

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
March 3, 2022**

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:

Florida Keys Electric Cooperative Inc

Project Title:

HMGP-4337-444-R (Phase 2) Self Supporting Transmission Poles

Location of Proposed Work:

Areas of right of way adjacent to vacant land as well as 77522 Overseas Hwy Islamorada, FL and 58396 Overseas Hwy Marathon, FL

Proposed Work and Purpose:

FKEC is proposing to upgrade 11 electric transmission poles to a stronger, more rigid self-supporting design, eliminating the use of guy (support) wires that are currently vulnerable to damage and resulting pole failure in high wind conditions. Guy wires, while adding additional stability to poles in challenging installation locations, are vulnerable to damage from wind-borne debris and corrosion that could result in their failure. By upgrading these 11 poles to a self-supporting design, the vulnerability of these poles is substantially reduced, providing a level of mitigation effectiveness to high winds. By ensuring that its transmission system is protected against high winds, FKEC is increasing the resiliency of this electric transmission system both before, during, and following a natural hazard where high winds and/or power loss are anticipated.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) *FKEC could investigate the utilization of more structurally rigid bracing systems of the currently guy-wired poles. This alternative would, in theory, provide additional support that was less vulnerable to damage than the current guy/wire configurations, establishing solid foundations for this alternative bracing system would likely be difficult given the soil conditions in the areas where guy-wired poles are typically found.* These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) ***“no action” leaves these critical pieces of electric transmission infrastructure vulnerable to damage, failure and substantial power loss throughout FKEC’s service area,*** and Alternative 2) ***establishing solid foundations for this alternative bracing system would likely be difficult given the soil conditions in the areas where guy-wired poles are typically found.***

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 Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice (or ***April 2, 2022***). 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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