revenue for both the city and local entrepreneurs.*

something that I couldn't do myself," said Ken Saxon, owner of Saxon Software, Inc., who worked as a consultant on the city's Year 2000 projects. "The Tallahassee Training Institute gives small companies a way to enter markets that they normally can't enter."

The city's involvement in this venture is limited to providing Alternative 2000 and training courses to local governments and other public entities. It will not provide any on-going technical support service.

For more information on obtaining the Alternative 2000 software solution call Scott Joiner (850) 891-8157 or send an e-mail request to: [alty2k@mail.ci.tlh.fl.us](mailto:alty2k@mail.ci.tlh.fl.us). 



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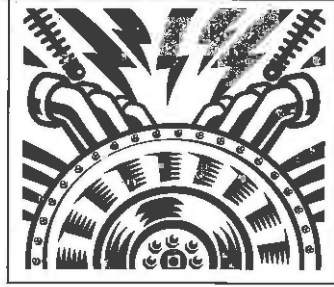
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# EFFICIENCY



## Key West Generator Born Again

by Lynne Tejeda

Communications Director

Utilities Board of the City of Key West

One of Key West City Electric System's (CES) old power plants has launched a new career. The Ralph Garcia Steam Plant generator has taken on the new and very important job of stabilizing voltage and reducing costs.

The turbine generator, which served as the area's primary electric generator from 1972 until the tieline began operating in 1987, was recently transformed into a synchronous condenser.

As a synchronous condenser, the retrofitted turbine generator will improve voltage, which means better power quality for customers and less wear and tear on utility equipment. The synchronous condenser will also increase capacity on the tieline and reduce line losses, explained Dave Gerstenkorn, CES electrical engineer.

"It's probably the oldest technology available for maintaining voltage by adding reactive current," Gerstenkorn said. "There are other types of equipment available for stabilizing voltage, but the synchronous condenser does more and is very economical for CES."

In addition to stabilizing voltage, the synchronous condenser can increase the amount of electricity carried over transmission lines. Gerstenkorn points out that this is very important to CES since the utility relies on imported power from the mainland.

Before the synchronous condenser began operating, the tieline could carry up to 197 MW into the Keys for CES and the Florida Keys Electric Cooperative. With the synchronous condenser, the tieline's capacity increases to 221 MW. The increased capacity results in substantial savings that occurs from reducing utilization of local generation and from the opportunity to purchase more of the less expensive "firm" power, instead of the more expensive non-firm power.

City Electric System decided to retrofit the turbine generator to a synchronous condenser after a 1996 study on voltage stability and transmission line capacity. Florida Power and Light, which conducted the study, examined several opportunities to improve voltage stability and ca-

capacity, including upgrading the existing line from 138 kV to 230 kV or even adding a second 138 kV line. In the final analysis, the study pointed to refurbishing the turbine generator to a synchronous condenser as the best and most economical solution.

A synchronous condenser is in essence the same as a synchronous motor. City Electric System contracted with General Electric Co. and Hydro-Mechanical System Inc.

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*Like many other utilities, CES was able to take advantage of its decommissioned plant by refurbishing its existing generator into a synchronous condenser.*

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to develop the synchronous condenser. In simple terms, the design adds:

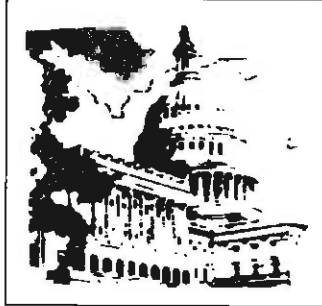
- ◆ a prime mover to spin the synchronous condenser up to the necessary speed to match the transmission system and,
- ◆ a synchronous, self-shifting clutch to disconnect the drive unit from the condenser once the connection to the transmission system occurs.

Like many other utilities, CES was able to take advantage of its decommissioned plant by refurbishing its existing generator into a synchronous condenser.

City Electric System will also be able to take advantage of the technology with an intermittently used generator when CES installs two additional combustion turbines in June.

One of the combustion turbine generators will be equipped to run as a synchronous condenser and will serve as back-up to the Ralph Garcia Steam Plant synchronous condenser. The other combustion turbine will be equipped for possible retrofit in case CES needs to use it as a synchronous condenser in the future. ■

# WASHINGTON REPORT



## The Administration's Plan

by Robert Varela  
Editor, *Public Power Weekly*

**T**he Clinton administration gave a jump start to the debate in Washington over electricity industry restructuring with the release of its plan, but don't expect Congress to pass a bill this year. It's simply not ripe. There certainly is no groundswell of public support, let alone enthusiasm, for doing to the electricity industry what has been done to the telephone, airline and other deregulated industries. Witness the fact that consumers were so excited about the much ballyhooed introduction of retail choice in California that only 34,000 of the state's 10 million electricity consumers — less than one-half of 1 percent — had switched providers as of March 31.

