

Instructions and Summary

Award Number: TA1-310-E
Award Recipient: SECO Energy

Date of Submission: 4/6/2023
Form submitted by: Prime Recipient
(May be award recipient or sub-recipient)

Please read the instructions on each worksheet tab before starting. If you have any questions, please ask your DOE contact!

1. If using this form for award application, negotiation, or budget revision, fill out the blank white cells in workbook tabs a. through j. with total project costs. If using this form for invoice submission, fill out tabs a. through j. with total costs for just the proposed invoice and fill out tab k. per the instructions on that tab.
2. Blue colored cells contain instructions, headers, or summary calculations and should not be modified. Only blank white cells should be populated.
3. Enter detailed support for the project costs identified for each Category line item within each worksheet tab to autopopulate the summary tab.
4. The total budget presented on tabs a. through i. must include both Federal (DOE) and Non-Federal (cost share) portions.
5. All costs incurred by the preparer's sub-recipients, vendors, and Federal Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), should be entered only in section f. Contractual. All other sections are for the costs of the preparer only.
6. Ensure all entered costs are allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with the administrative requirements prescribed in 2 CFR 200, and the applicable cost principles for each entity type: FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities; and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.
7. Add rows as needed throughout tabs a. through j. If rows are added, formulas/calculations may need to be adjusted by the preparer. Do not add rows to the Instructions and Summary tab. If your project contains more than five budget periods, consult your DOE contact before adding additional budget period rows or columns.
8. **ALL budget period cost categories are rounded to the nearest dollar.**

BURDEN DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Office of Information Resources Management Policy, Plans, and Oversight, AD-241-2 - GTN, Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-5162), U.S. Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1910-5162), Washington, DC 20503.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CATEGORY COSTS PROPOSED

The values in this summary table are from entries made in subsequent tabs, only blank white cells require data entry

Section A - Budget Summary								
		Federal	Cost Share			Total Costs	Cost Share %	Proposed Budget Period Dates
Budget Period 1		\$2,387,247	\$795,750			\$3,182,997	25.00%	Upon Award-9/30/2024
Budget Period 2		\$17,752,689	\$5,917,563			\$23,670,252	25.00%	10/1/2024-9/30/2025
Budget Period 3		\$17,010,603	\$5,670,202			\$22,680,805	25.00%	10/1/2025-9/30/2026
Budget Period 4		\$15,474,842	\$5,158,281			\$20,633,123	25.00%	10/1/2026-9/30/2027
Budget Period 5		\$232,180	\$77,394			\$309,574	25.00%	10/1/2027-9/30/2028
Total		\$52,857,560	\$17,619,190			\$70,476,750	25.00%	
Section B - Budget Categories								
CATEGORY	Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3	Budget Period 4	Budget Period 5	Total Costs	% of Project	Comments (as needed)
a. Personnel	\$399,625	\$867,012	\$1,276,960	\$1,197,646	\$69,480	\$3,810,722	5.41%	
b. Fringe Benefits	\$286,651	\$621,908	\$915,963	\$859,071	\$49,838	\$2,733,432	3.88%	see comments on Fringe tab and attached Budget Supplemental
c. Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	
d. Equipment	\$1,283,219	\$14,284,477	\$12,145,778	\$11,718,038	\$0	\$39,431,512	55.95%	Materials for projects are included in this category
e. Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	
f. Contractual								
Sub-recipient	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	
Vendor	\$480,902	\$5,042,387	\$5,116,167	\$3,796,868	\$87,426	\$14,523,750	20.61%	
FFRDC	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	
Total Contractual	\$480,902	\$5,042,387	\$5,116,167	\$3,796,868	\$87,426	\$14,523,750	20.61%	
g. Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	
h. Other Direct Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%	
Total Direct Costs	\$2,450,398	\$20,815,783	\$19,454,868	\$17,571,623	\$206,744	\$60,499,415	85.84%	
i. Indirect Charges	\$732,599	\$2,854,469	\$3,225,937	\$3,061,500	\$102,830	\$9,977,335	14.16%	
Total Costs	\$3,182,997	\$23,670,252	\$22,680,805	\$20,633,123	\$309,574	\$70,476,750	100.00%	

Additional Explanation (as needed):

See attached BudgetSupplemental.pdf for Applicant's FEMA Benefits Calculation Worksheet (Fringe Rate Justification)

b. Fringe Benefits

INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ!!!

1. Fill out the table below by position title. If all employees receive the same fringe benefits, you can show "Total Personnel" in the Labor Type column instead of listing out all position titles.
2. The rates and how they are applied should not be averaged to get one fringe cost percentage. Complex calculations should be described/provided in the Additional Explanation section below.
3. The fringe benefit rates should be applied to all positions, regardless of whether those funds will be supported by Federal Share or Recipient Cost Share.
4. Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.

Labor Type	Budget Period 1			Budget Period 2			Budget Period 3			Budget Period 4			Budget Period 5			Total Project
	Personnel Costs	Rate	Total	Personnel Costs	Rate	Total	Personnel Costs	Rate	Total	Personnel Costs	Rate	Total	Personnel Costs	Rate	Total	
EXAMPLE!!! Sr. Engineer	\$170,000	20%	\$34,000	\$10,000	20%	\$2,000	\$10,000	20%	\$2,000	\$10,000	20%	\$2,000	\$10,000	20%	\$2,000	\$38,000
Total Personnel	\$399,625	71.73%	\$286,651	\$867,012	71.73%	\$621,908	\$1,276,960	71.73%	\$915,963	\$1,197,646	71.73%	\$859,071	\$69,480	71.73%	\$49,838	\$2,733,432
			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0	\$0
			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0	\$0
			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0	\$0
			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0			\$0	\$0
Total:	\$399,625		\$286,651	\$867,012		\$621,908	\$1,276,960		\$915,963	\$1,197,646		\$859,071	\$69,480		\$49,838	\$2,733,432

A federally approved fringe benefit rate agreement, or a proposed rate supported and agreed upon by DOE for estimating purposes is required at the time of award negotiation if reimbursement for fringe benefits is requested. Please check (X) one of the options below and provide the requested information if not previously submitted.

A fringe benefit rate has been negotiated with, or approved by, a federal government agency. A copy of the latest rate agreement is/was included with the project application.*

There is not a current federally approved rate agreement negotiated and available.**

*Unless the organization has submitted an indirect rate proposal which encompasses the fringe pool of costs, please provide the organization's benefit package and/or a list of the components/elements that comprise the fringe pool and the cost or percentage of each component/element allocated to the labor costs identified in the Budget Justification (Form EERE 335.1).

**When this option is checked, the entity preparing this form shall submit an indirect rate proposal in the format provided in the Sample Rate Proposal at <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/financing/resources.html>, or a format that provides the same level of information and which will support the rates being proposed for use in the performance of the proposed project.

Additional Explanation (as necessary): Please use this box (or an attachment) to list the elements that comprise your fringe benefits and how they are applied to your base (e.g. Personnel) to arrive at your fringe benefit rate.
See attached Budget Supplemental for fringe benefit rate calculations, as approved by FEMA.

c. Travel

INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ!!!

1. Identify Foreign and Domestic Travel as separate items. Examples of Purpose of Travel are subrecipient site visits, DOE meetings, project mgmt. meetings, etc. Examples of Basis for Estimating Costs are past trips, travel quotes, GSA rates, etc.
2. All listed travel must be necessary for performance of the Statement of Project Objectives.
3. Federal travel regulations are contained within the applicable cost principles for all entity types. Travel costs should remain consistent with travel costs incurred by an organization during normal business operations as a result of the organizations written travel policy. In absence of a written travel policy, organizations must follow the regulations prescribed by the General Services Administration.
4. Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.

SOPO Task #	Purpose of Travel	Depart From	Destination	No. of Days	No. of Travelers	Lodging per Traveler	Flight per Traveler	Vehicle per Traveler	Per Diem Per Traveler	Cost per Trip	Basis for Estimating Costs
Domestic Travel		Budget Period 1									
1	EXAMPLE!!! Visit to PV manufacturer			2	2	\$250	\$500	\$100	\$160	\$2,020	Current GSA rates
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
International Travel											
										\$0	
Budget Period 1 Total										\$0	
Domestic Travel		Budget Period 2									
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
International Travel											
										\$0	
Budget Period 2 Total										\$0	
Domestic Travel		Budget Period 3									
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
International Travel											
										\$0	
Budget Period 3 Total										\$0	
Domestic Travel		Budget Period 4									
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
International Travel											
										\$0	
Budget Period 4 Total										\$0	
Domestic Travel		Budget Period 5									
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
										\$0	
International Travel											
										\$0	
Budget Period 5 Total										\$0	
PROJECT TOTAL										\$0	

Additional Explanation (as needed):

d. Equipment

INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ!!
 1. Equipment is generally defined as an item with an acquisition cost greater than \$5,000 and a useful life expectancy of more than one year. Please refer to the applicable Federal regulations in 2 CFR 200 for specific equipment definitions and treatment.
 2. List all equipment below, providing a basis of cost (e.g. vendor quotes, catalog prices, prior invoices, etc.). Briefly justify items as they apply to the Statement of Project Objectives. If it is existing equipment, provide logical support for the estimated value shown.
 3. During award negotiations, provide a vendor quote for all equipment items over \$50,000 in price. If the vendor quote is not an exact price match, provide an explanation in the additional explanation section below. If a vendor quote is not practical, such as for a piece of equipment that is purpose-built, first of its kind, or otherwise not available off the shelf, provide a detailed engineering estimate for how the cost estimate was derived.
 4. Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.

SOPO Task #	Equipment Item	Qty	Unit Cost	Total Cost	Basis of Cost	Justification of need
Budget Period 1						
3,4,5	EXAMPLE!!! Thermal shock chamber	2	\$70,000	\$140,000	Vendor Quote - Attached	Reliability testing of PV modules- Task 4.3
2	Per mile material cost for Overhead to Underground	0	\$551,856	\$0	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to construct and install underground distribution line
3	Per mile material cost for Hardening Overhead	0	\$297,525	\$0	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace, convert and harden existing overhead distribution line
4	Per mile material cost for replacement of Underground	0	\$506,118	\$0	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace and upgrade existing underground distribution line
5	Substation Equipment - Steel and Structures	0.3	\$554,911	\$166,473	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - 3 Phase Goab Switches	0.3	\$150,520	\$45,156	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Arresters	0.3	\$29,614	\$8,884	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - 1 Phase Switches	0.3	\$106,330	\$31,899	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Breakers	0.3	\$394,346	\$118,304	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - CTs & PTs	0.3	\$85,790	\$25,737	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Power Transformers	0.3	\$1,266,778	\$380,034	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Conduit and Cable	0.3	\$271,056	\$81,317	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Foundations	0.3	\$639,999	\$192,000	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Fence	0.3	\$58,599	\$17,580	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Station Grounding	0.3	\$118,417	\$35,625	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Control Building	0.3	\$294,956	\$88,487	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Relays and Metering	0.3	\$306,080	\$91,824	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
6	Per mile material cost for OURC - Pilot	0	\$108,945	\$0	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the deployment of Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion pilot project
Budget Period 1 Total				\$1,283,219		
Budget Period 2						
2	Per mile material cost for Overhead to Underground	10.98	\$551,856	\$6,061,218	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to construct and install underground distribution line
3	Per mile material cost for Hardening Overhead	9.733	\$297,525	\$2,895,910	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace, convert and harden existing overhead distribution line
4	Per mile material cost for replacement of Underground	1.1	\$506,118	\$556,730	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace and upgrade existing underground distribution line
5	Substation Equipment - Steel and Structures	0.6	\$554,911	\$332,947	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - 3 Phase Goab Switches	0.6	\$150,520	\$90,312	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Arresters	0.6	\$29,614	\$17,768	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - 1 Phase Switches	0.6	\$106,330	\$63,798	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Breakers	0.6	\$394,346	\$236,608	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - CTs & PTs	0.6	\$85,790	\$51,474	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Power Transformers	0.6	\$1,266,778	\$760,067	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Conduit and Cable	0.6	\$271,056	\$162,634	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Foundations	0.6	\$639,999	\$384,000	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Fence	0.6	\$58,599	\$35,160	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Station Grounding	0.6	\$118,417	\$71,050	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Control Building	0.6	\$294,956	\$176,973	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Relays and Metering	0.6	\$306,080	\$183,648	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
6	Per mile material cost for OURC - Pilot	20.23	\$108,945	\$2,204,180	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the deployment of Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion pilot project
Budget Period 2 Total				\$14,284,477		
Budget Period 3						
2	Per mile material cost for Overhead to Underground	10.98	\$551,856	\$6,061,218	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to construct and install underground distribution line
3	Per mile material cost for Hardening Overhead	9.733	\$297,525	\$2,895,910	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace, convert and harden existing overhead distribution line
4	Per mile material cost for replacement of Underground	1.1	\$506,118	\$556,730	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace and upgrade existing underground distribution line
5	Substation Equipment - Steel and Structures	0.1	\$554,911	\$55,491	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - 3 Phase Goab Switches	0.1	\$150,520	\$15,052	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Arresters	0.1	\$29,614	\$2,961	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - 1 Phase Switches	0.1	\$106,330	\$10,633	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Breakers	0.1	\$394,346	\$39,435	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - CTs & PTs	0.1	\$85,790	\$8,579	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Power Transformers	0.1	\$1,266,778	\$126,678	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Conduit and Cable	0.1	\$271,056	\$27,106	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Foundations	0.1	\$639,999	\$64,000	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Fence	0.1	\$58,599	\$5,860	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Station Grounding	0.1	\$118,417	\$11,842	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Control Building	0.1	\$294,956	\$29,496	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
5	Substation Equipment - Relays and Metering	0.1	\$306,080	\$30,608	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the construction and commissioning of a new substation
6	Per mile material cost for OURC - Pilot	20.23	\$108,945	\$2,204,180	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the deployment of Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion pilot project
Budget Period 3 Total				\$12,145,778		
Budget Period 4						
2	Per mile material cost for Overhead to Underground	10.98	\$551,856	\$6,061,218	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to construct and install underground distribution line
3	Per mile material cost for Hardening Overhead	9.733	\$297,525	\$2,895,910	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace, convert and harden existing overhead distribution line
4	Per mile material cost for replacement of Underground	1.1	\$506,118	\$556,730	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed to replace and upgrade existing underground distribution line
6	Per mile material cost for OURC - Pilot	20.23	\$108,945	\$2,204,180	Engineering Estimate based on historical	Material needed for the deployment of Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion pilot project
Budget Period 4 Total				\$11,718,038		
Budget Period 5						
Budget Period 5 Total						
PROJECT TOTAL				\$39,431,812		

Additional Explanation (as needed):

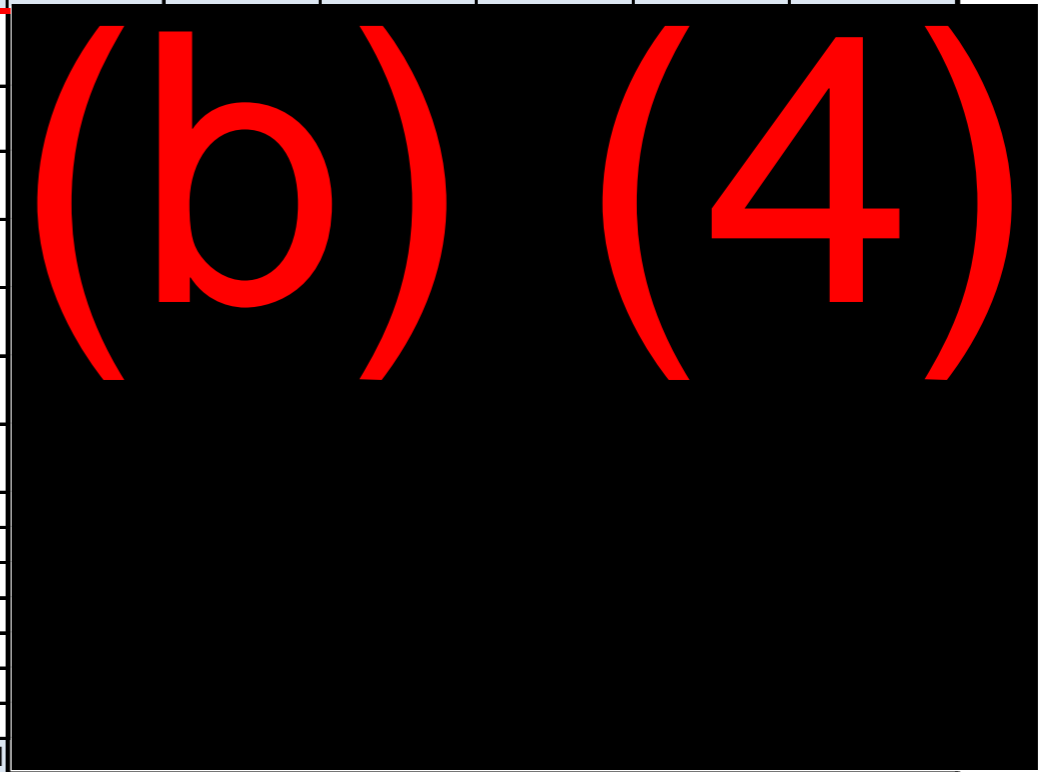
f. Contractual

INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ!!!

1. The entity completing this form must provide all costs related to subrecipients, vendors, and FFRDC partners in the applicable boxes below.
2. Subrecipients (partners, sub-awardees): Subrecipients shall submit a Budget Justification describing all project costs and calculations when their total proposed budget exceeds either (1) \$100,000 or (2) 50% of total award costs. These subrecipient forms may be completed by either the subrecipients themselves or by the preparer of this form. The budget totals on the subrecipient's forms must match the subrecipient entries below. A subrecipient is a legal entity to which a subaward is made, who has performance measured against whether the objectives of the Federal program are met, is responsible for programmatic decision making, must adhere to applicable Federal program compliance requirements, and uses the Federal funds to carry out a program of the organization. All characteristics may not be present and judgment must be used to determine subrecipient vs. vendor status.
3. Vendors (including contractors): List all vendors and contractors supplying commercial supplies or services used to support the project. For each Vendor cost with total project costs of \$250,000 or more, a Vendor quote must be provided. A vendor is a legal entity contracted to provide goods and services within normal business operations, provides similar goods or services to many different purchasers, operates in a competitive environment, provides goods or services that are ancillary to the operation of the Federal program, and is not subject to compliance requirements of the Federal program. All characteristics may not be present and judgment must be used to determine subrecipient vs. vendor status.
4. Federal Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs): FFRDCs must submit a signed Field Work Proposal during award application. The award recipient may allow the FFRDC to provide this information directly to DOE, however project costs must also be provided below.
5. Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.

SOPO Task #	Sub-Recipient Name/Organization	Purpose and Basis of Cost	Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3	Budget Period 4	Budget Period 5	Project Total
2,4	EXAMPLE!!! XYZ Corp.	Partner to develop optimal lens for Gen 2 product. Cost estimate based on personnel hours.	\$48,000	\$32,000	\$16,000			\$96,000
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
		Sub-total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

SOPO Task #	Vendor Name/Organization	Purpose and Basis of Cost	Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3	Budget Period 4	Budget Period 5	Project Total
6	EXAMPLE!!! ABC Corp.	Vendor for developing robotics to perform lens inspection. Estimate provided by vendor.	\$32,900	\$86,500				\$119,400
2, 3, 4, 6	Overhead Line Construction Contractor(s)							
2, 3, 4, 6	Underground Construction Contractor(s)							
2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Engineering Design Contractor(s)							
2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Environmental Contractor(s)							
2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Vegetation Management Contractor(s)							
2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Vegetation Trimming/Clearing Contractor(s)							
2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Land Rights/Surveying Contractor(s)							
5	Substation - Civil Eng Sitework Design Contractor							
5	Substation - Environmental Engineering Contractor							
5	Substation - Electrical Relay Design Contractor							
5	Substation - Construction Contractor							
5	Substation - Irrigation & Landscaping Contractor							
6	Contractor(s) - OURC (Member Meter Enclosure Conversions)							
1	Grant Management Contractor							
		Sub-total						



SOPO Task #	FFRDC Name/Organization	Purpose and Basis of Cost	Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3	Budget Period 4	Budget Period 5	Project Total
								\$0
								\$0
		Sub-total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Total Contractual

Additional Explanation (as needed):

g. Construction

PLEASE READ!!!

1. Construction, for the purpose of budgeting, is defined as all types of work done on a particular building, including erecting, altering, or remodeling. Construction conducted by the award recipient is entered on this page. Any construction work that is performed by a vendor or subrecipient should be entered under f. Contractual.
2. List all proposed construction below, providing a basis of cost such as engineering estimates, prior construction, etc., and briefly justify its need as it applies to the Statement of Project Objectives.
3. Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.

Overall description of construction activities: Example Only!!! - Build wind turbine platform

SOPO Task #	General Description	Cost	Basis of Cost	Justification of need
Budget Period 1				
3	EXAMPLE ONLY!!! Three days of excavation for platform site	\$28,000	Engineering estimate	Site must be prepared for construction of platform.
Budget Period 1 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 2				
Budget Period 2 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 3				
Budget Period 3 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 4				
Budget Period 4 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 5				
Budget Period 5 Total		\$0		
PROJECT TOTAL		\$0		

Additional Explanation (as needed):

h. Other Direct Costs

INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ!!!

1. Other direct costs are direct cost items required for the project which do not fit clearly into other categories. These direct costs must not be included in the indirect costs (for which the indirect rate is being applied for this project). Examples are: tuition, printing costs, etc. which can be directly charged to the project and are not duplicated in indirect costs (overhead costs).
2. Basis of cost are items such as vendor quotes, prior purchases of similar or like items, published price list, etc.
3. Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.

SOPO Task #	General Description and SOPO Task #	Cost	Basis of Cost	Justification of need
Budget Period 1				
5	EXAMPLE!!! Grad student tuition - tasks 1-3	\$16,000	Established UCD costs	Support of graduate students working on project
Budget Period 1 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 2				
Budget Period 2 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 3				
Budget Period 3 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 4				
Budget Period 4 Total		\$0		
Budget Period 5				
Budget Period 5 Total		\$0		
PROJECT TOTAL		\$0		

Additional Explanation (as needed):

i. Indirect Costs

INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ!!!

1. Fill out the table below to indicate how your indirect costs are calculated. Use the box below to provide additional explanation regarding your indirect rate calculation.
2. The rates and how they are applied should not be averaged to get one indirect cost percentage. Complex calculations or rates that do not correspond to the below categories should be described/provided in the Additional Explanation section below. If questions exist, consult with your DOE contact before filling out this section.
3. The indirect rate should be applied to both the Federal Share and Recipient Cost Share.
4. Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.

	Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3	Budget Period 4	Budget Period 5	Total	Explanation of BASE
Provide ONLY Applicable Rates:							
Warehouse & Materials Rate	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%	11.00%		materials (ref OH CALC attachment)
General & Administrative (G&A)	115.00%	115.00%	115.00%	115.00%	115.00%		labor (ref OH CALC attachment)
FCCM Rate, if applicable	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%		
Transportation & Equip Rate	33.00%	33.00%	33.00%	33.00%	33.00%		labor (ref OH CALC attachment)
Indirect Costs (As Applicable):							
Warehouse & Materials Costs	\$141,154	\$1,571,292	\$1,336,036	\$1,288,984	\$0	\$4,337,466	
G&A Costs	\$459,569	\$997,063	\$1,468,504	\$1,377,293	\$79,902	\$4,382,331	
FCCM Costs, if applicable						\$0	
Transportation & Equip Costs	\$131,876	\$286,114	\$421,397	\$395,223	\$22,928	\$1,257,538	
Total indirect costs requested:	\$732,599	\$2,854,469	\$3,225,937	\$3,061,500	\$102,830	\$9,977,335	

A federally approved indirect rate agreement, or rate proposed (supported and agreed upon by DOE for estimating purposes) is required if reimbursement of indirect costs is requested. Please check (X) one of the options below and provide the requested information if it has not already been provided as requested, or has changed.

X An indirect rate has been approved or negotiated with a federal government agency. A copy of the latest rate agreement is included with this application, and will be provided electronically to the Contracting Officer for this project.

There is not a current, federally approved rate agreement negotiated and available*.

*When this option is checked, the entity preparing this form shall submit an indirect rate proposal in the format provided by your DOE contact, or a format that provides the same level of information and which will support the rates being proposed for use in performance of the proposed project. Additionally, any non-Federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, except for those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposals, paragraph D.1.b, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described in §200.403 Factors affecting allowability of costs, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs, but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If chosen, this methodology once elected must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the non-Federal entity may apply to do at any time.

You must provide an explanation (below or in a separate attachment) and show how your indirect cost rate was applied to this budget in order to come up with the indirect costs shown.

Additional Explanation (as needed): *IMPORTANT: Please use this box (or an attachment) to further explain how your total indirect costs were calculated. If the total indirect costs are a cumulative amount of more than one calculation or rate application, the explanation and calculations should identify all rates used, along with the base they were applied to (and how the base was derived), and a total for each (along with grand total). ***REFERENCE FILE ATTACHMENT-Budget Supplemental.pdf**

Cost Share

PLEASE READ!!!

1. A detailed presentation of the cash or cash value of all cost share proposed must be provided in the table below. All items in the chart below must be identified within the applicable cost category tabs a. through i. in addition to the detailed presentation of the cash or cash value of all cost share proposed provided in the table below. Identify the source organization & amount of each cost share item proposed in the award.
2. Cash Cost Share - encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient, subrecipient, or third party (an entity that does not have a role in performing the scope of work) for costs incurred and paid for during the project. This includes when an organization pays for personnel, supplies, equipment, etc. for their own company with organizational resources. If the item or service is reimbursed for, it is cash cost share. All cost share items must be necessary to the performance of the project. Any partial donation of goods or services is considered a discount and is not allowable.
3. In Kind Cost Share - encompasses all contributions to the project made by the recipient, subrecipient, or third party (an entity that does not have a role in performing the scope of work) where a value of the contribution can be readily determined, verified and justified but where no actual cash is transacted in securing the good or service comprising the contribution. In Kind cost share items include volunteer personnel hours, the donation of space or use of equipment, etc. The cash value and calculations thereof for all In Kind cost share items must be justified and explained in the Cost Share Item section below. All cost share items must be necessary to the performance of the project. If questions exist, consult your DOE contact before filling out In Kind cost share in this section. Vendors may not provide cost share. Any partial donation of goods or services is considered a discount and is not allowable.
4. Funds from other Federal sources MAY NOT be counted as cost share. This prohibition includes FFRDC sub-recipients. Non-Federal sources include any source not originally derived from Federal funds. Cost sharing commitment letters from subrecipients and third parties must be provided with the original application.
5. Fee or profit, including foregone fee or profit, **are not allowable** as project costs (including cost share) under any resulting award. The project may only incur those costs that are allowable and allocable to the project (including cost share) as determined in accordance with the applicable cost principles prescribed in FAR Part 31 for For-Profit entities and 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E - Cost Principles for all other non-federal entities.
6. **NOTE:** A Recipient who elects to employ the 10% de minimis Indirect Cost rate **cannot claim the resulting indirect costs as a Cost Share contribution.**
7. **NOTE:** A Recipient **cannot claim "unrecovered indirect costs"** as a Cost Share contribution, **without prior approval.**
8. **Each budget period is rounded to the nearest dollar.**

Organization/Source	Type (Cash or In Kind)	Cost Share Item	Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3	Budget Period 4	Budget Period 5	Total Project Cost Share
ABC Company EXAMPLE!!!	Cash	Project partner ABC Company will provide 20 PV modules for product development at the price of \$680 per module	\$13,600					\$13,600
Sumter Electric Co-op	Cash		\$795,750	\$5,917,563	\$5,670,202	\$5,158,281	\$77,394	\$17,619,190
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
								\$0
		Totals	\$795,750	\$5,917,563	\$5,670,202	\$5,158,281	\$77,394	\$17,619,190

Total Project Cost: \$70,476,750

Cost Share Percent of Award:

25.0%

Additional Explanation (as needed):

Applicant Name: SECO Energy

Award Number: TA1-310-E

Budget Information - Non Construction Programs

OMB Approval No. 0348-0044

Section A - Budget Summary							
Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget			Total (g)
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)		
1. Budget Period 1				\$2,387,247	\$795,750		\$3,182,997
2. Budget Period 2				\$17,752,689	\$5,917,563		\$23,670,252
3. Budget Period 3				\$17,010,603	\$5,670,202		\$22,680,805
4. Budget Period 4				\$15,474,842	\$5,158,281		\$20,633,123
5. Budget Period 5				\$232,180	\$77,394		\$309,574
6. Totals				\$52,857,560	\$17,619,190		\$70,476,751
Section B - Budget Categories							
6. Object Class Categories	Grant Program, Function or Activity					Total (5)	
	Budget Period 1	Budget Period 2	Budget Period 3	Budget Period 4	Budget Period 5		
a. Personnel	\$399,625	\$867,012	\$1,276,960	\$1,197,646	\$69,480	\$3,810,722	
b. Fringe Benefits	\$286,651	\$621,908	\$915,963	\$859,071	\$49,838	\$2,733,432	
c. Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
d. Equipment	\$1,283,219	\$14,284,477	\$12,145,778	\$11,718,038	\$0	\$39,431,512	
e. Supplies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
f. Contractual	\$480,902	\$5,042,387	\$5,116,167	\$3,796,868	\$87,426	\$14,523,750	
g. Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
h. Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	\$2,450,398	\$20,815,783	\$19,454,868	\$17,571,623	\$206,744	\$60,499,415	
j. Indirect Charges	\$732,599	\$2,854,469	\$3,225,937	\$3,061,500	\$102,830	\$9,977,335	
k. Totals (sum of 6i-6j)	\$3,182,997	\$23,670,252	\$22,680,805	\$20,633,123	\$309,574	\$70,476,750	
7. Program Income						\$0	

Other Attachment File(s)

* Mandatory Other Attachment Filename:

[Add Mandatory Other Attachment](#)

[Delete Mandatory Other Attachment](#)

[View Mandatory Other Attachment](#)

To add more "Other Attachment" attachments, please use the attachment buttons below.

[Add Optional Other Attachment](#)

[Delete Optional Other Attachment](#)

[View Optional Other Attachment](#)

Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Project/Performance Site Primary Location I am submitting an application as an individual, and not on behalf of a company, state, local or tribal government, academia, or other type of organization.

Organization Name:

UEI:

* Street1:

Street2:

* City: County:

* State:

Province:

* Country:

* ZIP / Postal Code: * Project/ Performance Site Congressional District:

Project/Performance Site Location 1 I am submitting an application as an individual, and not on behalf of a company, state, local or tribal government, academia, or other type of organization.

Organization Name:

UEI:

* Street1:

Street2:

* City: County:

* State:

Province:

* Country:

* ZIP / Postal Code: * Project/ Performance Site Congressional District:

Additional Location(s)

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 1. Type of Submission: <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application <input type="checkbox"/> Changed/Corrected Application	* 2. Type of Application: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation <input type="checkbox"/> Revision	* If Revision, select appropriate letter(s): <input type="text"/> * Other (Specify): <input type="text"/>
--	--	--

* 3. Date Received: <input type="text" value="04/05/2023"/>	4. Applicant Identifier: <input type="text"/>
--	--

5a. Federal Entity Identifier: <input type="text"/>	5b. Federal Award Identifier: <input type="text"/>
--	---

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State: <input type="text"/>	7. State Application Identifier: <input type="text"/>
---	---

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

* a. Legal Name:

* b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN): <input type="text" value="59-0469125"/>	* c. UEI: <input type="text" value="CMH6VC5FYG93"/>
--	--

d. Address:

* Street1:	<input type="text" value="330 US Highway 301"/>
Street2:	<input type="text"/>
* City:	<input type="text" value="Sumterville"/>
County/Parish:	<input type="text"/>
* State:	<input type="text" value="FL: Florida"/>
Province:	<input type="text"/>
* Country:	<input type="text" value="USA: UNITED STATES"/>
* Zip / Postal Code:	<input type="text" value="33585-4903"/>

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name: <input type="text"/>	Division Name: <input type="text"/>
--	--

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix: <input type="text" value="Mr."/>	* First Name: <input type="text" value="Benjamin"/>
Middle Name: <input type="text"/>	
* Last Name: <input type="text" value="Dawson"/>	
Suffix: <input type="text"/>	

Title:

Organizational Affiliation:

* Telephone Number: <input type="text" value="352-569-9652"/>	Fax Number: <input type="text"/>
---	----------------------------------

* Email:

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:**

N: Nonprofit without 501C3 IRS Status (Other than Institution of Higher Education)

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

*** 10. Name of Federal Agency:**

National Energy Technology Laboratory

11. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:

81.254

CFDA Title:

Grid Infrastructure Deployment and Resilience

*** 12. Funding Opportunity Number:**

DE-FOA-0002740

* Title:

BIL Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP)

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

*** 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:**

SECO Energy - Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

16. Congressional Districts Of:

* a. Applicant

* b. Program/Project

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

* b. End Date:

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal	<input type="text" value="52,857,560.00"/>
* b. Applicant	<input type="text" value="17,619,190.00"/>
* c. State	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* d. Local	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* e. Other	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* f. Program Income	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
* g. TOTAL	<input type="text" value="70,476,750.00"/>

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**

a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on

b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.

c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.

