

Fueling Florida's Energy Needs

The Florida Southeast Connection underground pipeline will transport U.S.-produced natural gas to help generate affordable, clean electricity to meet Floridians' growing energy needs. Construction of the pipeline is well underway, and operations are expected to begin in 2017.



Work on building the Florida Southeast Connection underground pipeline began in August 2016. During construction, the project is expected to create more than 1,700 jobs and \$610 million in economic benefits in communities along the five-county pipeline route. Pictured above are workers preparing to weld sections of the pipe before it is tested and lowered into place underground.

With Florida's population and economy continuing to expand, Florida requires additional energy infrastructure to meet the state's growing energy needs. While our state relies more on natural gas to generate electricity than any other state except Texas, Florida is currently served by only two major natural gas pipelines. But they are nearing full capacity and will not be sufficient to supply the natural gas needs of the state.

Florida Southeast Connection, LLC, has started building a new underground natural gas pipeline that primarily will serve central and southern Florida. The company is a subsidiary of Florida Power & Light's parent company, NextEra Energy. FPL is replacing its older, oil-fueled power plants with cleaner, more efficient natural gas-powered facilities and requires additional natural gas to meet Florida's growing need for affordable clean energy.

Rigorous review and analysis

Construction of the underground pipeline started in August 2016. This followed a nearly three-year review process by numerous federal, state and local government agencies to ensure the project meets strict environmental and other regulatory requirements. This comprehensive review included extensive public outreach and consultation with property owners along the pipeline route, public officials, Native American Tribes and other stakeholders.

Many federal, state and local government agencies were integral to the extensive pipeline review and approval process. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, was the lead federal agency tasked with reviewing the pipeline's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Public Service Commission are among the additional agencies that analyzed and approved the pipeline.

Pipeline route

The new underground pipeline will interconnect with Florida's two major existing pipelines, creating a new hub for natural gas transportation in the state. Florida Southeast Connection will originate in Osceola County and run 126 miles south and east through parts of Osceola, Polk, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Martin counties. It will terminate at the FPL Martin Clean Energy Center near Indiantown, where it will connect with the utility's existing fuel infrastructure.

At its origin in Osceola County, Florida Southeast Connection will connect with another pipeline under construction, Sabal Trail Transmission. The Sabal Trail pipeline, which begins in Alabama and will terminate in Central Florida, will allow FPL and other major gas users in the state to access abundant U.S. natural gas resources.

Benefits to local communities

Construction of the Florida Southeast Connection pipeline is expected to create more than 1,700 jobs and \$610 million in local economic benefits in communities along the route. After the start of operations in mid-2017, the underground pipeline will generate an estimated \$327 million in tax revenue for local schools and government services over its 60-year operational lifetime.

The new pipeline system will increase Florida's access to U.S.-produced natural gas, which is crucial to power plants, including the FPL Martin Clean Energy Center and the planned FPL Okeechobee Clean Energy Center, which is expected to begin operating in 2019.

Preserving the environment

The pipeline route was carefully designed to minimize potential impacts on the environment, wildlife and local communities. Before construction began, all environmental factors along the route were closely evaluated. During construction, Florida Southeast Connection is using well-established pipeline construction methods to protect the environment along the pipeline route. We continue to work closely with federal, state and local government agencies to ensure we protect environmentally sensitive areas.



See more information at FloridaSoutheastConnection.com