Nevertheless, the administration's long-awaited release of its restructuring proposal is an important event that will help advance the debate over how consumers will benefit the most from changes being made to and by the electric utility industry.

Overall, APPA is pleased with the administration's flexible approach to a so-called federal mandate (requiring all states to implement retail competition by a date certain). The cities, towns, and states APPA represents place top value on local decision making, and the flexible mandate approach is worthy of further discussion, the association said.

Another plus is the administration's recognition that the private use restrictions of the tax code present significant barriers to competition for community- and state-owned electric utilities. APPA applauded the administration's proposal to eliminate the private use test on outstanding tax-exempt debt, thereby eliminating the potential retroactive taxability of more than \$70 billion in public power bonds. The proposed and temporary Internal Revenue Service regulations do not provide sufficiently clear, bright-line relief that will enable all public power entities to participate in the competitive marketplace.

The administration's plan to continue tax-exempt financing for future distribution facilities under current

private use limitations is welcome. However, the White House plan falls short by proposing to eliminate tax-exempt financing for future transmission and generation facilities (or for repair or replacement of existing facilities). The federal government should not dictate what state and local governments elect to provide as essential services — whether they are electricity, water, or sewer services.

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*The federal government should not dictate what state and local governments elect to provide as essential services — whether they are electricity, water, or sewer services.*

---

The administration is also to be commended for recognizing the critical link between market power and competition. The plan moves in the right direction in terms of defining a market structure that will enable the development of effective competition. Yet, some of the plan's market power provisions — while a good start — must be strengthened to offer adequate consumer protection. For example, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must be given direct authority to intervene in any case where undue market power exists, and repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act must be tied to the existence of competition, not just the enactment of a comprehensive restructuring package.

On the minus side, it is inappropriate and unfounded to subject self-regulated public power systems to additional regulation under FERC's open access rules (Order 888). FERC made a specific finding that those rules were necessary to mitigate abuses of transmission monopoly power by the private power companies. All utilities with

## WASHINGTON REPORT

*continued from page 22*

transmission — including public power — are already subject to FERC transmission jurisdiction under Section 211 of the Energy Policy Act.

Another shortcoming is the effort to address air quality issues — they should be handled in the Clean Air Act. While there is a great deal of fear that restructuring could diminish air quality, there is no credible evidence to that effect, APPA noted. The administration's proposal for a renewable energy portfolio should include hydro power as a renewable resource.

While public power supports "public benefits" programs that provide universal service and other benefits to all persons, restructuring legislation should give state and local governments maximum flexibility to support and administer such programs. Any public benefit program created by restructuring legislation should not supercede or replace existing federally supported programs, nor should restructuring legislation impose a federal surcharge on the sale of electricity by public power systems to pay for new public benefit programs.

As with any legislative proposal that addresses so many complex and controversial issues, the White House plan is a mixed bag. There are some things for public power to like, some things not to like, and some things that need clarification or development. It deserves and requires scrutiny from many different perspectives. Public power utilities must get involved and work with their representatives in Congress to ensure that restructuring legislation will benefit all consumers. **R**

## ASSOCIATE BRIEFCASE

*New Associates continued from page 11*

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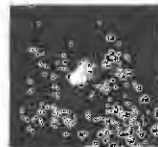
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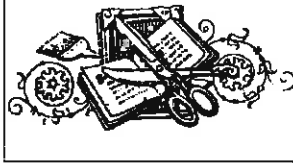
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Responsibilities include coordinating training, conferences, committee meetings, and energy conservation. Public speaking experience. PC and Internet literate. Strong attention to detail. Familiar with electric utility issues. Flexibility to travel 40-80 days/year. Strong interpersonal skills are a must.

**Minimum qualifications:** bachelors degree plus 5 years experience in

association training and/or electric utility operations. Salary commensurate with experience. **NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.** **Deadline:** June 22, 1998. Send resume, salary history, and writing sample of 2-4 pages by June 22 to:

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Human Resources, FMEA,  
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Tallahassee, FL 32302-2114.

## TRAINING

### Competitive Billing & Metering Strategies Workshop

The IBC Group is sponsoring a three-day exhibition and workshop titled *Competitive Billing & Metering Strategies*, July 27-29 at the Clift Hotel in San Francisco.

Participants will learn how to:

- ◆ analyze regulations that affect the unbundled utility bill and revenue cycle services;
- ◆ weigh the pros and cons of outsourcing metering and billing services;
- ◆ evaluate advanced billing options;
- ◆ learn what customers want in a utility bill; and
- ◆ deliver value added services with metering & billing.