*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**

Yes No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix: * First Name:

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Suffix:

* Title:

* Telephone Number: Fax Number:

* Email:

* Signature of Authorized Representative: * Date Signed:

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. Grid Infrastructure Deployment and Resilience	81.254	\$	\$	\$ 52,857,560.00	\$ 17,619,190.00	\$ 70,476,750.00
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$	\$	\$ 52,857,560.00	\$ 17,619,190.00	\$ 70,476,750.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	Grid Infrastructure Deployment and Resilience				
a. Personnel	\$ 3,810,722.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 3,810,722.00
b. Fringe Benefits	2,733,432.00				2,733,432.00
c. Travel	0.00				0.00
d. Equipment	39,431,512.00				39,431,512.00
e. Supplies	0.00				0.00
f. Contractual	14,523,750.00				14,523,750.00
g. Construction	0.00				0.00
h. Other	0.00				0.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	60,499,416.00				\$ 60,499,416.00
j. Indirect Charges					\$
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 60,499,416.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 60,499,416.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e)TOTALS
8. Grid Infrastructure Deployment and Resilience	\$ 17,619,190.00	\$	\$	\$ 17,619,190.00
9.				
10.				
11.				
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ 17,619,190.00	\$	\$	\$ 17,619,190.00

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ 2,387,247.00	\$ 596,811.75	\$ 596,811.75	\$ 596,811.75	\$ 596,811.75
14. Non-Federal	\$ 795,750.00	\$ 198,937.50	\$ 198,937.50	\$ 198,937.50	\$ 198,937.50
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ 3,182,997.00	\$ 795,749.25	\$ 795,749.25	\$ 795,749.25	\$ 795,749.25

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
	(b)First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16. Grid Infrastructure Deployment and Resilience	\$ 17,275,689.00	\$ 17,010,603.00	\$ 15,474,842.00	\$ 232,180.00
17.				
18.				
19.				
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ 17,275,689.00	\$ 17,010,603.00	\$ 15,474,842.00	\$ 232,180.00

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges: 60499416	22. Indirect Charges: 9977355
23. Remarks: see attached budget supplemental for rates	

DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C.1352

OMB Number: 4040-0013
Expiration Date: 02/28/2025

1. * Type of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> a. contract <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. grant <input type="checkbox"/> c. cooperative agreement <input type="checkbox"/> d. loan <input type="checkbox"/> e. loan guarantee <input type="checkbox"/> f. loan insurance	2. * Status of Federal Action: <input type="checkbox"/> a. bid/offer/application <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. initial award <input type="checkbox"/> c. post-award	3. * Report Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a. initial filing <input type="checkbox"/> b. material change
--	--	--

4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity:

Prime SubAwardee

* Name:

* Street 1: Street 2:

* City: State: Zip:

Congressional District, if known:

5. If Reporting Entity in No.4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime:

6. * Federal Department/Agency: <input type="text" value="Department of Energy"/>	7. * Federal Program Name/Description: <input type="text" value="Grid Infrastructure Deployment and Resilience"/> CFDA Number, if applicable: <input type="text" value="81.254"/>
---	--

8. Federal Action Number, if known: <input type="text"/>	9. Award Amount, if known: \$ <input type="text"/>
--	--

10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant:

Prefix * First Name Middle Name

* Last Name Suffix

* Street 1: Street 2:

* City: State: Zip:

b. Individual Performing Services (including address if different from No. 10a)

Prefix * First Name Middle Name

* Last Name Suffix

* Street 1: Street 2:

* City: State: Zip:

11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when the transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

* Signature:

* Name: Prefix * First Name Middle Name
* Last Name Suffix

Title: Telephone No.: Date:

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TECHNICAL VOLUME

COVER PAGE

Project Title: **SECO Energy – Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening**

FOA Topic Area: **Grip Project Topic 1**

Business point of contact: **Kathryn Gloria, VP of Corporate Communications and Energy Services**
Technical point of contact: **Benjamin Dawson, P.E., VP of Growth, Smart Grid and Operational Technology**

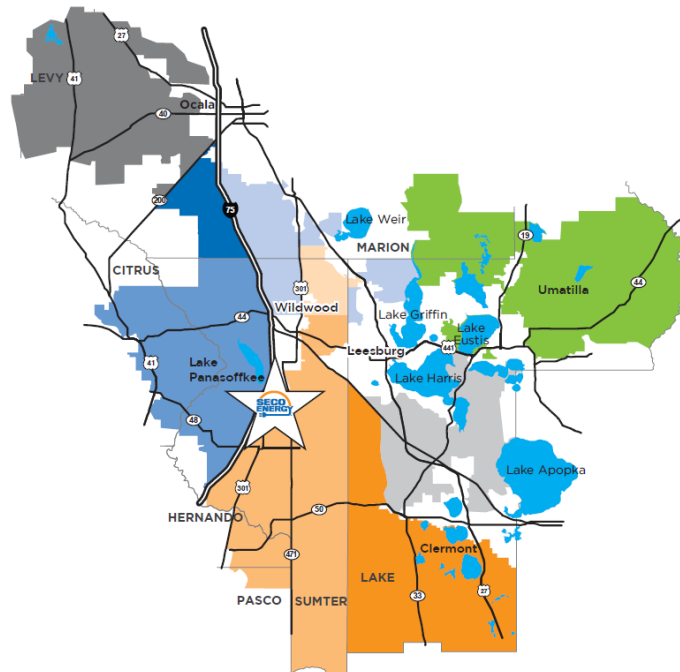
Names of all team member organizations: **Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a/ SECO Energy**

Names of Senior/key personnel from SECO Energy:

- **Curtis Wynn, Chief Executive Officer**
- **Anh Reynolds, Interim Chief Financial Officer**
- **Mike White, P.E., VP of Engineering**
- **John LaSelva, VP of Operations**
- **Gregg Morrell, VP of Corporate Services & Human Resources**
- **Trace De Lemos, Esq., Deputy General Counsel**

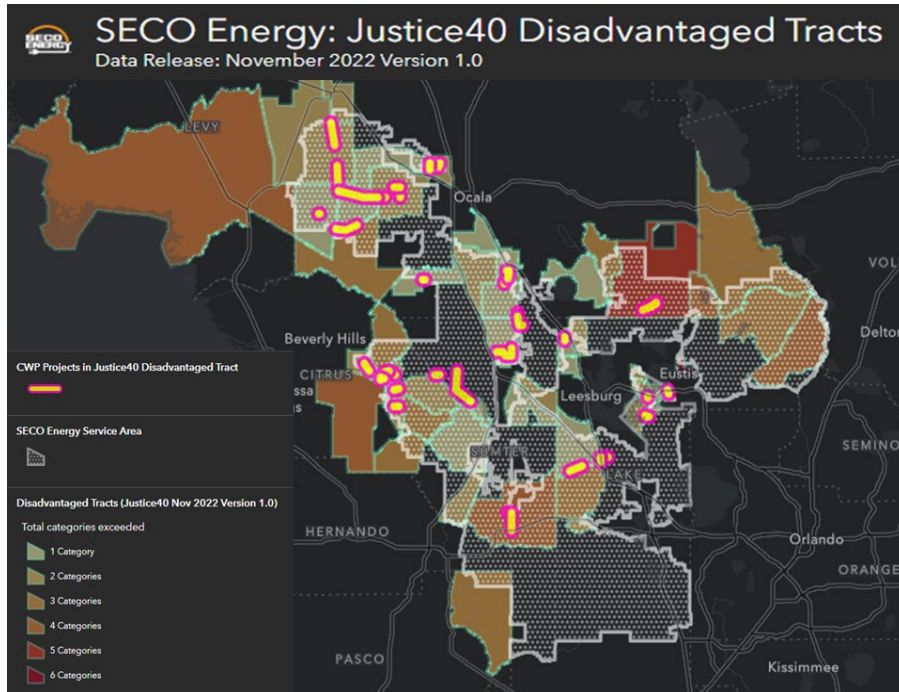
Project Locations: **Citrus, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter Counties Florida**

Statements regarding confidentiality: **N/A**



PROJECT OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND: Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. (d/b/a SECO Energy) is a small, not for profit electric utility located in Central Florida, serving more than 231,000 member-owners over portions of a seven-county region. SECO Energy's wholesale power provider is Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc., one of the largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the nation, serving 1.9 million customers across Florida. SECO Energy currently serves members in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion, Pasco and Sumter counties, with a large swath of its members located within Justice40 census tracts, identifying them as populations which are disadvantaged and underserved. There are Justice40 tracts within SECO Energy's service territory, representing a service population of 82,474 members.



PROJECT GOALS: SECO Energy is setting themselves apart from most utility providers by taking a more proactive approach to storm preparation, risk mitigation, cost-effective renewable energy approaches, education, workforce development and energy democracy. Aligned with the intent of the Grid Resilience & Innovation Partnership Program, SECO Energy proposes a Topic 1 Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grant, which will increase the flexibility, efficiency, and reliability of the electric power system for the communities that we serve. Specifically, the proposed project will:

1. Improve resilience and mitigate the impact of disruptive events, like power outages due to extreme weather or natural disasters through aggressive pole replacement and overhead utility line conversion projects.
2. Modernize the grid and improve infrastructure stability and resilience by replacing aging or capacity-deficient equipment and facilities.
3. Support load growth in some of Florida's fast growing communities by increasing capacity and voltage, reducing line loss, and improving backfeed capabilities.
4. Invest in economic and workforce development strategies and energy justice initiatives in areas typically lacking in resources and opportunities, including several Justice40 tracts.
5. Lessen environmental and energy disparity in some of the most underserved, disadvantaged communities through the rollout of an overhead to underground residential service program in seven Justice40 tracts.

6. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by building a more balanced, efficient and resilient grid that improves capacity and reliability.

The Community Benefits Plan provides the framework for SECO Energy to develop and continue key community, business, and institutional partnerships to improve engagement with members emphasizing strategies to include authentic representation from the Justice40 members through communication, training and education opportunities, and improving grid operations.

DOE IMPACT: Department of Energy funding for the SECO Energy proposed project will provide strategic modernization of services to 231,000 member customers of whom 36% are residing in Justice40 tracts. SECO Energy serves seven rural counties in central Florida. DOE funding provides SECO Energy with the financial means to immediately implement the proposed reliability improvements project. Complete funding of the SECO Energy grid hardening project by the DOE will fast-track all proposed components much more rapidly than if SECO Energy were to resort to seeking funding for individual components, and allows SECO Energy to focus on early deployment of hardening projects versus capacity issue projects. Most notably, the DOE funding will allow SECO Energy to develop and implement its Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) member pilot program. Once a mere concept on paper, the OURC pilot program demonstrates the type of program that is typically not financially feasible for smaller utility cooperatives and the surrounding rural communities they serve. The DOE funding will allow SECO Energy to offset the cost of the loans historically needed and the associated interest typically passed on to members. In general, costs associated with the overhead to underground conversion of residential service is passed on to the member and can range from \$3,000 to \$5,000, making it fiscally unfeasible particularly to members residing in our disadvantaged communities; the DOE grant funds will allow SECO Energy to deploy this conversion service at no cost, not only to members of the Justice40 tracts in which the initial rollout will be conducted, but potentially expand to members across SECO Energy's service territory. To be clear, the DOE funding will allow SECO Energy to deploy direct assistance to the most underserved and disadvantaged members of our communities, and at the end of the project this infrastructure investment belongs to the actual member, not SECO Energy. The initial rollout includes up to 4,700 eligible meters across Citrus, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties which have been identified as burdened by a combination of climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation and workforce development. Additional meters in eligible communities may be added if more grant funds become available. Following deployment of this pilot program, SECO Energy will explore the feasibility and scalability of its OURC program.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PLAN: JOB QUALITY AND EQUITY: The SECO Energy service area is largely rural with nearly 36% of all members and 49% of SECO employees living in Justice40 tracts. Every grid improvement component increases the resilience of SECO Energy's entire distribution system, which impacts every SECO Energy member ensuring all members have the benefits of the proposed including line and pole hardening, overhead to underground utility line conversion, replacing and upgrading aging equipment, and capacity-building. SECO Energy will direct communication to all members regarding the improvements with linguistically and culturally competent communications that reach members through traditional methods such as flyers or mailing and through social media and web-based methods including Facebook, blogs, and text messages accessible on mobile devices. Additionally, SECO Energy will develop new communication tools specifically targeting Justice40 tract members for bill payment assistance, energy efficiency programs and tools. In partnership with its community partners, like the local United Way organizations, SECO Energy will also develop communication tools for rolling out its OURC pilot program to eligible members in the seven Justice40 tracts included in the pilot program.

Like most of the country, industry demand in other markets is causing a shortage in local industry markets. For example, high demand job growth in California and the Southeast has caused short-term workforce shortages in Florida. This growth is only expected to increase and SECO Energy addresses this need by exceeding prevailing wages, providing bonuses and generous benefits and education and training assistance. In partnership with Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC), Northwest Lineman College and Marion County Public Schools' Power Generation Academy, SECO Energy is investing in educational and workforce development resources to futureproof against predicted industry shortages. In order to meet grant performance period timelines, SECO Energy will be accelerating its partnership with LSSC to increase its number of lineman and technicians through the use of reduced tuition rates and additional scholarship opportunities. Additionally, SECO Energy has identified potential educational partners at two Minority Serving Institutions within 50 miles of its service area, and it intends to explore expanding its current educational and workforce development initiatives. SECO Energy also intends to increase its engagement with external contractors, most of which are from the local service territory and who typically sign long-term contracts (3-5 years) in order to meet grant performance period timelines.

SECO Energy works with several chambers of commerce and local economic development resources to support economic initiatives. For example, many of the system improvements proposed in this project will support new industrial parks, large-scale warehouse expansions and emerging agricultural industries.

SECO Energy supports worker rights and one-third of its current employees are members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Worker (IBEW Local 108).

LONG-TERM CONSTRAINTS ON ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES: The SECO Energy proposed project will not pose any long-term constraints to the area's natural resources.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY: In 2017 Hurricane Irma crossed directly through SECO Energy's service territory with winds that ranged from Category 1 to a Category 3 strength, causing unprecedented damage and disruptions in its service territory and across the state. In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Irma, SECO Energy's system experienced a total of 2,250 outages for a customer average interruption duration index (CAIDI) of 43 hours and a system average interruption duration index (SAIDI) of 35 hours, resulting in a system average interruption frequency index (SAIFI) of 0.82 and a total fiscal impact of \$24,047,062. Since then, Florida has experienced increasingly catastrophic impacts during the 2018 hurricane season (Hurricane Michael) and, more recently, the current 2022 hurricane season (Hurricane Ian). Future storms are only expected to increase in intensity and severity. Warmer sea surface temperatures intensify tropical storm winds and increase associated precipitation¹. Based on modeling, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts an increase in Category 4 and 5 hurricanes². Sea levels rising and atmospheric changes have intensified the impacts of these storms by increasing flooding and stalling storms regionally. There is a financial cost to climate change. Five of the ten costliest hurricanes on record in the United States occurred within the past five years³, with Hurricane Ian expected to be added to that list.

¹ Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. "Hurricanes and Climate Change," September 22, 2022. <https://www.c2es.org/content/hurricanes-and-climate-change/>.

² "Global Warming and Hurricanes – Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory," n.d. <https://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/global-warming-and-hurricanes/>.

³ "Costliest U.S. Tropical Cyclones." <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/UpdatedCostliest.Pdf>, n.d. <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/news/UpdatedCostliest.pdf>.

Heightened risks require accelerated resilience efforts. In response, SECO Energy has developed a 2023-2025 Construction Work Plan (CWP) to identify the utility infrastructure upgrades necessary within the next three years to support the modernization of the grid, improve resilience and to support growing community capacity needs, while mitigating the impact of disruptive events, like power outages due to extreme weather or natural disasters. In addition to the economic benefits, these improvements are also anticipated to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by increasing grid efficiency.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, INNOVATION, AND IMPACT

RELEVANCE AND OUTCOMES: SECO Energy's proposed project will support enhancing resilience by converting overhead utility lines to underground, hardening existing poles and increasing line capacity, replacing aging, inefficient equipment and expanding load capacity with a new distribution substation. The proposed SECO Energy components and resulting outcomes address requirements of the FOA to:

- Harden existing poles and lines to reduce loss, mitigate multiple hazards and improve distribution, including increasing capacity and loading strength (Utility Pole Management, Hardening of Power Lines).
- Increase capacity and facilities to manage load growth (Hardening of power lines, facilities, substation and other systems).
- Convert existing overhead lines and service, including residential, to underground (Hardening of Power Lines, Undergrounding of Electrical Equipment, Relocation of Power Lines).
- Replacement and upgrade of existing aging overhead and underground conductors and lines to increase capacity and resilience (Replacement of Old Overhead Conductors and Underground Cables).
- Decrease unaddressed energy burdens and environmental disparity in rural, disadvantaged communities.
- Improve system efficiency, flexibility and reliability.
- Anticipate and mitigate the impacts of extreme weather or natural disaster on grid resiliency, including investments to increase the ability to redirect or shut off power to minimize blackouts, prevent wildfires, and avoid further damage.

The main components of the proposed project, include:

1. **Overhead to Underground Conversions:** Twenty-nine (29) sites have been identified which would upgrade almost 33 miles of electric utility lines across SECO Energy's service territory. Existing overhead lines, circuits and wooden pole structures would be removed and converted to underground lines. This technology has many benefits, including:
 - Increasing Circuit Load: Existing circuits are not designed to support current and forecasted load growth. Current circuits and lines would be converted to higher capacity to support load growth and ensure feeders operate within voltage and conductor capacity design limits.
 - Improving Operational Access and Efficiency: Existing overhead lines are often located along the back of lots and properties creating access issues when performing maintenance. Placing these lines underground reduces costs and eliminates the need for physical access through such lots and properties for maintenance.
 - Improving Reliability and Outage Restoration Times: Underground circuits fail less than 10 times/100mile/year, while overhead circuits typically fault 90 times/100mile/year⁴. More faults equal an increase in voltage sags, momentary interruptions and long-term interruptions. Allowing power loss to be minimized when a fault or damage occurs is especially important for feeders serving as first loss contingencies.
 - Hazard Mitigation and Increased Grid Resilience: Overhead lines are particularly vulnerable

⁴<https://electrical-engineering-portal.com/overhead-vs-underground>. "Overhead vs Underground," November 13, 2017. Accessed December 8, 2022. <https://electrical-engineering-portal.com/overhead-vs-underground>.

during tornadoes, hurricanes, and other severe wind or weather events and can be a wildfire hazard. Underground distribution lines performed five times better than overhead lines on wooden poles⁵.

- **Decreasing Member Maintenance Costs and Enhanced Customer Experience:** In addition to increased resilience, underground utilities require less vegetation management, thus reducing maintenance costs; removes a significant amount of visual clutter in residential areas, parks, wildlife and other scenic areas by removing unsightly poles/wires, enhancing tree canopies and with fewer structures impacting sidewalks; and increases public safety, by reducing live-wire contact injuries.

Converting overhead utilities to underground is the best way for utilities to provide high-quality service to members and to reduce energy waste, improve efficiency, and increase resiliency.

2. **Underground Replacements:** SECO Energy has identified four (4) sites for the replacement of 3.3 miles of underground conductor. Existing underground conductors will be converted and replaced with larger ampacity conductors. Replacing these cables will:

- **Improve Energy Reliability and Efficiency:** Replacement will maintain primary voltages within design limits and support load growth.
- **Increase Grid Resilience:** Ensuring feeders operate within voltage and conductor design limits decreases line losses and increases resiliency.
- **Increase Reliability and Enhance Safety:** Increasing conductor size increases current carrying capacity and higher temperature resistance. Exceeding recommended ampacity can lead to dangerous electrical faults like arc flashes, electrocution and fires, as well as system failure.

Conductor replacements will allow SECO Energy to safely and efficiently support and increase load capacity in areas of its service territory experiencing expanding economic and population growth.

3. **Line and Pole Hardening:** SECO Energy has identified thirteen (13) line and pole hardening sites which would upgrade and harden approximately 29 miles of electric utility lines by replacing existing lines with higher capacity lines, replacing existing wooden utility poles with steel-reinforced concrete poles and reducing the distance between poles. These efforts would:

- **Reduce Outage Restoration and Improve Reliability:** Wood poles require periodic maintenance inspections and preservation maintenance to determine structural integrity and prevent rot and decay. These poles have a typical life span of 25-40 years. The steel-reinforced concrete poles chose for these projects have a lower maintenance cost and a typical lifespan of 40-60 years. Placing these poles closer together, for example 200 feet versus 250 feet, reduces the potential for line sag and increases reliability. Conductors will be converted from single-and two-phase to three-phase, where possible, decreasing complete outage events.
- **Hazard Mitigation and Enhance Resilience:** Wood poles have low reliability during extreme weather events (current poles are only rated for 60 mph) and are susceptible to fire, rot and woodpeckers, and though it is a natural product with a lower carbon footprint, it must be treated with harsh preservatives, making environmentally safe disposal difficult. By contrast, the steel-reinforced concrete poles chosen for this project are fire and rot resistant and are design-rated to handle winds up to 110 mph leading to higher resistance to all forms of wind load including uplift, lateral and shear. Distribution lines will be converted, where possible, to lines with higher rated breaking strengths and ampacity.

⁵ Burgess, Brian. "Cape Coral Still in the Dark, but Florida's Storm Hardened Areas Are Shining." The Capitolist, October 9, 2022. <https://thecapitolist.com/cape-coral-still-in-the-dark-but-floridas-storm-hardened-areas-are-shining/>.

SECO Energy's line and pole hardening plans will increase line strength and capacity, reduce line sag and loss, increase hazard mitigation and support efficiency and load growth, making the system overall more resilient.

4. **Substation Build:** The existing substation (Mount Dora/Roundlake) in service in Lake County has increased load by over 50% in the last two years. Due to its smaller capacity, the existing Roundlake substation is no longer capable of keeping up with the load required for the surrounding service area, including a large industrial member. The new, rebuilt substation will be constructed to serve the needs of the surrounding community, including the large industrial member. Rebuilding the Roundlake substation will:

- **Improve Reliability and Resiliency:** The new substation is designed and hardened for high wind speeds and redundancy with two power transformers, multiple feeder bays and an automated tie breaker scheme. When one power transformer fails, the load will automatically switch over to the second power transformer. The scheme hardens and improves the resiliency of the substation and ultimately the members.
- **Support Load Growth and Enhance Economic Development:** Overloaded substations and power lines have a higher frequency of failure, power quality issues such as blinks and brown outs and, if distance thresholds are exceeded, low voltage levels. The new substation will double the capacity of the old substation, support backfeed capacity for other substations looped to Roundlake, and is essential in supplying members, including local commercial and industrial members, with reliable service that meets the growing needs of the area.

Upgrading and replacing the current smaller substation increases load capacity, protects the systems with fault-clearing capabilities, makes the system more flexible and adaptable, and positions SECO Energy for future operations to meet the growing power demands of expanding communities in the area. SECO Energy's system will be bolstered and allow distribution levels to be delivered safely and efficiently.

5. Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program: With the support of the GRIP grant funds, SECO Energy will be able to pilot its overhead to underground residential conversion in seven (7) Justice40 tracts within its service territory.

- **Improve the Reliability and Resiliency of Residential Service.** Overhead residential energy service is, due to connection locations, susceptible to the same pitfalls of overhead distribution lines: vulnerability to tornadoes, hurricanes, and other severe wind or weather events and can pose a wildfire hazard. Undergrounding residential services mitigates many of these pitfalls.
- **Reduce the Impact of Storm-related Damage.** During extreme weather events, like tornadoes or hurricanes, high winds and falling debris oftentimes damages the conductors and connectors tying residential lines into the system. This damage usually results in the need for roof replacement or repairs, in addition to electric service equipment replacement, and can cause an increase in the out-of-pocket costs for members. Undergrounding residential services can decrease the potential for roof damage, thereby decreasing the need for FEMA-related disaster assistance, insurance-related assistance, and ultimately direct member recovery costs.
- **Enhance Safety and Focus on Unaddressed Needs.** Undergrounded utilities increase public safety, as buried lines have less chance for public contact, reduce maintenance costs by minimizing the need for tree trimming, and enhance the aesthetics of residential areas by removing visual clutter. The Justice40 tracts identified for rollout of this pilot program have multiple Justice40 categorical burdens, are located in some of the most rural and disadvantaged communities in the SECO Energy service territory and have historically been underfunded and underserved.

Overall, the OURC pilot program is the first step SECO Energy can take to providing direct, tangible assistance to members in which, at the end of the rollout, portion of the infrastructure will belong to the member not SECO Energy.

The SECO Energy Improving Resiliency Through Grid Hardening Project consists of multiple inter-related components that SECO Energy has developed in response to the need for accelerated resilience efforts in the face of the heightened risks driven by climate-change. These components are the infrastructure upgrades necessary to not only mitigate these risks, but also support the modernization of the grid, support growing community capacity needs, deliver reliable power and lessen the impact of environmental and energy disparity prevalent in the small, rural, disadvantaged communities served by SECO Energy.

FEASIBILITY: SECO Energy has proposed the described improvements as the first steps in meeting best-practice energy industry standards, and as the most efficient and logical next step in modernizing the SECO Energy grid. SECO Energy's plan incorporates the integrated components essential for the backbone infrastructure needed to address hazard mitigation, load growth and expansion of the OURC pilot program.

SECO Energy will be combining the skills of its in-house workforce with contracted providers for proposed project components, and through its partnerships with Lake-Sumter State College and the Northwest Lineman College, will supplement and build up its workforce over the course of the grant performance period.

The SECO Energy Project Team has worked together over the past several years completing capital projects dealing with resiliency. The Team recently finalized the complete rebuild of its Marion Oaks substation, converting an existing substation that served less than 5,000 SECO Energy members to a new substation with a capacity for 20,000-30,000 members, including two large scale distribution centers that are part of a 900-acre commerce park. Other similar projects include substation construction and improvements totaling more than \$14,000,000; overhead to underground conversion projects and relocation projects totaling nearly \$1,000,000 and various system improvements and installation of new services for multiple residential subdivisions and commercial developments totaling nearly \$9,000,000 in just the last three years. The experience from these projects have provided SECO Energy with the experience and assurance that the proposed project is within the capacity of the organization to accomplish and that it represents the best possible next grid improvements needed for our services.

SECO Energy's employs 424 full-time employees of which nearly 25% are lineman and technicians. The many departments at SECO ENERGY include Engineering, Accounting, Operations, Communications, Safety, Member Services, and Human Resources. SECO Energy has developed several long-term partnerships with local area contractors, procured in accordance with USDA-RUS guidelines, to enhance its ability to provide reliable power to its members.

SECO Energy has access to all equipment and facilities required to complete all components of the proposed project.

INNOVATION AND IMPACTS: The proposed grid components are consistent with standard practices in the evolution of grid upgrades. The selected upgrades are designed specifically to allow for the growth in population and business in the service area; continued integration of renewable energy; and the desire to reduce energy use and harmful byproducts. SECO Energy strategies were identified recognizing that recent disruptive events including multiple tropical storms and hurricanes have crossed directly through SECO Energy's service territory with damaging winds and flooding causing damage and disruptions in our service territory and across the state. Future storms are only expected to increase in intensity and severity. Warmer sea

surface temperatures intensify tropical storm winds and increase associated precipitation. Based on modeling, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicted an increase in Category 4 and 5 hurricanes. Sea levels rising and atmospheric changes have intensified the impacts of these storms by increasing flooding and stalling storms regionally. There is a financial cost to climate change. Five of the ten costliest hurricanes on record in the United States occurred within the past five years, with 2022 Hurricane Ian expected to be added to that list. In response, SECO Energy has designed these beginning steps to identify and complete the utility infrastructure upgrades necessary within the next five years to support the modernization of the grid, improve resilience and to support growing community capacity needs, while mitigating the impact of disruptive events, like power outages due to extreme weather or natural disasters.

Total Overall Project Population Impact: 138,841 members or 60% of all members. Of the impacted members, 64,591 are within Justice40 tracts, representing 47% of the population impacted. **Total Project Investment:** approximately \$70.5 million, of which \$31 million (44%) will be invested directly in 22 of the 49 Justice49 tracts within SECO Energy's service territory

SUPPORTS ENERGY PLANS: SECO Energy's Improving Resiliency Through Grid Hardening supports the *Florida Energy and Climate Plan: Powering Change*⁶ developed in 2019 by the Florida Department of Agriculture. This Plan highlights important energy and climate change issues. Additionally, the Plan guides the Office of Energy in the years ahead. SECO Energy's proposed project links with the Plan's strategies to address critical energy needs and balancing between spending for needed infrastructure investments while keeping rates low and affordable. This balance is one of the Plan's priorities of decreasing the energy burden for low-income communities. SECO Energy's OURC member pilot program aligns with this priority to address energy equity.

IMPACT OF PROJECT TO REDUCE RISK, ACHIEVE DEPLOYMENT AT SCALE, LEAD TO PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT: SECO Energy has identified the following risks of the proposed project as well as strategies to mitigate each risk.

- ✓ High Cost - Risk - Implementation of grid-wide system improvements requires significant investment in new and upgraded infrastructure, which can be a barrier to adoption.
- ✓ High Cost – Strategy – Seek DOE GRIP funding, search out additional federal and state funding and tax credit sources, conduct cost of service study to assess member rate increase.
- ✓ New Program Deployment - Risk - Implementation of new programs requires member buy-in and community cooperation.
- ✓ New Program Deployment – Strategy – SECO Energy will coordinate with its community partners, like United Way, to strategize on best practices for community engagement, communication and member support.
- ✓ Industry-Wide Workforce Shortages – Risk – Growth-driven industry workforce shortages are nationwide and requires investments in educational and workforce development.
- ✓ Industry-Wide Workforce Shortages – Strategy – SECO Energy will utilize its existing partnerships with Lake-Sumter State College and Northwest Lineman College to increase its qualified workforce capacity. Additionally, SECO Energy will explore expanding educational partnerships with local area minority serving institutions and increasing educational engagement in its Justice40 communities.

Completing the backbone infrastructure needed to improve grid resiliency in the proposed project positions SECO Energy to include additional strategies for grid resiliency that would

⁶ "Florida Energy and Climate Plan." Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, 2019. Accessed April 3, 2023. <https://www.fdacs.gov>.

historically not be feasible, including renewable energy deployment and integration of smart grid technologies that would further reduce costs to our members and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposed SECO Energy project sets the stage in the seven-county area for future private sector investments. Florida is the fastest growing state in the country and population growth in the seven-county area has grown an average of 3.5% in just one year span and that is not forecasted to slow down. The seven-county area sits squarely in the center of the state with I-75 running from north to south, and I-95 and I-10 easily accessible, providing the area a great opportunity to maximize inter and intrastate transfer of goods and people from both coasts.

For the past 5 years, manufacturing in Sumter County alone grew 34%, about twice the national average, and county officials have recently announced a 2,866-acre mega industrial site projected to create 25,792 jobs by 2035. Citrus County's economic growth has exploded due the Suncoast Parkway expansion, which provides a direct link to Tampa International Airport and prompted the accelerated development of the Inverness Airport Business-Industrial Park with the Department of Economic Opportunity awarding \$5.08 million in grant funds to be used for construction of transportation and onsite water utility infrastructure for the 75-plus acre business industrial park. The county recently announced plans to seek Federal Aviation Administration funds to upgrade Inverness airport to a green airport with environmentally friendly and energy-conserving features. In 2021, the Marion County Administrative Strategic Plan for 2022-2026 announced the launch of the Florida Crossroads Commerce Park with over 900 acres of prime industrial real estate, including an initial 500,000 square foot Dollar Tree general distribution center, employing 200 people, with another planned 1.2 million-square foot Dollar Tree expansion, bringing another 500 jobs to the area. Currently, another 413 acres of commercial space is already under contract. In Levy County future job growth over the next 10 years is predicted to be 35.8%, which is higher than the US average of 33.5%. Lake County recently announced an economic development partnership with Lake Economic Area Development (LEAD) to increase job growth by 3,500 jobs within targeted sectors, increase average annual wages by 25% and assist 250 entrepreneurs with business start-ups over the next five years.

