

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Collin Roehner  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 4:52 PM  
**To:** 'beatricebalboa@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Concerns  
**Attachments:** Critics Say Florida Utilities Are Building 'Unnecessary' Gas Infrastructure For Profit While Customers Foot Bill \_ DeSmogBlog.pdf; Sabal Trail Opponents Say Pipeline Is Part of Florida's 'Overbuilt' Gas Infrastructure \_ DeSmogBlog.pdf; Critics Call \$3 Billion Sabal Trail Pipeline Florida's Dakota Access Pipeline \_ DeSmogBlog.pdf

Good afternoon Ms. Balboa,

Earlier I sent you an email stating you had been added to 160101-WS, you have been added in fact to 160021-EI

I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you,

Collin D. Roehner

Commission Deputy Clerk I

Office of Commission Clerk

Florida Public Service Commission

2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.

Tallahassee, Florida, 32301

[\(850\) 413-7123](tel:(850)413-7123)

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**From:** Collin Roehner **On Behalf Of** Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 1:15 PM  
**To:** 'beatricebalboa@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Concerns

Good afternoon Ms. Balboa,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 160101-WS and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Collin D. Roehner

Commission Deputy Clerk I

Office of Commission Clerk

Florida Public Service Commission

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Tallahassee, Florida, 32301

[\(850\) 413-7123](tel:(850)413-7123)

**From:** Beatrice Balboa [<mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 19, 2016 1:10 PM

**To:** Records Clerk

**Subject:** Re: FW: Concerns

Dear Mr. Collin D. Roehner,

Thank you for including my comments into Docket No. 160101-WS and forwarding my comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach. Please include another news media article(s) regarding the latest Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) proposed pipeline infrastructure activities throughout the State of Florida into Docket No. 160101-WS (if correct) and please forward my ongoing comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach as are repeated instances of consumers footing bills for infrastructure that is NOT needed as stated "...infrastructure is largely based on producing electricity from fracked gas, not solar, and that **much of that natural gas infrastructure is unnecessary**, based on demand...". Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely the public's safety, finances, policies, trust, confidence, and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope

to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Balboa

1010 South Ocean Boulevard, Apt. 1008

Pompano Beach, Fl 33062-6631

On Mon, Dec 19, 2016 at 9:40 AM, Records Clerk <[CLERK@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:CLERK@psc.state.fl.us)> wrote:

Good morning Ms. Balboa,

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 160101-WS and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

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Tallahassee, Florida, 32301

[\(850\) 413-7123](tel:8504137123)

**From:** Beatrice Balboa [mailto:[beatricebalboa@gmail.com](mailto:beatricebalboa@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Saturday, December 17, 2016 5:13 PM

**To:** Office of Commissioner Brown

**Cc:** Consumer Contact; Commissioner Correspondence

**Subject:** Concerns

I was reading the latest news media article(s) regarding the latest Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) proposed electrical rate increase activities throughout the State of Florida with great interest. Please review and implement an action plan to thoroughly address this extremely troubling issue. Media reports continue to underscore the ongoing significant rate increase requests throughout the State of Florida, despite an increasingly faltering economy impacting senior citizens living on fixed incomes disproportionately. Please coordinate, collaborate and cooperate on Federal, State and/or local jurisdictional levels in addressing these concerns potentially impacting adversely the public's safety, finances, policies, trust, confidence, and quality of life issues. Thank you for your time in this matter and hope to hear from you soon.

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As opposition to the Dakota Access pipeline swells at home and abroad, another pipeline project at the other end of the U.S. is quietly being installed as fast as possible, critics say, displacing residents, threatening water supplies, and racking up alleged construction violations.

And most people in the region — even those in the pipeline’s path — haven’t even heard about it.

Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC, known as Sabal Trail, is using \$3 billion of Florida Power and Light (FPL) ratepayer money to build a 515-mile pipeline to transport natural gas obtained via [fracking \(http://www.desmogblog.com/fracking-the-future/\)](http://www.desmogblog.com/fracking-the-future/) from eastern Alabama to central Florida.

[Authorized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(http://www.myajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/southwest-georgia-pipeline-gets-federal-ok/nqj4q/\)](http://www.myajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/southwest-georgia-pipeline-gets-federal-ok/nqj4q/) (FERC) in February, Sabal Trail is a joint project of Spectra Energy Corp., NextEra Energy, Inc., and Duke Energy.

In Alabama, Sabal Trail would connect to a pipeline network that will move one billion cubic feet of Marcellus-sourced gas from Pennsylvania to Florida, [according to the company site \(http://www.sabaltrailtransmission.com\)](http://www.sabaltrailtransmission.com), “to serve local distribution companies, industrial users and natural gas-fired power generators in the Southeast markets,” including FPL and Duke Energy of Florida.

Critics of Sabal Trail say the claim of meeting Florida residential and industrial users’ needs for more natural gas is bogus and point to evidence suggesting much of the gas will be sold and shipped internationally.



[https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline&title=Critics Call \\$3](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline&title=Critics%20Call%20$3)



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The Sabal Trail pipeline route superimposed over the Florida aquifer system. Credit: Stop Sabal Trail Pipeline

### Eminent Domain Displaces Homeowners

In April FERC granted Sabal Trail a certificate of public convenience and necessity, giving the company a right to eminent



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id or highway.”

Bell and others along the Sabal Trail pipeline aren't the only private landowners who have been displaced by pipeline companies' right to eminent domain. The issue has sparked outrage among landowners in the way of the [Dakota Access](http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/09/06/dakota-access-pipeline-sacred-sites-federal-judge) (<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/09/06/dakota-access-pipeline-sacred-sites-federal-judge>), [Transco](http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/02/25/protest-against-constitution-pipeline-dimock) (<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/02/25/protest-against-constitution-pipeline-dimock>), and [Sunoco Logistics](http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/08/31/profit-pipeline-company-claims-public-benefit-seizing-private-lands-pennsylvania) (<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/08/31/profit-pipeline-company-claims-public-benefit-seizing-private-lands-pennsylvania>) pipeline routes.

### Activists Document Construction Violations

Opponents of Sabal Trail say that pipeline construction alone poses a threat to local water resources by releasing hazardous materials and drilling mud into waterways, and they say that several incidents of negligence have intensified those concerns.

In November [drilling mud from the Sabal Trail pipeline leaked into south Georgia's Withlacoochee River](http://news.wfsu.org/post/drilling-mud-leak-south-georgia-raises-new-sabal-trail-pipeline-concerns) (<http://news.wfsu.org/post/drilling-mud-leak-south-georgia-raises-new-sabal-trail-pipeline-concerns>), a tributary to the Suwannee River.

John Quarterman, president of the [Wwals Watershed Coalition](http://www.wwals.net) (<http://www.wwals.net>), one of the groups opposing Sabal Trail, tells DeSmog that the incident would never have been reported if he hadn't seen it while flying over the area on a routine survey.

“I noticed this yellow thing across the river where they were doing horizontal directional drilling. The permitting agency admitted it was a turbidity curtain to contain drilling mud, but they weren't telling me where the mud was coming from,” said Quarterman.



([https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=www.desmogblog.com%2F2016%2F12%2F03%2Fcritics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline&title=Critics Call \\$3](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=www.desmogblog.com%2F2016%2F12%2F03%2Fcritics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline&title=Critics%20Call%20$3))



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*A Sabal Trail pipeline worker in central Florida. The pipeline will run through conservation areas, under rivers and near springs. Credit: Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson*

Quarterman told DeSmog such spills could affect the Floridan Aquifer, and that he wonders whether other discharges are not being reported publicly and whether the drilling could cause central Florida's fragile underground cave system to collapse.

Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, an organizer with the Sierra Club in Florida, told DeSmog that activists have documented multiple construction violations in the last six weeks, from plowing down homeowners' fences to creating sinkholes.

One activist, Ronald Reedy, told DeSmog he observed an enormous piece of equipment, a track hoe, stuck in a wetland area in central Florida on two different days.

"The track hoe was tilting at a 45-degree angle and leaking diesel fuel. You could see the rainbow reflecting from the fuel slick. They're not supposed to drive these things into the wetlands," said Reedy.

"When they tried to remove it the next day, they had a man standing between two huge machines with no protection, an accident waiting to happen."

Quarterman told DeSmog that activists are doing more oversight of construction than the permitting agencies.

Malwitz-Jipson and Quarterman believe that many violations and non-compliance issues are due to the speed of construction to keep the pipeline on track. Construction began in June to meet a May 2017 deadline, which has now been pushed to June 2017.

"They're slamming this pipe into the ground, under water, as fast as they can and they're careless," said Reedy.

Malwitz-Jipson told DeSmog she hopes that enough violations will be documented that the U.S. Congress will step in.



[https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline&title=Critics Call \\$3](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline&title=Critics%20Call%20$3)

# Critics Say Florida Utilities Are Building 'Unnecessary' Gas Infrastructure For Profit While Customers Foot Bill



(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=www.desmogblog.com%2F2016%2F12%2F18%2Fcritics-say-florida-utilities-are-building-unnecessary-natural-gas-infrastructure&title=Critics>)



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On an [August 2015 earnings call](http://governance.energytransfer.com/mobile.view?c=193925&v=202&d=3&id=aHR0cDovL2FwaS50ZW5rd2l6YXJkLmNvbS9maWxpbnmcueG1sP2lwYWdIPTEwNDIxNTAxJkRTRVE9MCZTRVE9MCZTUURFU0M9U0VDVEIPTI9FTIRJkUmUmc3Vic2lkPTU3) (<http://governance.energytransfer.com/mobile.view?c=193925&v=202&d=3&id=aHR0cDovL2FwaS50ZW5rd2l6YXJkLmNvbS9maWxpbnmcueG1sP2lwYWdIPTEwNDIxNTAxJkRTRVE9MCZTRVE9MCZTUURFU0M9U0VDVEIPTI9FTIRJkUmUmc3Vic2lkPTU3>), Kelcy Warren, CEO of natural gas company Energy Transfer Partners, acknowledged that “the pipeline business will overbuild until the end of time.”

Critics of Florida’s utilities say they believe Warren. They point to state regulators allowing Florida Power and Light (FPL) to build not only new power plants using fracked gas from as far away as Pennsylvania and Texas but also natural gas infrastructure that includes the [\\$3 billion Sabal Trail Pipeline](http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline) (<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline>).

And Florida residents are footing the bill for these efforts.

As Frank Jackalone, Director of Sierra Club Florida, said in a [recent blog post](https://sierraclub.org/compass/2016/11/next-big-vote-solar-florida-november-29) (<https://sierraclub.org/compass/2016/11/next-big-vote-solar-florida-november-29>):

“FPL has admitted that homegrown solar and batteries could do at least as good a job of powering Floridian homes and businesses — at competitive prices. To make matters worse, FPL is also using these power plants to try to justify building unnecessary gas pipelines such as Sabal Trail and Atlantic Sunrise.”

## Rising Rates But Not Rising Demand

In January FPL customers will see their utility bills rise by \$400 million, to be followed by \$411 million in rate hikes over the next three years.



