
OVERVIEW

Chip Merriam has worked for over 37 years in the water resources, restoration, and electrical energy industry with a specialty in legislative, regulatory, and compliance issues. His expertise includes:

- Regulatory Permitting and Compliance
- Avian Protection Plan Development requirements preventing Protected Species interaction with power lines
- Integrated Resource Planning, regulatory impacts
- Testimony to The State of Florida Legislature
- Testimony to Congress, Energy and Commerce, Environment and Public Works, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science and Technology as well as the Office of Management and Budget on Federal Rule Development and Legislation
- Project Management
- Large Project Construction Management

PROJECT EXPERIENCE, OUC

While serving as the Vice President of Legislative, Regulatory, and Compliance at the Orlando Utility Commission (OUC), Mr. Merriam was responsible for managing energy and water regulatory and compliance and was actively involved in the development of State of Florida and Federal legislative policy. This included OUC-specific development and implementation of transmission and reliability standards under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), as well as the North American Energy Reliability Commission (NERC). On behalf of OUC, he served as a member of the various committees of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC), including the Climate Policy Group, the Nuclear Strategy Group, the Cyber Security Task Force, the Governmental Relations Task Force, and the Environmental Task Force. He was also involved with the American Public Power Association (APPA) on the CEO Climate Task Force as well at the Legislative and Rules Committee. In addition, Mr. Merriam coordinated with the St. Johns River and South Florida water management districts on rule making and policy development issues impacting Florida. He was responsible for overseeing the organizational strategic planning process including ensuring the alignment across business units and down to the individual employee level.

- Developed the office of Legislative Affairs, promoting OUC's State and Federal Policy priorities
- Represented OUC and Public Power providing technical testimony to the Congressional Science and Technology Committee on EPA rule making, saving OUC over \$65 million
- Led the development and discussion on USEPA Air Mercury Rule Making to the Office of the White House, Office of Management and Budget on behalf of OUC and the Electric Industry

- Represented the Electric Power industry before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the Coal Ash Legislation S. 2446. and worked with Senate sponsors to incorporate amendments from the Senate bill into a Water Resource Development Act (WRDA), which passed in 2016
- Permitted the first ever Solar Array on the top of a closed Coal Combustion Residual Landfill
- Implemented the First Avian Protection Plan for an electric power agency in Florida by developing a plan that provides protection for the American Bald Eagle within the OUC Service Territory
- Developed deep Aquifer Alternative Water Supplies in the Lower-Lower Floridan Aquifer
- Demonstrated leadership, dedication, and knowledge within the industry and was recognized by industry peers for the American Public Power Association “Rising Star” Award
- Elected by the Municipal Energy Providers of Florida to the Position of President of the Board of Directors for the Florida Municipal Energy Association, serving now as Past President
- Managed the development of two amendments to Chapter 119 F.S. (the Florida Sunshine Act) with bi-cameral legislative approval
- Led a successful effort to reverse an audit by the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General of FEMA that recommended de-obligating OUC from a \$10.8 million repayment as a result of the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons
- Provided Amendment to the 2018 FAA Reauthorization to modify Stafford Act limiting the time for “Claw-back” by FEMA

PROJECT EXPERIENCE, SFWMD

Before working at OUC, Mr. Merriam was the Deputy Executive Director of Water Resources for the South Florida Water Management District. In this position, Mr. Merriam:

- was responsible for coordinating, planning and implementing the \$8.4 billion Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, construction and engineering of the District’s capital construction projects.
- was responsible for: Everglades Construction Project, Everglades research, Kissimmee River restoration, development and implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan, Environmental Resource Regulation, water supply planning development and Consumptive Use Permitting, water quality monitoring, evaluation and assessment.
- coordinated federal and state efforts on projects such as C-111, Modified Water Deliveries to the Everglades, and critical restoration projects.
- was responsible for the completion of the nationally recognized Cattail Habitat Improvement Project, and the first ever Avian Protection Plan in Florida.
- managed the successful on-time and under-budget completion of the construction of a 18,000-acre Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4, the world’s largest man-made wetland, after the initial vendor filed bankruptcy.

- planned and oversaw the engineering design and construction of the first natural system flood control project in Southwest Florida, taking advantage of and coordinating mitigation projects for the expansion of the Southwest Florida International Airport, FDOT expansions, well fields and Florida Gulf Coast University siting.

EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL

Mr. Merriam has a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and education experience in Chemistry and Marine Benthic Ecology from the University of Florida. He is the past president of the Florida Municipal Energy Association. He resides in central Florida where he enjoys spending time with his wife of 38 years, offshore fishing, scuba diving, and being a first-time grandfather.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY SUMMARY

Mr. Merriam has been engaged in Environmental Resource and Water Supply rule making and permitting and large project construction since 1990 while serving the State of Florida with the South Florida Water Management District. He began a new chapter in his career when he joined the Orlando Utilities Commission, bringing his environmental, water resource experience along with his state and federal legislative experience into the Electric Utility Industry. Beginning his work with OUC in 2009, Mr. Merriam quickly rose to the role of as Chief Legislative, Regulatory and Compliance Officer. With the increased complexity and rapid nature of rules and legislative changes, Mr. Merriam then became a Vice President for OUC. Because of his experience as a regulator and in the electric industry, Mr. Merriam was asked to testify before Congress on behalf of OUC and the electrical industry. He testified on items such as the Mercury Air Toxins Rule, the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, the Clean Power Plan, and the Coal Combustion Residual Plan and Authorizing Legislation. Before joining nFront Consulting, Mr. Merriam was responsible for the modifications, amendments, and compliance for the Operating Permits for the Stanton Energy Center and the Indian River Power Plant, serving as the organizations Responsible Regulatory Designate for matters regarding complying with the Clean Air and Clean Water Requirements.

Mr. Merriam has demonstrated the ability to manage complex regulatory and environmental projects and work closely with diverse teams to collaborate with clients, regulators, and local, state and federal elected officials. His experience and ability to deliver effective verbal and written communication keeps stakeholders informed and engaged, thus contributing to his success.