

Storm Hardening GRU 138,000 Volt Transmission System

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
August 14, 2020**

The Federal Housing and Urban Development Agency and Florida Department of Economic Opportunity have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) consideration to provide funding in the form of mitigation from Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation Program (CDBG-MIT) in response to Hurricanes Hermine (2016), Matthew (2016), and Irma (2017). Funds will be provided in accordance with Federal Registry / Vol. 84, No. 169 / Friday August 30, 2019 / Notices pages 45838-45871. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) allocation as described in Public Law 115-123.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 HUD is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires HUD to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU)

Project Title:

Storm Hardening GRU 138,000 Volt Transmission System

Location of Proposed Work:

The areas affected by this project consists of the following locations:

1. GRU 138 KV Transmission Line going west for 2.4 Miles from GPS Coordinates (82°28'22.071"W, 29°38'4.438"N), 2022 SW 122 St to Farnsworth Substation GPS Coordinates (82°29'42.336"W, 29°39'1.076"N), 319 SW 143 St, Jonesville. Project is to replace sixteen (16) wood poles with ductile iron poles.

- GRU 138 KV Transmission Line going south for 16.6 miles from GRU Deerhaven Generating Station GPS Coordinates (82°23'17.399"W, 29°45'22.937"N), driveway 4300 NW 13 St. to GRU Fort Clark Substation GPS Coordinates (82°28'23.175"W, 29°39'50.04"N), 1200 NW 122 St. Project is to replace insulators on 52 concrete poles.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Prior tropical storm experience has demonstrated that windblown debris has caused power outages at these transmission lines during hurricanes and on normal course of business afternoon storms. This HUD / DOE funded project will greatly lower the probability of a power grid outage.

On the 138,000 Volt transmission line to Farnsworth substation at sixteen (16) locations 70' class 1 wood poles will be replaced with stronger 70' class 1 ductile iron poles. The existing wood poles have been damaged by woodpeckers.

On the 138,000 Volt transmission line from Deerhaven Generating Station, thru Hague Generating Station (82°24'6.835"W, 29°45'42.088"N), thru Alachua Substation (82°27'18.983"W, 29°46'25.975"N), to tap to Springhill Substation ((82°27'53.374"W, 29°41'45.7"N) and ultimately ending at Fort Clark substation replace post insulators with vee-string design insulators on 52 concrete poles.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to these projects that have been and will be considered are 1) take no action alternative and 2) doing only some or parts of the proposed projects.

These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) *the needs of the community would not be served if we take no action since tropical storm caused power interruptions are prevalent in our area and any cost-effective mitigation measure to improve restoration time and improve human safety should be taken*; and Alternative 2) would lessen the reliability and resilience of the grid to feed these critical transmission lines.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Economic Opportunity, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Fernando Martins, Principal Electric Engineer
Gainesville Regional Utilities

(352) 393-1596
MartinsFA@gru.COM

DEO will take comments via USPS mail or email at:

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Attention: Office of Disaster Recovery
107 East Madison Street
The Caldwell Building, MSC 160
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com