



March 20, 2019

Surface Transportation Board
Attention: Docket No. EP 670 (Sub-No.2)
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

247317

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
March 20, 2019
Part of
Public Record

RE: Notice of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC) Utility Vacancy

Candidate Nomination for Tory Bombard.

To Whom it May Concern:

I'm interested in the vacancy for the Utility position on the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee and would be honored to have the opportunity to represent in the capacity as a municipal-owned utility.

If selected for the Utility Vacancy, I am committed to attending the RETAC meeting twice a year at the expense of Lakeland Electric for travel expense. I understand the position is to serve in a representative capacity with no compensation.

Lakeland Electric is a municipal utility owned by the City of Lakeland. My position as Fuels Manager reports Directly to the General Manager due to my responsibility of managing 40% of the utility budget as the fuel budget consist of \$130,000,000. Our utility generation mix consists of 30% coal, 63% Natural Gas, 6% oil and 1% Solar. We consider ourselves a community utility, so our vision is to provide our customers with an exceptional quality of life by supplying affordable power to our ratepayers. Each quarter, I represent the utility by presenting our fuel budget cost and developing rates to the City Commission and Utility Committee.

My career spans working for the City of Lakeland starting in July of 2000, so I have over 18 years of municipal experience. As Fuels Manager, I serve as Lakeland Electric's principal representative in all outside activities relating to fuels procurement and transportation. Currently, I serve on the Eastern Fuels Buyer Committee and Florida Municipal Power Pool (FMPP) Fuels Committee. The FMPP consists of three utilities, Lakeland Electric, Orlando Utility Commission and Florida Municipal Power Agency. FMPP has three large coal units or 1,291 MWs of coal that are all primary served by rail. I have previously, serviced on the American Coal Council Leadership council. During my career, I had the opportunity to serve as a Public Official for the last eight years as a General Pension Trustee and as the President of the Polk

501 E Lemon Street, Lakeland FL 33801

County Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Also, I serve on the Florida Cities Committee for FERC rate cases dealing with Natural Gas.

In the state of Florida, utilities are captive to a single railroad, which gives them a monopoly on all the rail rates coming into the state. In the last few years, we all experienced the transition to precision railroading and have seen declines in customer service. Our utility and other in our State have had many challenges in attaining reliable transportation during the changes in management, and as a stakeholder trying to operate economically, I feel passionate about serving and being the voice for small utilities and working with other shippers to raise awareness on the impacts the railroads have on our business.

I believe my skills and knowledge in coal fuels procurement, dealing with managing a fleet of railcars, negotiating transportation contracts with suppliers and railroads, and using alternative sources of transportation provide a vital niche to fill the RETAC's utility's vacancy.

To stay current on industry events, I'm a member of the American Coal Council and the Coal Institute. I attend numerous industry conferences and co-host the Eastern Fuel Buyer conference which is considered a premier coal conference with three other Florida utilities. My educational background consists of two undergraduate degrees in Accounting and Finance and a Master's degree in Public Administration. I am a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Government Financial Officer, and Certified Public Manager. My knowledge of business and establishing strategic working relationships is a strength that contributes to the success of affordable procurement for all parties.

I look forward to speaking with you further about becoming a member of the Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee.

Thank You,



Tory Bombard, MPA, CPA, CGFO, CPM
Fuels Manager
Lakeland Electric
501 E Lemon Street
Lakeland, FL 33801
863-834-6207
Tory.Bombard@Lakelandelectric.com

501 E Lemon Street, Lakeland FL 33801