To accommodate this projected growth SECO Energy's proposed project implementation is essential. The proposed system improvement components are essential to fully realize the growth that the seven-county area is likely to have during the coming years. These new opportunities will bring additional local, state, and federal tax dollars as well as new grid customers. The proposed project will prepare SECO Energy to accommodate growth and use the new customer revenue for future grid improvements.

TOPIC AREA 1 (Grid Resilience Grants): Addressing how the proposed project will generate the greatest community, regional, or interregional resilience benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events. SECO Energy recognizes an electrical power system should operate as efficiently, economically and cleanly as possible under both normal circumstances (reliability) and under beyond normal circumstances (resiliency). SECO Energy is taking an incremental, section-by-section approach to increasing the resiliency of its grid through a combination of several different types of projects.

Overhead Utility Line Conversions

Converting overhead utilities to underground is the best way for utilities to provide high-quality service to members. Overhead lines are particularly vulnerable during tornadoes, hurricanes, and other severe wind or weather events and can be a wildfire hazard. Add to that the aging conditions of overhead lines and poles, the encroachment of overgrown trees, aesthetic

considerations and other public safety concerns, such as vehicle/utility pole accidents, which account for over 2% of all U.S. traffic fatalities each year and 4% of roadway departure fatalities.⁷

The advantages of underground lines include aesthetics, higher public acceptance, decreased risk of public contact, less voltage drop and lower maintenance costs. Underground circuits are generally more reliable. While overhead circuits typically fault about 90 times/100 mile/year, underground circuits fail less than 10 times/100 mile/year.⁸ More faults equal an increase in voltage sags, momentary interruptions and long-term interruptions. Even with the temporary nature of overhead faults, overhead circuits have more permanent faults that lead to long-duration circuit interruptions.

The primary benefits of underground lines include⁹:

- *Potentially reduced maintenance and operating costs*
- *Lower storm restoration cost*
- *Lower tree-trimming cost*

Improved reliability

- *Increased reliability and less damage during severe weather with wind-related damage greatly reduced*
- *Far fewer momentary interruptions*
- *Improved utility relations regarding tree trimming*

Improved Public Safety

- *Fewer motor vehicle accidents*
- *Reduced live-wire contact injuries*
- *Fewer fires*

Improved Property Values

- *Improved aesthetics (removal of unsightly poles/wires, enhanced tree canopies)*
- *Fewer structures impacting sidewalks*

Replacement Projects

These projects consist of replacing existing underground conductor lines with higher ampacity conductor lines to support load growth, ensure feeders operate within voltage and conductor capacity design limits, decrease in line losses and increase grid resiliency.

Increasing the conductor size increases current carrying capacity and higher temperature resistance. Exceeding recommended ampacity can lead to dangerous electrical faults like arc flashes, electrocution and fires, as well as system failures.

Line Hardening Projects

These projects consist of three components: replacing existing lines with higher capacity lines, replacing existing wooden utility poles with steel-reinforced concrete poles, and reducing the

⁷“Utility Pole Crashes,” n.d. https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/strat_approach/brochure/docs/FHWA-SA-21-024_Utility_Pole_Crashes.pdf.

⁸ <https://electrical-engineering-portal.com/overhead-vs-underground>. “Overhead vs Underground,” November 13, 2017. Accessed December 8, 2022. <https://electrical-engineering-portal.com/overhead-vs-underground>.

⁹ “Converting Overhead Utilities to Underground.” <https://aesnm.com/Wp-Content/Uploads/2020/11/Advantages-of-Undergrounding-Utilities-White-Paper-05-09.Pdf>, 2009. Accessed December 8, 2022. <https://aesnm.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Advantages-of-Undergrounding-Utilities-White-Paper-05-09.pdf>.

distance between poles. Together, these components will improve load balance, support load growth, improve backfeed capabilities for other feeders and increase reliability.

Wood poles have low reliability during extreme weather events and are susceptible to fire, rot and woodpeckers, requiring periodic inspections and preservation maintenance to determine structural integrity and prevent rot and decay, and though it is a natural product with a lower carbon footprint, it must be treated with harsh preservatives, making environmentally safe disposal difficult. The typical lifespan of wood pole is 25-40 years depending on conditions. The steel-reinforced concrete poles chosen for these projects are designed to handle Category 2 hurricane winds, have lower maintenance, are fire and rot resistant and have a typical lifespan of 40-60 years, depending on conditions. Placing these poles closer together, for example 200 feet versus 250 feet, reduces the potential for line sag and increases reliability.

These projects will also convert single- and two-phase conductors to three-phase where possible. Additionally, larger, higher capacity distribution lines will replace smaller, lower capacity distribution lines in accordance with design and engineering plans for each site. Single circuits will be replaced by double circuits in accordance with design and engineering plans for each site.

Line conversions

Single-phase vs. three-phase and two-phase vs. three-phase

- *In a single-phase connection electricity flows through a single conductor.*
- *In a two-phase connection electricity flows through two separate conductors.*
- *In a three-phase connection electricity flows through three separate conductors.*
- *During a system interruption or failure, a single-phase connection will experience complete outage because it only has one phase wire. However, in a three-phase connection, if anything happens to single phase, the other two phases will still work, avoiding a complete outage.*
- *Because a three-phase supply needs three conductors compared to a single-phase power supply for the same circuit, loads are balanced across three phases, with less current on each conductor, which will provide a more efficient system.*

Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR) Distribution Lines

- *#2 ACSR – rated breaking strength of 2,850 – 3,640 lbs. and ampacity of 184 amps*
- *2/0 ACSR – rated breaking strength of 5,300 lbs. and ampacity of 276 amps*
- *477 ACSR – rated breaking strength of 11,800 – 23,800 lbs. ampacity of 646 – 666 amps.*
- *Where possible distribution lines will be converted to 477 ACSR, but some #2 may be uprated to 2/0; final determinations will be made during design and engineering stages. Converting these lines to those with higher breaking strength and ampacity increases line strength and capacity and supports efficiency and load growth, making the system overall more resilient.*

Single Circuit vs. Double Circuit

A single circuit distribution line has three sets of conductors on a single pole, while a double circuit distribution line is two independent circuits on the same structure with each circuit made up of three sets of conductors. Double circuit distribution lines can transfer maximum power over longer distances and have a higher steady state stability limit (SSSL), which increases output and reliability of the flow of electricity, allowing for the system to operate more efficiently. Additionally, double circuits allow for more economic use of rights-of-way.

Substation Project

SECO is experiencing system-wide growth. Every part of its service territory requires infrastructure additions, system upgrades, storm hardening or communications improvements. All new construction and expansion of substations will be designed, engineered and

implemented in accordance with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utility Service (USDA-RUS) Design Guide for Rural Substations¹⁰.

Round Lake Substation (New/Rebuild)

Located in Lake County, FL, on existing SECO Energy property, this substation will take over service for an existing substation across the street. The old substation has a smaller capacity and is no longer capable of keeping up with the load required for the surrounding service area, including an industrial member that has experienced a large increase in capacity. Over the last two years, this facility has increased load by over 50%. The new, rebuilt substation is being constructed to serve the needs of the industrial member and surrounding community. Construction will include one (1) new 24.9 kV-distribution substation with eight (8) feeders that include two (2) 30/40/50 transformers, four (4) 69kV circuit breaks, eleven (11) 25 kV circuit breakers, and all other associated steel, foundations and structures. Once the new, rebuilt substation is brought online and added to the grid, the old substation will be taken out of service, decommissioned in accordance with the applicable required regulations, and the old site will be cleared. The rebuilt substation will double the capacity of the old substation and provide a looped transmission feed from SECO Energy’s transmission provider. An increase in capacity, higher voltage support, and substation automation schemes will provide members with better service and reliability. It will also support backfeed capacity for other substations looped to this substation. The new substation is part of the long-term plans SECO Energy has developed to ensure the physical and financial integrity of its electrical systems but is also essential in supplying its members with reliable service.

TOPIC AREA 1 (Grid Resilience Grants): How does the project (1) comprehensively mitigate one or more hazards faced by the community or region; (2) comprehensively mitigates the potential for equipment to cause a wildfire in a community or region; (3) fully addresses the consequences of an outage caused by a natural hazard; or mitigate economic risk as derived from outage duration or outage frequency. In 2017 Hurricane Irma crossed directly through SECO Energy’s service territory causing unprecedented damage and disruptions in its service territory and across the state with SECO Energy’s recovery costs totaling \$24,047,062. The predicted increase of these severe weather impacts has accelerated the need to increase the resilience of and reduce risks to utility infrastructure. SECO Energy recognizes the necessity for speed and scalability when responding to the increasing frequency of these “100-year” and “500-year” events. Hardening this infrastructure to be more climate resilient will allow SECO Energy to build a more efficient, climate-ready energy system that ensure affordable and reliable energy, promotes energy and environmental justice and helps create a more sustainable clean energy economy. The proposed system improvements and hardening activities are necessary to strengthen a community’s critical services infrastructure. When the power goes out, a community’s ability to respond to disasters and emergencies is severely hampered and can lead to cascading failure of other energy-dependent systems like water, fuel, and telecommunications. Prolonged outages will eventually have devastating impacts on health and safety, community communications and the local economy. The economic impact of the last three hurricanes to hit Florida (Irma, Michael and Ian) are estimated to exceed \$133.4 billion.

TOPIC AREA 1 (Grid Resilience Grants): Address how the grant funding provided by this program would result in proposed activities that go beyond and are additional to efforts that would have been undertaken but-for the funding and will generate the greatest community or regional resilience benefit in reducing the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events. The narrative should reference the Report on Resilience Investments to demonstrate how the proposed activities would be additional to existing planned investments. Due to the rural

¹⁰ Rural Development. “1724E-300,” October 11, 2021. <https://www.rd.usda.gov/directives/1724e-300>.

nature of SECO Energy's service territory and its status as a small, rural electric cooperative, SECO Energy is heavily reliant on federal loan and loan guarantee programs focused on rural development. This means that the system improvement investments SECO Energy usually plans are limited to either capacity projects or hardening projects, with priority given to capacity projects to meet growing demand. Any additional projects or programs, like the Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion pilot program in Justice40 tracts, must be deferred to make way for rising load growth demand and storm preparation/mitigation. Implementation of cost-effective renewable energy programs and access and investments in educational and workforce development and energy equity in disadvantaged communities has historically been underfunded due to limited resources (see attached Report of Resilience Investments).

WORKPLAN

This proposed work plan is based upon the most recent three-year engineering analysis of SECO Energy's electric distribution system and details the proposed capital requirements needed for the electric distribution system. The proposed construction program was successfully submitted in part for loan financing by the USDA Rural Utilities Service, (RUS). Upon completion of construction proposed herein, the SECO Energy system can provide adequate and dependable service to approximately 231,000 member-consumers with the residential consumers using an average of 975 kWh per month. SECO Energy purchases power from Seminole Electric Cooperative, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative. A portion of the generation and transmission requirements from Seminole Electric Cooperative are furnished through purchased power agreements. The proposed project involves the construction and improvements of public infrastructure in the United States. The following Project Objectives summarize the work. Outcomes are relative to the current baseline measures.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Goal 1: Convert existing overhead utilities to underground.

Objective(s): Convert approximately 33 miles of existing overhead utility lines at 29 site locations through the SECO Energy service territory to increase grid resiliency, mitigate against weather-related impact events and decrease line loss.

Outcome 1. Enhanced service with fewer interruptions, lower maintenance costs and increased grid resilience.

Goal 2: Replacement of aging or under-performing underground lines.

Objective(s): Replace existing underground conductor lines at 4 project sites, totaling 3.3 miles of utility lines, with higher ampacity conductor lines to support load growth, ensure feeders operate within voltage and conductor capacity design limits, decrease line losses and increase grid resiliency.

Outcome 2. Increased conductor size will increase current carrying capacity and higher temperature resistance, decreasing the risk of dangerous electrical faults and system failures, while increasing capacity, efficiency and grid resiliency.

Goal 3: Line and pole hardening.

Objective(s): At thirteen (13) project sites, totaling approximately 29 miles of utility lines, remove and replace the existing wood pole structures with steel-reinforced concrete poles, reduction of distance between poles, and replacement of lower capacity distribution lines and conductors.

Outcome 3. Wind hazard mitigation, with the new poles increasing design-rating limits from 60 mph to 110 mph; improved load balance and backfeed capabilities, load growth support, reduced line sag and increased efficiency and resilience.

Goal 4: Replace the existing Mount Dora/Roundlake substation in Lake County to meet local load needs.

Objective(s): Replace the existing Roundlake substation, which is no longer capable of keeping up with the increased load (over 50% in the past two years) required to meet the needs of a large industrial member and the surrounding community.

Outcome 4. The newly commissioned Roundlake substation will increase capacity, have higher voltage support, support the extension of backfeed capacity from other substations, and will provide member with better service and reliability.

Goal 5: Deployment of the Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) member pilot program.

Objective(s): Successful deployment of the OURC pilot program in select Justice40 tracts to increase resilience of residential service in communities traditionally under-served and disadvantaged.

Outcome 5. Increased residential service reliability, decreased outages and a demonstration of the feasibility and scalability of the OURC pilot.

TECHNICAL SCOPE SUMMARY: The overall work scope to achieve desired project objectives are as follows: Define, Design, Procure, Permitting, Install/Construct and Test/Commission more details are available in the SOPO. Each of the five components has been developed using this strategy. Every component has its own work scope with a defined project period, milestones, Go/No-Go decision points, and end of project goals. The result of each project period created by SECO Energy is fully illustrated in the PROJECT SCHEDULE.

- Project period 1 (YR 1) includes the Define, Design, and Procure processes for each of SECO Energy's six components.
- Project period 2 (YR 2) includes Permitting and the start of Install/Construction processes for all project components.
- Project period 3 (YR 3) includes the completed deployment and commissioning (End of Project Goals) for the Substation Build and Underground Replacements. During YR 3, the installation/construction associated with Overhead to Underground Conversions, Line and Pole Hardening, and the OURC pilot continues as planned.
- Project period 4 (YR 4) completes the End of Project Goals for the Overhead to Underground Conversions and Line and Pole Hardening, and OURC pilot.

Community Benefits Plan includes SMART goals with objectives that begin in Project Period 1 (YR 1) and continue throughout the grant performance period. These are detailed in the Community Benefits Plan and the End of Project Goals section and summarized here.

- Develop and deploy communication tools specifically directed to Justice 40 members.
- Develop a process to communicate with and engage Justice 40 members to encourage participation in educational and workforce development programs.
- Expand stakeholder engagement across the SECO Energy service area emphasizing authentic participation by members from the 49 Justice 40 tracts and other community members.
- Implement the 2022 plan created by SECO Energy's DEI consultant with reportable measures.
- Identify and partner with educational institutions and workforce training organizations to create a pipeline for future hires.
- Publish SECO Energy's more comprehensive Community Benefits Plan.

WORK BREAKDOWN STRUCTURE (WBS) AND TASK DESCRIPTION SUMMARY: The work required to achieve the desired project objectives is as follows: Define, Design, Procure and Permitting to be carried out by Engineers. Install/Construct and Test/Commission to be carried out by Journeyman, Contractors, Technicians and Engineers. Project Engineer will monitor work, milestones, decision points and adjust team resources to meet schedule laid out in the WBS. Procurement of equipment and labor as required are obtained through competitive bid process except in the case sole bid submitted or only bidder to meet equipment requirements. The WBS and task descriptions are detailed in the following sections and illustrated in the Project Schedule.

MILESTONE SUMMARY: The following milestones are measures of progress for all components of the proposed grid improvements.

Task 1.0 Grant and Project Management

- Subtask 1.1 Required reports. Entire grant period of performance.
- Subtask 1.2 Project Management plan, reports and quality assurance. Entire grant period of performance.

Task 2.0 Overhead to Underground Conversion

- Subtask 2.1 Engineering and environmental design services procured. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 2.2 Data, Field Collection and Survey completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 2
- Subtask 2.2 Preliminary engineering design completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 2.2 Environmental Review completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 2.2 Environmental permits submitted. YR. 1, Qtr. 4
- Subtask 2.2 Environmental permits received. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 2.2 Final engineering design completed. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 2.2 Post-construction – Final engineering and Environmental documents submitted. YR. 5, Qtr. 2
- Subtask 2.3 Material and equipment ordered. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 2.4 Construction services procured. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 2.5 Construction completed. YR. 4, Qtr. 4.
- Subtask 2.5 Construction documents and as-builts completed. YR.5, Qtr. 1

Task 3.0 Line and Pole Hardening

- Subtask 3.1 Engineering and environmental design services procured. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 3.2 Data, Field Collection and Survey completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 2
- Subtask 3.2 Preliminary engineering design completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 3.2 Environmental Review completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 3.2 Environmental permits submitted. YR. 1, Qtr. 4
- Subtask 3.2 Environmental permits received. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 3.2 Final design completed. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 3.2 Post-construction – Final engineering and Environmental documents submitted. YR. 5, Qtr. 2
- Subtask 3.3 Material and equipment ordered. YR. 3, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 3.4 Construction services procured Yr3, Qtr4.
- Subtask 3.5 Construction completed. YR. 4, Qtr. 4
- Subtask 3.5 Construction documents and as-builts completed. Yr. 5, Qtr. 1

Task 4.0 Underground Replacements

- Subtask 4.1 Engineering and environmental design services procured. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 4.2 Data, Field Collection and Survey completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 2
- Subtask 4.2 Preliminary engineering design completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 4.2 Environmental Review completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 4.2 Environmental permits submitted. YR. 1, Qtr. 4
- Subtask 4.2 Environmental permits received. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 4.2 Final design completed. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 4.2 Post-construction – Final engineering and Environmental documents submitted. YR. 4, Qtr. 2
- Subtask 4.3 Material and equipment ordered. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 4.4 Construction services procured Yr2, Qtr1.
- Subtask 4.5 Construction completed. YR. 3, Qtr. 4.
- Subtask 4.5 Construction documents and as-builts completed, YR. 4, Qtr. 1

Task 5.0 Substation Build

- Subtask 5.1 Engineering and environmental design services procured. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 5.2 Data, Field Collection and Survey completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 2
- Subtask 5.2 Preliminary engineering design completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 5.2 Environmental Review completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
- Subtask 5.2 Environmental permits submitted. YR. 1, Qtr. 4

- Subtask 5.2 Environmental permits received. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
 - Subtask 5.2 Final design completed. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
 - Subtask 5.2 Post-construction – Final engineering and Environmental documents submitted. YR. 4, Qtr. 2
 - Subtask 5.3 Material and equipment ordered. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
 - Subtask 5.4 Construction services procured Yr2, Qtr4.
 - Subtask 5.5 Construction completed. YR. 3, Qtr. 4.
 - Subtask 5.5 Construction documents and as-builts completed, YR. 4, Qtr. 1
- Task 6.0 OURC Member Pilot Program
- Subtask 6.1 Engineering and environmental design services procured. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
 - Subtask 6.2 Data, Field Collection and Survey completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 2
 - Subtask 6.2 Preliminary engineering design completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
 - Subtask 6.2 Environmental Review completed. YR. 1, Qtr. 3
 - Subtask 6.2 Environmental permits submitted. YR. 1, Qtr. 4
 - Subtask 6.2 Environmental permits received. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
 - Subtask 6.2 Final design completed. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
 - Subtask 6.2 Post-construction – Final engineering and Environmental documents submitted. YR. 5, Qtr. 2
 - Subtask 6.3 Material and equipment ordered. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
 - Subtask 6.4 Construction services procured Yr2, Qtr1.
 - Subtask 6.5 Construction completed. YR. 4, Qtr. 4.
 - Subtask 6.5 Construction documents and as-builts completed, YR. 5, Qtr. 1

GO/NO-GO DECISION POINTS: Each project component in the SECO Energy proposed plan has at least one Go-No/Go identified. These are also shown in the Project Schedule. The Go-No/Go decision points in the project plan are generally in equipment, service procurement, or permitting.

Go-No/Go decision points for equipment are:

Task 2.0 Overhead to Underground Conversion

- Subtask 2.3 Deployment contingent upon equipment receipt. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 3.0 Line and Pole Hardening

- Subtask 3.3 Deployment contingent upon equipment receipt. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 4.0 Underground Replacements

- Subtask 4.3 Deployment contingent upon equipment receipt. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 5.0 Substation Build

- Subtask 5.3 Deployment contingent upon equipment receipt. YR. 1, Qtr. 2

Task 6.0 OURC Member Pilot Program

- Subtask 6.3 Deployment contingent upon equipment receipt. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

The services procurement Go/No-Go decision points include:

Task 2.0 Overhead to Underground Conversion

- Subtask 2.1 Design and engineering contingent on execution of services contract. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 2.4 Deployment contingent upon execution of services contract. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 3.0 Line and Pole Hardening

- Subtask 3.1 Design and engineering contingent on execution of services contract. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 3.4 Deployment contingent upon execution of services contract. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 4.0 Underground Replacements

- Subtask 4.1 Design and engineering contingent on execution of services contract. YR. 1, Qtr. 1
- Subtask 4.4 Deployment contingent upon execution of services contract. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 5.0 Substation Build

- Subtask 5.1 Design and engineering contingent on execution of services contract. YR. 1, Qtr. 1

1

- Subtask 5.4 Deployment contingent upon execution of services contract. YR. 2, Qtr. 1
- Task 6.0 OURC Member Pilot Program
- Subtask 6.4 Deployment contingent upon execution of services contract. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

The permitting Go/No-Go decision points include:

Task 2.0 Overhead to Underground Conversion

- Subtask 2.2 Deployment contingent upon permitting approvals. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 3.0 Line and Pole Hardening

- Subtask 3.2 Deployment contingent upon permitting approvals. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 4.0 Underground Replacements

- Subtask 4.2 Deployment contingent upon permitting approvals. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 5.0 Substation Build

- Subtask 5.2 Deployment contingent upon permitting approvals. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

Task 6.0 OURC Member Pilot Program

- Subtask 6.2 Deployment contingent upon permitting approvals. YR. 2, Qtr. 1

END OF PROJECT GOAL: The End of Project Goals for each component of the grid improvements project are:

Task 2.0 Overhead to Underground Conversion: All overhead to underground conversion sites deployed by YR. 4, Qtr4.

Task 3.0 Line and Pole Hardening: All line and pole hardening sites deployed by YR. 4, Qtr. 4.

Task 4.0 Underground Replacements: All underground replacements deployed by YR. 3, Qtr. 4.

Task 5.0 Substation Build: New Roundlake substation commissioned and functioning by YR. 3, Qtr. 4.

Task 6.0 OURC Member Pilot Program: OURC pilot deployment complete by YR. 4 Qtr.4.

In addition, the following **SMART Goals** from the Community Benefit Plan will be achieved:

- Develop and deploy communication tools specifically directed to Justice 40 members beginning YR. 1, Qtr. 1, with quarterly updates as needed.
- Develop a process to communicate with and engage Justice 40 members to encourage participation in educational and workforce development programs beginning YR. 1, Qtr. 4 with quarterly updates as needed.
- Expand stakeholder engagement across the SECO Energy service area emphasizing authentic participation by members from the 49 Justice 40 tracts and other community members with an ad-hoc member advisory committee to be engaged by YR. 5, Qtr. 4.
- Implement the 2022 plan created by SECO Energy's DEI consultant with reportable measures beginning YR. 1, Qtr. 1, with updates annually as needed, until final publication by YR. 5, Qtr. 4.
- Identify and partner with educational institutions and workforce training organizations to create a pipeline for future hires by Yr. 1, Qtr. 4 and beyond.
- Publish SECO Energy's more comprehensive Community Benefits Plan by Yr. 5, Qtr. 4.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: SECO Energy has developed the following schedule projecting completion within four years. This strategy allows for possible unforeseen events and ensures that SECO Energy will accomplish the project within the five-year project period.

SECO Energy - Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task/Subtask	Description	Year 1 Quarters				Year 2 Quarters				Year 3 Quarters				Year 4 Quarters				Year 5 Quarters			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1.0 Grant and Project Management																					
1.1 Grant Management																					
	<i>Milestone: Required Management Reports</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
	<i>Milestone: Required Compliance Reports</i>		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X
1.2 Project Management																					
	<i>Milestone: Project management plan, reports, and quality assurance</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
2.0 Overhead to Underground Conversion																					
2.1 Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design Services																					
	<i>Milestone: Services Procured</i>	X																			
	<i>Go/No-Go: Services Procured</i>	Y																			
2.2 Engineering and Environmental Design and Management																					
	<i>Milestone: Data, Field Collection and Survey</i>		X																		
	<i>Milestone: Preliminary Engineering Design</i>			X																	
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Review</i>			X																	
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Submitted</i>				X																
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Received</i>					X															
	<i>Go/No-Go: Environmental Permits</i>					Y															
	<i>Milestone: Final Engineering Design</i>					X															
	<i>Milestone: Post Construction - Final Engineering & Environmental Documents submitted.</i>																		X		
2.3 Procurement of Material and Equipment																					
	<i>Milestone: Material and Equipment Ordered</i>					X															
	<i>Go/No-Go: Materials and Equipment Received</i>					Y															
2.4 Procurement of Construction Services																					
	<i>Milestone: Construction Services Acquired</i>					X															
	<i>Go/No-Go: Construction Services Acquired</i>					Y															
2.5 Construction																					
	<i>Milestone: Construction Start</i>							X													
	<i>Milestone: Construction Complete</i>															X					
	<i>Milestone: Construction Documents and As-builts Complete</i>																X				

SECO Energy - Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task/Subtask	Description	Year 1 Quarters				Year 2 Quarters				Year 3 Quarters				Year 4 Quarters				Year 5 Quarters			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
3.0 Line and Pole Hardening																					
3.1	Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design Services																				
	<i>Milestone: Services Procured</i>	X																			
	<i>Go/No-Go: Services Procured</i>	Y																			
3.2	Engineering and Environmental Design and Management																				
	<i>Milestone: Data, Field Collection and Survey</i>		X																		
	<i>Milestone: Preliminary Engineering Design</i>			X																	
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Review</i>			X																	
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Submitted</i>				X																
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Received</i>					X															
	<i>Go/No-Go: Environmental Permits</i>					Y															
	<i>Milestone: Final Engineering Design</i>					X															
	<i>Milestone: Post Construction - Final Engineering & Environmental Documents submitted.</i>																			X	
3.3	Procurement of Material and Equipment																				
	<i>Milestone: Material and Equipment Ordered</i>					X															
	<i>Go/No-Go: Materials and Equipment Received</i>					Y															
3.4	Procurement of Construction Services																				
	<i>Milestone: Construction Services Acquired</i>					X															
	<i>Go/No-Go: Construction Services Acquired</i>					Y															
3.5	Construction																				
	<i>Milestone: Construction Start</i>							X													
	<i>Milestone: Construction Complete</i>																		X		
	<i>Milestone: Construction Documents and As-builts Complete</i>																		X		
4.0 Underground Replacements																					
4.1	Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design Services																				
	<i>Milestone: Services Procured</i>	X																			
	<i>Go/No-Go: Services Procured</i>	Y																			

SECO Energy - Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task/Subtask	Description	Year 1 Quarters				Year 2 Quarters				Year 3 Quarters				Year 4 Quarters				Year 5 Quarters				
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
4.2	Engineering and Environmental Design and Management																					
	<i>Milestone: Data, Field Collection and Survey</i>		X																			
	<i>Milestone: Preliminary Engineering Design</i>			X																		
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Review</i>			X																		
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Submitted</i>				X																	
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Received</i>					X																
	<i>Go/No-Go: Environmental Permits</i>					Y																
	<i>Milestone: Final Engineering Design</i>					X																
	<i>Milestone: Post Construction - Final Engineering & Environmental Documents submitted.</i>															X						
4.3	Procurement of Material and Equipment																					
	<i>Milestone: Material and Equipment Ordered</i>					X																
	<i>Go/No-Go: Materials and Equipment Received</i>					Y																
4.4	Procurement of Construction Services																					
	<i>Milestone: Construction Services Acquired</i>					X																
	<i>Go/No-Go: Construction Services Acquired</i>					Y																
4.5	Construction																					
	<i>Milestone: Construction Start</i>							X														
	<i>Milestone: Construction Complete</i>												X									
	<i>Milestone: Construction Documents and As-builts Complete</i>													X								
5.0	Substation Build																					
5.1	Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design Services																					
	<i>Milestone: Services Procured</i>	X																				
	<i>Go/No-Go: Services Acquired</i>	Y																				
5.2	Engineering and Environmental Design and Management																					
	<i>Milestone: Data, Field Collection and Survey</i>		X																			
	<i>Milestone: Preliminary Engineering Design</i>			X																		
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Review</i>			X																		
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Submitted</i>				X																	
	<i>Milestone: Environmental Permits Received</i>					X																
	<i>Milestone: Final Engineering Design</i>					X																

BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. SECO Energy will work with all vendors to secure materials and equipment manufactured in the U.S.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT. The proposed project is under the direction of Ben Dawson, SECO Energy's Vice President of Growth, Smart Grid and Operational Technology. The construction work plan was developed through an engineering analysis of SECO Energy's electrical distribution system. Mike White, SECO Energy's Vice President of Engineering, and John La Selva, Vice President of Operations, will assist Mr. Dawson with project activities including technology assessments, cost analysis and vendor review. SECO Energy's CEO, Curtis Wynn will provide organizational connection to the Board and community members as well as project leadership, high level budgeting and implementation oversight. The Interim CFO, Anh Reynolds, will ensure accurate accounting and financial management for the project. The Deputy General Counsel, Tracy De Lemos, is responsible for all contractual obligation assurances, risk management, and real estate needs. Gregg Morrell, Vice President of Corporate Services & Human Resources, will provide related job, employment and recruitment data and coordinate with the Lake-Sumter State College Board, as needed. Kathryn Gloria, Vice President of Corporate Communications & Energy Services will develop communications, provide public relations oversight and serve as the chief communications officer.

The Project Team has already developed a basic plan for each component, however, once funding notice is received, a detailed scope of work will be developed for every component. In addition, the CFO will set up the necessary functional accounts for the overall grid project with subaccounts for each component to ensure accurate accounting of federal and non-federal expenses and revenues. The project team will meet weekly to ensure all elements in the scope are fulfilled. Weekly meetings will also review any budget concerns, compliance with federal guidelines, potential RFQs for subcontractors, selection, and contracting processes. Team leaders will develop specific plans for compliance with all federal guidelines as well as ensure SECO Energy includes provisions for all subcontractors using a qualified workforce with specific guidance in the RFQs, performance schedules, and final delivery of contract requirement standards. The General Counsel will provide guidance on general risk management and limiting/mitigating risk related to labor disputes.

Additionally, the Project Team will develop a similar work plan to ensure the Community Benefits Plan goals are met over the project period. Additional community members and SECO Energy Board members will also assist in the implementation of the Community Benefits Plan.

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESOURCES

PROJECT TEAM'S UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE: At SECO Energy, our management team views each day as an opportunity to excel on behalf of the Cooperative's members, employees, and the communities we serve. SECO Energy's senior management group has two important tasks. First, the team ensures that the co-op remains responsive to the members and works to continuously improve the efficiency of its operations. The second is engaging in the strategic planning necessary to ensure that the Cooperative's future remains bright. Professional information on Project Team members is as follows:

PROJECT MANAGER:

**BEN DAWSON, P.E, Vice President of Growth, Smart Grid and Operational Technology
SECO Energy [Employed since 2019]**

Degree level and discipline: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering [University of Florida]

Professional certifications: Registered Professional Engineer [FL]

Years of experience in the utility industry: 24 years

Role in the project: Project leadership, technology assessments, cost analysis, vendor review

PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS:

CURTIS WYNN, Chief Executive Officer, SECO Energy [Employed since 2021]

Degree Level and discipline: Bachelor of Science; Business and Information Systems [Troy University]

Years of experience in the utility industry: 41 years

Role in the project: Hi-Level budgeting and implementation oversight

His major areas of focus include: 1) optimizing operations via efficiency, distributed energy resources and demand response initiatives, 2) engaging member consumers in optimization and political advocacy efforts, 3) managing industry change and disruption, 4) expanding service offerings into rural broadband and beneficial electrification (i.e., electric mobility, agricultural operations, and energy efficiency) and 5) community and economic development.

