

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
June 11, 2025**

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.

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:

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

Project Title:

HMGP-4734 (216) – [Madison County] - Underground Service to Anchor Institutions

Location of Proposed Work:

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

The project spans approximately **6.5 miles** of existing distribution right-of-way between **30.486231 °N, -83.456813 °W** and **30.475925 °N, -83.393167 °W** in and around the City of Madison (ZIP 32340), Madison County, Florida. The corridor serves roughly 500 metered connections, including governmental and other critical facilities

Proposed Work and Purpose:

TCEC proposes converting the overhead distribution feeders to an underground configuration, including new conduit, vaults, cables, transformers, and associated equipment. Undergrounding will virtually eliminate wind-related damage to this feeder, reduce outages for approximately 2,960 residents and businesses, and improve the reliability of power to emergency and governmental facilities during severe storms.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no-action alternative and 2) upgrading the existing poles with hurricane-rated structures. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) the existing 6.5-mile overhead feeder will stay fully exposed to hurricane-force winds, leaving poles and conductors prone to repeated storm damage. Each failure would trigger costly repairs, prolonged outages for some 500 metered connections—including critical government and emergency facilities—and could delay lifesaving response efforts, so the No Action alternative does not meaningfully reduce risk or meet the community's need for reliable power. Alternative 2) is similarly rejected as, while upgrading the existing poles would reduce the likelihood of pole breakage, all conductors and equipment would remain overhead and exposed to wind-borne debris, falling trees, and lightning. Because this option still leaves a significant risk of service interruptions to the community's critical facilities and offers only a partial improvement in system resilience, it was deemed less effective and therefore not selected.

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 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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Florida Division of Emergency Management

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