

Emergency Management Rappahannock Tribe

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From:
Steven L. Nelson, Director
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To:
Grant Application Review Committee
Department of Energy - Grid Resilience and Enhancement Grant Programs

Cc:
Justin Cruise, Director
Strategy Execution & Enterprise Risk Management
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
jcruise@myrec.coop

RE: Letter of Support of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative's Department of Energy grant application seeking funding from the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership Program (GRIP). Smart Grid and Resilience programs.

Dear Grant Application Review Committee

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) is the primary energy provider for our tribal community. Our tribal members are scattered over a four-county rural wooded area which is often adversely affected by severe storms and frequent power outages. Our citizens, tribal government offices, business operations, emergency operations and evacuation shelter are all powered by and depend on the resilience of the electric grid.

We are a small, underserved Tribal community that is often negatively impacted by energy systems that lack the latest technology and infrastructure to remain resilient during and following adverse weather conditions. Due to the isolated and elderly population in our area, extended power outages can turn from an inconvenience to life threatening in a short period of time. In addition to the life safety issues, we operate our government offices via power from Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. Our continuity of operations plan depends on reliable energy to be effective. As energy needs grow, with expanding operations and migration away from fossil fuels, our dependance on a reliable power grid will also grow.

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative is our partner in community development and energy resilience planning. We are supportive and pleased to see the Cooperative's effort to increase its grid resilience via the Smart Grid and Resilience programs. This effort will undoubtedly contribute to enhancing the resilience of the systems that we and non-tribal citizens rely on in our area.

As Director of Emergency Management for the Rappahannock Tribe and users of the Rappahannock Electric Cooperative system. We support their application for these programs and encourage approval of its grant applications.

Sincerely

Steven L. Nelson, Director
Emergency Management Rappahannock Tribe