(<https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/18/critics-say-florida-utilities-are-building-unnecessary-natural-gas-infrastructure&title=Critics>)



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[http://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/editorials/11-editorial-fpl-rate-case-questionable-rationale-for-the-public-service-commission's support of the rate hike:](http://www.sun-sentinel.com/opinion/editorials/11-editorial-fpl-rate-case-questionable-rationale-for-the-public-service-commission-s-support-of-the-rate-hike)

“So why should customers like the deal? Because of the Public Service Commission's recent record on FPL. ... Since that 2012 rate hearing, the commission has approved every FPL request, including that Okeechobee County plant, which critics called unnecessary.”

An [analyst from BTU Analytics](https://btuanalytics.com/electricity-demand-natural-gas/) (<https://btuanalytics.com/electricity-demand-natural-gas/>) crunched the numbers as well, and said that forecasts for energy demand and conversions from natural gas to coal power plants don't actually justify the construction of new natural gas infrastructure, as FPL has claimed:

“In the 2016 electricity demand forecast, FP&L made no significant changes in customer counts, revised population growth estimates up, but drastically lowered its expected consumption of electricity per customer down in 2016 relative to 2015 on empirical evidence that consumers were bucking the expected trends of increased electricity usage compliments of energy efficiency and tighter building codes among other things. The resulting change in usage per customer wiped out nearly 11% of the expected electricity demand increase by 2024.”

Despite that, clean energy advocates say, the Florida Public Service Commission doesn't see falling demand as a reason to deny higher utility rates or the building of new power plants like the [Okeechobee natural gas plant](http://www.elp.com/articles/2016/01/florida-psc-approves-fpl-okeechobee-power-plant-in-2019.html) (<http://www.elp.com/articles/2016/01/florida-psc-approves-fpl-okeechobee-power-plant-in-2019.html>), slated for 2019.

## Utilities Tilt Playing Field in Favor of Gas



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*Part of the Sabal Trail Pipeline lies feet from a protected wetland in central Florida. Credit: Laura Parks Catlow*

In late November, the Florida Public Service Commission approved a profit rate, or return on equity, of 11.6% for FPL. That profit rate will go into effect in January and last for the next four years, unless the Florida Supreme Court reverses the commission's decision.

The problem, detractors say, is that this 11.6% profit rate is well above the national average of 9.5% for similar-sized public utility companies, [according to the Edison Electric Institute \(http://www.eei.org/resourcesandmedia/industrydataanalysis/industryfinancialanalysis/finreview/Documents/FinancialReview\\_2014\\_02\\_IndustryFinPerf.pdf\)](http://www.eei.org/resourcesandmedia/industrydataanalysis/industryfinancialanalysis/finreview/Documents/FinancialReview_2014_02_IndustryFinPerf.pdf).

"Florida law requires utilities to provide least-cost service and in return are supposed to get a fair return for providing such services, but that's not what's happening [with FPL]," Sierra Club's Frank Jackalone told DeSmog.

Jackalone adds that because FPL's parent company, NextEra Energy, is one of the owners of the still-in-construction [Sabal Trail pipeline \(http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline\)](http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline), along with Duke Energy of Florida and Spectra, "FPL is basically shaking hands with itself."

Not surprisingly, there's been [an uptick in mergers \(https://conradsutilityinvestor.com/lets-make-a-deal-utilities-take-advantage-of-pipeline-companies-pain/\)](https://conradsutilityinvestor.com/lets-make-a-deal-utilities-take-advantage-of-pipeline-companies-pain/) between utilities and natural gas-pipeline companies, including [Duke and Piedmont \(http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/news/2016/10/03/4-9b-duke-piedmont-merger-a-done-deal.html\)](http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/news/2016/10/03/4-9b-duke-piedmont-merger-a-done-deal.html), and [Southern Company and AGL \(https://finance.yahoo.com/news/southern-company-agl-resources-12b-133101965.html\)](https://finance.yahoo.com/news/southern-company-agl-resources-12b-133101965.html), just this year.

