



News Release

For immediate release

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Payne Creek Generating Station Steam Turbine Generator Experiences Major Failure, Extensive Damage

Tampa, FL (April 17, 2007) - A major failure of the steam turbine and generator at Seminole's 810 megawatt (MW) Payne Creek Generating Station, which is located north of Wauchula in Hardee County, occurred at 8:31 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, during routine operation. The failure damaged the 176 MW steam unit and resulted in considerable collateral damage to other structures on the Payne Creek site. No personnel were injured.

Fire departments from Bartow, Ft. Meade, Hardee County, and Avon Park responded to the resulting fire, which was contained at approximately 11:30 p.m.

The cause of the failure is being investigated. Damage to the balance of the combined cycle generating facility also is being assessed. The facility's two 156 MW combustion turbines are expected to be unavailable for commercial service for at least 60 days. Based on preliminary inspection the steam turbine and generator will not be available before the end of the year.

The facility's five new Pratt & Whitney combustion turbine peaking units, available for commercial service since December 2006, were not involved in or affected by the failure, and continue to be available for use as needed.

Additional assessments are underway at Seminole's corporate office in Tampa to identify the extent and timing of energy purchases that will be required to cover the reduction in Payne Creek's capacity, over the long term.

"We are very thankful there were no injuries. We're working as quickly as possible to determine the extent of the damage, so we can make the needed repairs and get this resource back into service," said Walt Hentze, director of plant operations. Hentze says there will be no interruption in member service due to the Payne Creek outage, since adequate back up power is currently available.

Tampa-based Seminole Electric Cooperative is the wholesale power provider to Peace River Electric Cooperative and nine other distribution cooperatives in Florida. Seminole's members serve portions of 46 counties from the Georgia border to the Everglades. More than 1.6 million individuals and businesses rely on Seminole and its members for electric power.