FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection

Northeast District
8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100
Jacksonville, Florida 32256

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

In the matter of an Application for a Permit/Water Quality Certification and Authorization to Use Sovereign Submerged Lands by:

APPLICANT: Gulf Power Company
Loretta Cranmer, Director, Environmental Services
15430 Endeavor Drive
Jupiter, Florida 33478

FILE No.: 12-0378587-001-EI

COUNTY: Columbia, Suwannee, Madison, Jefferson, Leon, Gadsden, and Jackson

PROJECT NAME: North Florida Resiliency Connection

CONSOLIDATED NOTICE OF APPLICATION
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMIT
AND EASEMENTS TO USE SOVEREIGN SUBMERGED LANDS (SSL)

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) gives notice of application for an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) in accordance with Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 62-330, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) The permittee has applied for a permit, water quality certification and authorization to use SSL owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees). The Department also gives notice that easements to use SSL will need to be granted for the proposed activity.

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY

Gulf Power Company applied on July 29, 2019, to the Department for a permit, water quality certification, and authorization to use sovereign submerged lands owned by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees) for Gulf Power Company to build a 176-mile, 161-kV overhead transmission line from the existing Florida Power & Light (FPL) Raven Substation in Columbia County to the existing Gulf Power Company PC Sinai Cemetery Substation in Jackson County. This transmission line will traverse portions of seven counties (Columbia, Suwannee, Madison, Jefferson, Leon, Gadsden, and Jackson) in north Florida. This project will help build a more resilient energy grid that benefits Gulf Power customers through enhanced reliability and lower energy costs. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2020 with the project becoming operational in mid-2021.

The activity begins at the FPL Raven Substation, 554 SE Pounds Hammock Road, in Lake City, Columbia County, and ends at the Gulf Power Company Sinai Cemetery Substation on Hammond Road, in Sneads, Jackson County. The project aerially crosses the following

designated Class III Outstanding Florida Waterbodies: Suwannee River, Aucilla/Wacissa Rivers, St. Marks River, Ochlockonee River, and Apalachicola River.

II. AUTHORITY FOR REVIEW

The Department is authorized to grant this permit pursuant to Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., and Chapter 62-330, F.A.C. The activity is not exempt from the requirement to obtain an Environmental Resource Permit. Pursuant to Operating Agreements executed between the Department and the water management districts, as referenced in Chapter 62-113, F.A.C., the Department is responsible for reviewing and taking final agency action on this activity.

The activity also requires proprietary authorization, as it is located on sovereign submerged lands owned by the Board of Trustees. The activity is not exempt from the need to obtain a proprietary authorization. Pursuant to Article X, Section 11 of the Florida Constitution, Sections 253.002 and 253.77, F.S., Sections 18-21.0040, 18-21.0051, 18-20, 62-330.075, F.A.C., the policies of the Board of Trustees, and the Operating Agreements executed between the Department and the water management districts, as referenced in Chapter 62-113, F.A.C., the Department is responsible for reviewing and taking final agency action on this request for proprietary authorization.

III. APPLICATION

The full application for the North Florida Resiliency Connection Project can be found here. Interested parties should click on the Public Oculus login to obtain the files. Please note, the file is very large and is distributed in several files.