cleanenergy.org
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

May 19, 2016

1.866.522.SACE
www.cleanenergy.org

P.O. Box 1842
Knoxville, TN 37901
865.637.6055

46 Orchard Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828.254.6776

250 Arizona Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30307
404.373.5832

P.O. Box 310
Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785
954.295.5714

P.O. Box 13673
Charleston, SC 29422
843.225.2371

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL 7

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy – a NextEra Energy Inc. shareholder since January 2010 – respectfully requests to be on record in support of Shareholder Proposal 7 for Sea Level Rise Risk Report (page 31 of the NEE proxy materials).

The proposal is asking NextEra's Board of Directors to provide an annual report on material risks to operations, facilities and markets based on a range of sea level rise scenarios projecting forward to 2100 based on best available science.

Given that Florida Power & Light (FPL) - a rate-regulated electric utility, which supplies electric service to approximately 4.8 million customer accounts throughout most of the east and lower west coasts of Florida - is a wholly owned subsidiary of NextEra Energy Inc., there is an imperative to plan for future risk associated with sea level rise and other impacts resulting from climate change be considered in that Florida is likely to see.

Florida is the most vulnerable state to sea-level rise in the United States and Miami has the largest amount of exposed assets and the fourth-largest population vulnerable to sea-level rise in the world.

With climate impacts such as flooding already being seen, NextEra simply cannot ignore the risks. According to a recent study by Dr. Keqi Zhang, Professor in the Department of Earth and Environment at Florida International University, more than 10 percent of land in Miami-Dade sits at less than 1 foot above current sea level, nearly 20 percent at less than 2 feet, and one-fourth at less than three feet.[i]

According to a recent study by Florida Atlantic University as much as 70% of the drainage capacity of the 28 coastal flood/salinity control structures protecting Southeast Florida from flooding and saltwater intrusion could be lost with sea level rise of only 3 to 9 inches, anticipated by about 2030 to 2050. Adaptation may require the addition of high capacity pumping stations costing approximately $70 million each (plus necessary land acquisitions). Three pumping stations costing a total of over $200 million (plus land) could be needed in north Miami-Dade County in the near future. The porous limestone underlying much of Florida makes the state particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise. Seawalls can't block seawater from infiltrating underground, and saltwater from the ocean is already contaminating freshwater aquifers.[ii]

Four county governments in in FPL's service territory have come together, in response to impacts of sea-level rise. They established the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact in January 2010 between the county governments of Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties where more than five and a half million people reside. They are developing mitigation and adaptation strategies through joint efforts and to actively inform critical policymaking and government funding decisions at the state and federal levels. The Compact's 2015 unified sea level rise update projects 6 to 10 inches above 1992 mean sea level by 2030; 13 to 34 inches by 2060; and 31 to 81 inches of sea level rise by 2100.[iii]

Those responsible for our infrastructure and basic services should always hope for the best and prepare for the worst but the fact is that the potential for catastrophic storms are ever present. Between 2004 and 2005, eight hurricanes directly impacted Miami-Dade and caused over $3 billion in damages within the county alone.

Given all these risks, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy joins Shareholders Alan Farago and Lisa Versaci in strongly urging the adoption of Shareholder Proposal 7 for Sea Level Rise Risk Report.

[i] http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10584-010-9987-2
[ii] http://www.ces.fau.edu/files/projects/climate_change/SE_Florida_Resilient_Water_FAU2011.pdf
[iii] http://www.southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/2015/10/southeast-florida-regional-climate-change-compact-provides-update-to-regional-sea-level-rise-projection/