Anh Reynolds, Interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO), SECO Energy [Employed since 2014]

Degree level and discipline: Master Accounting [Saint Leo University]

Professional certifications: NRECA Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate (CFPC)

Years of experience in the utility industry: 8 years

Role in the project: Procurement, Financing, Project Management, Remediation, Final Closing and Acceptance, Grant Financial Reporting and Single Audit

KATHRYN GLORIA, Vice President of Corporate Communications & Energy Services, SECO Energy [Employed since 2015]

Degree level and discipline: Business Management Program [University of Wisconsin, Madison]; Political Science [Cameron University]

Professional certifications: Certified Cooperative Communicator

Years of experience in the utility industry: 16 years

Role in the projects – Project Planning Team member of leadership team, Communications development and execution, public relations oversight, chief communications officer

MIKE WHITE, Vice President of Engineering, SECO Energy [Employed since 2016]

Degree Level and discipline: BS in Electrical Engineering [Clemson University, 1997]; Undergraduate Project: Computer Modeling of Harmonic Distortion in Electrical Distribution Systems [Power program emphasis]; AS in Industrial Electronics, [Northeastern Technical College, 1994]; Certificate in Industrial Electricity

Years of experience in the utility industry: 27 years

Professional certifications: Registered Professional Engineer [FL and SC]

Role in the project: project leadership, technology assessments, cost analysis, vendor review

GREGG MORRELL, Vice President of Corporate Services & Human Resources, SECO Energy [Employed since 2014]

Professional certifications: Certified in Labor Contract Negotiations and Administration

Years of experience in the utility industry: 9 years

Role in the project: Support via providing related data for jobs, employment, recruitment, etc.; acting officer on Lake-Sumter State College Board

TRACY DE LEMOS, Deputy General Counsel, SECO Energy [Employed since 2021; served as outside counsel since 2013]

Degree Level and discipline: Juris Doctorate [University of Florida]; B.S. in Marketing and Real Estate [Florida State]

Professional certifications: Florida Bar Member

Years of experience in the utility industry: 10 years

Role in the project: Assist with any legal or real estate related needs for the project.

JOHN LASELVA, Vice President of Operations, SECO Energy [Employed since 2000]

Degree Level and discipline: B.S. in Civil Engineering [Clemson University, 1976-1981]; MBA in Executive Management [Duke University, 1998]

Years of experience in the utility industry: 42 years
Professional certifications: Registered Professional Civil Engineer
Role in the project: project leadership, technology assessments, cost analysis, vendor review

EXISTING EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES: SECO Energy has access to all equipment and facilities required to complete all components of the proposed project.

RELEVANT PREVIOUS WORK EFFORTS: The SECO Energy Project Team has worked together over the past several years. The Team recently completed the complete rebuild of its Marion Oaks substation, converting an existing substation that served less than 5,000 SECO Energy members to a new substation with a capacity for 20,000-30,000 members, including two large scale distribution centers that are part of a 900-acre commerce park. Other similar projects include substation construction and improvements totaling more than \$14,000,000; overhead to underground conversion projects and relocation projects totaling nearly \$1,000,000 and various system improvements and installation of new services for multiple residential subdivisions and commercial developments totaling nearly \$9,000,000 in just the last three years. The experience from these projects have provided SECO Energy with the experience and assurance that the proposed project is within the capacity of the organization to accomplish and that it represents the best possible next grid improvements needed for our services.

TIME COMMITMENT OF THE KEY TEAM MEMBERS TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT. Table 1 below shows the estimated annual time commitments for the SECO Energy Project Team. Team members have flexibility to add additional time to the project as needed to meet the projected goals, objectives, and outcomes.

Table 1: SECO Energy Project Team Members

Team Member, Title	Project Component	Estimated Time Commitment Annual Average (%)
Benjamin Dawson, P.E., VP, Growth, Smart Grid & Operation Technology	Project Manager/Engineer	20%/year
Curtis Wynn, CEO	Project Leader/Implementation	3%/year
Anh Reynolds, Interim CFO	Financial/Accounting	10%/year
Kathryn Gloria, VP, Corporate Communication & Energy Services	Business Communications/Public Relations	15%/year
Mike White, VP, Engineering	General Administrative Review, Community Engagement	10%/year
Gregg Morrell, VP, Corporate Service & HR	Financial/Accounting	3%/year
Tracy De Lemos, Deputy General Counsel	Deputy General Counsel	3%/year
John LaSelva, VP, Operations	Project Manager/Engineer	15%/year

TECHNICAL SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY DOE/NNSA FFRDCS. Not Applicable

SCHEDULE 1. IDENTIFICATION

SURVEY CONTACTS: Persons to contact with question about this form

RESPONSE DUE DATE: Please submit by April 30th following the close of calendar year

Contact Juliana Puerta
Title:

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc 18304
REPORTING PERIOD: 2021

Phone: (352) 569-9930 FAX: Email: juliana.puerta@secoenergy.com

Logged By / Date:

Supervisor Anh Reynolds
Title: Controller

Logged In: Receipt Date (mm/dd/yyyy):

Phone: (352) 569-9622 FAX: Email: anh.reynolds@secoenergy.com

1	Legal Name of Industry Participant	Sumter Electric Coop, Inc	Submission Status/Date:	<input type="text" value="Submitted"/>	<input type="text" value="04/19/2022"/>
2	Current Address of Principal Business Office	330 US Highway 301 Sumterville FL 33585 0000			
3	Preparer's Legal Name Operator (if different than line 1)				
4	Current Address of Preparer's Office (if different than line 2)				
5	Respondent Type (Check One)	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission <input type="checkbox"/> Political Subdivision <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> Behind the Meter <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Marketing Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Investor-Owned <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale Power Marketer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Power Marketer (or Energy Service Provider) <input type="checkbox"/> DSM Administrator <input type="checkbox"/> Independent Power Producer or Qualifying Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Community Choice Aggregator			

For questions or additional information about the Form EIA-861 contact the Survey Manager: Fax: (202) 287 - 1938 Email: EIA-861@eia.gov
Stephen Scott Phone: (202) 586-5140 Email: stephen.scott@eia.gov

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc 18304
 REPORT PERIOD ENDING: 2021

SCHEDULE 2. PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

LINE NO.				
1	Regional North American Electric Reliability Council (Not applicable for power marketers)	<input type="checkbox"/> TRE (formerly ERCOT) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FRCC <input type="checkbox"/> MRO	<input type="checkbox"/> NPCC <input type="checkbox"/> RFC (formerly ECAR, MAIN. MAAC) <input type="checkbox"/> SERC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPP <input type="checkbox"/> WECC
2	Name of RTO or ISO	<input type="checkbox"/> California ISO <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Reliability Council of Texas <input type="checkbox"/> PJM Interconnection <input type="checkbox"/> New York ISO	<input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Power Pool <input type="checkbox"/> Midwest ISO <input type="checkbox"/> ISO New England <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	
3	(For EIA Use Only) Identify the North American Electric Reliability Council where you are physically located	FRCC		
4	Did Your Company Operate Generating Plants(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
5	Identify The Activities Your Company Was Engaged In During The Year (Check appropriate activities)	<input type="checkbox"/> Generation from company owned plant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transmission <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buying transmission services on other electrical system <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Distribution using owned/leased electric wires	<input type="checkbox"/> Buying distribution on other electrical system <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale power marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Retail power marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Bundled Services (electricity plus other services such as gas, water, etc. in addition to electric service))	
6	Highest Hourly Electrical Peak System Demand	Summer (Megawatts) 862.8 Winter (Megawatts) 827.2	Prior Year 865.0 Prior Year 762.4	
7	Did Your Company Operate Alternative-Fueled Vehicles During the Year? Does Your Company Plan to Operate Such Vehicles During the Coming Year?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
	If "Yes", Please Provide Additional Contact Information	Name:	Title:	
		Telephone: - -	Fax: - -	Email:

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

18304

REPORT PERIOD ENDING: 2021

SCHEDULE 2. PART B. ENERGY SOURCES AND DISPOSITION

	SOURCE OF ENERGY	MEGAWATTHOURS		DISPOSITION OF ENERGY	MEGAWATTHOURS
1	Net Generation		11	Sales to Ultimate Consumers	3,625,026
2	Purchases from Electricity Suppliers	3,781,540	12	Sales For Resale	
3	Exchanged Received (In)		13	Energy Furnished Without Charge	
4	Exchanged Delivered (Out)		14	Energy Consumed By Respondent Without Charge	5,172
5	Exchanged Net				
6	Wheeled Received (In)				
7	Wheeled Delivered (Out)		15	Total Energy Losses (positive number)	151,342
8	Wheeled Net				
9	Transmission by Others Losses (Negative Number)				
10	Total Sources (sum of lines 1, 2, 5, 8 & 9)	3,781,540	16	Total Disposition (sum of lines 11, 12, 13, 14, & 15)	3,781,540

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

18304

REPORT PERIOD ENDING: 2021

SCHEDULE 2. PART C. ELECTRIC OPERATING REVENUE

LINE NO.	TYPE OF OPERATING REVENUE	(THOUSAND DOLLARS to the nearest 0.1)
1	Electrical Operating Revenue From Sales to Ultimate Customers (Schedule 4: Parts A, B, and D) \$	419,662.0
2	Revenue From Unbundled (Delivery) Customers (Schedule 4: Part C) \$	
3	Electric Operating Revenue from Sales for Resale \$	
4	Electric Credits/Other Adjustments \$	
5	Revenue from Transmission \$	
6	Other Electric Operating Revenue \$	10,413.0
7	Total Electric Operating Revenue (sum of lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) \$	430,075.0

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

18304

REPORT PERIOD ENDING: 2021

**SCHEDULE 3. PART A.
 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RELIABILITY DATA**

INSTRUCTIONS: For the purpose of this schedule, a distribution circuit is any circuit with a voltage of 34kV or below that emanate from a substation and that serves end use customers.

State/Territory **FL**

1	Total Number of Distribution Circuits	237.0
2	Number of Distribution Circuits that employ voltage/VAR optimization (VVO)	.0

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

REPORT PERIOD ENDING:

**SCHEDULE 3. PART B.
 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM RELIABILITY DATA**

Who is required to complete this schedule?

This schedule collects System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) and System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) statistics. If your organization does not compute these indexes, answer 'no' to Question 1 and then skip to Schedule 4A. You do not have to complete any other part of this schedule 3B or 3C.

Should you complete Part B or Part C?

If your organization computes the SAIFI and SAIDI indexes and determines Major Event Days using the IEEE 1366-2003 or the IEEE 1366-2012 standard, answer 'YES' to Questions 1 and 2, and complete Part B. Then skip to Schedule 4A. (You do not complete Schedule 3, Part C.)

If your organization does not use the IEEE 1366-2003 or the IEEE 1366-2012 standard but calculates SAIDI and SAIFI indexes via other method, answer 'yes' to question 1 and 'no' to question 2 and complete Part C. Then go to Schedule 4A.

- 1 Do you calculate SAIDI and SAIFI by any method? If Yes, go to Question 2. If No, go to Schedule 4, Part A. Yes No
- 2 Do you calculate SAIDI and SAIFI and determine Major Event Days using the IEEE1366-2003 standard or IEEE-2012 standard? If Yes, complete Part B. If No, go to complete Part C. Yes No

Part B: SAIDI and SAIFI in accordance with IEEE 1366-2003 standard or IEEE 1366-2012 standard

State

3a. SAIDI value including Major Event days

3b. SAIDI value excluding Major Event days

4 SAIDI value including Major Event days minus loss of supply

5a. SAIFI value including Major Event days

5b. SAIFI value excluding Major Event days

6. SAIFI value including Major Event days minus loss of supply

7. Total number of customers used in these calculations

8. What is the highest voltage that you consider part of the distribution system, as opposed to the supply system? (kV)

9. Do you receive information about a customer outage in advance of a customer reporting it? Yes No

Thank You for completing this part. Skip Part C and go directly to Schedule 4 Part A.

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Part C: SAIDI and SAIFI calculated by other methods

	State	FL
10a. SAIDI value including Major Events		72.1
10b. SAIDI value excluding Major Events		71.4
11a. SAIFI value including Major Events		1.3
11b. SAIFI value excluding Major Events		1.3
12. Total number of customers used in these calculations		222,188.0
13. Do you include inactive accounts?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
14. How do you define momentary interruptions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 min.	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 5 min. <input type="checkbox"/> Other
15. What is the highest voltage that you consider part of the distribution system, as opposed to the supply system?		25.0 kv
16. Is information about customer outages recorded automatically?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc
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SCHEDULE 4. PART A. SALES TO ULTIMATE CUSTOMERS. FULL SERVICE - ENERGY AND DELIVERY SERVICE (BUNDLED)

	RESIDENTIAL (a)	COMMERCIAL (b)	INDUSTRIAL (c)	TRANSPORTATION (d)	TOTAL (e)
State	FL	Balancing Authority		21554	
Revenue (thousand dollars)	307,957.0	32,903.0	78,802.0		419,662.0
Megawatthours	2,449,976	232,545	942,505		3,625,026
Number of Customers	202,789	17,818	1,447		222,054
Are your rates decoupled?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
If the answer is YES, is the revenue adjustment automatic or does it require a rate-making proceeding?	<input type="checkbox"/> N automatic	<input type="checkbox"/> N automatic	<input type="checkbox"/> N automatic	<input type="checkbox"/> N automatic	
	<input type="checkbox"/> N proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N proceeding	
Cents/Kwh	12.570	14.149	8.361		11.577

State

Revenue (thousand dollars)					
Megawatthours					
Number of Customers					
Are your rates decoupled?					
If the answer is YES, is the revenue adjustment automatic or does it require a rate-making proceeding?					
Cents/Kwh					

Total

Revenue (thousand dollars)	307,957.0	32,903.0	78,802.0		419,662.0
Megawatthours	2,449,976	232,545	942,505		3,625,026
Number of Customers	202,789	17,818	1,447		222,054

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

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SCHEDULE 4. PART B. SALES TO ULTIMATE CUSTOMERS. ENERGY -- ONLY SERVICE (WITHOUT DELIVERY SERVICE)

	RESIDENTIAL (a)	COMMERCIAL (b)	INDUSTRIAL (c)	TRANSPORTATION (d)	TOTAL (e)
State	Balancing Authority				
Revenue (thousand dollars)					
Megawatthours					
Number of Customers					
Cents/Kwh					
State					
Revenue (thousand dollars)					
Megawatthours					
Number of Customers					
Cents/Kwh					

Total
Revenue (thousand dollars)
Megawatthours
Number of Customers

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

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REPORT PERIOD ENDING: 2021

SCHEDULE 4. PART C. SALES TO ULTIMATE CUSTOMERS. DELIVERY -- ONLY SERVICE (AND OTHER RELATED CHARGES)

	RESIDENTIAL (a)	COMMERCIAL (b)	INDUSTRIAL (c)	TRANSPORTATION (d)	TOTAL (e)
State	Balancing Authority				
Revenue (thousand dollars)					
Megawatthours					
Number of Customers					
Cents/Kwh					
State					
Revenue (thousand dollars)					
Megawatthours					
Number of Customers					
Cents/Kwh					

Total
Revenue (thousand dollars)
Megawatthours
Number of Customers

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

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REPORT PERIOD ENDING: 2021

SCHEDULE 4. PART D. BUNDLED SERVICE BY RETAIL ENERGY PROVIDERS AND POWER MARKETERS

	RESIDENTIAL (a)	COMMERCIAL (b)	INDUSTRIAL (c)	TRANSPORTATION (d)	TOTAL (e)
State	Balancing Authority				
Revenue (thousand dollars)					
Megawatthours					
Number of Customers					
Cents/Kwh					
State					
Revenue (thousand dollars)					
Megawatthours					
Number of Customers					
Cents/Kwh					

Total
Revenue (thousand dollars)
Megawatthours
Number of Customers

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc 18304

REPORTING PERIOD ENDING: 2021

SCHEDULE 5. MERGERS and/or ACQUISITIONS

Mergers and/or acquisitions during the reporting month

If Yes, Provide:

Date of Merger or Acquisition

Company merged with or acquired

Name of new parent company

Address

City

State, Zip

New Contact Name

Telephone No.

Email address

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

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SCHEDULE 6. PART A. ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS
Adjusted Gross Energy and Demand Savings -- Energy Efficiency

If you have a non utility DSM administrator that reports your DSM activity for you please select them from the list

State/Territory	FL	Balancing Authority				Total
		21554				
		RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL	TRANS	
		(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Reporting Year Incremental Annual Savings						
1	Energy Savings (MWh)					
2	Peak Demand Savings (MW)					
Increment Life Cycle Savings						
3	Energy Savings (MWh)					
4	Peake Demand Savings (MW)					
Reporting Year Incremental Costs						
5	Customer Incentives					
6	All other costs	4.000		293.000		297.000
Incremental Life Cycle Costs						
7	Customer Incentives					
8	All other costs	4.000		293.000		297.000
Weighted Average Life for Portfolio (Years) - Use Spreadsheet to Calculate						
9	Weighted Average Life			1.000		1.000

Please provide website address to your energy efficiency program reports:

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SCHEDULE 6. PART A. ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

DMS Administration only. List all utilities that you provide service for.

State

Utility Name

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Schedule 6. Part B. Yearly Energy and Demand Savings - Demand Response

Reporting Year Savings

State/Territory	FL	Balancing Authority	21554	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
				Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total
1		Number of Customers Enrolled				13		13
2		Energy Savings (Mwh)				129.000		129.000
3		Potential Peak Demand Savings (MW)				15.000		15.000
4		Actual Peak Demand Savings (MW)				13.000		13.000

Schedule 6. Part B. Program Cost -- Demand Response (Thousand Dollars)

Reporting Year Costs

5		Customer Incentives						
6		All other costs				293.000		293.000
7		If you have a demand side management (DMS) program for grid-interactive water heaters (as defined by DOE), how many grid interactive water heaters were added to your program this year?						

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SCHEDULE 6. PART C. DYNAMIC PRICING PROGRAMS
Number of Customers

INSTRUCTIONS: Report the number of customers participating in dynamic pricing programs, e.g. Time-of-Use-Pricing, Real-Time-Pricing, Variable Peak Pricing, Critical Peak Pricing Programs.

State/Territory **FL** Balancing Authority **21554**

	Residential (a)	Commercial (b)	Industrial (c)	Transportatio (d)	Total (e)
1 Number of Customers enrolled in dynamic pricing programs, by customer class			13		13

Types of Dynamic Pricing Programs

INSTRUCTIONS: For each customer class, mark the types of dynamic pricing programs in which the customers are participating.

	Residential (a)	Commercial (b)	Industrial (c)	Transportatio (d)
2 Time-of-Use Pricing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
3 Real-Time Pricing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
4 Variable Peak Pricing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
5 Critical Peak Pricing	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
6 Critical Peak Rebate	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

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SCHEDULE 6. PART D. ADVANCED METERING

Only customers from schedule 4A and 4C need to be reported on this schedule.
 AMR- data transmitted one-way, to the utility.
 AMI- data transmitted in both directions, to the utility and customer

State	FL	Balancing Authority	21554				Total
			Residential (a)	Commercial (b)	Industrial (c)	Transportation (d)	(e)
1	Number of AMR Meters						
2	Number of AMI Meters		5,773				5,773
3	Number of AMI Meters with home area network (HAN) gateway enabled						
4	Number of non AMR/AMI Meters		197,016	17,818	1,447		216,281
5	Total Number of Meters (All Types), line 1+2+4		202,789	17,818	1,447		222,054
6	Energy Served Through AMI		97				97
7	Number of Customers able to access daily energy usage through a webportal or other electronic means		5,773				5,773
8	Number of customers with direct load control						

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SCHEDULE 7. PART A. NET METERING

Net Metering programs allow customers to sell excess power they generated back to the electrical grid to offset consumption. Provide the information about programs by State balancing authority, customer class, and technology for all net metering applications.

State	FL	Balancing Authority	21554	Residential (a)	Commercial (b)	Industrial (c)	Transportation (d)	Total (e)
		Net Metering Installed Capacity (MW)		14.391	0.653			15.044
		Net Metering Installations		2,904	90			2,994
		Storage Installed Capacity (MW)						
		Storage Installations						
Photovoltaic		Virtual NM Installed Capacity (1 MW and greater)						
		Virtual NM Customers (1 MW and greater)						
		Virtual NM Installed Capacity (less than 1MW)						
		Virtual NM Customers (less than 1MW)						
		If Available, Enter the Electric Energy Sold Back to the Utility (MWh)		14,391.000	653.000			15,044.000
		Installed Net Metering Capacity (MW)		0.006				0.006
Wind		Number of Net Metering Customers		2				2
		If Available, Enter the Electric Energy Sold Back to the Utility (MWh)		6.000				6.000
		Installed Net Metering Capacity (MW)						0.000
Other		Number of Net Metering Customers						0
		If Available, Enter the Electric Energy Sold Back to the Utility (MWh)						0.000
		Installed Net Metering Capacity (MW)		14.397	0.653	0.000	0.000	15.050
Total		Number of Net Metering Customers		2,906	90	0	0	2,996
		If Available, Enter the Electric Energy Sold Back to the Utility (MWh)		14,397.000	653.000	0.000	0.000	15,050.000
		Net Metering Installed Capacity (MW)		14.397	.653	0	0	15.05
Grand Total		Net Metering Installations/customers		2906	90	0	0	2996
All States		If Available, Enter the Electric Energy Sold Back to the Utility (MWh)		14397	653	0	0	15050

REPORT FOR Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

REPORT PERIOD ENDING:

SCHEDULE 7. PART B. NON NET-METERED DISTRIBUTED GENERATORS

If your company owns and/or operates a distribution system, please report information on known distributed generation (grid connected/synchronized) capacity on the system. Such capacity must be utility or customer-owned

NUMBER AND CAPACITY

State	Balancing Authority	< 1MW
-------	---------------------	-------

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Number of generators | 3. Capacity that consists of backup-only units |
| 2. Total combined capacity (MW) | 4. Capacity owned by respondent |

Capacity by Technology and Sector (MW)

	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Direct Connected	Total
5. Internal combustion						
6. Combustion turbine(s)						
7. Steam turbine(s)						
8. Fuel Cell(s)						
9. Hydroelectric						
10. Photovoltaic						
11. Storage						
12. Wind turbine(s)						
13. Other						
14. Total						

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SCHEDULE 8. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM INFORMATION

If your company owns a distribution system, please identify the names of the counties (parish, etc.) by State in which the electric wire/equipment are located.

LINE NO.	STATE (US Postal Abbreviation) (a)	COUNTY (Parish, Etc.) (b)	LINE NO.	STATE (US Postal Abbreviation) (a)	COUNTY (Parish, Etc.) (b)
1	FL - Citrus				
2	FL - Hernando				
3	FL - Lake				
4	FL - Levy				
5	FL - Marion				
6	FL - Pasco				
7	FL - Sumter				

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

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SCHEDULE 9. COMMENTS

SCHEDULE (a)	PART (b)	LINE NO. (c)	COLUMN (d)	NOTES (e)
6	A	1	a	No Residential LED orders 2021.
6	A	3	a	No Residential LED orders 2021.

REPORT FOR: Sumter Electric Coop, Inc

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EIA861 ERROR LOG

Part	State	BA ID	Error No.	Error Description/Override Comment	Type	Override
6	A	FL	21554	610 Residential Reporting Year Incremental Annual Savings (lines 1 and 2) were reported last year but not this year. If there are no Energy Savings this year, please provide a brief explanation. No Residential LED orders 2021.	W	
6	A	FL	0	644 Reporting Year Incremental Annual Savings were reported last year, but not this year. Please provide corrected data or an explanation. No Residential LED orders 2021.	W	



9501 U.S. Highway 441, Leesburg, FL 34788

www.LSSC.edu

March 10, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
U.S. Department of Energy (Grid Deployment Office)
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

Lake-Sumter State College supports the "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project" proposed by SECO Energy, should it be funded by the Department of Energy through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships ("GRIP") program, and commits to providing scholarship resources to students that enroll in related programs and activities at the College. The GRIP funding sought by SECO Energy lessens the gap and ensures that all communities, even the small, underserved or disadvantaged rural communities, have access to affordable, reliable clean energy.

Both Lake-Sumter State College and SECO Energy recognize the importance of developing a well-trained workforce for the energy industry. Our organizations have a longstanding community partnership. Lake-Sumter State College is pleased to partner with SECO Energy in this project by providing opportunities for reduced rate or scholarship based educational and professional developmental training for students in the area living in Justice 40 tracts who enroll in the lineman or relay program.

In turn, SECO Energy has committed to offer scholarship funding opportunities and will prioritize the hiring of these students who successfully complete their certification programs at Lake-Sumter State College as SECO Energy's commitment to its Community Benefits Plan. It is our intention that these students, as potential future SECO Energy employees or energy industry employees/contractors, will play a key role in the execution of this project and other future projects that directly benefit quality of life and reliability of electric service in Justice 40 tract areas and beyond.

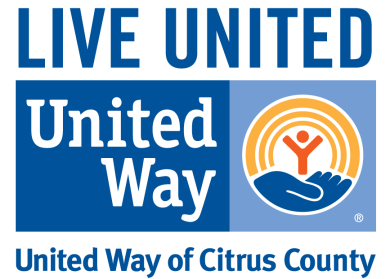
I sincerely request your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application. Any grant funds awarded will not only contribute to the overall grid resiliency of our local infrastructure and decrease the energy burden and environmental disparity experienced in our disadvantaged, rural communities, but are a needed investment in the economic, educational and workforce development resources available in these communities as well.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Bigard
President
Lake-Sumter State College

March 14, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585



Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter to commit the support of the United Way of Citrus County to the Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project that is being proposed by Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO Energy), should it be funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (“GRIP”) program.

As a local support agency with a longstanding community relationship with SECO Energy and as a resource that administers bill payment assistance funded by the SECO Energy Foundation in Citrus County, we believe the project is aligned with SECO Energy’s goals of assisting low-income families with energy costs and improving service reliability. Our United Way leadership understands first-hand the energy burden and environmental disparity experienced in our disadvantaged, rural communities. We have a vested interest in decreasing these burdens and disparities, and firmly believe that SECO Energy’s project will increase our communities’ equitable access to more reliable energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy equity while decreasing member-consumer reliance on assistance programs.

We are committed to the successful deployment of SECO Energy’s proposed project and are pleased to partner with them by administering bill payment assistance and to serve as a resource assessing the eligibility of the Justice 40 tract members who may be part of the pilot portion of the project and whose electric infrastructure from SECO infrastructure at the member’s property line to the meter are vulnerable and need replacement.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support and commitment for SECO Energy’s proposed project and for giving it your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Schmalstig".

George Schmalstig, CEO
United Way of Citrus County, Inc.

United Way of Lake & Sumter Counties



3/14/2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter to commit the support of the Lake & Sumter United Way to the Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project that is being proposed by Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO Energy), should it be funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships ("GRIP") program.

As a local support agency with a longstanding community relationship with SECO Energy and as a resource that administers bill payment assistance funded by the SECO Energy Foundation in Lake and Sumter counties, we believe the project is aligned with SECO Energy's goals of assisting low-income families with energy costs and improving service reliability. Our United Way leadership understands first-hand the energy burden and environmental disparity experienced in our disadvantaged, rural communities. We have a vested interest in decreasing these burdens and disparities, and firmly believe that SECO Energy's project will increase our communities' equitable access to more reliable energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy equity while decreasing member-consumer reliance on assistance programs.

We are committed to the successful deployment of SECO Energy's proposed project and are pleased to partner with them by administering bill payment assistance and to serve as a resource assessing the eligibility of the Justice 40 tract members who may be part of the pilot portion of the project and whose electric infrastructure from SECO infrastructure at the member's property line to the meter are vulnerable and need replacement.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support and commitment for SECO Energy's proposed project and for giving it your full consideration.

Sincerely,


Cathy Bicknell, Director of Finance
Lake & Sumter United Way

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

March 9, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

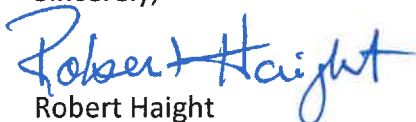
I am writing this letter to commit the support of the United Way of Marion County to the Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project that is being proposed by Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO Energy), should it be funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships ("GRIP") program.

As a local support agency with a longstanding community relationship with SECO Energy and as a resource that administers bill payment assistance funded by the SECO Energy Foundation in Marion County, we believe the project is aligned with SECO Energy's goals of assisting low-income families with energy costs and improving service reliability. Our United Way leadership understands first-hand the energy burden and environmental disparity experienced in our disadvantaged, rural communities. We have a vested interest in decreasing these burdens and disparities, and firmly believe that SECO Energy's project will increase our communities' equitable access to more reliable energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy equity while decreasing member-consumer reliance on assistance programs. Last year alone, Marion County residents call our 211 Informational & Referral program with hundreds of call seeking assistance with bill pay. Our SECO Energy partnership allows us to assist many customers in need.

We are committed to the successful deployment of SECO Energy's proposed project and are pleased to partner with them by administering bill payment assistance and to serve as a resource assessing the eligibility of the Justice 40 tract members who may be part of the pilot portion of the project and whose electric infrastructure from SECO infrastructure at the member's property line to the meter are vulnerable and need replacement.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support and commitment for SECO Energy's proposed project and for giving it your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert Haight
President & CEO



Local, State & Federally Funded
An Equal Opportunity Employer

LAKE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.
"Helping People, Help Themselves"

501 North Bay Street - Eustis, Florida 32726
(352) 357-5550 - (352) 357-3497 - (352) 357-7070

FAX (352) 483-2298 - <http://www.lakecaa.org/>

James H. Lowe, CCAP
Executive Director

March 06, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter to commit the support of the Lake Community Action Agency, Inc. to the Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project that is being proposed by Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO Energy), should it be funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships ("GRIP") program.

Lake Community Action Agency, Inc. is the local agency that administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) specific to some of the areas in which proposed project activities would take place. As the local LIHEAP and WAP administrator, we understand first-hand the energy burden and environmental disparity experienced in our disadvantaged, rural communities. We also have a vested interest in decreasing these burdens and disparities, and firmly believe that SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project will increase our communities' equitable access to more reliable energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy democracy while decreasing member-consumer reliance on assistance programs. We are committed to the successful deployment of SECO Energy's proposed project and are pleased to partner with them by providing opportunities for potential resource access through our LIHEAP and WAP local administrator role as may be needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support and commitment for SECO Energy's proposed project and for giving it your full consideration.

Sincerely,


James H. Lowe, Executive Director
Lake Community Action Agency, Inc.

Programs:

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) – Family Self Sufficiency Program (FFSP) – Integrated Solutions Pilot Project (ISPP) – Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) – School Readiness (SR) Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) – Weatherization (WAP)



March 8, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter to commit the support of Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. to the Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project that is being proposed by Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO Energy), should it be funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships ("GRIP") program.

Mid Florida Community Services, Inc. is the local agency that administers the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) specific to some of the areas in which proposed project activities would take place. As the local LIHEAP and WAP administrator, we understand first-hand the energy burden and environmental disparity experienced in our disadvantaged, rural communities. We also have a vested interest in decreasing these burdens and disparities, and firmly believe that SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project will increase our communities' equitable access to more reliable energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy democracy while decreasing member-consumer reliance on assistance programs. We are committed to the successful deployment of SECO Energy's proposed project and are pleased to partner with them by providing opportunities for potential resource access through our LIHEAP and WAP local administrator role as may be needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support and commitment for SECO Energy's proposed project and for giving it your full consideration.

Sincerely,


Mat S. Kline, Chief Executive Officer
Mid Florida Community Services, Inc.
(352) 796-5222
ceo@mfcs.us.com

- CITRUS COUNTY
Community Services
Weatherization Assistance
- HERNANDO COUNTY
Affordable Housing
Children's Advocacy Center
Community Services
Early Head Start
Head Start
Senior Services
Transportation
(Trans Hernando)
Weatherization Assistance
- LAKE COUNTY
Senior Services
- PASCO COUNTY
Community Services
Weatherization Assistance
- POLK COUNTY
Senior Services
- SUMTER COUNTY
Community Services
Head Start
Senior Services
Weatherization Assistance
- VOLUSIA COUNTY
Early Head Start
Head Start
Weatherization Assistance


820 Kennedy Boulevard
Brooksville, FL 34601


P.O. Box 896
Brooksville, FL 34605-0896


PH (352) 796-1425


Fax (352) 796-9952


www.mfcs.us.com



Sponsored by the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, State of Florida Department of Elder Affairs, State of Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Florida Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – Administration for Children and Families, Sumter County Board of County Commissioners, Volusia County Council, Corporation for National & Community Service, United Way of Hernando County, United Way of Pasco County and United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, National Children's Alliance, Office for Victims of Crimes, Meals on Wheels America and Wells Fargo.



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Economic Development Department

3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461
Phone: (352) 527-5487 Fax: (352) 527-5204

"We will be a user-friendly and common-sense organization dedicated to responsive citizen services."

