

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
APRIL 27th, 2020**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

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 FEMA 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 FEMA 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:

HMGP- 4337- 558 Gainesville Regional Utilities, **Neighborhood 21**, Utility Protective Measures

Location of Proposed Work:

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

Work will be performed on the 37 rear-lot poles along utility easements for circuit 1031 distribution poles in the area in the vicinity of the intersections of W. University Ave & NW 8th Ave and NW 34th Street and NW 35th Terrace in Gainesville, Florida, with the primary fuse located at Lat/Long: 29.65906539; -82.37227674 in zip code 32607 and includes the following physical streets: NW 8th Avenue; W. University Avenue; NW 7th Avenue; NW 7th Place; NW 5th Avenue; NW 36th Drive; NW 36th Terrace; NW 36th Street; NW 35th Terrace; NW 35th Street; NW 34th Drive; NW 34th Terrace; and NW 34th Street.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Prior tropical storm experience has demonstrated that Messenger Wire attached to distribution poles makes the poles susceptible to breakage from wind-blown tree debris and cause power interruptions. This FEMA-funded project will remove the existing Messenger Wire from the distribution poles and be performed as follows:

- 1) Line crews enter the neighborhood and notify the customers of an impending two (2) hours power interruption and prepare the poles for Messenger Removal by moving other conductors attached to the poles to accommodate messenger removal; hanging temporary running blocks (rollers) and ropes to assist in the removal.
- 2) Distribution lines are de-energized and Messenger Wire is removed and Line Crews inspect the pole and attached equipment and connections and correct any discrepancies found to maximize work completed during scheduled outage. Note: any routine maintenance performed is not submitted for reimbursement.
- 3) Area is cleaned up and power restored.

The successful removal of Messenger Wire will significantly reduce the number of broken distribution poles during the future tropical storm and thereby reduce the number of man-hours needed to restore power caused by storms. This project cannot prevent future tropical storm-related interruptions, but will significantly reduce service restoration times by eliminating the number of future broken poles and freeing up lineman resources to make other storm-related repairs thusly reducing the overall length of time for total restoration for all customers.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) install an underground conduit system in front of each residence and remove the existing distribution system. 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) the undergrounding of the existing distribution system does not retain fabric of the community and is cost prohibitive, and therefore not practicable.

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 Emergency Management, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., 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:

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