The registration fee for the main conference and both workshops is \$2,095. For more information, call (508) 481-6400.

### Position & Promote Your Energy Company Conference

The Center for Business Intelligence is presenting a two-day conference titled *Position & Promote Your Energy Company*, July 30-31 at the Chicago Hilton & Towers.

The conference will teach participants how to develop an effective marketing plan; how to employ branding & promotional strategies to support strategic goals; how to effectively market and advertise in a deregulated industry; and how to reach and affect a target market. The registration fee for the conference is \$1,295. For more information call 1-800-8601 or (781) 939-2438.

### APPA Sponsors Business and Financial Workshop

The American Public Power Association is holding a two-day *Business and Financial Workshop*, Oct. 5-7, 1998, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Business and Financial workshop general session will focus on competing in a market where customers have a choice of suppliers. A California utility executive will discuss the affect of state industry restructuring on utility operations and business strategies. In addition, the workshop will offer sessions on customer accounting and services; general accounting, finance, and auditing; information technology; and pricing and market analysis.

The registration fee for the workshop is \$450 for APPA members and \$900 for non-members. For more information, call (202) 467-2973

### Fundamentals of Successful Project Management Workshop Offered

Skillpath Seminars is presenting a two-day workshop titled *Fundamentals of Successful Project Management*, in Tallahassee, July 22-23, 1998.

*continued on page 25*

## OPPORTUNITIES

## TRAINING

*continued from page 24*

Participants will learn six skills that will help them plan and manage projects effectively:

- ◆ how to plan projects;
- ◆ how to establish time lines;
- ◆ how to keep things moving;
- ◆ how to monitor and control;
- ◆ how to solve problems; and
- ◆ how to manage multiple projects.

The fee for the workshop is \$399. For more information, call (800) 873-7545.

### Developing Customer Service Skills

Edison Community College's Institutes of Government, Management & Business is sponsoring a three-day workshop titled *Developing Critical*

*Customer Service Skills*, on June 9-11, 1998, in Fort Myers.

The three-day workshop will help employees learn how to deliver outstanding customer service. The session begins with participants taking an assessment to identify their customer service strengths and developmental opportunities. Other topics covered include:

- ◆ developing positive customer relations;
- ◆ discovering customers' needs;
- ◆ responding to customers' wants;
- ◆ anticipating customers' needs; and
- ◆ ensuring customer loyalty.

For more information, call (941) 489-9231.

### Rethinking Credit & Collections for Gas and Electric Deregulation

AIC conferences is presenting a two-day workshop titled *Rethinking Credit & Collections for Gas and Electric Deregulation*, on Sept. 9-10, at Hyatt Regency in Dallas, Texas.

The workshop will focus on the changing nature of customer relationships in competitive gas & electric markets, and practical tools and techniques for maximizing collections. The registration fee is \$1,895. For more information, call (212) 952-1899. ■

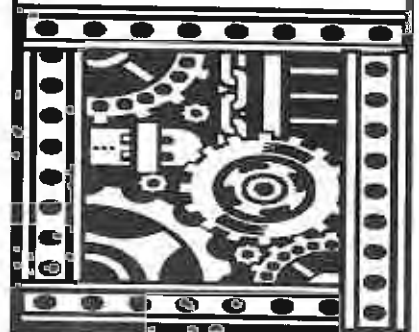
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## CALENDAR

1998

June

- 4-5 **Florida Association of Electric Utility Trainers 10th Annual Conference**  
Holiday Inn-Gulf Side, Key West
- 16-19 **Southeastern Utilities Revenue Protection Association,**  
Holiday Inn-International Drive, Orlando
- 30-July 2 **FMEA-FMPA Annual Conference,**  
Ritz Carlton Hotel, Amelia Island

July

- 15 **FMEA Enhancing Your Public Image Workshop,** Orlando

August

- 12 **FMEA Safety Committee Meeting,**  
Leesburg
- 13 **FMEA ECCS Committee Meeting,**  
Kissimmee

September

- 16 **FMEA Enhancing Your Public Image Workshop,** Key West

October

- 15 **Florida Association of Electric Utility Trainers Meeting,** Orlando

November

- 16-18 **FMEA Energy Connections Workshop and Trade Show,** Hyatt-Orlando Hotel, Kissimmee

## FMEA General Information

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*Street address:* 417 East College Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

*Phone:* (850) 224-3314 *Fax:* (850) 224-2831

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*Director of Customer Service and Training:*  
William L. Peebles, Jr. (ext. 2)

*Director of Communications:*  
Stephanie L. Wolanski (ext. 5)

*Office Manager:*  
Brenda S. Thompson (ext. 3)

*Communications Specialist:*  
Deidra L. Jones (ext. 4)

### FMEA General & Regulatory Counsel:

Frederick M. Bryant

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