February 16, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Frank Calascione, CECD
Economic Development Director
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

McPherson Governmental Campus
601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2324

District 1 - Craig Curry, Chairman
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 - Jeff Gold, Commissioner
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Commissioner
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Vice Chair

February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." We understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, we believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

We highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

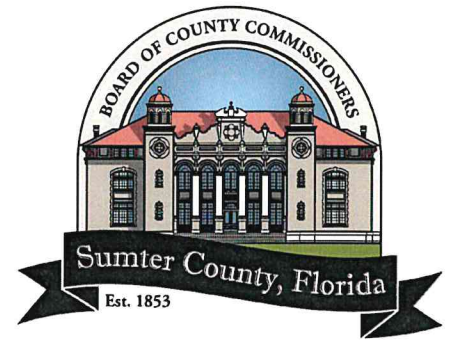
Thank you for the opportunity to express our support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. We look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,


Craig Curry, Chairman
Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Board of County Commissioners Sumter County, Florida

7375 Powell Road, Suite 200 • Wildwood, FL 34785 • Phone (352) 689-4400 • FAX: (352) 689-4401
Website: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov>



February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: SECO Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) grant application

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners is providing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability through Grid Hardening Project." SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that Sumter County's rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

I recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas in Sumter County that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Estep
Chairman

Roberta Ulrich, District 1
Vice Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Andrew Bilardello, District 2
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Craig A. Estep, District 3
Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Jeffrey A. Bogue, District 4
2nd Vice Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Don Wiley, District 5
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Bradley S. Arnold,
County Administrator
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Gloria R. Hayward, Clerk & Auditor
(352) 569-6600
215 East McCollum Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

County Attorney
The Hogan Law Firm
Post Office Box 485
Brooksville, Florida 34605



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Education Service
Washington, D.C. 20420

2

March 10, 2023

Steve Balius
SECO Energy
293 South US 301
Sumterville, FL 33585

In Reply, Refer To:
30A46910

Dear Mr. Steve Balius,

This letter is notification the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has reviewed and accepted the State Approving Agency's (SAA) approval of 49-9051.00 registered apprenticeship training program at SECO Energy, 293 South US 301, Sumterville, FL 33585. The approval for the following program is effective February 27, 2022:

Line Erector APRVD HOURS- 7000

The authority for and conditions of SECO Energy approval and acceptance is based on Title 38, United States Code, Section 3687, for apprenticeship training programs.

Facility Code

VA has assigned your organization an identifier called a facility code. Your facility's code is **30A46910**. This facility code should be written on all enrollment forms and communications sent to VA.

Helping Trainee(s) Get VA Benefits

The veteran(s) or eligible person(s) who are attending your facility and wish to use VA Education Benefits must apply for educational assistance to the VA so eligibility may be determined.

Enrollment certifications are submitted electronically using the Enrollment Manager certification system. Enrollment Manager will be available on March 6th, 2023. Once it's available, you will receive a direct link to access the portal and login to Enrollment Manager. Interactive self-paced trainings with software simulations are available, allowing SCOs to practice key functions, live webinar trainings, a user guide, and demo videos available to help SCOs familiarize themselves with Enrollment Manager before and after go-live.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

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If training begins other than the first of the month, record and report only those hours worked from the first day of training. Full-time training and payment will be evaluated based on hours worked during the abbreviated month. Likewise, if the training ends before the last day of the month, the progress record and the VA certification should include only those hours through the date of the event ending the training.

Training Status Changes

If the trainee achieves the journeyman wage, becomes qualified for the training objective, completes the training program, or is terminated from the training or facility, they are no longer entitled to a VA training allowance. The facility must report the effective date of the event ending the training. Please furnish the date the trainee last worked, and the number of hours worked during the last month of training.

NOTE: general wage increases given to all employees should be reported to the SAA.
Retention of Records

The conditions and criteria your facility met to receive SAA approval and VA acceptance must be maintained at all times. In addition, VA requires certifications of training and the maintenance of the records supporting the certifications.

Your records must show:

- (1) the actual hours worked by the trainee for the training certified to VA,
- (2) the wage rate paid the trainee including the effective date of any changes, and
- (3) the trainee's progress in the various elements of the position for which he or she is training.

It is important the records are accurate, current, and demonstrate the trainee's progress.

Your facility must retain these records for at least three (3) years following the last day the trainee participated in the program. Upon request, please make available the records for inspection by authorized representatives of the VA which are required by law to conduct periodic surveys to ensure continued compliance with criteria for approval and compliance with regulatory reporting requirements.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

If you have not already done so, please ensure all SCOs have done the following:

- Log into the [SCO Training Portal](#) to complete EM 100, 101, and 102. [Enrollment Manager Frequently Asked Questions - Education and Training \(va.gov\)](#)
- Create an official government account at LOGIN.GOV or ID.ME. How to create an [ID.me or Login.gov account](#)
- Log in to [www.va.gov](#), following the prompts to verify your identity.
- On March 6, 2023 review the email from Veterans Benefits Administration: [Veteransbenefits@messages.va.gov](#) regarding how to access Enrollment Manager.

A student must be enrolled in an approved training program and certified by the training establishment before receiving VA benefits. It is also important when certifying VA students to use the exact program name as shown on your WEAMS Report – VA Form 22-1998.

The facility must report any changes in the training in a timely manner. Report the change and the effective date of the event amending the training. For terminations, the last date of attendance must always be reported. It is extremely important any training changes be promptly submitted to VA, specifically within 30 days of the event.

Certifying Monthly Trainee Hours Worked

After VA has verified the trainee is eligible for benefits and received certification of hours worked, the first benefit payment will be sent to the trainee as well as an award letter. Facilities report the hours the trainee worked each month no earlier than the last calendar day of the month.

Certification of hours worked **must** include only:

- (1) **actual** hours of apprenticeship training worked (overtime may be included if the hours worked apply towards the training objective), and
- (2) related instruction hours conducted **during** normal working hours.

Hours certified **must not** include:

- (1) holidays, vacation, or leave time (including leave for illness, military purposes, etc.), and
- (2) time-off due to strikes or layoffs, etc.
- (3) The trainee must work at least 120 hours each month to receive a full training allowance. If the trainee does not work at least 120 hours, benefits will be reduced and prorated based on the number of hours worked.

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

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If You Need Assistance

We appreciate your participation in this program. If you need assistance, additional information, or have questions regarding this letter, please contact VA via email. The online SCO handbook is located at:

https://www.knowva.ebenefits.va.gov/system/templates/selfservice/va_ssnew/help/customer/locale/en-US/portal/5544000001018/content/554400000149088/School-Certifying-Official-Handbook-Online.

Trainees may obtain general education benefit information, assistance regarding payment issues, and specific education benefit eligibility by calling the toll-free telephone number to the VA Education Call Center at (888) 442-4551. SCOs and trainees can also send secure email questions via the Ask VA (AVA) portal on the Education Service website at [Ask.VA.gov | Veteran Affairs](#).

Please contact floridaeducationoutreach.vbaspl@va.gov if there are any questions about this email.

Sincerely,

John G. Rice JOHN RICE
Education Compliance Survey Specialist
South Region Approvals, Compliance & Liaison

Enclosures: VA Form 22-1998 WEAMS report

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

Locations of Work (DE-FOA-0002740)

Prime or Sub	Name	City	State	Zip Code + 4
Prime	20-330	Ocala	FL	34482
Prime	20-334	Morrison	FL	32668
Prime	20-335	Wildwood	FL	34785
Prime	20-338	Umatilla	FL	32784
Prime	20-344	Mt. Dora	FL	32756
Prime	20-351	Inverness	FL	34450
Prime	20-352	Groveland	FL	34736
Prime	20-356	Inverness	FL	34453
Prime	20-359	Ocala	FL	34482
Prime	20-362	Ocala	FL	34481
Prime	23-304	Belleview	FL	34420
Prime	23-306	Ocala	FL	34481
Prime	23-307	Groveland	FL	34736
Prime	23-311	Romeo	FL	34432
Prime	23-316	Yalaha	FL	34737
Prime	23-322	Inverness	FL	34450
Prime	23-329	Bushnell	FL	33513
Prime	23-330	Yalaha	FL	34737
Prime	23-331	Groveland	FL	34736
Prime	23-332	Groveland	FL	34736
Prime	23-333	Inverness	FL	34453
Prime	23-334	Ocala	FL	34482
Prime	23-335	Ocala	FL	34482
Prime	23-336	Lake Panasoffkee	FL	33538
Prime	23-337	Tavares	FL	32778
Prime	23-338	Clermont	FL	34711
Prime	23-341	Howey in the Hills	FL	34737
Prime	23-342	Mt. Dora	FL	32757
Prime	23-343	Tavares	FL	32778
Prime	23-344	Groveland	FL	34736
Prime	23-347	Groveland	FL	34736
Prime	23-348	Inverness	FL	34450
Prime	23-353	Inverness	FL	34450
Prime	23-354	Ocala	FL	34476
Prime	23-355	Ocala	FL	34481
Prime	23-356	Belleview	FL	34420
Prime	23-357	Ocala	FL	34473
Prime	23-358	Ocala	FL	34473
Prime	23-359	Ocala	FL	34474
Prime	23-360	Clermont	FL	34736
Prime	23-361	Oxford	FL	34484
Prime	23-365	Ocala	FL	34474
Prime	23-366	Howey in the Hills	FL	34737
Prime	23-367	Groveland	FL	34736
Prime	23-383	Ocala	FL	34473
Prime	23-387	Ocala	FL	34481
Prime	23-411	Eustis	FL	32736
Prime	OURC - 1208300604	Umatilla	FL	32784
Prime	OURC - 12075970500	Morrison	FL	32668
Prime	OURC - 12017450800	Inverness	FL	34453
Prime	OURC - 12069030106	Pine Lakes	FL	32736
Prime	OURC - 12069030104	Altoona	FL	32702
Prime	OURC - 12119910700	Webster	FL	33597
Prime	OURC - 12119910100	Wildwood	FL	34785

**project activities are estimated to include multiple +4 locations within each zip code listed; detailed list will be available upon deployment and actual installation*

Report on Resilience Investments

Introduction

Sumter Electric Cooperative (d/b/a SECO Energy) is a small, not-for-profit electric utility located in Central Florida serving over 231,000 accounts in Citrus, Hernando, Marion, Levy, Sumter, Pasco, and Lake counties and maintaining more than 12,500 miles of distribution power lines. SECO Energy's wholesale power provider is Seminole Electric Cooperative, one of the largest generation and transmission cooperatives in the nation, serving 1.9 million end-use-consumers (called member/owners) across Florida. As a not-for-profit cooperative, SECO Energy provides reliable and innovative energy services to its members and communities. Fiscal responsibility is paramount for electric cooperatives, as they are member-owned and operated with members serving on the Board of Trustees and participating in key decisions about how funds are invested, how rates are developed/billed, how capital is raised and how construction and maintenance costs are financed. The cooperative's mission is centered around providing quality service to its members. Every three years SECO Energy conducts an in-depth engineering and economic analysis of its existing system, evaluates the status of projects identified in the previous three-year cycle, and develops a construction work plan (CWP) for the improvements required to optimize assets management, maintain and improve service reliability, plan for future load growth and increase resilience in the face of increasingly frequent disruptive events.

Resiliency Investments Summary (2020-2022 CWP)

This summary represents the portion of our 2020-2022 CWP considered direct resiliency projects and does not reflect the additional spending SECO Energy invested in maintenance and new service projects.

Total # of Resiliency Projects Completed: 527

Total Resiliency Project Costs: \$76,211,410.75

Funding Sources: SECO Energy General Funds (member-generated revenue); the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program, including financing made available through the Federal Financing Bank, CoBank, and National Rural Utility Cooperative Finance Corporation

Underground Utility Installations (RUS Code 102)

Description: Installation and distribution of new primary, secondary and service lines (not tie-lines) where no lines presently exist.

Total # of Projects Completed: 421

Total Projects Costs: \$47,861,656.54

Distribution Improvements - Overhead to Underground Line Conversion (RUS Code 300s)

Description: A conversion or line change of an existing primary circuit from overhead to underground.

Total # of Projects Completed: 20

Total Projects Costs: \$2,647,638.71

Distribution Equipment - Overhead and Underground Replacements (RUS Code 608)

Description: Conductor replacements due to age, condition and/or voltage rating.

Total # of Projects Completed: 60

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Total Projects Costs: \$9,069,945.39

Substations and Improvements (RUS Code 400/500)

Description: Construction of new substations (replacing an old substation) and expanding or upgrading existing substations.

Total # of Projects Completed: 6

Total Projects Costs: \$14,216,468.31

System Improvements-Replacements (RUS Code 602)

Description: Service upgrades for existing members. Existing overhead service upgraded and converted to underground service.

Total # of Projects Completed: 11

Total Projects Costs: \$768,568.81

All Other Improvements (RUS Code 1600)

Description: Other miscellaneous system improvements not previously included in CWP.

Examples may include storm-related recovery efforts and other response-related projects not forecasted in the CWP.

Total # of Projects Completed: 9

Total Projects Costs: \$1,647,132.99

Resiliency Investments Summary (2023-2025 CWP)

Current and Future Investment Plans

Total Projected Investments Spending: \$357,081,050

2023-\$118,099,800 2024-\$119,774,850 2025-\$119,206,400

Funding Sources: SECO Energy General Funds (member-generated revenue); the U.S.

Department of Agriculture-Rural Development Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program, including financing made available through the Federal Financing Bank, CoBank, and National Rural Utility Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Potential Grant Resources: Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) funds, Federal Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) funds, State-GRIP Formula funds, etc.

Service Extensions to New Members (RUS Codes 101/102)

Total Investment over the next 3 years: \$150,000,000

2023 Investment: \$50,000,000

2024 Investment: \$50,000,000

2025 Investment: \$50,000,000

Distribution Improvements (RUS Codes 200, 300, 603, 609, 610, 611, 612, 615)

Total Investment over the next 3 years: \$67,095,050

2023 Investment: \$22,832,800

2024 Investment: \$21,031,850

2025 Investment: \$23,230,400

Substation and Transmission (RUS Codes 400, 500, 704, 800, 1000, 1100)

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Total Investment over the next 3 years: \$74,436,000

2023 Investment: \$23,417,000

2024 Investment: \$26,893,000

2025 Investment: \$24,126,000

Special Equipment (RUS Codes 601A, 601B, 604, 605, 702)

Total Investment over the next 3 years: \$10,050,000

2023 Investment: \$3,350,000

2024 Investment: \$3,350,000

2025 Investment: \$3,350,000

Ordinary Replacement (RUS Codes 602, 606, 607, 608, 620)

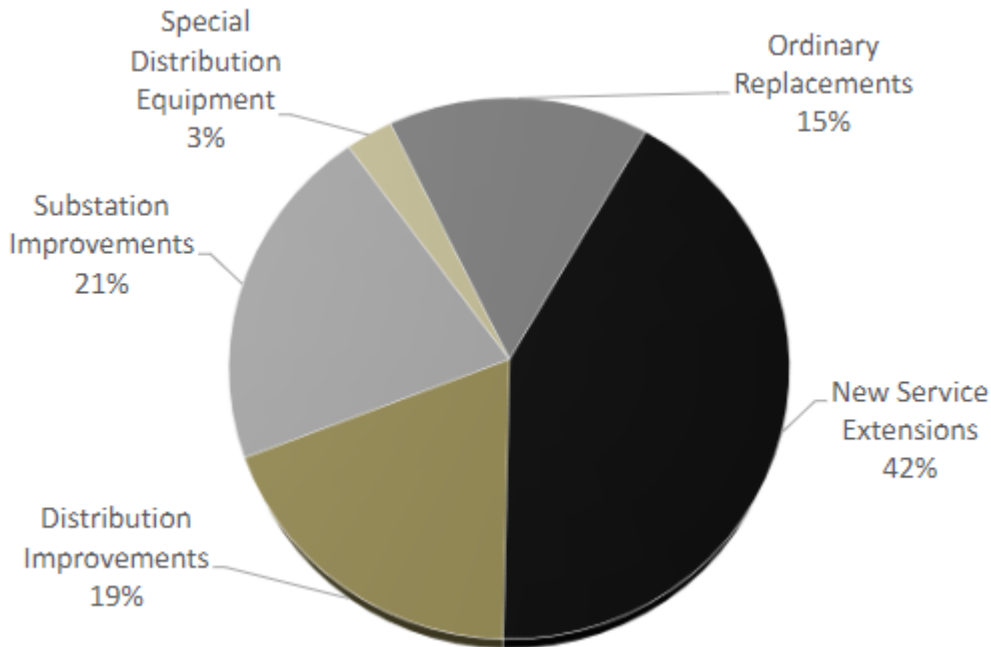
Total Investment over the next 3 years: \$55,500,000

2023 Investment: \$18,500,000

2024 Investment: \$18,500,000

2025 Investment: \$18,500,000

Figure 1: 2023-2025 Distribution of Investments by CWP Cost Category



Conclusion

SECO Energy’s investments over the last three years have provided significant benefits to its systems and members by improving reliability and safety, increasing member satisfaction and reducing the risk of potential disruptions. As energy infrastructure continues to face rising demand due to population and economic growth and increasing risk due to climate change driven stresses, SECO Energy will continue to take a proactive approach to improve and increase grid resilience, storm preparation, risk mitigation, cost-effective renewable energy access, education, workforce development and energy equity.

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

I. INSTRUCTIONS

The proposer shall prepare this Environmental Questionnaire (EQ) as accurately and completely as possible. Supporting information can be provided as attachments. The proposer must identify the location of the project and specifically describe the activities that would occur at that location. The proposer must provide specific information and quantities, regarding air emissions, wastewater discharges, solid wastes, etc., to facilitate the necessary review. In addition, the proposer must submit with this EQ a FINAL copy of the project’s statement of work (SOW) or statement of project objective (SOPO) that will be used in the contract/agreement between the proposer and the U.S Department of Energy (DOE).

II. QUESTIONNAIRE

A. PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Solicitation/Project Number: TA1-310-E Proposer: Sumter Electric Cooperative (d/b/a SECO Energy)
2. This Environmental Questionnaire pertains to a: Recipient or Prime Contractor Sub-recipient or Subcontractor
3. Principal Investigator: Benjamin Dawson, P.E. Telephone Number: 352-569-9652
4. Project Title: SECO Energy – Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening
5. Expected Project Duration: 60 months
6. Location of Activities covered by this Environmental Questionnaire: (City/Township, County, State):

Census Tract (County), FL

- 12017450800 (Citrus)
- 12069030104 (Lake)
- 12069030106 (Lake)
- 12075970500 (Levy)
- 12083000604 (Marion)
- 12119910100 (Sumter)
- 1211991070 (Sumter)

7. List the full scope of activities planned (only for the location that is the subject of this Environmental Questionnaire).

Seven Justice40 (J40) tracts have been selected for the initial rollout of the Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Project. Proposed activities for the OURC project will include the survey, analysis and assessment of select residential electric utility above ground service for the conversion to underground service. Activities include replacement of attachment hardware, service stack, service line, riser conduit, meter, meter box, ground wire and rod; and in the cases of mobile or manufactured homes may include replacement of the pole, service line, meter and meter box, and conduit. Additional activities include replacement of overhead service and secondary wire and poles with underground service and secondary wire in conduit.

8. List all other locations where work would be performed by the primary contractor of the project and subcontractor(s). Each of the following must have an individual Environmental Questionnaire.

Subcontractor or sub-recipient	Location of activities for this project
Prime Recipient	See Attachment-All Site Locations

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9. Identify and select the checkbox with the predominant project work activities under Group A, B, or C

Group A

- Routine administrative, procurement, training, and personnel actions. Contract activities/awards for management support, financial assistance, and technical services in support of agency business, programs, projects, and goals. Literature searches and information gathering, material inventories, property surveys; data analysis, computer modeling, analytical reviews, technical summary, conceptual design, feasibility studies, document preparation, data dissemination, and paper studies. Technical assistance including financial planning, assistance, classroom training, public meetings, management training, survey participation, academic contribution, technical consultation, and stakeholders surveys. Workshop and conference planning, preparation, and implementation which may involve promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy conservation.

STOP! If all work activities related to this project can be classified and described within categories under Group A, proceed directly to Section III CERTIFICATION BY PROPOSER. No additional information is required. If project work activities are described in either Group(s) B or C; then continue filling out questionnaire.

Group B

- Laboratory Scale Research, Bench Scale Research, Pilot Scale Research, Proof-of-Concept Scale Research, or Field Test Research. Work DOES NOT involve new building/facilities construction and site excavation/groundbreaking activities. This work typically involves routine operation of existing laboratories, commercial buildings/properties, offices and homes, project test facilities, factories/power plants, vehicles test stands and components, refueling facilities, utility systems, or other existing structures/facilities. Work will NOT involve major change in facilities missions and operations, land use planning, new/modified regulatory/operating permit requirements. Includes work specific to routine DOE Site operations and Lab research work activities, but NOT building construction and site preparation. DOE work typically involves laboratory facilities and lab equipment operations, buildings and grounds management activities; and buildings and facilities maintenance, repairs, reconfiguration, remodeling, equipment use and replacement.

Group C

- Pilot Test Facilities Construction, Pilot Scale Research, Field Scale Demonstration, or Commercial Scale Application. Work typically involves facility construction, site preparation/excavation/groundbreaking, and/or demolition. This work would include construction, retrofit, replacement, and/or major modifications of laboratories, test facilities, energy system prototypes, and power generation infrastructure. Work may also involve construction and maintenance of utilities system right-of-ways, roads, vehicle test facilities, commercial buildings/properties, fuel refinery/mixing facilities, refueling facility, power plants, underground wells, and pipelines, and other types of energy research related facilities. This work may require new or modified regulatory permits, environmental sampling and monitoring requirements, master planning, public involvement, and environmental impact review. Includes work specific to DOE Site Operations and Lab operation activities involving building and facilities construction, replacement, decommissioning/demolition, site preparation, land use changes, or change in research facilities mission or operations.

B. PROPOSED PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

1. If applicable, list any project alternatives considered to achieve the project objectives.

N/A

C. PROJECT LOCATION

1. Provide a brief description of the project location (physical location, surrounding area, adjacent structures).

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The J40 tracts selected for the OURC pilot are located in mainly rural, low-income agricultural areas of SECO Energy’s service territory. Upon eligibility determination and final site selection, SECO Energy will complete additional environmental questionnaires or assessments as required prior to execution of any project activities.

2. **Attach** a project site location map of the project work area.

See attached maps.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

NEPA procedures require evaluations of possible effects (including land use, energy resource use, natural, historic and cultural resources, and pollutants) from proposed projects on the environment.

1. Land Use

- a. Characterize present land use where the proposed project would be located.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Urban | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residential | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Facilities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> University Campus | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | _____ |

- b. Identify the total size of the facility, structure, or system and what portion would be used for the proposed project. The Justice40 census tracts selected for the OURC pilot program represent some of the most underserved communities within SECO Energy’s service territory and exceed multiple J40 burden categories. See attached maps for population and meter counts present within each J40 tract. 100% of the OURC activities will be used for the project.

- c. Describe planned construction, installation, and/or demolition activities, i.e., roads, utilities system right-of-ways, parking lots, buildings, laboratories, storage tanks, fueling facilities, underground wells, pipelines, or other structures.
- No construction would be anticipated for this project.

Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion service activities include:

- Mobilization – prep work and operations for movement of personnel, equipment, supplies and incidentals to the project site.
- In coordination with the property owner, establishment of access, as needed, to complete all surveys, assessments and equipment/system analysis required for conversion.
- Temporary traffic control, if needed.
- Access, Maintenance and Erosion Control to prevent mud and debris on public roads, adjacent properties, residential access areas; sediment control for stormwater run-off and run-on perimeter controls, including sediment barriers as needed.
- Tree Removal/Vegetation Management/Debris Removal – tree removal is limited to areas necessary for installation and conversion of existing service equipment and overhead secondary and poles, clearing of vegetation and debris from unwanted areas. Cleared materials will be consolidated and removed to designated disposal areas.
- Removal of existing service equipment within authorized areas and as agreed to by the property owner. Existing service equipment may include weatherhead, attachment

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hardware, service stack, service line, riser conduit, meter, meter box, ground wire, ground rod, overhead secondary wire, and poles.

- Installation of the new underground service equipment, including the meter box, meter, rise conduit, service lines, ground wire, ground rod, secondary wire and conduit.
- Site Restoration – work sites will be restored to “as-like” condition prior to disturbance as practical. Where applicable, restoration will include roof repair as needed.
- Demobilization: Removal of personnel, equipment, and supplies not required or included as part of permanent installation. Disassembly and site clean-up, removal of any temporary facilities and disposal areas.

d. Describe how land use would be affected by operational activities associated with the proposed project.

No land areas would be affected.

e. Describe any plans to reclaim areas that would be affected by the proposed project.

No land areas would be affected.

No effect anticipated; however, all project sites will be restored to “as-like” condition prior to disturbance as practical.

f. Would the proposed project affect any unique or unusual landforms (e.g., cliffs, waterfalls, etc.)?

No Yes (describe)

g. Would the proposed project be located in or near local, state, or federal parks; forests; monuments; scenic waterways; wilderness; recreation facilities; or tribal lands? No Yes (describe)

2. Construction Activities and/or Operation

a. Identify project structure(s), power line(s), pipeline(s), utilities system(s), right-of-way(s) or road(s) that will be constructed and clearly mark them on a project site map or topographic map as appropriate. None

See attached maps.

b. Would the proposed project require the construction of waste pits or settling ponds?

No Yes (describe and identify location, and estimate surface area disturbed)

c. Would the proposed project affect any existing body of water? No Yes (describe)

d. Would the proposed project impact a floodplain or wetland? No Yes (describe)

e. Would the proposed project potentially cause runoff/sedimentation/erosion? No Yes (describe)

No permanent impact anticipated. Project activities at all sites include runoff/sedimentation/erosion control measures.

f. Would the proposed project include activities located on perma-frost, near fault zones, or involve fracturing, well drilling, geologic stimulation, sequestration, active seismic data collection, and/or deepwater operations?

No Yes (describe)

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- g. Would the proposed project involve any of the following: nanotechnology; recombinant DNA or genetic engineering; facility decommissioning or disposition of equipment/materials; or management of radioactive wastes/materials?
 No Yes (describe)

3. **Biological Resources**

- a. Identify any State or Federally listed endangered or threatened plant or animal species potentially affected by the proposed project.
 None

As of application submission, no formal consultation or actual site assessment has been conducted and no formal determination of impact, if any, has been made. Project activities are not expected to have any impact on any species identified through IPaC.

- b. Would any designated critical habitat be affected by the proposed project? No Yes (describe)

Site-specific activities are not expected to overlap any critical habitats. As of application, no formal consultation or actual site assessment has been conducted and no formal determination of impact, if any, has been made.

- c. Describe any impacts that construction would have on any other types of sensitive or unique habitats.
 No planned construction No habitats None Impact (describe)

- d. Would any foreign substances/materials be introduced into ground or surface waters, soil, or other earth/geologic resource because of project activities? How would these foreign substances/materials affect the water, soil, biota, and geologic resources? No Yes (describe)

Project activities include underground installation of conduit. Ground disturbance assessment and other environmental assessments will be completed as part of NEPA compliance (environmental review).

- e. Would any migratory animal corridors be impacted or disrupted by the proposed project? No Yes (describe)

SECO Energy's service territory includes Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion, Pasco and Sumter counties, all of which includes sections of the Florida Wildlife Corridor and are all located within Bird Conservation Region 31 (per USFWS Birds of Concern and the Rapid Avian Information Locator Tool). However, no project activities are expected to impact or disrupt these corridors. No formal consultation has been conducted to make a determination. Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and other appropriate regulatory authorities will be conducted during the Environmental Compliance Review process.

4. **Socioeconomic and Infrastructure Conditions**

- a. Would local socio-economic changes result from the proposed project? No Yes (describe)

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Project activities are expected to decrease environmental disparity and energy burdens and increase equitable access to clean energy technologies, energy resiliency and energy democracy in underserved rural communities, including several Justice 40 tracts.

- b. Would the proposed project generate increased traffic use of roads through local neighborhoods, urban or rural areas?
 No Yes (describe)
- c. Would the proposed project require new transportation access (roads, rail, etc.)? Describe location, impacts, costs.
 No Yes (describe)
- d. Would the proposed project create a significant increase in local energy usage? No Yes (describe)

5. Historical/Cultural Resources

- a. Describe any historical, archaeological, or cultural sites in the vicinity of the proposed project; note any sites included on the National Register of Historic Places. None
- b. Would construction or operational activities planned under the proposed project disturb any historical, archaeological, or cultural sites? No planned construction No historic sites Yes (describe) No Impact (discuss)
- c. Has the State Historic Preservation Office been contacted with regard to this project? No Yes (describe)

No consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office has been conducted but is expected to be part of the environmental review process for NEPA Compliance (Section 106).

- d. Would the proposed project interfere with visual resources (e.g., eliminate scenic views) or alter the present landscape?
 No Yes (describe)
- e. Would the proposed project be located on or adjacent to tribal lands, lands considered to be sacred, or lands used for traditional purposes? Describe any known tribal sensitivities for the proposed project area.

No formal tribal consultation has been conducted. Tribal consultation is expected to be completed as part of the environmental review (NEPA-compliance) process and the Section 106 compliance review.

6. Atmospheric Conditions/Air Quality

- a. Identify air quality conditions in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project with regard to attainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This information is available under the Green Book Non-Attainment Areas for Criteria Pollutants located at <http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/greenbk/astate.html>

	Attainment	Non-Attainment
O ₃ - 1 Hour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
O ₃ - 8 Hour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SO _x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PM - 2.5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PM - 10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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NO ₂	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lead	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

- b. Would proposed project require issuance of new or modified local, state, or federal air permits to perform project related work and activities? **X** No Yes (describe)
- c. Would the proposed project be in compliance with local and state air quality requirements? **X** Yes
 If not, please explain.
- d. Would the proposed project be classified as either a New Source or a major modification to an existing source?
X No Yes (describe)
- e. What types of air emissions, including fugitive emissions, would be anticipated from the proposed project, and what would be the maximum annual rate of emissions for the project?

	Maximum per Year	Total for Project
<input type="checkbox"/> SO _x		
<input type="checkbox"/> NO _x		
<input type="checkbox"/> PM - 2.5		
<input type="checkbox"/> PM - 10		
<input type="checkbox"/> CO		
<input type="checkbox"/> CO ₂		
<input type="checkbox"/> Lead		
<input type="checkbox"/> H ₂ S		
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic solvent vapors or other volatile organic compounds--List:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous air pollutants -- List:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other -- List:		
X None		

- f. Would any types of emission control or particulate collection devices be used?
X No Yes (describe, including collection efficiencies)

g. How would emissions be vented?

N/A

7. Hydrologic Conditions/Water Quality

a. What nearby water bodies may be affected by the proposed project? Provide distance(s) from the project site.
 N/A

b. What sources would supply potable and process water for the proposed project?

N/A

c. Quantify the wastewater that would be generated by the proposed project.

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	Gallons/day	Gallons/year
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-contact cooling water		
<input type="checkbox"/> Process water		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sanitary		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other -- describe:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None		

- d. What would be the major components of each type of wastewater (e.g., coal fines)? No wastewater produced
- e. Identify the local treatment facility that would receive wastewater from the proposed project.
 No discharges to local treatment facility
- f. Describe how wastewater would be collected and treated. No wastewater produced
- g. Would any run-off or leachates be produced from storage piles or waste disposal sites? No Yes (describe source)
- h. Would project require issuance of new or modified water permits to perform project work or site development activities?
 No Yes (describe)
- i. Where would wastewater effluents from the proposed project be discharged? No wastewater produced
- j. Would the proposed project be permitted to discharge effluents into an existing body of water?
 No Yes (describe water use and effluent impact)
- k. Would a new or modified National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit be required?
 No Yes (describe)
- l. Would the proposed project adversely affect the quality or movement of groundwater? No Yes (describe)
- m. Would the proposed project require issuance of an [Underground Injection Control \(UIC\)](#) permit?
 No Yes (describe)
- n. Would the proposed project be located in or near a wellhead protection area, drinking water protection area, or above a sole source aquifer or underground source of drinking water (USDW)?
 No Yes (describe)

8. Solid and Hazardous Wastes

- a. Identify and estimate wastes that would be generated from the project. Solid wastes are defined as any solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous material that is discarded, has served its intended purpose, or is a manufacturing or mining by-product (See [EPA Municipal Solid Waste](#) and [Municipal Solid Waste by State](#)).