Jackalone and other critics say the threat of less profitable clean energy sources is one reason FPL has been fighting the expansion of rooftop solar and other alternative forms of energy, and why the [company and a Koch Brothers-backed group invested millions \(http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/election/article109017387.html\)](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/election/article109017387.html) in a misleading ballot initiative to restrict rooftop solar, an initiative that [was rejected \(http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/election/article113449438.html\)](http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/election/article113449438.html) in November.

## Justifying Construction with Overestimates

Critics say even though Floridians are looking at solar to meet their energy needs, Florida's utilities, backed up by the public



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According to [the Wall Street Journal](http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-utilities-natural-gas-hedges-turn-sour-1459726648) (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-utilities-natural-gas-hedges-turn-sour-1459726648>), Florida's four largest utilities suffered net losses of \$6 billion on their program from 2002 to 2015 because their natural gas hedges "wound up being considerably more expensive than eventual market prices." But those losses, the Journal says, were absorbed in large part by rate payers.

A [Sierra Club blog post](https://sierraclub.org/planet/2016/03/what-does-fracking-oklahoma-have-do-florida) from March 2016 (<https://sierraclub.org/planet/2016/03/what-does-fracking-oklahoma-have-do-florida>) slammed the monopolistic practices of Florida's utilities:

"Tallahassee has an even worse record of approving massive, multi-billion dollar natural gas power plants and a so-called hedging program, all of which puts the profits of the state's biggest monopolistic utilities before people. The hedging program alone cost Floridians \$6 billion from 2002 up to and including 2015, while insulating those big utilities from the costs and risks of their bad decisions to double down on natural gas. Think of all the solar, wind, energy efficiency and storage we could have bought for \$6 billion!"

Neither Florida Power and Light nor the Florida Public Service Commission responded to DeSmog's requests for comments for this story.

Main image: [Pixabay](https://pixabay.com/en/pylon-current-electricity-strommast-1501237/) (<https://pixabay.com/en/pylon-current-electricity-strommast-1501237/>), public domain

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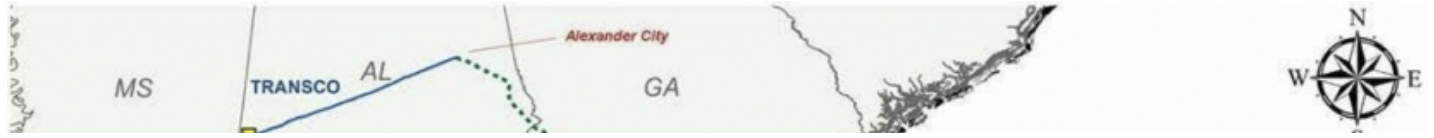
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[← PREVIOUS \(/2016/12/17/climatemotivations-what-are-yours\)](#)

#ClimateMotivations: What Are Yours?  
[\(/2016/12/17/climatemotivations-what-are-yours\)](#)

# Sabal Trail Opponents Say Pipeline Is Part of Florida's 'Overbuilt' Gas Infrastructure

Larry Buhl (/user/25860) | December 9, 2016



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The shale boom and low prices for natural gas have encouraged a pipeline bonanza in the U.S. Fourteen new pipelines — carrying both oil and natural gas — are either on the drawing board or are nearing completion, adding to the [existing 2.5 million miles](http://www.pipeline101.com/where-are-pipelines-located) of energy pipelines in the nation.

Like many of these pipelines, the Sabal Trail pipeline crosses major watersheds, environmentally sensitive areas, and residential neighborhoods, where property is being seized by eminent domain.

DeSmog previously has examined the [growing public opposition to the pipeline](http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/03/critics-call-3-billion-sabal-trail-pipeline-florida-s-dakota-access-pipeline), with citizens in Florida and Georgia citing numerous construction violations that could cause environmental destruction.

Opponents of the 515-mile-long pipeline allege that the fast and clumsy installation has followed a fast-tracked approval process, unencumbered by proper government oversight. And they doubt that most of the estimated [one billion cubic feet of fracked gas](http://www.sabaltrailtransmission.com) flowing through Sabal Trail each day will even be needed in Florida.

