

## News Release

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### **Duke Energy selects Levy County location for Site Readiness Program that supports economic development and jobs**

- **Five Florida properties in Volusia, Marion, Levy, Wakulla and Hamilton counties to participate in company's economic development initiative**

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – Duke Energy has selected five Florida properties for participation in this year's Site Readiness Program, which will prepare them for targeted business development and future capital investment.

Through its Site Readiness Program, Duke Energy identifies high-quality industrial sites and works with the site's owner, county/city officials and local economic development professionals to identify the property's current status and to develop a strategy for providing water, sewer, natural gas and electricity, necessary for the development of the properties.

"Site readiness supports communities' needs by evaluating properties and providing recommendations and a vision that are used to attract companies and jobs to the area," said Marc Hoenstine, director of economic development, Duke Energy. "This process of identifying competitive sites that are prime for development, coupled with strong workforce programs and available talent, has resulted in several successful projects throughout our six-state service area over the last 13 years."

The locations are in Levy, Volusia, Marion, Wakulla, Hamilton and counties.

- **Levy County**

The Levy site consists of 5,400 located in close proximity to navigable water with transmission-level power nearby and is within 5 miles of a railway. The site and neighboring area has key attributes to support timber production/processing, food processing and general manufacturing industries.

"Knowing a location's full potential for development is critical for site selection, ensuring essential infrastructure and features are in place for sought-after industry," said David Pieklik, executive director for Nature Coast Business Development Council of Levy County. "Taking a hard look at a 5,400-acre site north of Inglis – an area poised for growth – Duke Energy's Site Readiness Program will help us ensure we have everything we need for a perfect fit."

After each evaluation is completed, materials highlighting the property's attributes are used to help strategically market the sites nationwide for companies looking to expand or relocate their operations.

Duke Energy is working with two nationally recognized site selection consulting firms to evaluate the properties. O'Neal Consulting, a consulting firm in Greenville, S.C., which recently acquired the assets of McCallum Sweeney, has been instrumental in locating many high-profile headquarters and industrial relocations and expansions throughout Florida and the U.S. And most recently, Global Location Strategies, based in Greenville, S.C, is a new partner to Florida's Site Readiness Program working with manufacturing and industrial companies assisting with capital, labor, energy and water intensive project requirements. Heidt Design, a Tampa, Fla.-based engineering firm will continue to support the program with buildable area studies and conceptual drawings for each site evaluation.

Duke Energy's Site Readiness Program was recognized by Southern Business and Development magazine as one of the "South's Top 10 Site Programs" and was noted as one of the main reasons Duke Energy was named as one of the nation's "Top 10 Utility Economic Development Programs" by Site Selection magazine for the past several years.

Duke Energy's economic development efforts have helped attract and grow more than 270 companies in Florida since 2001, resulting in more than 40,600 new jobs and \$3.5 billion in capital investment in the communities it serves. The Site Readiness Program has resulted in 34 major project wins on sites across the Duke Energy footprint. These projects will create over 6,800 new jobs and invest more than \$7 billion in capital.

For more information about Duke Energy's economic development programs, visit [duke-energy.com/economic](http://duke-energy.com/economic).

## **Duke Energy Florida**

Duke Energy Florida owns and operates a diverse generation mix, including renewables, providing about 8,800 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 1.8 million customers in a 13,000-square-mile service area.

With its Florida regional headquarters located in St. Petersburg, Fla., Duke Energy is one of the largest electric power holding companies in the United States. Its Electric Utilities and Infrastructure business unit serves approximately 7.5 million customers located in six states in the Southeast and Midwest. The company's Gas Utilities and Infrastructure business unit distributes natural gas to approximately 1.6 million customers in the Carolinas, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee. Its Commercial

Renewables business unit operates a growing renewable energy portfolio across the United States.

Duke Energy is a Fortune 125 company traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DUK. More information about the company is available at [duke-energy.com](http://duke-energy.com).

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