

Storm Hardening Power Grid Connections to Critical Customers

**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:

CDBG-MIT Storm Hardening Power Grid Connections to Critical Customers

Location of Proposed Work:

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

East Side High School Shelter, 1201 SE 43 Street, Lat. 29°38'27.707"N, Long. 82°16'21.269"W, Zip Code 32641. Install switches on SE 43 St. and install 3,200' of underground conduit, cable and auxiliary equipment along driveway and next to main building.

Kanapaha Water Treatment Plant, 3901 SW 63 Blvd., Lat. 29°37'10.428"N, Long. 82°24'44.309"W, Zip Code 32608. Install 3,700' of underground conduit, cable and auxiliary equipment parallel to SW 41 Place from SW 75 St. to Plant Entrance.

Install switches and auxiliary equipment at the following shelter locations:

Location	Address	Latitude	Longitude	Zip
Joseph Williams Elementary	1245 SE 7 Ave.	29°38'43.093"N	82°18'31.343"W,	32641
Alachua Community Support Services	218 SE 24 St.	29°38'59.152"N	82°17'36.104"W	32641
Kanapaha Middle School	5005 SW 75 St.	29°36'23.226"N	82°25'16.424"W,	32608
Gainesville senior Center	5701 NW 34 Blvd.	29°42'28.095"N	82°21'18.174"W,	32658
Westwood Middle School	3215 NW 15 Ave.	29°40'0.656"N	82°22'9.895"W,	32605
Talbot Elementary	5701 NW 43 St	29°42'25.186"N	82°23'13.295"W	32608
Lawton M Chiles Elementary	2525 Schoolhouse Road	29°37'46.225"N	82°26'39.641"W,	32608
Meadowbrook Elementary	11525 NW 39 Ave.	29°41'17.038"N	82°27'46.63"W,	32606
Buchholtz High School	5510 NW 27 Ave.	82°24'1.078"W	82°24'1.078"W	32606

Proposed Work and Purpose:

Prior tropical storm experience has demonstrated that windblown debris has caused power outages at these shelters and this water treatment facility during hurricanes and on normal course of business afternoon storms. This HUD / DOE funded project will greatly lower the probability of a power outage for the first two and facilitate the resilience of all of these facilities.

Switches will be installed on the main line circuits feeding all of these facilities to facilitate restoration of service to the power grid should an interruption occur. For East Side High School Shelter and Kanapaha Water Treatment Plant the installation of underground primary will greatly improve the reliability and resilience of the power grid. It should be noted that a collateral gain of these two (2) projects two (2) large apartment complexes, one (1) with 400 meters and one (1) with 100 meters will also gain improved reliability and resilience. Another collateral gain of these projects is that linemen who would have had to work to restore power to East Side High Shelter and Kanapaha Water

Treatment are now available to restore power to other customers, thusly reducing the overall length of time for total restoration for all customers.

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 customers.*

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
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DEO will take comments via USPS mail or email at:

cdbg-mit@deo.myflorida.com

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