Which raises the question, critics say: Where will most of the gas be heading?



([https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/09/sabal-trail-opponents-say-pipeline-florida-overbuilt-gas-infrastructure&title=Sabal Trail](https://www.facebook.com/sharer/sharer.php?u=https://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/09/sabal-trail-opponents-say-pipeline-florida-overbuilt-gas-infrastructure&title=Sabal%20Trail))



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*Pipeline ready for installation in Newberry, Florida. Critics say construction could permanently destroy nature preserves and aquifers. Credit: Jesse Hughes*

## EPA Bails, Lawsuit Filed

In October 2015, four Georgia representatives [wrote a letter to FERC \(https://bishop.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/proposed-sabal-trail-raises-environmental-justice-health-concerns\)](https://bishop.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/proposed-sabal-trail-raises-environmental-justice-health-concerns) to express “serious environmental justice issues” with Sabal Trail, as well as possible health threats to nearby residents, many of whom are low income and African American.

That same month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) expressed “significant concerns” that the Sabal Trail pipeline could threaten the Floridan Aquifer in Georgia and Florida. Two months later the agency did an [inexplicable about-face \(http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/lake/os-lk-lauren-ritchie-epa-withdraws-opposition-pipeline-20160114-column.html\)](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/lake/os-lk-lauren-ritchie-epa-withdraws-opposition-pipeline-20160114-column.html), dashing environmentalists’ hopes of at least slowing down the project.

James Giattina, director of the EPA’s Water Protection Division, wrote in a letter that the pipeline would temporarily destroy conservation areas, but that the Sabal Trail company promised “to let these conservation areas naturalize to pre-construction conditions and as a result, this land use conversion should not be a significant long-term environmental issue.”

In August, environmental groups Gulf Restoration Network, Flint Riverkeeper, and the Sierra Club [filed a lawsuit \(https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/blog/Sabal%252520Trail%252520Petition.pdf\)](https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/blog/Sabal%252520Trail%252520Petition.pdf) against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for issuing three Clean Water Act permits to allow Sabal Trail pipeline construction.



The suit claims the Army Corps failed to provide proper notice and public participation opportunities and charges that the pipeline project fails to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Specifically, the suit claims that the environmental impact statement (EIS) for Sabal Trail was inadequate.

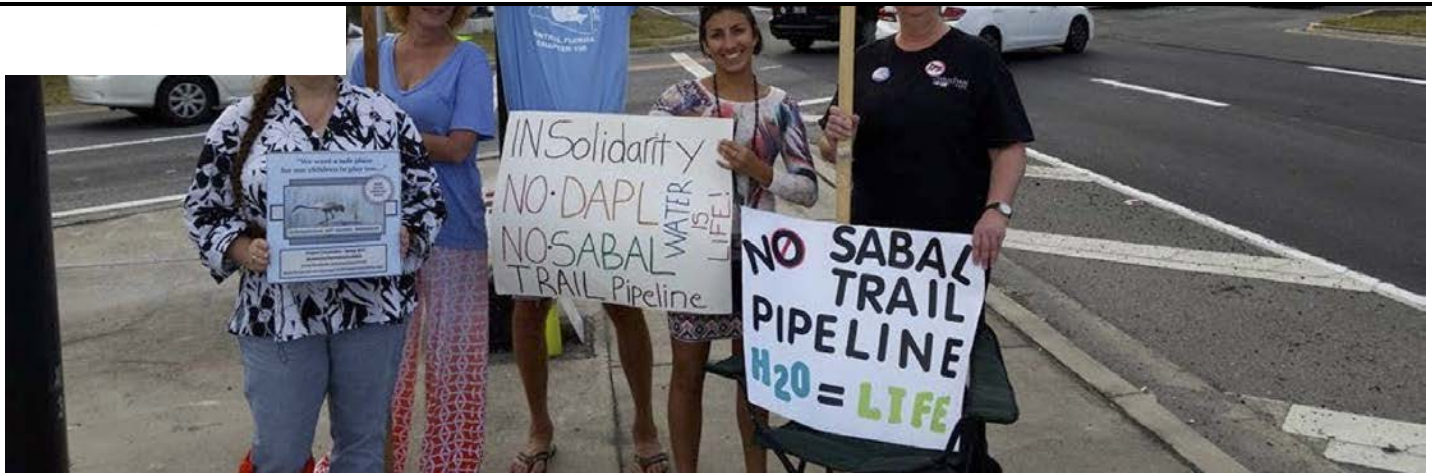
"(The EIS) did not consider how gas was extracted, where it was originating, and the climate impact of power stations along the route," Merrilee Malwitz-Jipson, a Sierra Club organizer, told DeSmog. "It doesn't even account for sinkholes."



