

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
April 24, 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 Inc

Project Title:

HMGP 4734-065-R – Tri-County Electric Cooperative Inc, Aucilla River Crossing, Infrastructure Retrofit

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of water-based and land-based work in the following location:

The proposed project area consists of the existing utility right-of-way held by TCEC where its electric distribution infrastructure crosses over the Aucilla River in Lamont, Florida. Latitude and Longitude for the proposed project, beginning at the proposed eastern segment of the line, is generally 30.336611 N / -83.786803W crossing West over the river to generally 30.336477 N / -83.800599 W.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The proposed project consists of converting approximately 0.822 miles of overhead three-phase powerline and fiber cable to an underground configuration, where the existing line crosses the Aucilla River using a directional bore or similar technique. The purpose of the proposed work is to reduce the vulnerability of the subject powerline against damage from wind and debris, reducing the service disruption to the populations served by this line. The area is heavily vegetated and is a frequent source of outages during high wind events. The river crossing makes service restoration more challenging than overland restoration work.

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 infrastructure to a higher/stronger class of poles to protect against damage from high wind events. The "No Action" alternative has been reviewed and rejected, as the benefiting population will continue to experience frequent, persistent outages if no action is taken. The pole class upgrade alternative was similarly considered, as a stronger pole is less likely to fail during moderately severe high wind events. However, as this area is heavily wooded, vegetative debris can still be expected to hamper overhead restoration work. Having to contend with addressing down lines across the Aucilla River also remains a challenge under this alternative. For these reasons, the primary alternative, the overhead to underground conversion of this line segment, will be pursued through the HMGP.

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 30 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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