

Orlando Sentinel

BUSINESS

State moves forward on plans to bury more power lines

News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — State regulators moved forward Thursday with a new law aimed at building more underground power lines and making Florida's electric grid better able to withstand punishing hurricanes.

The Florida Public Service Commission approved proposed rules to carry out the law, which is expected to lead to residents and businesses paying more in their electric bills for storm-protection projects.

Deputy Public Counsel Charles Rehwinkel, whose office represents consumers in utility issues, described the rule-making as the "most significant in a generation" because of issues such as potential costs over time that could total hundreds of millions or billions of dollars.

A key part of the law, passed during the spring legislative session, will change how storm-protection projects, including underground power lines, are financed. That change is expected to lead to more projects, which supporters say should help reduce outages and hold down restoration expenses after storms. But it also will lead to upfront costs for customers.

"In the short run, you're going to see, we believe, increases in bills," Rehwinkel said.

Public Service Commission Chairman Art Graham issued a statement after Thursday's approval of the proposed rules and said they will help electric systems better handle severe storms. The law applies to Florida Power & Light, Duke Energy Florida, Tampa Electric Co., Gulf Power and Florida Public Utilities Co.

"Utilities' investment in storm hardening strengthens Florida's grid to reduce power outages and speed restoration after a storm," Graham said. "The proposed storm protection plan rules will further protect Florida's consumers, including those most vulnerable."

Under the law, utilities will be able each year to seek approval from the commission to collect money from customers for storm-protection projects, such as building underground power lines. In the past, such projects have generally been financed through base electric rates, which are set for a number of years and include a wide range of utility expenses.

Utilities will have to file 10-year

Please turn to **BURY, A11**

Business briefing

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE



Dutka

Lisiana Dutka, Fusilier Management Group, received a 2019 Good Neighbor Award from the Orlando Regional Realtor Association, which will donate \$1,000 in her name to Care Feline TNR.



Biggers

Tennille Biggers, KW Elite Partners III, received a 2019 Good Neighbor Award from the Orlando Regional Realtor Association, which will donate \$1,000 in her name to West Orange Junior Service League.



Calandrino

Amy Calandrino, Beyond Commercial, received a 2019 Good Neighbor Award from the Orlando Regional Realtor Association, which will donate \$1,000 in her name to Victim Service Center of Central Florida.

Submit professional appointments, management-level promotions and significant awards for individuals (not companies), along with photos, online at OrlandoSentinel.com/submit-peopleonmove. Or email them to peopleonmove@orlandosentinel.com with photos as .jpg attachments.



CARMELOLANDO.COM/COURTESY

An aerial view of the 18 acres of land Unicorp's Chuck Whittall is developing into a luxury home community called Carmel.

Found bones of ancient Indians to be reburied

BY AMANDA RABINES

Archaeological remains, a centuries-old Indian burial site and multi-million-dollar homes.

The three put together may seem incompatible, but each plays a role in the story behind one developer's ambition to build a luxury neighborhood along Lake Tibet in southwest Orange County, according to a report in GrowthSpotter.

Chuck Whittall, president of Unicorp National Developments Inc., has site work underway for a luxury single-family community he's developing called Carmel, a delicate process on a site containing a prehistoric Native American burial mound.

"This kind of stuff can go bad," said Ryan Wheeler, director and chair of archaeology at the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology. "It's better to know about these sites prior to devel-

opment rather than to find out during ... If you think about it, construction starts, you have certain contracts in place and then suddenly that all has to stop."

Known as the Macey Mound, the discovery of the burial site predates Whittall's initial intention to develop the property.

The mound and the remains were uncovered by Fred Luce and his son Stanley Luce in the 1920s. Wheeler said the duo practiced uncovering archaeological findings in the mid-20th century, though they acted more like dilettantes than full-time archaeologists.

"I think people locally must have known about it and the Luces got permission from the landowner to dig there," Wheeler said.

Most of their collections, including the Macey Mound findings, went to the Haverhill Historical Society that operates the Buttonwoods Museum in Ha-

verhill, Massachusetts.

In 1995, they were transferred to the Peabody. It wasn't until late 2012 that a Florida Master Site File (part of the Florida Division of Historical Resources) regarding the Macey Mound was submitted to be listed with the state.

According to documents collected by the institution, human remains representing at least nine bodies were removed by the Luces. The exact age of the bones wasn't available, other than to call them prehistoric.

In addition to the individuals found, the Luces also uncovered 1,685 artifacts, mostly pottery fragments.