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A protest against Sabal Trail in Gainesville, Florida, in October. Pipeline opponents say few Floridians know about the project. Credit: Stop Sabal Trail Pipeline

## Gas for Florida's Needs, or Export?

Beyond the environmental impacts, opponents of Sabal Trail say the pipeline is not needed, because Florida already has more gas than it needs.

According to the [Sabal Trail website](http://content.sabaltrailtransmission.com/content/factsheet.pdf) (<http://content.sabaltrailtransmission.com/content/factsheet.pdf>), other companies will construct a connecting pipeline, which will complete the delivery to Florida Power and Light (FPL) in Martin County, on Florida's Atlantic coast. But activists say that it's unlikely that FPL, which is using \$3 billion of ratepayer money to fund the pipeline, will be the only destination for oil flowing through Sabal Trail pipes.

John Quarterman, president of the anti-Sabal Trail group Wwals Watershed Coalition, recalled that Sabal Trail representatives, when pressed at public hearings, maintained that, as a pipeline company they had no idea where gas going through their pipes might end up, a claim that he and other activists find hard to believe.

Chris Pedersen, [writing for the industry publication OilPrice.com](http://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/Utica-Boosts-U.S.-Natural-Gas-Production-To-Record-Levels.html) in October 2014 (<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/Utica-Boosts-U.S.-Natural-Gas-Production-To-Record-Levels.html>), wrote that Transco and Sabal Trail pipelines could be used to explore new overseas markets for Utica and Marcellus Shale gas.

Sabal Trail opponents say gas flowing through the Sabal Trail pipeline could easily end up at export terminals on the Florida coast. For example, LNG distributor [STROM](http://192.185.116.111/~stromlng/our-projects/) (<http://192.185.116.111/~stromlng/our-projects/>) has filed for a

Free Trade Permit with the Department of Energy and is proposing two Florida port facilities — one existing and one new — that would eventually source from Sabal Trail.

A Sabal Trail spokesperson [told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution \(http://www.myajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/south-georgia-pipeline-fight-turns-into-battle-ove/nrD5C/\)](http://www.myajc.com/news/news/state-regional-govt-politics/south-georgia-pipeline-fight-turns-into-battle-ove/nrD5C/) just before construction began that the pipeline “will increase energy diversity, security, and reliability to these Southeast markets.”



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in the state. And in August, [Floridians passed Amendment 4 \(http://www.desmogblog.com/archives/220664-amendment-4-leading-big-measure-expand-solar-power-florida\)](http://www.desmogblog.com/archives/220664-amendment-4-leading-big-measure-expand-solar-power-florida), which provides tax breaks for solar and renewable energy equipment on commercial buildings.

