

NEWS RELEASE

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OCEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY EXPERT APPOINTED TO FLORIDA ENERGY COMMISSION

TALLAHASSEE – Senate President Ken Pruitt today appointed Dr. Fredrick R. Driscoll to fill the Florida Energy Commission’s (FEC) vacant ninth seat. Driscoll currently serves as associate professor in the Department of Ocean Engineering at Florida Atlantic University, and as director of the Center of Excellence in Ocean Energy Technology.

Driscoll brings valuable knowledge of how the ocean could potentially become Florida’s largest renewable energy resource.

“I’m confident that I can speak on behalf of all of the Commissioners when I say that Dr. Driscoll brings an invaluable skill set and knowledge base to the FEC,” said Tommy Boroughs, FEC chairman. “We happy to have him as an FEC member, and are eager to learn more about what ocean energy could mean for Florida’s energy future, environment and economy.”

Driscoll’s appointment adds ocean energy to the wide range of knowledge already held by FEC members including natural resource conservation, economics, engineering, finance, law, consumer protection, and others crucial to the FEC’s mission.

About Commissioner Driscoll

Dr. Rick F. Driscoll is an Associate Professor in the Florida Atlantic University’s department of Ocean Engineering.

He received both his Bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering and his multi-disciplinary Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

Dr. Driscoll received the Florida Atlantic University College of Engineering Researcher of the Year Award in 2002 - 2003, and the Florida Atlantic University's university-wide Researcher of the Year Award in 2003 – 2004.

His research areas of interest include ocean energy technology, sea-basing systems, dynamics of cable-vehicle/platform systems, offshore structures, dynamics and control of mechanical systems, autonomous and remotely controlled vehicles, field-data acquisition and signal processing, numerical simulation, fluid dynamics and physical oceanography.

About the Florida Energy Commission

The Florida Energy Commission is a nine-member panel jointly appointed by Florida's Senate President and House Speaker. It is charged with recommending to the Florida Legislature the best ways to secure Florida's energy future using the guiding principles of reliability, efficiency, affordability and diversity.

The Commission's immediate focus is on renewable energy sources, climate change, conservation, efficiency and power generation and transmission to address Florida's long-term energy needs and goals. But the long-term goal is to take a look at all aspects of the many energy options available to Floridians.

By Dec. 31, the FEC will develop a report that will document its progress, and make the first of a series of annual recommendations designed to help guide the Florida Legislature in choosing best practices and options for Florida's energy future.

Visit the Florida Energy Commission's Web site at www.floridaenergycommission.gov.

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