A notice published by the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology in August states that the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma are all culturally affiliated with the individuals and artifacts

found in the Macey Mound.

After more than two decades in storage at the Peabody, and even longer when counting its time with the Haverhill Historical Society, the remains will finally be put back to rest.

At an Orange County development review board meeting last week, Whittall told staff the remains will be reburied at the property he recently acquired for about \$18 million.

Gary Bitner, a spokesperson for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, said the tribe declined to comment.

Whittall said he intends to dedicate about a quarter-acre of the property to the reburial.

Prices for homes are anticipated to range from \$4 million to \$15 million. The developer also intends to build a home for himself at the property.

To read the full story, go to GrowthSpotter.com and subscribe.

Retail group forecasts solid holiday growth

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, forecasts that holiday sales will rise from 3.8% to 4.2% even as uncertainty looms over an escalating trade war with China.

The holiday sales forecast, announced Thursday, marks an increase from the disappointing 2.1% growth seen in the November and December 2018 period that came well short of the group's prediction.

Last year's holiday sales were hurt by turmoil over President Donald Trump's trade policy with China and a delay in data collection by nearly a month because of a government shutdown.

This year's holiday forecast is above the average holiday sales growth of 3.7% over the previous five years.

The group expects online and



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP 2018

People shop for TVs on Black Friday. The National Retail Federation forecasts holiday sales will rise 3.8%-4.2%.

other non-store sales, which are included in the total, to increase from 11% to 14%, for the holiday period.

The predictions come as the economy and the job market are still strong.

But Trump's trade war with China could derail economic growth. In fact, U.S. factory activity shrunk for the second straight month in September and reached a 10-year low, renewing fears of a recession and triggering a broad

stock market drop.

"The U.S. economy is continuing to grow and consumer spending is still the primary engine behind that growth," said NRF President and CEO Matthew Shay. "Nonetheless, there has clearly been a slowdown brought on by considerable uncertainty around issues including trade, interest rates, global risk factors and political rhetoric."

During a call with the media, Shay noted that shoppers are in good financial shape but consumer confidence could be eroded by any of these economic or political factors.

Until now, a large swath of consumer goods was largely spared from higher prices in Trump's previous round of import taxes.

That has changed. Starting Sept. 1, the U.S. government began collecting 15% on \$112 billion of

Please turn to **RETAIL, A11**

Dispute threatens to disrupt main artery of world trade

BY CARLO PIOVANO AND LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The trade wars threatening to push the global economy into recession are entering a new phase, with the United States and European Union escalating a dispute that endangers the world's biggest trade relationship.

After the Trump administration slapped steep tariffs on \$75 billion in EU goods, mainly traditional produce like cheese and wine, the Europeans made clear they would retaliate in kind. Some fear the tariffs could ultimately lead to U.S. taxes on European cars, a big economic blow that Trump has been threatening to deliver for months.

The exchange echoes how the U.S. and China ratcheted up a tariffs fight in recent months that has bruised businesses around the world and stunted economic growth.

"This step triggers fears of a new round of escalation of tariff wars," said Alex Kuptsikevich, a financial analyst with brokerage FxPro. "The introduction of tariffs and fears of tit-for-tat steps could further suppress business sentiment, which is already at the lowest levels for years."

The Trump administration's latest tariffs target large aircraft but also many typical European products such as olives, whiskey, wine, cheese and yogurt. They take effect Oct. 18 and amount to a 10% tax on EU aircraft and a steep

25% rate on everything else.

The U.S. got the legal go-ahead Wednesday from the World Trade Organization in a case involving illegal EU subsidies for the plane maker Airbus, which predates the Trump administration.

But the EU expects a similar case of U.S. subsidies for Boeing to go in its favor, with a ruling due in coming months. It has said it hopes the two sides can hold off new tariffs, which amount to taxes on domestic importers. Sometimes importers pass on the higher costs to consumers, making goods more expensive.

"If the U.S. imposes countermeasures it will be pushing the EU into a situation where we will have to do the same," said the European Commission's spokes-

man, Daniel Rosario, echoing the dark outlook expressed by many EU governments.

"This is a move that will first and foremost hit U.S. consumers and companies and will make efforts towards a negotiated settlement more complicated," he said.

A group of American alcohol importers, wholesalers, distributors and others released an open letter this week urging an end to the tariffs. They say tariffs on Scotch whisky, liqueurs and wine would affect nearly \$3.4 billion in imports and cost 13,000 U.S. jobs, including truckers and bartenders.

Mindful that the tariffs do not actually come into effect for a couple weeks, Rosario stressed that the EU is still open to talking.