Critics of Sabal Trail and other pipelines say gas infrastructure projects are meant to be a fossil fuel firewall against populist-backed green energy. Environmentalists and even industry insiders say that Sabal Trail is part of a [deliberate overbuilding of natural gas pipeline infrastructure \(http://southeastenergynews.com/2016/11/14/advocates-ratepayers-will-be-on-the-hook-for-unnecessary-pipelines/\)](http://southeastenergynews.com/2016/11/14/advocates-ratepayers-will-be-on-the-hook-for-unnecessary-pipelines/) for profit, with ratepayers picking up the tab.

As Southeast Energy News reported: “The pipeline business will overbuild until the end of time,’ announced Kelcy Warren, CEO of Energy Transfer Partners (ETP), a Dallas, Texas, natural gas and propane company, at [an August 2015 earnings call \(http://governance.energytransfer.com/mobile.view?c=193925&v=202&d=3&id=aHR0cDovL2FwaS50ZW5rd2l6YXJkLmNvbS9maWxpbnmcueG1sP2lwYWdlPTUwNDIxNTAxjKRTRVE9MCZTRVE9MCZTUURFU0M9U0VDVEIPTI9FTIRJkUmc3Vic2lkPTU3\)](http://governance.energytransfer.com/mobile.view?c=193925&v=202&d=3&id=aHR0cDovL2FwaS50ZW5rd2l6YXJkLmNvbS9maWxpbnmcueG1sP2lwYWdlPTUwNDIxNTAxjKRTRVE9MCZTRVE9MCZTUURFU0M9U0VDVEIPTI9FTIRJkUmc3Vic2lkPTU3).”

“If you construct a major pipeline to bring gas into Florida, it will only create further dependence on it,” Johanna DeGraffenreid of Gulf Restoration Network told DeSmog. “This new gas transmission may lock Florida into fossil fuels for the next twenty or thirty years, and this is not something Floridians want.”

*Main image: A map of the Sabal Trail pipeline route and current and proposed LNG terminals. Opponents say much of the fracked gas will be exported. Credit: Stop Sabal Trail Pipeline*

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laugh at your efforts. This pipeline will be built and your efforts at best are laughable.

^ | v • Share >



MMM1965 → 4CommonSense • 7 days ago

Naturally released into the environment through natural concentrations methane is relatively safe. Concentrated in a pipeline, leaks are extremely flammable and explosive. As a concentrated fuel it is the most dangerous green house gas. Even more so than CO2. Time and money should not be invested in such primitive projects as these pipelines when we have the technology and ability to provide solar and wind energy while additionally employing and providing more jobs for Americans on these new energy plants and projects.

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cyberblunt • 6 days ago

Stop Sabal trail pipeline!

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C.E. Mills • 9 days ago

"could threaten the Floridan Aquifer in Georgia" - you do know Natural Gas is lighter than air? Most natural gas has a specific gravity of .6. When it in air it goes up not down. Most of natural gas is made primarily methane the same stuff that leaks of of your body. It is clear, oder less and non-toxic a small amount of odorant is added to make it delectable.

^ | v • Share >



MMM1965 → C.E. Mills • 7 days ago

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be built and many more like it. Florida needs this infrastructure to grow and

accommodate the masses .

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MMM1965 → DiscourseDiatribе • 7 days ago

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DiscourseDiatribе → MMM1965 • 5 days ago

This pipeline and hundreds more like it will be built to help America be great again!

^ | v • Share >



DiscourseDiatribе → MMM1965 • 5 days ago

Wrong

^ | v • Share >



DiscourseDiatribе → MMM1965 • 6 days ago

Ok you go with wind and solar. Don't use rubber or plastics. Don't drive your car and please for gods sake dnt expect me to pay for your short comings.

^ | v • Share >



MMM1965 → DiscourseDiatribе • 7 days ago

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concentrated fuel it is the most dangerous green house gas. Even more so than CO2. Time and money should not be invested in such primitive projects as these pipelines when we have the technology and ability to provide solar and wind energy while additionally employing and providing more jobs for Americans on these new energy plants and projects. Additionally Florida already has an over abundance of natural gas sources.



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