	Annual Quantity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal solid waste (e.g., paper, plastic, etc.)	TBD
<input type="checkbox"/> Coal or coal by-products	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other -- Identify:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous waste -- Identify:	
<input type="checkbox"/> None	

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b. Would project require issuance of new or modified solid waste and/or hazardous waste related permits to perform project work activities? No Yes (explain)

c. How and where would solid waste disposal be accomplished?

None generated

On-site (identify and describe location)

Off-site (identify location and describe facility and treatment)

Waste generated during project site activities is generally removed from site daily to appropriate disposal vendors per SECO Energy's standard procedures. All removed residential service equipment deemed unusable will be sent to an authorized vendor for decommission, disposal and recycling as appropriate.

d. How would wastes for disposal be transported?

Waste disposal is transported in accordance with SECO Energy's standard procedures and all local, state and federal regulations.

e. Describe hazardous wastes that would be generated, treated, handled, or stored under this project. Hazardous waste information can be found at [EPA Hazardous Waste](#) website. None

f. How would hazardous or toxic waste be collected and stored? None used or produced

g. If hazardous wastes would require off-site disposal, have arrangements been made with a certified TSD (Treatment, Storage, and Disposal) facility?

Not required Arrangements not yet made Arrangements made with a certified TSD facility (identify)

9. Health/Safety Factors

a. Identify hazardous or toxic materials that would be used in the proposed project.

None Hazardous or toxic materials that would be used (identify):

b. Describe the potential impacts of this project's hazardous materials on human health and the environment.

None

c. Would there be any special physical hazards or health risks associated with the project? No Yes (describe)

d. Does a worker safety program exist at the location of the proposed project? No Yes (describe)

All project activities will be conducted in compliance with federal, OSHA, industry and union safety standards and programs.

e. Would additional safety training be necessary for any new laboratory, equipment, or processes involved with the project?

No Yes (describe)

f. Describe any increases in ambient noise levels to the public from construction and operational activities.

None Increase in ambient noise level (describe)

g. Would project construction result in the removal of natural or other barriers that act as noise screens?

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No construction planned No Yes (describe)

h. Would hearing protection be required for workers? No Yes (describe)

Hearing protection may be required for workers during vegetation removal.

10. Environmental Restoration and/or Waste Management

a. Would the proposed project include CERCLA removals or similar actions under RCRA or other authorities?

No Yes (describe)

b. Would the proposed project include siting, construction, and operation of temporary pilot-scale waste collection and treatment facilities or pilot-scale waste stabilization and containment facilities? No Yes (describe)

c. Would the proposed project involve operations of environmental monitoring and control systems?

No Yes (describe)

d. Would the proposed project involve siting, construction, operation, or decommissioning of a facility for storing packaged hazardous waste for 90 days or less? No Yes (describe)

E. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

1. For the following laws, describe any existing permits, new or modified permits, manifests, responsible authorities or agencies, contacts, etc., that would be required for the proposed project

a. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

b. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA):
 None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

c. Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

d. Clean Water Act (CWA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

e. Underground Storage Tank Control Program (UST): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

f. Underground Injection Control Program (UIC): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

g. Clean Air Act (CAA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

h. Endangered Species Act (ESA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

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None anticipated. However, formal consultation and determination will be required during the environmental review process for NEPA Compliance. All appropriate regulatory authorities will be consulted and new or modified permits will be obtained as required.

i. [Floodplains and Wetlands Regulations](#): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

j. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

None anticipated. However, formal consultation and determination will be required during the environmental review process for NEPA Compliance. All appropriate regulatory authorities will be consulted and new or modified permits will be obtained as required.

k. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

None anticipated. However, consultation with the appropriate state historic preservation and tribal consultation authorities will be conducted as part of Section 106, NEPA compliance review.

l. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA): None New Required Modification Required
Describe:

None anticipated. However, consultation with the appropriate state-designated authority, the Florida Clearinghouse, will be conducted as part of the NEPA compliance review.

2. Identify any other environmental laws and regulations (Federal, state, and local) for which compliance would be necessary for this project, and describe the permits, manifests, and contacts that would be required.

Anticipated regulatory authority coordination includes Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Southwest Florida Water Management District, when applicable, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

F. DESCRIBE ANY ISSUES THAT WOULD GENERATE PUBLIC CONTROVERSY REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROJECT. None

G. WOULD THE PROPOSED PROJECT PRODUCE ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OR ARE OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS PLANNED OR UNDERWAY, IN THE PROJECT AREA?

No Yes (describe)

H. SUMMARIZE THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

None (provide supporting detail) Significant impacts (describe)

The SECO Energy – Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening project includes multiple interrelated priority investments designed to increase the flexibility, efficiency, and reliability of our cooperative’s electric power system. When fully implemented at the end of the grant period, SECO Energy will have completed grid upgrades and improvements that:

- Improve system efficiency and reliability, territory-wide, including seven Florida counties total.

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

- Support load growth in five growing Florida counties.
- Support the economic and workforce development initiatives in areas typically lacking in resources and investment opportunities, including several Justice 40 tracts.
- Reduce line loss, increase voltage, and expand service capabilities for a more robust grid system wide.
- Improve infrastructure stability and resilience in the face of increasingly volatile, climate-change driven weather impacts.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by building a more balanced, efficient and resilient grid that improves capacity and reliability.

Communities that are historically underserved will see a decrease in energy burden and environmental disparity and an increase in equitable access to clean energy technologies, energy resiliency and energy democracy.

I. PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE PROJECT WOULD BE DECOMMISSIONED, INCLUDING THE DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS.

Upon completion of project activities on site, demobilization will include all activities for transportation of materials and supplies, equipment and personnel not required or included in the installation, including disassembly, site clean-up and removal of any temporary facilities assembled on the site specifically for the project.

All old materials, including those materials being replaced (lines, conductors, wooden utility poles), will be decommissioned and disposed of in accordance with SECO Energy's pole replacement program protocols and applicable federal and state disposal requirements. See Section II.D.8.c above.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

III. CERTIFICATION BY PROPOSER

I hereby certify that the information provided herein is current, accurate, and complete as of the date shown immediately below.

Signature: Benjamin Dawson Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 03/30/2023

Typed Name: Benjamin Dawson, P.E.

Title: VP of Growth, Smart Grid and Operational Technology

Organization: Sumter Electric Cooperative (d/b/a SECO Energy)

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY DOE

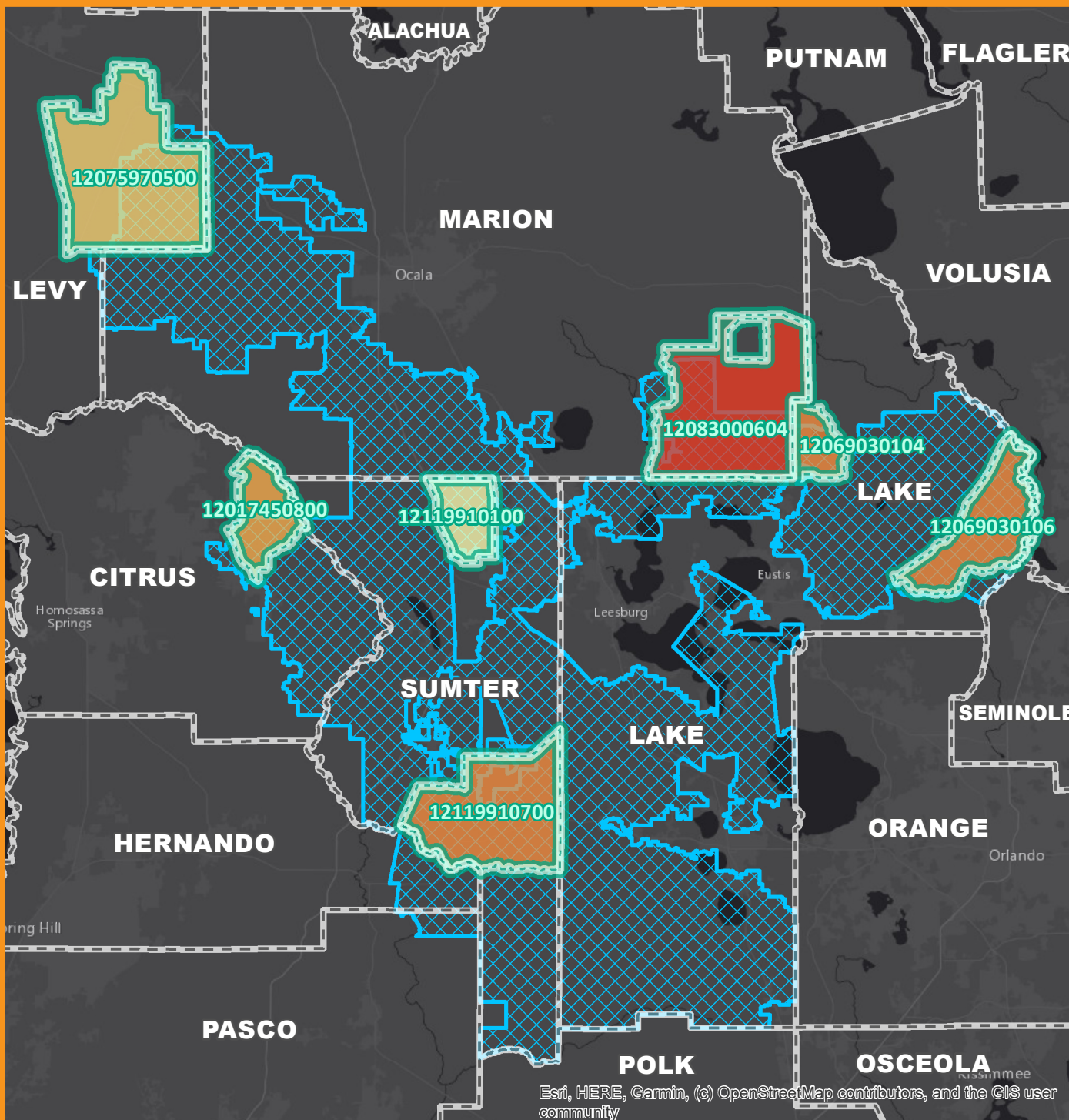
I hereby certify that I have reviewed the information provided in this questionnaire, have determined that all questions have been appropriately answered, and judge the responses to be consistent with the efforts proposed.

DOE Project Manager

Signature: _____ Date (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

Typed Name: _____

Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program



Pilot Program Area (7)

Tract (County):

- 12017450800 (Citrus County)
- 12069030104 (Lake County)
- 12069030106 (Lake County)
- 12075970500 (Levy County)
- 12083000604 (Marion County)
- 12119910100 (Sumter County)
- 12119910700 (Sumter County)

Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts (Total Categories Exceeded):



SECO Energy Service Territory



County Limits



Miles



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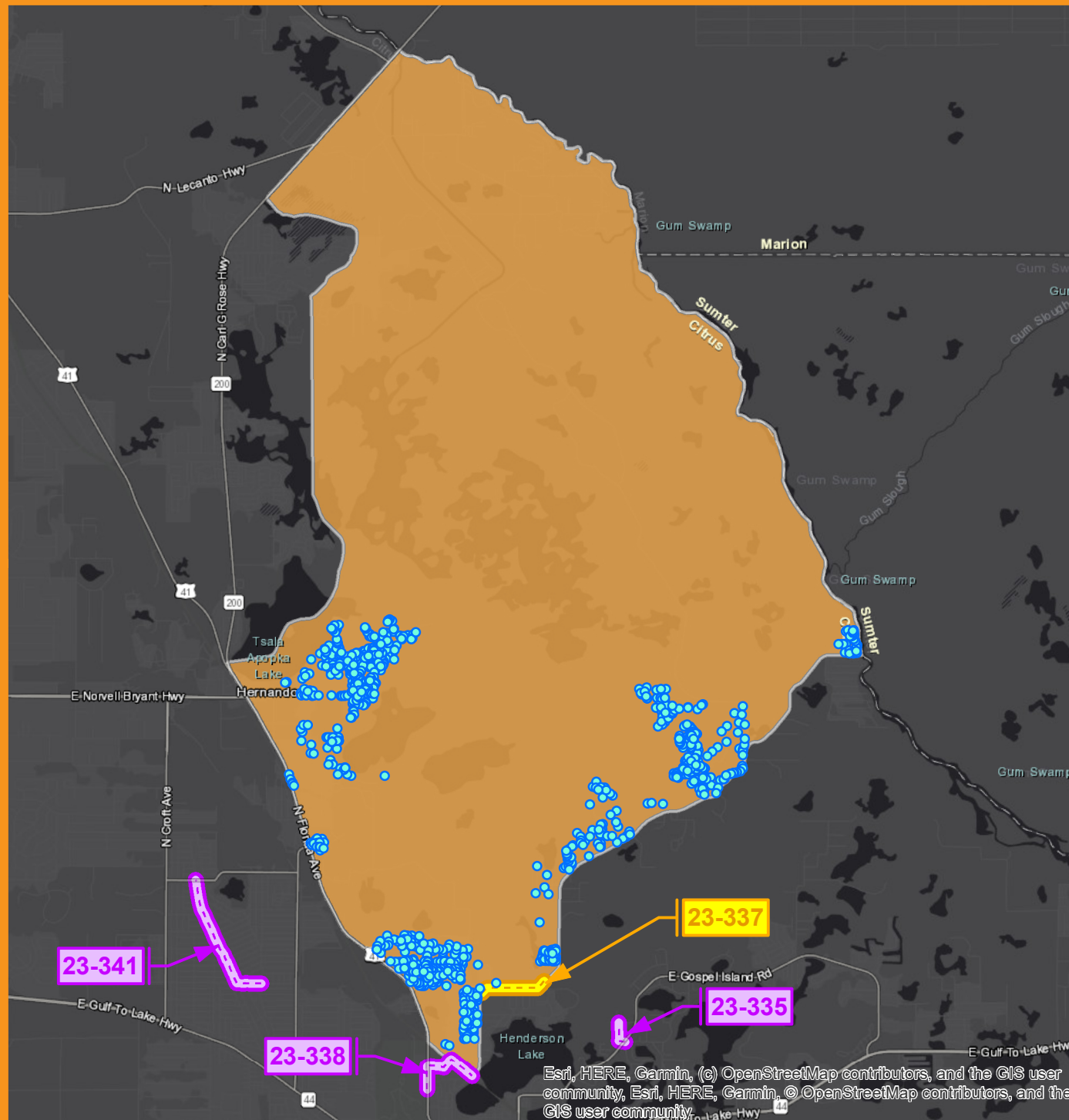


Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program

Tract: 12017450800

Citrus County

Population: 4,297



Eligible Overhead Meters
(933 meters)

Overhead to Underground
Utility Line Conversions

Utility Pole Replacements
and Line Upgrades

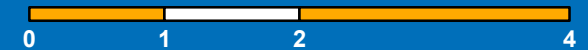
Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts
(Total Categories Exceeded):



3 Exceeded Categories:
Climate Change
Energy
Health



Miles



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Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program

Tract: 12069030104

Lake County

Population: 1,800

Eligible Overhead Meters
(208 meters)

Overhead to Underground
Utility Line Conversions

Utility Pole Replacements
and Line Upgrades

Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts
(Total Categories Exceeded):



4 Exceeded Categories:

Climate Change
Health
Housing
Transportation

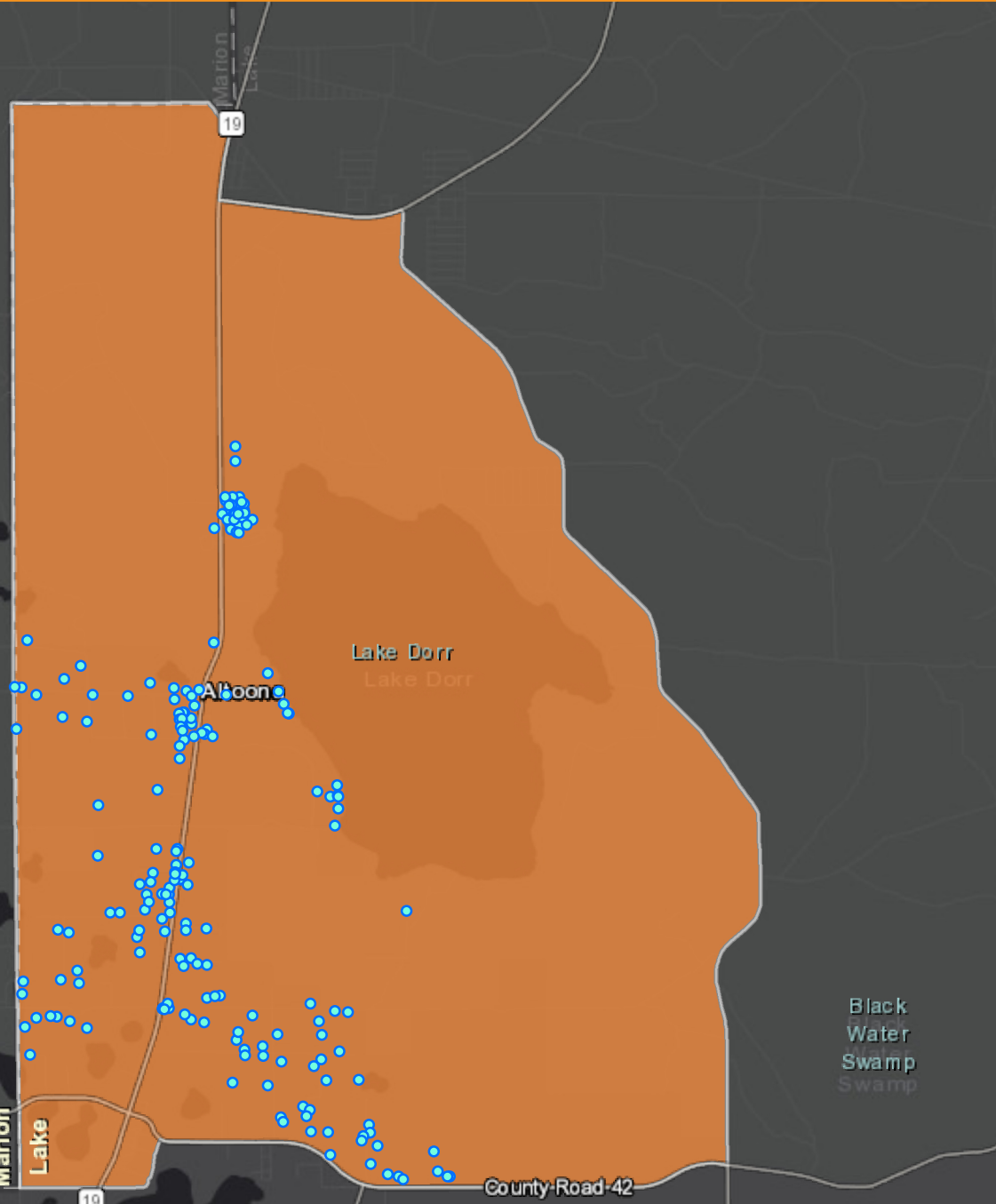


Miles



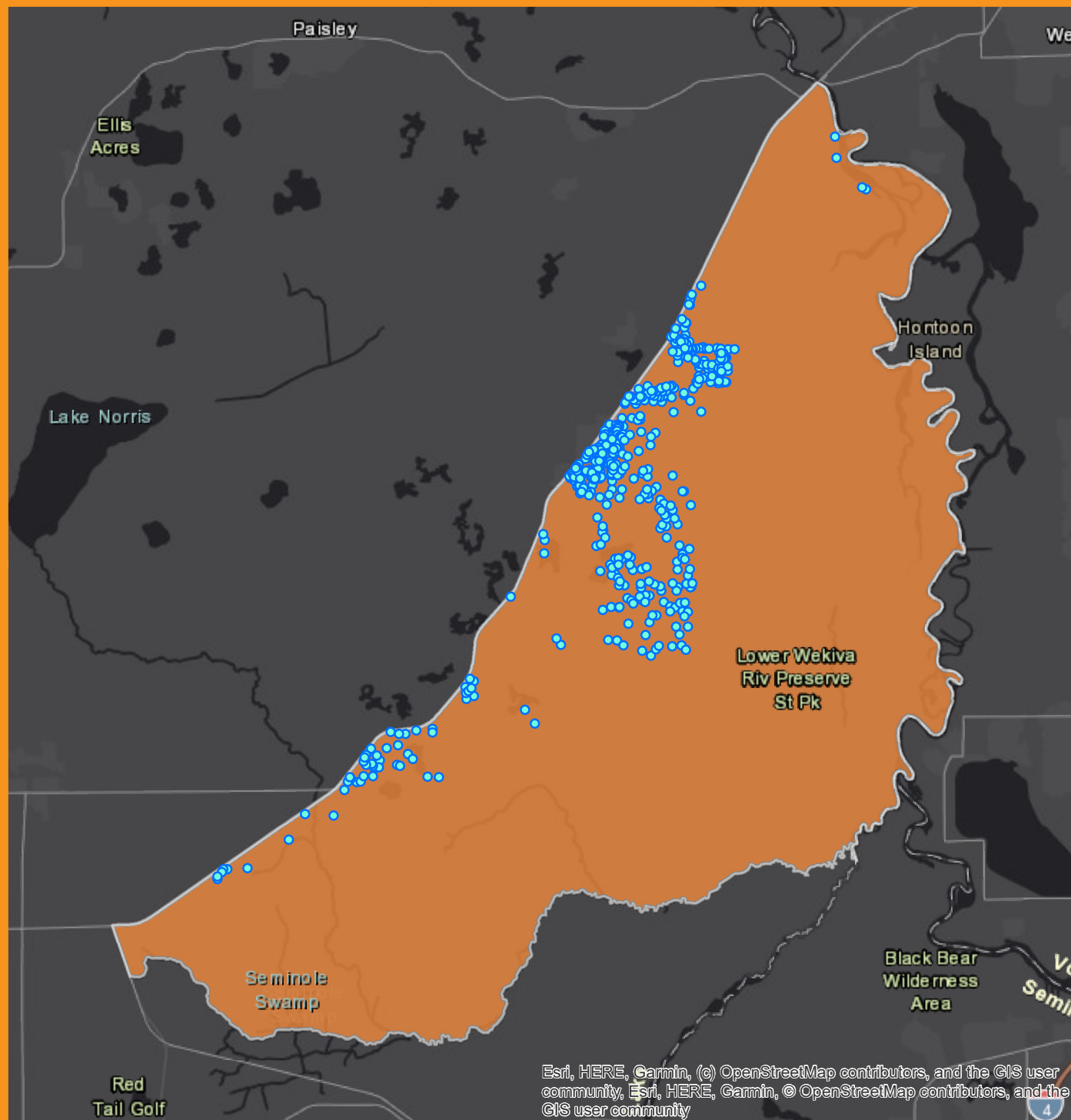
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Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program



Tract: 12069030106

Lake County

Population: 1,392

-  Eligible Overhead Meters (498 meters)
-  Overhead to Underground Utility Line Conversions
-  Utility Pole Replacements and Line Upgrades

Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts (Total Categories Exceeded):



4 Exceeded Categories:

- Climate Change
- Health
- Legacy pollution
- Workforce development



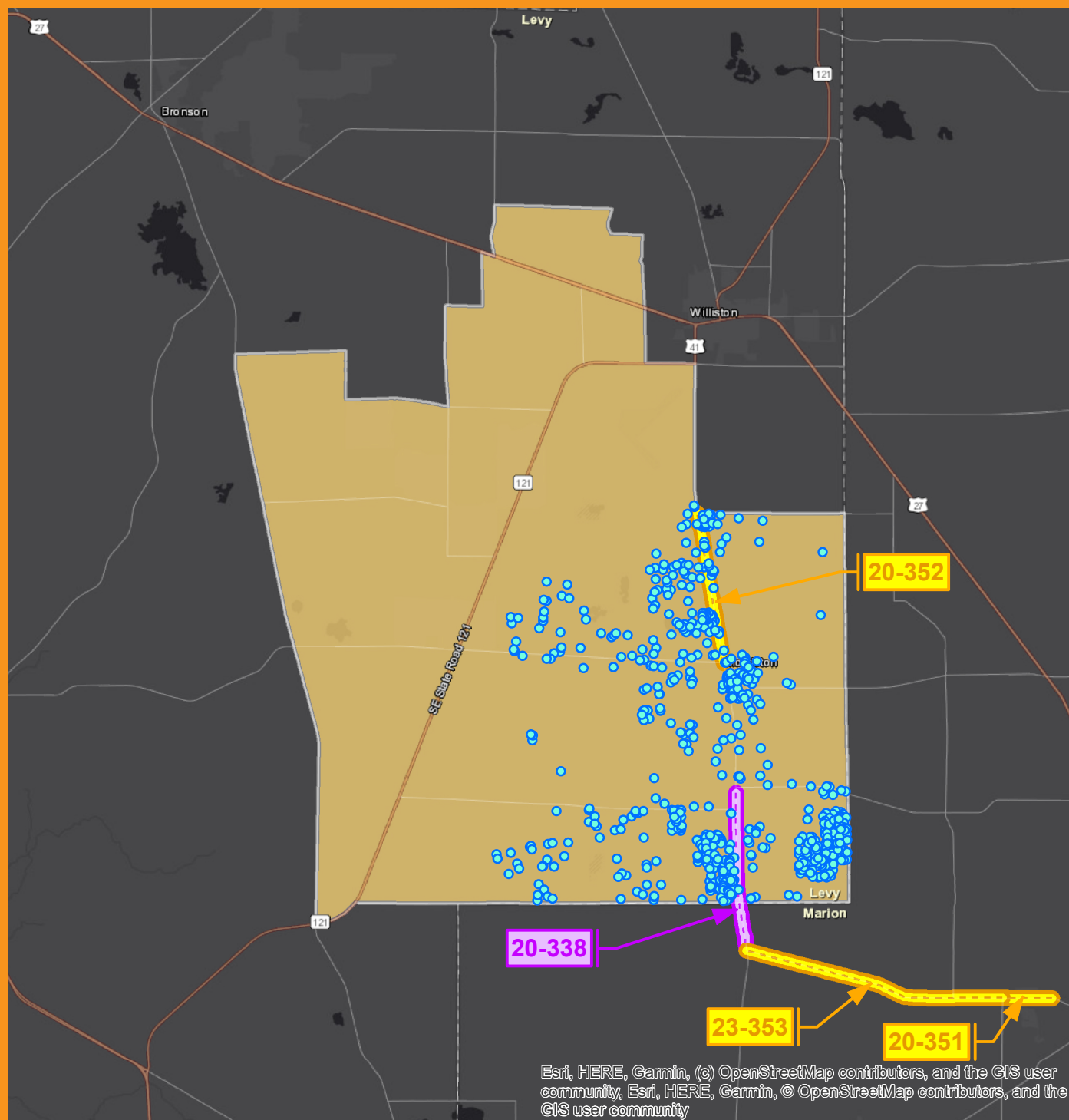
Miles



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Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program






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Tract: 12075970500

Levy County

Population: 1,572

-  Eligible Overhead Meters (673 meters)
-  Overhead to Underground Utility Line Conversions
-  Utility Pole Replacements and Line Upgrades

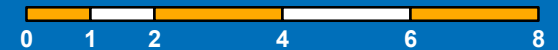
Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts (Total Categories Exceeded):



2 Exceeded Categories:
Legacy pollution
Transportation



Miles



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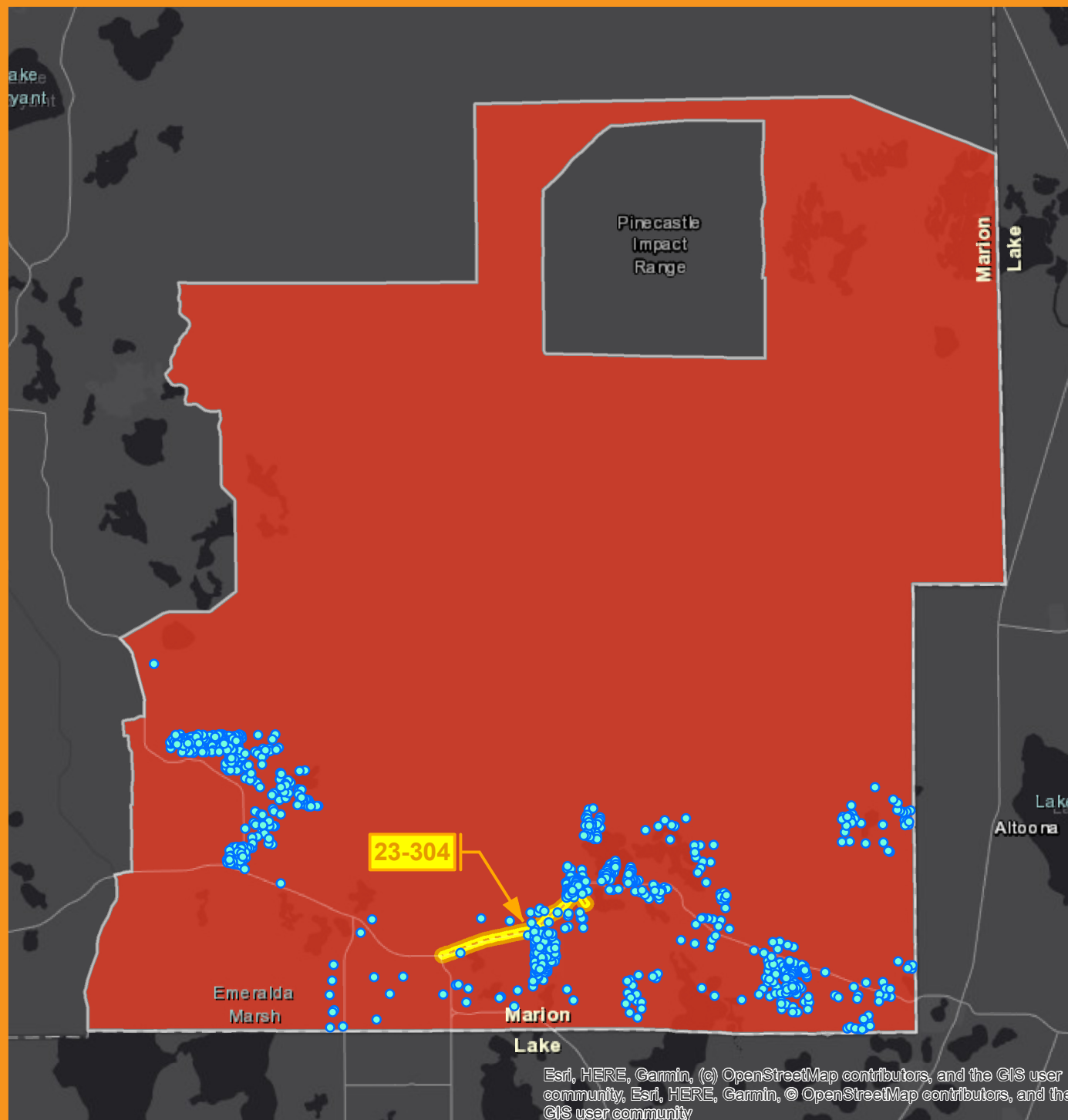


Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program

Tract: 12083000604

Marion County

Population: 3,922



Eligible Overhead Meters
(864 meters)



Overhead to Underground
Utility Line Conversions



Utility Pole Replacements
and Line Upgrades

Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts
(Total Categories Exceeded):



1



3



5



2



4



6

5 Exceeded Categories:

Climate Change
Health

Legacy pollution
Transportation

Workforce development



Miles



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Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program

Tract: 12119910100

Sumter County

Population: 3,460

Eligible Overhead Meters
(528 meters)

 Overhead to Underground
Utility Line Conversions

 Utility Pole Replacements
and Line Upgrades

Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts
(Total Categories Exceeded):



1 Exceeded Category:
Housing

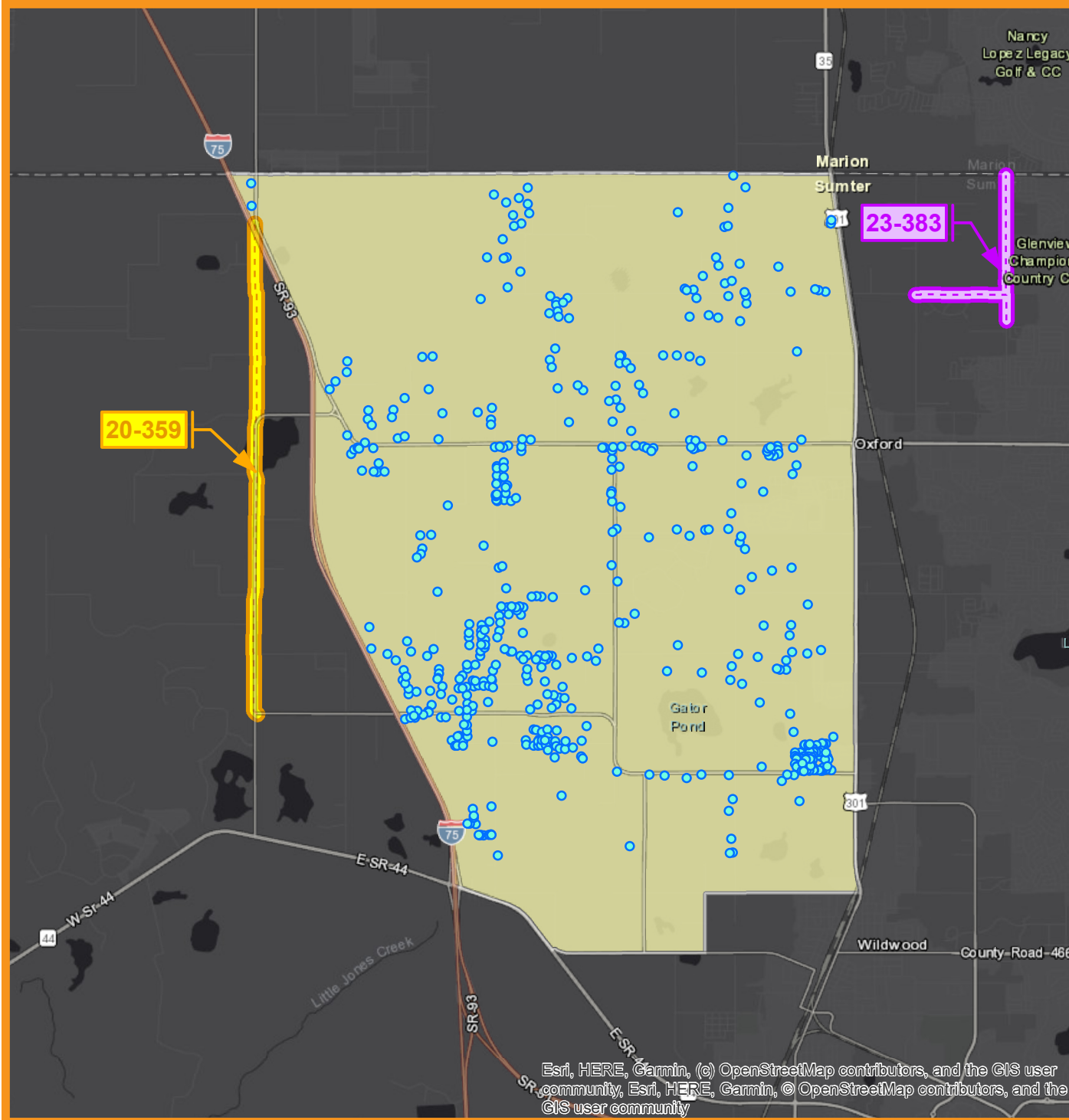


Miles



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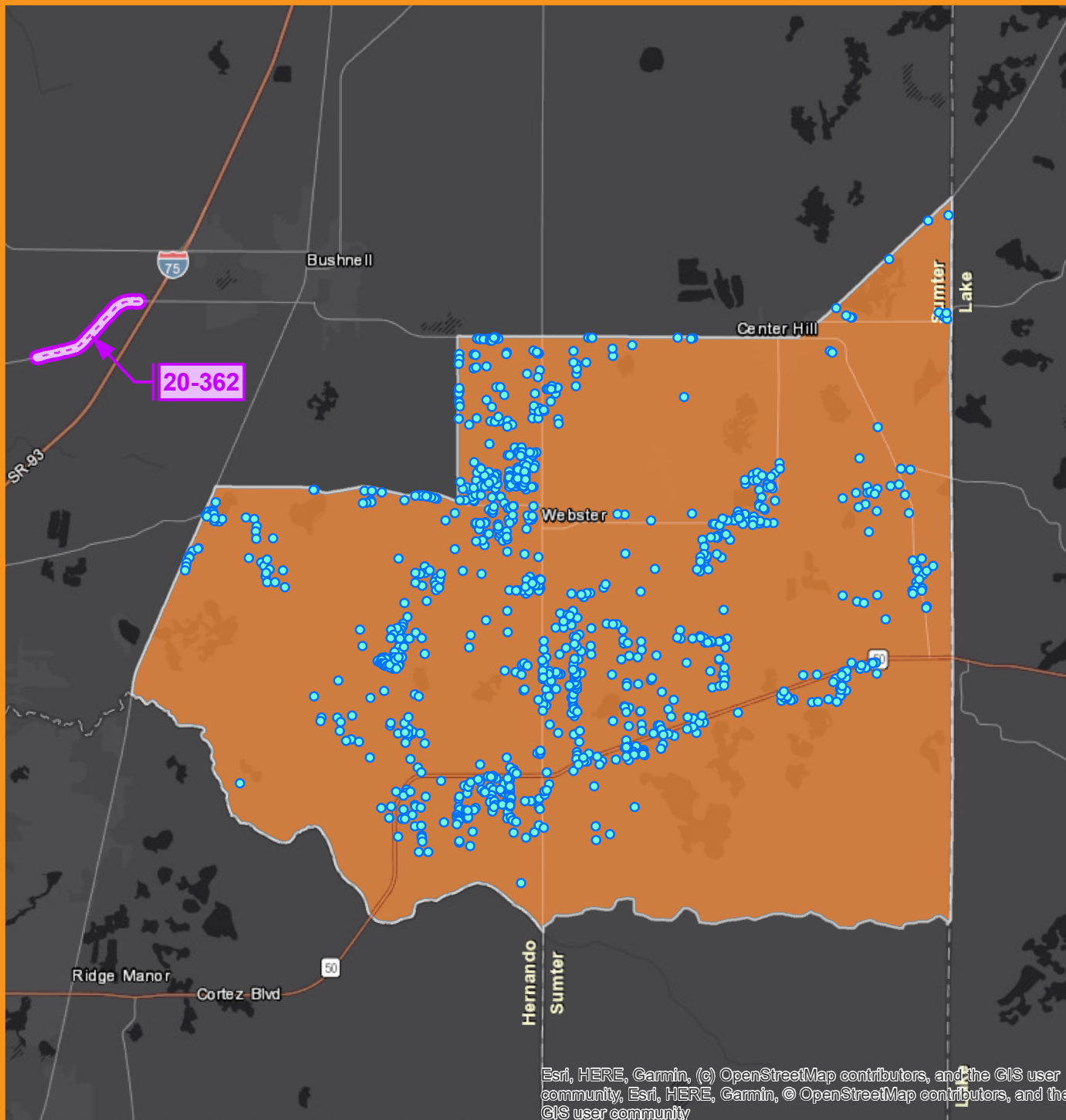
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Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion - Member Pilot Program

Tract: 12119910700

Sumter County

Population: 6,501



Eligible Overhead Meters
(995 meters)



Overhead to Underground
Utility Line Conversions



Utility Pole Replacements
and Line Upgrades

Justice40 Disadvantaged Tracts
(Total Categories Exceeded):



1



3



5



2



4



6

4 Exceeded Categories:

Climate Change
Health
Housing
Transportation



Miles



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**Environmental Questionnaire
All Site Locations**

Citrus County, Florida			
Project #	City	Project Type	Env-pdf Cross-reference
CWP20-356	Homosassa Springs	Overhead to Underground	Env-Citrus County
CWP23-334	Homosassa Springs	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-335	Homosassa Springs	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-337	Homosassa Springs	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-338	Inverness	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-341	Inverness	Overhead to Underground	
Lake County, Florida			
Project #	City	Project Type	Env-pdf Cross-reference
CWP20-330	Tavares	Overhead to Underground	Env-LakeCoGrp1
CWP23-311	Tavares	Overhead to Underground	
CWP20-335	Howey-in-the-Hills	Overhead to Underground	Env-LakeCoGrp2
CWP20-344	Leesburg	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-316	Yalaha	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-322	Yalaha	Replacement/Upgrade	
CWP23-306	Eustis	Overhead to Underground	Env-LakeCoGrp3
CWP23-307	Eustis	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-411	Dora	New Substation (Roundlake)	
CWP23-329	Groveland	Replacement/Upgrade	Env-LakeCoGrp4
CWP23-330	Groveland	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-331	Groveland	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-332	Groveland	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-333	Mascotte	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-366	Groveland	Overhead to Underground	Env-LakeCoGrp5
CWP23-367	Groveland	Hardening Lines	
CWP20-334	Clermont	Overhead to Underground	Env-LakeCoGrp6
CWP23-336	Groveland	Hardening Lines	Env-LakeCoGrp7
Levy County, Florida			
Project #	City	Project Type	Env-pdf Cross-reference
CWP20-352	Williston	Hardening Lines	Env-Levy County.pdf
CWP20-338	Morrison	Overhead to Underground	
Marion County, Florida			
Project #	City	Project Type	Env-pdf Cross-reference
CWP20-338	Romeo	Overhead to Underground	EnvMarionCoGrp1

**Environmental Questionnaire
All Site Locations**

CWP20-351	Ocala	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-344	Ocala	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-353	Romeo	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-304	Umatilla	Hardening Lines	EnvMarionCoGrp2
CWP23-342	Ocala	Overhead to Underground	EnvMarionCoGrp3
CWP23-343	Ocala	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-347	Ocala	Overhead to Underground	EnvMarionCoGrp4
CWP23-348	Ocala	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-358	Ocala	Replacement/Upgrade	
CWP23-359	Ocala	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-361	Ocala	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-387	Ocala	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-354	Bellevue	Overhead to Underground	EnvMarionCoGrp5
CWP23-355	Bellevue	Hardening Lines	
CWP23-356	Marion Oaks	Replacement/Upgrade	EnvMarionCoGrp6
CWP23-357	Marion Oaks	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-360	Ocala	Overhead to Underground	
Sumter County, Florida			
Project #	City	Project Type	Env-pdf Cross-reference
CWP20-359	Wildwood	Hardening Lines	Env-SumterCounty.pdf
CWP20-362	Bushnell	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-365	Lake Panasoffkee	Overhead to Underground	
CWP23-383	The Villages	Overhead to Underground	

March 22, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

Sumter Electric Cooperative (d/b/a SECO Energy) has developed a proposal for the Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program. Our full Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grant application is seeking \$70,476,750 in grant funds for our "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project."

The grant awarded under the GRIP Program requires 33% matching funds, which SECO Energy has committed to providing through cash and in-kind. This letter serves as our formal commitment to the required match.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support and commitment for SECO Energy's proposed project and for giving it your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

Gerald Anderson, Board of Trustees President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Wynn", written over a horizontal line.

Curtis Wynn, CEO

CC: SECO Energy Board of Trustees





March 16, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson:

I am writing on behalf of Seminole Electric Cooperative (Seminole) to support SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project application for the Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program. As SECO Energy's wholesale power provider, Seminole recognizes the importance of this project as it will improve the quality of electric infrastructure for multiple Justice40 tracts within SECO Energy's service area.

Both Seminole and SECO Energy have an interest in maximizing the reliability and efficiency of the systems used to deliver electricity to the cooperative's member-consumers. SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project proposes long-term grid system improvements to support the modernization of the grid. This will improve resilience of the grid and meet growing community capacity needs, while mitigating the impact of disruptive events, like power outages due to extreme weather or natural disasters. These system improvements will increase grid resiliency, energy efficiency, and address energy-related equity concerns, while decreasing energy burdens, environmental disparities, and overall consumer costs.

SECO Energy's project also includes a proposed \$3.5 million grant-funded pilot project on a Justice40 tract to replace vulnerable overhead electric infrastructure connecting members to the grid with more resilient, efficient underground electric infrastructure. Traditionally, since this infrastructure is on a member-consumer's property, the cost would be passed on to the member; however, the grant funds will allow SECO Energy to deploy this newer, more resilient infrastructure at no-cost to their end-use consumer. This is an investment in communities that are historically underserved and provides the opportunity to decrease the energy burdens and associated environmental disparities frequently experienced in disadvantaged, rural communities. At the same time these improvements allow SECO Energy and Seminole to further our missions as not-for-profit, member-owned, and member-governed electric cooperatives promoting equitable access to clean energy technologies, energy resiliency, and energy democracy.

Seminole has already invested significant time and resources in assisting SECO Energy with its GRIP application by hosting informational meetings for government and industry stakeholders, soliciting support from government and community officials, and including SECO Energy's proposed projects in our own strategic planning. We are committed to the successful completion of SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project and are pleased to partner with SECO Energy by providing technical assistance and resource access and support for the project, should it be needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to express Seminole's support and commitment for SECO Energy's proposed project and for giving it your full consideration. It is not often that a single project promises such significant benefits for all involved parties, especially the historically underserved communities represented in the Justice40 tracts.

Sincerely,

Lisa Johnson
CEO & General Manager

OFFICE OF ENERGY
(850) 617-7470
(850) 617-7471 FAX



THE HOLLAND BUILDING, SUITE B04
600 SOUTH CALHOUN STREET
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0001

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

February 17, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Office of Energy (FDACS OOE) is pleased to provide this letter of support for the “Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project” application by SECO Energy. The FDACS OOE, by statute, is responsible for developing and implementing Florida’s energy policies, programs, and projects. Supporting this team from SECO Energy on this project is aligned with our goals to improve regional sustainability and resilience in Florida.

Never before has the nation's electrical grid's dependability and resilience been more crucial. The FDACS OOE believes SECO Energy's proposed project is essential to guarantee that our smaller, rural communities have access to affordable, dependable, clean energy in light of the extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes, and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular.

This project seeks to modernize the local electric grid to reduce the impacts of extreme weather and natural disasters. It also demonstrates the future of creative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, and reliability while making sure that our small, rural, and underserved communities receive the same resources and infrastructure investments as larger cities and urban areas.

If the team’s proposal is selected for funding, we are in support of this effort and are interested in engaging in relevant activities. In particular, FDACS OOE will assist in contacting stakeholders who have an equitable interest in grid resilience in Florida.

If you have any questions or if additional information is needed, please do not hesitate to contact me at Brooks.Rumenik@FDACS.gov.

Sincerely,

Brooks Rumenik
Director, Office of Energy



February 28, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF), Florida's second largest workforce development board is pleased to present this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." CSCF has learned the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to make a full application to the GRIP program.

CSCF highly recommends your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and is confident this funding will address long-standing regional needs and will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change. SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

The SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is:

- The conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground
- 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles
- Converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth
- Rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system

The project's implementation will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. We look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Nabors".

Pamela Nabors
President & CEO

CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com
390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 700 | Orlando, FL 32801
p. 407.531.1222 | f. 407.708.1385 | TTY/TTD 711





February 17, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

3003 SW College Road | Suite 205
Ocala, Florida 34474
p. 352-673-7939 | 800-434-5627



I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Skinner, Jr.
CEO, CareerSource CLM
3003 SW College Road
Suite 205
Ocala, FL 34474
352-873-7939 ext 1204
rskinner@careersourceclm.com

3003 SW College Road | Suite 205
Ocala, Florida 34474
p: 352-673-7939 | 800-434-5627

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16 February 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson:

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

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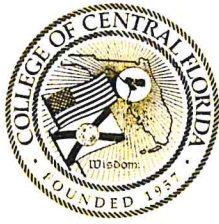
I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and believe that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin T. Sheilley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Kevin T. Sheilley
President/CEO



College of Central Florida

Office of the President

February 17, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

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The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

3001 SW College Road • Ocala, Florida 34474-4415
Phone: 352-873-5835 • Fax: 352-873-5847 • Email: henningj@cf.edu

—an equal opportunity college—

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,



James D. Henningsen
President



February 26, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

On behalf of the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." We understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

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Thank you for the opportunity to express our support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. We look forward to your decision.

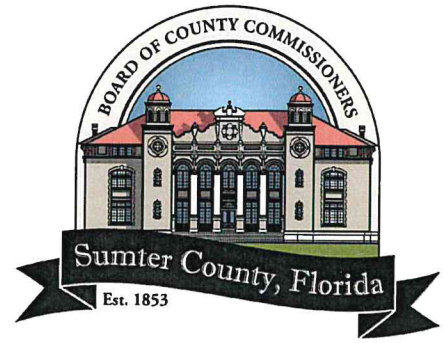
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wooten", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Josh Wooten, President / CEO
Citrus County Chamber of Commerce

Board of County Commissioners Sumter County, Florida

7375 Powell Road, Suite 200 • Wildwood, FL 34785 • Phone (352) 689-4400 • FAX: (352) 689-4401
Website: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov>



February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: SECO Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) grant application

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Sumter County Economic Development is providing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability through Grid Hardening Project." SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that Sumter County's small and large businesses can reopen as quickly as possible after a storm event.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bradley Arnold
Acting Economic Development Director

Roberta Ulrich, District 1
Vice Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Andrew Bilardello, District 2
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Craig A. Estep, District 3
Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Jeffrey A. Bogue, District 4
2nd Vice Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Don Wiley, District 5
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Bradley S. Arnold,
County Administrator
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Gloria R. Hayward, Clerk & Auditor
(352) 569-6600
215 East McCollum Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

County Attorney
The Hogan Law Firm
Post Office Box 485
Brooksville, Florida 34605



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners
Economic Development Department

3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461
Phone: (352) 527-5487 Fax: (352) 527-5204

"We will be a user-friendly and common-sense organization dedicated to responsive citizen services."

February 16, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank Calascione".

Frank Calascione, CECD
Economic Development Director
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

McPherson Governmental Campus
601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2324

District 1 - Craig Curry, Chairman
District 2 - Kathy Bryant, Commissioner
District 3 - Jeff Gold, Commissioner
District 4 - Carl Zalak III, Commissioner
District 5 - Michelle Stone, Vice Chair

February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

On behalf of the Marion County Board of County Commissioners, I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." We understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, we believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

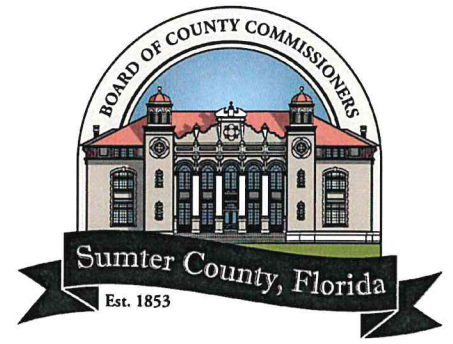
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Board of County Commissioners Sumter County, Florida

7375 Powell Road, Suite 200 • Wildwood, FL 34785 • Phone (352) 689-4400 • FAX: (352) 689-4401
Website: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov>



February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Re: SECO Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) grant application

Dear Ms. Robinson:

Sumter County Board of County Commissioners is providing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability through Grid Hardening Project." SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that Sumter County's rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

I recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas in Sumter County that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your consideration.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Estep
Chairman

Roberta Ulrich, District 1
Vice Chairman
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
Wildwood, FL 34785

Andrew Bilardello, District 2
(352) 689-4400
7375 Powell Road
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(352) 689-4400
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(352) 689-4400
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County Administrator
(352) 689-4400
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Wildwood, FL 34785

Gloria R. Hayward, Clerk & Auditor
(352) 569-6600
215 East McCollum Avenue
Bushnell, FL 33513

County Attorney
The Hogan Law Firm
Post Office Box 485
Brooksville, Florida 34605



CITY OF BELLEVIEW

5343 S.E. Abshier Boulevard · Belleview, Florida 34420

Telephone: (352) 245-7021 · Fax: (352) 245-6532

"City With Small Town Charm"

February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

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CITY OF BELLEVIEW

5343 S.E. Abshier Boulevard · Belleview, Florida 34420

Telephone: (352) 245-7021 · Fax: (352) 245-6532

"City With Small Town Charm"

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Christine Dobkowski

Mayor

City of Belleview



Tim Murry
Mayor

352-241-7358
TMurry@Clermontfl.org

February 17, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

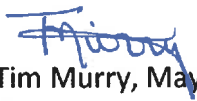
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I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Best regards,


Tim Murry, Mayor
City of Clermont



Evelyn Wilson
Mayor

352-429-2141

Evelyn.Wilson@groveland-fl.gov

156 S. Lake Ave • Groveland, FL 34736 • www.Groveland-FL.gov

February 28, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing to support SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for the "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make a complete application to the GRIP program, and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve the quality of life and reliability of homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid have never been more critical than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes, and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

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Evelyn Wilson

Mayor

352-429-2141

Evelyn.Wilson@groveland-fl.gov

156 S. Lake Ave • Groveland, FL 34736 • www.Groveland-FL.gov

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application. I can assure you that this funding will address long-standing regional needs and contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Evelyn Wilson'.

Evelyn Wilson, Mayor
City of Groveland



February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

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The City of Wildwood, Florida

100 North Main Street, Wildwood, Florida 34785

352.330.1330 | Fax: 352.330.1338 | www.wildwood-fl.gov



Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Jason McHugh, City Manager
City of Wildwood



Superintendent:
Diane S. Kornegay, M.Ed.

School Board Members:
District 1
Bill Mathias
District 2
Tyler Brandeburg
District 3
Marc Dodd
District 4
Mollie Cunningham
District 5
Stephanie Luke

201 West Burleigh Boulevard · Tavares · FL 32778-2496
(352) 253-6500 · Fax: (352) 253-6503 · www.lake.k12.fl.us

February 21, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

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Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Kornegay, M.Ed.
Superintendent

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. We look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Curry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right and a large loop at the end.

Craig Curry, Chairman
Marion County Board of County Commissioners



SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

2680 W C-476, Bushnell, Florida 33513 – <http://www.sumter.k12.fl.us>

Preparing the Next Generation Today!

Richard A. Shirley
Superintendent of Schools

BOARD MEMBERS

District 1 **Sally Moss**
District 2 **Brett Sherman**
District 3 **David A. Williams**
District 4 **Russell Hogan**
District 5 **Kathie L. Richard**

TELEPHONE (352) 793-2315

Superintendent

Ext. 50208 Fax 793-4180

Assistant Superintendent

Ext. 50247 Fax 793-4180

Curriculum & Instruction

Ext. 50206 Fax 793-4180

Elementary Education

Ext. 50207 Fax 793-4180

Secondary Education

Ext. 50210 Fax 793-4180

Student Services

Ext. 50211 Fax 793-4180

School Safety

Ext. 50232 Fax 793-4180

Finance

Ext. 50233 Fax 793-4963

Human Resources

Ext. 50220 Fax 793-2096

Employee Benefits

Ext. 50230 Fax 793-2096

Food Service

Ext. 52200 Fax 793-4277

Professional Development

Ext. 50226 Fax 793-2096

MIS/Data Processing

Ext. 50241 Fax 793-4963

Exceptional Education

Ext. 50259 Fax 793-1612

Information Technology

Ext. 50263 Fax 793-4377

Adult Education

Ext. 54200 Fax 793-6508

Facilities

Ext. 52202 Fax 793-9298

Maintenance

Ext. 52212 Fax 793-9298

Warehouse

Ext. 52220 Fax 793-5547

Transportation

Ext. 53200 Fax 793-1083

February 22, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office/U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

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I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Shirley
Superintendent of Schools

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Granholm:

I write in support of Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO) as it seeks funding from the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships for its Improving Reliability through Grid Hardening Project.

Sumter Electric Cooperative serves more than 220,000 homes across Central Florida and is the third-largest electric co-op in the state. Continued population growth necessitates the need for SECO to modernize its electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters while preparing its grid for increased usage.

If awarded, funds would be used to implement 55 long-term grid system improvements over three years. This would include system-wide improvements and conversion of nearly 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground, upgrade 47 miles of wooden utility poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles, and convert approximately 3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductors to support anticipated load growth. Funds would also be used to rebuild and expand six substations for improved flexibility and adaptability in SECO's systems.

I applaud Sumter Electric Cooperative's efforts to improve its electric distribution systems for its customers. I ask for your full and fair consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator

KAT CAMMACK
3RD DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,
RESPONSE & RECOVERY

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY EXCHANGES,
ENERGY, AND CREDIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION, OVERSIGHT, AND
DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

CAMMACK.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0903

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1626 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-5744
FAX: (202) 225-3973

GAINESVILLE OFFICE:
5550 NW 111TH BOULEVARD
SUITE A
GAINESVILLE, FL 32653
PHONE: (352) 505-0838
FAX: (352) 505-3511

ORANGE PARK OFFICE:
35 KNIGHT BOX ROAD
SUITE 1
ORANGE PARK, FL 32065
PHONE: (904) 276-9626
FAX: (904) 276-9336

February 22, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." We are aware this application received a letter of encouragement from the Department of Energy to submit a full application to the GRIP program. Based on this decision, and the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters. It will also represent the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural, and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

As such, I request full and fair consideration of SECO Energy's application, and I am confident that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency.

In Liberty,



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress
Proudly Serving Florida's Third Congressional District



CONGRESSMAN DANIEL WEBSTER
11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

March 1, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I was recently made aware of SECO Energy's grant application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." This project would improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has is of utmost importance. SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that all communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments.

I applaud SECO Energy's efforts to modernize and improve the local electric grid. As Florida is often faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding, this proposed project would ensure that our smaller, rural communities have access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy. As the Department considers funding for GRIP, I ask that you give full and fair consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Webster". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INNOVATION, DATA, AND COMMERCE, CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
 2306 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912
(202) 225-5755
DISTRICT OFFICES:
 8731 CITIZENS DR.
SUITE 135
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654
(727) 232-2921
 15 N. MAIN ST.
SUITE B
BROOKSVILLE, FL 34601
(352) 691-1231
 212 W. MAIN ST.
SUITE 208A
INVERNESS, FL 34450
(352) 654-1004

February 23, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Ms. Robinson,

It is a great pleasure to express my support for SECO Energy requesting grant funding to make systemwide grid and infrastructure improvements. The grant will allow for the modernization of SECO Energy's electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters. This project will include upgrades to 47 miles of utility poles from wooden to steel, rebuilding and expanding six (6) substations and the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground. This will also ensure that our small, rural, and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

For the above reasons, I respectfully submit my support for SECO Energy's application and urge your full consideration of its proposal. Should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact my Deputy Chief of Staff, Summer Robertson, at Summer.Blevins@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Speaker pro tempore Chuck Clemons

105 SW 140th Court, Suite 1
Newberry, FL 32669
(352) 313-6542 ~ (352) 313-6544 (f)



422 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5022

Florida House of Representatives, District 22

February 17, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Thank you for your Leadership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Clemons".

Charles "Chuck" Clemons

THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee on Education, *Chair*
Rules, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Criminal Justice
Education Postsecondary
Education Pre-K -12
Regulated Industries

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Budget Commission

SENATOR KEITH PERRY

9th District

February 27, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 2610 NW 43rd Street, Suite 2B, Gainesville, Florida 32606 (352) 264-4040
- ☐ Marion County Board of Commissioners, 115 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida 34471 (352) 732-1249
- ☐ 406 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5009

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President of the Senate

DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore

February 27, 2023

Page 2

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Keith Perry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "P" at the end.

Senator Keith Perry

District 9



Florida House of Representatives

State Representative John P. Temple

District 52

Committee's

State Affairs Committee
Insurance & Banking Subcommittee
PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Local, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee
Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee
Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee

February 28, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or upgrading and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Temple".

John P. Temple
Florida House of Representatives, District 52

The Villages
916 Avenida Central
The Villages, Florida 32159
Phone: (352) 315-4445
Fax: (888) 635-8305

Tallahassee
1301C The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Phone: (850) 717-5052



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Ralph Massullo, MD

District 23

District Office:
106 E. Dampier Street
Inverness, FL 34450
(352)560-6075

Tallahassee Office:
308 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5023

February 22, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Director Robinson,

I am writing in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." It is my understanding that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided. I believe SECO Energy's proposed project will ensure that our smaller, rural communities will have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

Thank you for your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project. I look forward to your decision.

In service,


Ralph Massullo, MD

Appropriations Committee

Health and Human Services Committee

Education and Employment Committee (Chair)



The Florida House of Representatives

Representative Stan McClain

District 27

February 22, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

District Address

315 Southeast 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471-2689
(352) 732-1313

Tallahassee Address

418 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
(850) 717-5027

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,



Stan McClain, *Representative*
House District 27: Parts of Marion, Lake and Volusia Counties

District Address

315 Southeast 25th Avenue
Ocala, Florida 34471-2689
(352) 732-1313

Tallahassee Address

418 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
(850) 717-5027



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Yvonne Hinson

District 21

District Office:

2815 N.W. 13th St. Suite 202
Gainesville, Fla. 32609
(352) 264-4001

Tallahassee Office:

Capitol Building Suite 1302
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 717-5021

Email: Yvonne.Hinson@myfloridahouse.gov

February 27, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing to support SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." Based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has become increasingly important with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes, and flooding. I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities – which historically are underserved and underrepresented – have access to affordable, reliable, and clean energy. SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability among all communities.

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvonne H. Hinson".

Yvonne Hayes Hinson, State Representative
District 21

Committees:

Judiciary Committee

Transportation & Modals Subcommittee

Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee

Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee

Joint Administrative Procedures Committee



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Agriculture
Appropriations
Appropriations Committee on Criminal
and Civil Justice
Appropriations Committee on Health
and Human Services
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs
Community Affairs
Judiciary
Rules

SENATOR DENNIS BAXLEY

President Pro Tempore
13th District

February 28, 2023

Maria Robinson, Director
Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I am writing this letter in support of SECO Energy's application for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program funding for "Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project." I understand that the conceptual application received a letter of encouragement from the DOE to make full application to the GRIP program and based on the information SECO Energy has provided, I believe that the project will improve quality of life and reliability to homes and businesses in SECO Energy's service territory.

The reliability and resilience of our nation's power grid has never been more important than now. Faced with extreme weather events such as tropical storms, hurricanes and flooding that are critical issues for Florida in particular, I believe SECO Energy's proposed project is vital to ensure that our smaller, rural communities, which historically are underserved and under-represented, have access to affordable, reliable, clean energy.

SECO Energy's Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project activities include fifty-five (55) long-term grid system improvements over the next three years. Among these system-wide improvements is the conversion of almost 15 miles of electric utility lines from overhead to underground; 47 miles of utility poles will be upgraded from wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles; converting approximately 3.3 miles of existing conductors to larger ampacity conductor to support load growth; and, rebuilding or uprating and expanding six (6) substations to increase flexibility and adaptability in the system. This project will modernize the local electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters and represents the future of innovative solutions to increase flexibility, efficiency, reliability, and ensure that our small, rural and disadvantaged communities get the same resources and infrastructure investments available to larger cities and urban areas.

REPLY TO:

- ☐ 206 South Hwy 27/441, Lady Lake, Florida 32159 (352) 750-3133
- ☐ 404 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5013

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President of the Senate

DENNIS BAXLEY
President Pro Tempore

February 28, 2023

Page 2

I highly recommend your careful consideration of SECO Energy's application and can assure you that this funding will not only address long-standing regional needs but will contribute to the overall grid resiliency in areas that are often disproportionately affected by severe or extreme weather and climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support to the proposed project and for giving SECO Energy's application your full consideration. I look forward to your decision.

Onward and Upward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Baxley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'B'.

Senator Dennis Baxley
Senate District 13

APPENDIX F – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ASSURANCES DOCUMENT TEMPLATE (PDAD)

Project title: Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project

Applicant Name: Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. (d/b/a SECO Energy)

Applicant Address: 330 US Highway 301, Sumterville, FL 33585

Names of all team member organizations (if applicable):

Principal Investigator (Name, Address if different than Applicant's, Phone Number, E-mail):
Benjamin Dawson, 352-569-9652, benjamin.dawson@secoenergy.com

Business Point of Contact (Name, Address if different than Applicant's, Phone Number, E-mail):
Kathryn Gloria, 352-569-9565 kathryn.gloria@secoenergy.com

Include any statements regarding confidentiality.

Federal Share: \$52,857,562.50

Cost Share: \$17,619,187.50

Total Estimated Project Cost: \$70,476,750

Item 1: Specify (mark with "X") the FOA Topic Area and as applicable the Area of Interest (AOI):

Topic Area 1: **Grid Resilience Grants** (BIL section 40101(c))

Topic Area 2: **Smart Grid Grants** (BIL section 40107)

Topic Area 3: **Grid Innovation Program** (BIL section 40103(b)) – Area of Interest 1
(Transmission System Applications)

Topic Area 3: **Grid Innovation Program** (BIL section 40103(b)) – Area of Interest 2
(Distribution System Applications)

Topic Area 3: **Grid Innovation Program** (BIL section 40103(b)) – Area of Interest 3
(Combination System Applications)

TOPIC AREA 1 Specific Items:

Item 2: Specify (mark with "X") the entity type of the applicant organization:

electric grid operator

electricity storage operator

electricity generator

transmission owner or operator

distribution provider

fuel supplier

If further description is needed for the specified entity type, please provide below:

not-for-profit electric utility co-op

Item 3: Please provide the total amount (USD) of qualifying resilience investments (as outlined in DE-FOA-00002740) that has been spent for the previous 3 years. Please also provide the time period utilized for calculation of this amount.

Total Amount: \$76,211,410.75

Time Period for Resilience Investments: 2020-2022

Note: Topic Area 1 applicants must submit as part of their application, a report detailing past, current, and future efforts by the eligible entity to reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events. This report should include efforts over at least the previous 3 years and at least the next 3 years and any broader resilience strategy used by the applicant.

Item 4: Is the eligible entity a Small Utility as defined in DE-FOA-0002740 (sells no more than 4,000,000 MWh of electricity per year)? If NO is selected, skip to Item 7.

Yes

No

Note: If YES, applicant must provide their Form 861 for the last reporting year submitted to the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Item 5: Per BIL section 40101(e)(2) (C) APPLICATION LIMITATIONS.—An eligible entity may not submit an application for a grant provided by the Secretary under subsection (c) and a grant provided by a State or Indian Tribe pursuant to subsection (d) during the same application cycle.

Therefore, is the eligible entity a Subaward/Subcontract recipient for an application submitted under IIJA Section 40101(d), ALRD 2736? If “YES”, please describe the differences between the GRIP FOA 2740 application [40101(c)] and the ALRD 2736 [40101(d)] applications in the box below:

Yes

No

TOPIC AREA 2 Specific

No items

TOPIC AREA 3 Specific

Item 6: Specify (mark with "X") the entity type of the applicant organization:

a State

a combination of 2 or more States

an Indian Tribe

a unit of local government

a public utility commission

If further description is needed for the specified entity type, please provide below:

Item 7:

Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR): please provide name, address, phone number and e-mail address for the authorized agent to bind the entity

Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR):

Name: Curtis Wynn

Address: 330 US Highway 301, Sumterville, FL 33585

Phone: 352-569-9520

E-mail: curtis.wynn@secoenergy.com

Item 8: Signature of Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)

 4-3-2023



Curtis Wynn
Chief Executive Officer

curtis.wynn@secoenergy.com
352-569-9520

Employed with SECO Energy since 2021

Degree Level and discipline: Bachelor of Science; Business and Information Systems [Troy University]

Professional certifications: n/a

Years of experience in the utility industry: 41 years

Role in the project: Hi-Level budgeting and implementation oversight

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs: Implemented Smart Grid Technology at Roanoke EC including SCADA, AMI (two implementations), DERMS utilization

Demonstrated innovations/work efforts under your leadership: Pay-As-You-Save inclusive financing implementation, Vehicle to Building/Grid Pilot with Advanced Energy and NC State, SolarShare Implementation

Major Areas of Focus: 1) optimizing operations via efficiency, distributed energy resources and demand response initiatives, 2) engaging member consumers in optimization and political advocacy efforts, 3) managing industry change and disruption, 4) expanding service offerings into rural broadband and beneficial electrification (i.e., electric mobility, agricultural operations, and energy efficiency) and 5) community and economic development.





Ben Dawson

Vice President of Growth, Smart Grid
and Operational Technology

Benjamin.dawson@secoenergy.com
352-569-9652

Employed with SECO Energy since 2019

Degree level and discipline: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering [University of Florida]

Professional certifications: Registered Professional Engineer [FL]

Years of experience in the utility industry: 24 years

Role in the project: project leadership, technology assessments, cost analysis, vendor review

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs: AMI 2007 Central Florida Electric Cooperative

Demonstrated innovations/work efforts under your leadership: AMI 2007, SCADA and work management system implementation at Central Florida Electric Cooperative





Kathryn Gloria

Vice President of Corporate Communications & Energy Services

Kathryn.gloria@secoenergy.com
352-569-9565

Employed with SECO Energy since 2015

Degree level and discipline: Business Management Program, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Political Science, Cameron University

Professional certifications: Certified Cooperative Communicator

Years of experience in the utility industry: 16 years

Role in the projects: Project Planning Team member of leadership team, Communications development and execution, public relations oversight, chief communications officer

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs: Implemented AMI/ Smart Grid Technology at CoServ Electric in Dallas/Fort Worth

Demonstrated innovations/work efforts under her leadership: Implemented Ami/Smart Grid Technology at CoServ Electric in Dallas/Fort Worth, Electric Vehicle Lease/Purchase Program development at SECO Energy. Project leader for development and deployment of Kubra StormCenter technology at SECO Energy.





Anh Reynolds

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Anh.reynolds@secoenergy.com

352-569-9622

Employed with SECO Energy since 2014

Degree Level and discipline: Master's Degree in Accounting [Saint Leo University]

Professional certifications: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Cooperative Financial Professional Certificate (CFPC)

Years of experience in the utility industry: 9 years

Role in the project: Business Case, Procurement, Financing, Project Closing, Grant Financial Reporting and Single Audit

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs and demonstrated innovations/work efforts under your leadership): Serves as the source of financial expertise as a member of SECO Energy's executive leadership team in order to align organizational performance with current goals and future strategies. Provides accurate accounting for all Cooperative financial transactions, and reviews and authorizes cash disbursements. Has established monitoring systems for internal controls. Ensures RUS (Rural Utilities Service) guidelines and the management of long-term debt covenants.





Tracy de Lemos

Deputy General Counsel

tracy.delemos@secoenergy.com

352-569-9548

Employed with SECO Energy since 2021
(and served as outside counsel since 2013)

Degree Level and discipline: Juris Doctorate (University of Florida), B.S. in Marketing and Real Estate [Florida State]

Professional certifications: Florida Bar Member

Years of experience in the utility industry: 10 years

Role in the project: Assist with any legal or real estate related needs for the project; Review land rights and acquire any necessary easements.

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs and demonstrated innovations/work efforts under your leadership): Served as outside Land Rights Counsel for SECO since 2013. Have assisted or managed any land rights related project needs since being hired as outside counsel (numerous transmission right of way needs and projects; dozens of distribution project related land needs); Previously served as eminent domain counsel for Florida Gas Transmission and assisted in acquiring right-of-way for natural gas transmission projects throughout the state of Florida; Previously served as eminent domain counsel for Central Florida Expressway Authority and assisted in right of way acquisition for the Wekiva Parkway Project (SR 429).





Gregg Morrell

Vice President of Corporate Services
& Human Resources

Gregg.morrell@secoenergy.com
352-569-9525

Employed with SECO Energy since 2014

Degree level and discipline: Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Science, East Tennessee State University; Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic, Northeast Tennessee Technical College

Professional certifications: Certified in Labor Contract Negotiations and Administration, University of Michigan; Board member of the FEWC and SECO is an active member

Years of experience in the utility industry: 9 years

Role in the project: Support via providing related data for jobs, employment, recruitment, etc.; acting officer on Lake-Sumter State College Board.

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs: None

Demonstrated innovations/work efforts under your leadership: Led two manufacturing start-ups in China. Developed and implemented global business strategy. Instrumental in developing and implementing facilities maintenance business concept/model for the aviation industry.





John LaSelva
Vice President of Operations

johnlaselva@secoenergy.com
352-569-9530

Employed with SECO Energy since 2000

Degree Level and discipline: Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering [CLEMSON UNIVERSITY]; Master of Business Administration in Executive Management [DUKE UNIVERSITY]

Years of experience in the utility industry: 42 years

Professional certifications: Registered Professional Civil Engineer

Role in the project: project leadership, technology assessments, cost analysis, vendor review

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs and demonstrated innovations/work effort under his leadership: AMI: SECO Energy AMI project, team member and primary lead for the re-evaluation of the initial project; SCADA: Project lead for a SCADA and Outage Management System (OMS) implementation at Florida Power & Light (FPL). Co-lead for the SECO Energy OMS implementation; Reliability: Team lead for FPL storm hardening initiatives, including overhead to underground conversions. System reliability team oversight for SECO Energy.





Mike White

Vice President of Engineering

Mike.white@secoenergy.com
352-569-9550

Employed with SECO Energy since 2016

Degree Level and discipline: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering [CLEMSON UNIVERSITY]; Associate Degree in Industrial Electronics [NORTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE]; Certificate in Industrial Electricity

Professional certifications: Registered Professional Engineer - SC, GA, NC, VA, KY, TN, AL, MS and FL (*Current*)

Member of National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA)

Member of IEEE

Research Association (CUPREA). 2007-2016

Member of NRECA Planning Standards Committee (2018-2019)

Member of FCG TAC Committee. (2017-2019)

Years of experience in the utility industry: 27 years

Role in the project: Project leadership, technology assessments, cost analysis, vendor review

Previous experience implementing similar project/programs and demonstrated innovations/work efforts: Specifications and vendor selections for SECO Energy's mobile radio system and AMI research and deployment; previously completed specifications for 34kV sub transmission, overhead system upgrades, bus charging facility upgrades.



Summary/Abstract for Public Release

Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc., d/b/a/ SECO Energy is a not-for-profit cooperative headquartered in Sumterville, FL, serving smaller, rural communities in Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion, Pasco, and Sumter Counties. SECO Energy's Improving Resiliency Through Grid Hardening Project builds upon current efforts to increase the flexibility, efficiency and reliability of the local electric power system throughout the seven-county service territory, which includes 49 Justice40 tracts, areas identified by the Federal Council on Environmental Quality as disadvantaged. SECO's Grid Resiliency project consists of five inter-related components that together will modernize existing local utility infrastructure, mitigate the impacts of extreme weather and other natural disasters on grid resiliency, and decrease the energy burden and environmental disparity frequently experienced in some of the nation's most disadvantaged communities.

The project includes four utility infrastructure components that serve as the system framework required to improve overall quality of service, increase reliability and resiliency, meet growing capacity needs, and mitigate the impacts of increasingly more frequent extreme weather events and other natural disasters. SECO Energy's project will convert overhead utility lines to underground, harden existing lines and poles, replace aging or inefficient underground equipment and expand load capacity with a new distribution substation. Together these components represent nearly 66 total miles of upgrades, replacements, hardening and expansion efforts across 47 different sites within five counties in SECO Energy's service territory. Completing these components will serve as the backbone infrastructure for the fifth project component: SECO Energy's Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program, which will roll out in seven Justice40 tracts within SECO Energy's territory.

SECO Energy's Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program exemplifies the type of project SECO Energy would not be able to launch without the grant funds provided by DOE's Grid Resiliency and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) Program. Overhead residential energy service equipment is inherently vulnerable to severe wind or other weather-related damage, which can become a wildfire or public safety hazard. When such events or hazards damage residential equipment, it inevitably causes collateral damage to surrounding structures leading to increased recovery costs, FEMA-related assistance, and insurance claims. The cost for a member to convert a single residential overhead to underground service averages upwards of \$4,500. Thanks, in part, to the GRIP grant funds, SECO Energy will be able to pilot this program to underserved communities in seven Justice40 tracts within its service area at little to no cost to eligible members. The OURC pilot is the first step SECO Energy can take to provide direct, tangible assistance to members, in which, at the end of the rollout, the member, not SECO Energy, is now the owner of a portion of the infrastructure. The initial rollout includes up to 4,700 eligible meters across Citrus, Lake, Levy, Marion, and Sumter Counties identified as burdened by a combination of climate change, energy, health, housing, legacy pollution, transportation and workforce development.

Overall, SECO Energy's Improving Resiliency Through Grid Hardening Project will impact a total population of approximately 138,314 across its service area, including approximately 64,597 located in 22 Justice40 tracts. SECO Energy will build on existing partnerships with the IBEW Local 108, community organizations like the United Way, workforce development and apprenticeship program partners like Lake-Sumter State College and Northwest Lineman College, and its technical partners to expand educational and workforce opportunities in its communities. This project represents SECO Energy's commitment to increasing equitable access to clean energy technologies, energy resiliency and energy democracy.

The project is expected to cost approximately \$70.5 million and be completed within five years under the leadership of Curtis Wynn, Chief Executive Officer, SECO Energy.



SECO Energy – Improving Reliability Through Grid Hardening Project

Prime Recipient: Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a SECO Energy

Project Manager

Benjamin Dawson, P.E.

VP of Growth, Smart Grid & Operational Technology, SECO Energy

Requested DOE Funds: \$52,857,560

Proposed Cost Shared: \$17,619,190

Total Project Cost: \$70,476,750

Key Personnel – SECO Energy

Curtis Wynn

Chief Executive Officer

Kathryn Gloria

VP of Corporate Communications & Energy Services

Anh Reynolds

Interim Chief Financial Officer

John LaSelva

VP of Operations

Gregg Morrell

VP of Corporate Services & Human Resources

Mike White, P.E.

VP of Engineering

Tracy de Lemos, Esq.

Deputy General Counsel

SECO Energy’s service area covers **seven Florida counties:** Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion, Pasco & Sumter.

49 Justice40 tracts are included.

Members served: approximately 231,000, including **82,427 located within Justice40 tracts.**

Project Components



Overhead to Underground Conversions



Line and Pole Hardening



Underground Replacements



Substation Build



Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion Member Pilot Program

Technology Summary

SECO Energy's project will include multiple interrelated priority investments designed to increase the flexibility, efficiency, & reliability of its electric power system. The main components/phases of our grid resiliency project are as follows:



Overhead to Underground Conversions – Existing overhead lines, circuits & wooden pole structures will be removed, converted & relocated to underground.

Impact:

- ⚡ Hazard mitigation: tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires
- ⚡ Reduces member maintenance costs
- ⚡ Improves outage management & reliability
- ⚡ Increases flexibility, efficiency & resiliency

Proposed Goals:

- ⚡ Convert 33 miles of overhead utility lines at 29 sites
- ⚡ Increase circuit load
- ⚡ Resolve access issues
- ⚡ Support load growth



Underground Replacements – Existing underground conductors will be converted & replaced with larger ampacity conductors.

Impact:

- ⚡ Upgrades & modernizes aging infrastructure
- ⚡ Increases grid resilience
- ⚡ Hazard mitigation: dangerous electrical faults & system failure
- ⚡ Increases flexibility, efficiency and resiliency

Proposed Goals:

- ⚡ Replacement of 3.3 miles of underground conductor at 4 sites
- ⚡ Maintain primary voltage design limits & support load growth
- ⚡ Decrease line loss
- ⚡ Increase reliability & safety



Line and Pole Hardening – Harden existing overhead utility lines by replacing & upgrading existing wood poles & distribution lines & reducing the distance between poles.

Impact:

- ⚡ Hazard mitigation: tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, rot; new poles design-rated 110 mph vs. 60 mph
- ⚡ Reduces outage restoration times
- ⚡ Decreases line sag & line loss
- ⚡ Increases flexibility, efficiency & resiliency

Proposed Goals:

- ⚡ Harden 29 miles of overhead utility lines at 13 sites
- ⚡ Replace existing wood poles with steel-reinforced concrete poles
- ⚡ Convert distribution lines to higher breaking strength & ampacity
- ⚡ Place new poles closer together to reduce line sag



Substation Build – Replace existing smaller capacity distribution substation with a new substation to double capacity.

Impact:

- ⚡ Hazard mitigation: tornadoes, hurricanes, other wind events
- ⚡ Increases load capacity & protects the system
- ⚡ Improves area service delivery & supports projected growth
- ⚡ Increases flexibility, efficiency & resiliency

Proposed Goals:

- ⚡ Build new distribution substation to double capacity
- ⚡ Harden new substation for high wind speeds & redundancy
- ⚡ Support backfeed capacity for other substations
- ⚡ Decrease power quality issues & frequency of failure



Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program – Replace existing overhead residential service connections with more resilient & reliable underground residential service connections.

Impact:

- ⚡ Hazard mitigation: tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires
- ⚡ Reduces member maintenance costs, potential recovery costs & provides direct tangible assistance
- ⚡ Increases flexibility, efficiency & resiliency

Proposed Goals:

- ⚡ Convert overhead residential service connections in 7 Justice40 tracts
- ⚡ Reduce member recovery costs associated with overhead service connection disaster-related damage
- ⚡ Resolve reliability issues & assist with energy savings for disadvantaged communities in SECO Energy's service area

Project Takeaways



***Total Population Impacted: approx. 138,314 across all project areas**, including approx. 64,597 across 22 total Justice40 tracts with the following burdens: climate change, energy, health, legacy pollution, workforce development, & transportation. **45% of project activities will take place within Justice40 tracts. 36% of SECO Energy members reside in these disadvantaged areas. Total Project Investment: \$70.5 million**, including **\$31 million (44%) invested in Justice40 communities.** **based on U.S. Census Data-average person per household, per county and # of SECO Energy meters per project component.*



Grid hardening **increases resilience** against disruptive events, **improves reliability**, & **creates the energy efficiency** needed to **decrease greenhouse gases, combat sea level rise & mitigate against climate change.**



SECO Energy builds on existing community partnerships through its local union (IBEW Local 108) & its apprenticeship program; offers competitive compensation with well above prevailing wages, invested in **creating & expanding educational opportunities & workforce development.** Committed to **increasing equitable access to clean energy technologies, energy resiliency & energy democracy.**



STATEMENT OF PROJECT OBJECTIVES
SECO Energy – Improving Resiliency through Grid Hardening

A. OBJECTIVES

The SECO Energy – Improving Resiliency through Grid Hardening Project will include multiple interrelated priority investments designed to increase the flexibility, efficiency, and reliability of our cooperative’s electric power system. The main components of the proposed smart grid project are as follows:

1. Overhead Utility Line Conversions: Conversion of 33 miles of existing overhead lines to underground lines. Existing overhead lines, circuits and wooden poles would be removed, upgraded and replaced with higher capacity circuits and conductors placed underground to increase capacity, reduce outages and line loss and increase resilience.
2. Underground Conductor Replacements: Replacement of 3.3 miles of existing underground conductor with larger ampacity conductors. Replacing these cables will improve energy reliability and efficiency, decrease line loss, increase carrying capacity and higher temperature resistance, which enhances mitigation of dangerous electrical faults and system failures.
3. Line and Pole Hardening: Replacement of approximately 29 miles of existing electric utility lines currently with wooden poles to steel-reinforced concrete poles, increasing design-rated wind resistance from 60 mph to 110 mph. Existing distribution lines will be converted, where possible, to lines with higher rated breaking strengths and ampacity. The new steel-reinforced concrete poles will be placed closer together to reduce line sag and increase reliability.
4. Substation Rebuild: The existing Mount Dora/Roundlake substation, which can no longer handle the 50% load increase experienced over the last two years, will be replaced with a higher capacity distribution substation. The new substation is designed and hardened for high wind speeds and redundancy with two power transformers, multiple feeder bays and an automated tie breaker scheme. The new substation will double capacity, support backfeed capacity for other substations and is essential to supplying reliable service that meets the growing needs of the area.
5. Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program: Existing overhead residential service will be converted to underground to reduce service equipment vulnerability to severe wind or other weather-related events and the associated collateral damage and recovery costs. Undergrounding residential service increases resiliency and efficiency, reduces outages and maintenance costs, and improves property values. Seven Justice40 tracts within the SECO Energy service territory have been selected for initial rollout with 4,699 eligible meters identified, representing approximately 11,188 members from disadvantaged communities.

B. SCOPE OF WORK

SECO Energy is planning an integrated approach to the proposed work. The five components can commence independently allowing the grid improvements to be conducted concurrently and with some project overlap optimized for efficiency. SECO Energy will utilize a combination of internal staff and contracted labor for all project components.

TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

Task 1.0: Grant and Project Management

Subtask 1.1 – Grant Management

The Recipient shall submit all required grant management and compliance reports as required by the designated Federal Project Officer (FPO) and Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), including proof of compliance with Davis-Bacon.

Subtask 1.2 – Project Management

Within 30 days of the award, the Recipient shall submit a Project Management Plan (PMP) to the designated FPO. The Recipient shall not proceed beyond Task 1.0 until the PMP has been accepted

by the FPO. The PMP shall be revised and resubmitted as often as necessary, during the course of the project, to capture any major/significant changes to the planned approach, budget, key personnel, major resources, etc.

The Recipient shall manage and direct the project in accordance with the accepted PMP to meet all technical, schedule and budget objectives and requirements. The Recipient will coordinate activities to effectively accomplish the work. The Recipient will ensure that project plans, results, and decisions are appropriately documented, and that project reporting and briefing requirements are satisfied. The Recipient will brief DOE on roughly an annual basis to explain the plans, progress and results of the technical effort. The briefing shall also describe performance relative to project success criteria, milestones, and the Go/No-Go Decision point that are documented in the Project Management Plan (PMP). The Recipient shall complete and submit all required reports.

Task 2.0 – Overhead to Underground Conversion

Subtask 2.1 – Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design: SECO Energy engineers will determine the overhead to underground conversion scope (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of engineering and environmental design services. *Milestone:* Engineering and environmental design services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 2.2 – Engineering and Environmental Design and Management: SECO Energy engineers and subcontractors to conduct data collection and surveying. A preliminary engineering design will be drafted. An environmental review, including a NEPA compliance review will be conducted and all required documentation for permitting will be submitted. *Milestone:* Final engineering design and all environmental permitting documents will be completed.

Subtask 2.3 – Procurement of Material and Equipment: SECO Engineers to specify equipment and request procurement. *Milestone:* Equipment ordered; equipment received. *Go/No-Go:* Equipment Received.

Subtask 2.4 – Procurement of Construction Services: SECO Energy engineers will determine the overhead to underground conversion construction scope based on design and engineering (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of construction services. *Milestone:* Construction services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 2.5 - Construction: SECO Energy crews and chosen subcontractors will complete the installations for converting existing overhead utility lines to underground lines. *Milestone:* Construction completed. *End of Project Goal:* All overhead to underground conversion sites deployed by Year 4, Quarter 4.

Task 3.0 – Line and Pole Hardening

Subtask 3.1 – Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design: SECO Energy engineers will determine the line and pole hardening scope (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of engineering and environmental design services. *Milestone:* Engineering and environmental design services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 3.2 – Engineering and Environmental Design and Management: SECO Energy engineers and subcontractors to conduct data collection and surveying. A preliminary engineering design will be drafted. An environmental review, including a NEPA compliance review will be conducted and all required documentation for permitting will be submitted. *Milestone:* Final engineering design and all environmental permitting documents will be completed.

Subtask 3.3 – Procurement of Material and Equipment: SECO Energy engineers to specify equipment and request procurement. *Milestone:* Equipment ordered; equipment received. *Go/No-Go:* Equipment Received.

Subtask 3.4 – Procurement of Construction Services: SECO Energy engineers will determine the line and pole hardening construction scope based on approved design and engineering (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of construction services. *Milestone:* Construction services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 3.5 - Construction: SECO Energy crews and chosen subcontractors will complete the installations for line and pole hardening. *Milestone:* Construction completed. *End of Project Goal:* All line and pole hardening sites deployed by Year 4, Quarter 4.

Task 4.0 – Underground Replacements

Subtask 4.1 – Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design: SECO Energy engineer will determine the underground replacements scope (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of engineering and environmental design services. *Milestone:* Engineering and environmental design services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 4.2 – Engineering and Environmental Design and Management: SECO Energy engineers and subcontractors to conduct data collection and surveying. A preliminary engineering design will be drafted. An environmental review, including a NEPA compliance review will be conducted and all required documentation for permitting will be submitted. *Milestone:* Final engineering design and all environmental permitting documents will be completed.

Subtask 4.3 – Procurement of Material and Equipment: SECO Energy engineers to specify equipment and request procurement. *Milestone:* Equipment ordered; equipment received. *Go/No-Go:* Equipment Received.

Subtask 4.4 – Procurement of Construction Services: SECO Energy engineers will determine the overhead to underground replacements construction scope based on approved design and engineering (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of construction services. *Milestone:* Construction services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 4.5 - Construction: SECO Energy crews and chosen subcontractors will complete the installations to replace underground lines and conductors. *Milestone:* Construction completed. *End of Project Goal:* All underground replacement sites deployed by Year 3, Quarter 4.

Task 5.0 – Substation Build

Subtask 5.1 – Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design: SECO Energy engineer will determine the substation build scope (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of engineering and environmental design services. *Milestone:* Engineering and environmental design services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 5.2 – Engineering and Environmental Design and Management: SECO Energy engineers and subcontractors to conduct data collection and surveying. A preliminary engineering design will be drafted. An environmental review, including a NEPA compliance review will be conducted and all required documentation for permitting will be submitted. *Milestone:* Final engineering design and all environmental permitting documents will be completed

Subtask 5.3 – Procurement of Material and Equipment: SECO Energy engineer to specify equipment and request procurement. *Milestone:* Equipment ordered; equipment received. *Go/No-Go:* Equipment Received.

Subtask 5.4 – Procurement of Construction Services: SECO Energy engineers will determine the build construction scope based approved design and engineering (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of construction services. *Milestone:* Construction services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 5.5 - Construction: SECO Energy crews and chosen subcontractors will complete the construction and commissioning of the substation build. *Milestone:* Construction completed and substation commissioned. *End of Project Goal:* All overhead to underground conversion sites deployed by Year 3, Quarter 4.

Task 6.0 – Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program

Subtask 6.1 – Procurement of Engineering and Environmental Design: SECO Energy engineers will determine the OURC pilot program scope (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of engineering and environmental design services. *Milestone:* Engineering and environmental design services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 6.2 – Engineering and Environmental Design and Management: SECO Energy engineers and subcontractors to conduct data collection and surveying. A preliminary engineering design will be drafted. An environmental review, including a NEPA compliance review will be conducted and all required documentation for permitting will be submitted. *Milestone:* Final engineering design and all environmental permitting documents will be completed

Subtask 6.3 – Procurement of Material and Equipment: SECO Energy engineers to specify equipment and request procurement. *Milestone:* Equipment ordered; equipment received. *Go/No-Go:* Equipment Received.

Subtask 6.4 – Procurement of Construction Services: SECO Energy engineers will determine the OURC pilot program construction scope based on approved design and engineering (construction type, route, timeline, personnel) and complete procurement of construction services. *Milestone:* Construction services procured. *Go/No-Go:* Procurement completed.

Subtask 6.5 - Construction: SECO Energy crews and chosen subcontractors will complete the OURC pilot program rollout. *Milestone:* Construction completed. *End of Project Goal:* All overhead to underground conversion sites deployed by Year 4, Quarter 4.

C. DELIVERABLES

Subtask 1.1: Required Reports

Subtask 1.2: Project Management Plan and On-going Briefing Document(s)

Subtask 2.1: Documentation of competitive procurement of engineering and environmental design services; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 2.2: Documentation of preliminary engineering design and environmental review, including NEPA compliance.

Subtask 2.2: Final engineering design, copies of environmental permits received; all final post-construction documentation received.

Subtask 2.3: Documentation of procurement of materials and equipment purchased.

Subtask 2.4: Documentation of competitive procurement of construction services, including a detailed labor report; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 2.5: Final construction documents and as-builts.

Subtask 3.1: Documentation of competitive procurement of engineering and environmental design services; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 3.2: Documentation of preliminary engineering design and environmental review, including NEPA compliance; all final post-construction documentation received.

Subtask 3.2: Final engineering design and copies of environmental permits received.

Subtask 3.3: Documentation of procurement of materials and equipment purchased.

Subtask 3.4: Documentation of competitive procurement of construction services, including a detailed labor report; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 3.5: Final construction documents and as-builts.

Subtask 4.1: Documentation of competitive procurement of engineering and environmental design services; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 4.2: Documentation of preliminary engineering design and environmental review, including NEPA compliance.

Subtask 4.2: Final engineering design and copies of environmental permits received; all final post-construction documentation received.

Subtask 4.3: Documentation of procurement of materials and equipment purchased.

Subtask 4.4: Documentation of competitive procurement of construction services, including a detailed labor report; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 4.5: Final construction documents and as-builts.

Subtask 5.1: Documentation of competitive procurement of engineering and environmental design services; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 5.2: Documentation of preliminary engineering design and environmental review, including NEPA compliance.

Subtask 5.2: Final engineering design and copies of environmental permits received; all final post-construction documentation received.

Subtask 5.3: Documentation of procurement of materials and equipment purchased.

Subtask 5.4: Documentation of competitive procurement of construction services, including a detailed labor report; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 5.5: Final construction documents and as-builts.

Subtask 6.1: Documentation of competitive procurement of engineering and environmental design services; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 6.2: Documentation of preliminary engineering design and environmental review, including NEPA compliance; all final post-construction documentation received.

Subtask 6.2: Final engineering design and copies of environmental permits received.

Subtask 6.3: Documentation of procurement of materials and equipment purchased.

Subtask 6.4: Documentation of competitive procurement of construction services, including a detailed labor report; RFI and review process report; copy of contract including Buy America criteria.

Subtask 6.5: Final construction documents and as-builts.

In addition to the deliverables listed above, the Recipient shall submit all periodic, topical, final, and other reports in accordance with the [Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist](#) and accompanying instructions.

D. BRIEFINGS/TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

The Recipient shall prepare, and present periodic briefings, technical presentations and demonstrations as requested by the Federal Project Officer, which may be held at a DOE or the Recipient's facility, other mutually agreeable location, or via webinar. Such meetings may include all or a combination of the following:

1. **Kickoff Briefing** - Not more than 30 days after submission of the Project Management Plan, the Recipient shall prepare and present a project summary briefing as part of a Project Kickoff Meeting.
2. **Pre-Continuation Briefing** - Not less than 90 days prior to the planned start of a budget period, the Recipient shall brief the DOE on the results to date, and their plans for the subsequent periods of work. The DOE will consider the information from this briefing, as well as the content of deliverables submitted to date, prior to authorizing continuing the project.
3. **Final Project Briefing** - Not less than 30 days prior to the end of the project, the Recipient shall prepare and present a Final Project Briefing on the results and accomplishments of the entire project.
4. **Other Briefings** – The Recipient shall prepare and present technical, financial, and/or administrative briefings as requested by the DOE. Additionally, the DOE may require Recipients to make technical presentations at national and/or industry conferences.

SECO Budget Supplemental

SUMTER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC
 WORK ORDER OVERHEAD CALCULATIONS
 FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2022

Charge Code	Total
1 - LABOR	4,534,071.76
2 - IND LABOR	1,923,405.50
3 - MATERIAL	33,147,316.00
4 - TRANSPORTATION	1,485,988.93
5 - STORES	3,687,676.39
6 - TAXES	559,922.48
8 - R/W	3,526,811.83
9 - OUTSIDE SERVICES	22,765,667.81
10 - GENERAL	2,739,225.46
11 - VACATION	687,292.00
12 - COMPENSATED ABSENCES	509,715.25
13 - WORK COMP	72,151.63
14 - PUBLIC LIA	91,120.39
16 - BEN/MISC	2,813,820.31
	\$ 78,544,185.74

Calculations

1 - LABOR	4,534,071.76
2 - IND LABOR	1,923,405.50
6 - TAXES	559,922.48
10 - GENERAL	5,222,553.44
G&A %	115%

Material - Scrap	510,796.69
Stores - Scrap	53,055.08
3 - MATERIAL	33,147,316.00
5 - STORES	3,687,676.39
Warehouse/Material OH%	11%

1 - LABOR	4,534,071.76
4 - TRANSPORTATION	1,485,988.93
Transportation & Equip %	33%

*calculations based on USDA Rural Utility Services bulletin guidance and audited with every loan drawdown.

SUMTER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
ANNUAL PAYROLL/FRINGE BENEFITS REPORT

	FEMA FRINGE PERCENTAGES				
SECO	Reg Hours	Normal OT Hours	OT Hours Worked in Lieu of Reg	DT Hours	Exempt - OT @ Reg Pay
8.20%	7.65%	7.65%	7.65%	7.65%	7.65%
0.08%	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%	0.08%
1.12%	1.12%	0.75%	0.75%	0.56%	1.12%
9.40%	8.85%	8.48%	8.48%	8.29%	8.85%
16.63%	16.63%		11.09%		
0.36%	0.36%		0.24%		
0.52%	0.52%		0.35%		
4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%	4.25%
17.68%	17.68%		11.79%		
1.64%	1.64%				
0.05%					
0.18%					
0.16%					
12.80%	12.80%		8.53%		
0.03%					
0.40%					
3.51%	3.51%		2.34%		
5.49%	5.49%		3.66%		
63.70%	62.88%	4.25%	42.24%	4.25%	4.25%
73.10%	71.73%	12.73%	50.72%	12.54%	13.10%

*submitted and reviewed at both the state (Florida Dept. of Emergency Mangement) and federal level (FEMA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Community Benefits Plan, developed by Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a SECO Energy, is based on the Justice40 Policy Lab course at Stanford University in collaboration with Roanoke Electric Cooperative and Clean Energy Works. SECO Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving 231,000 account holders (also known as “member-owners”), of which 36% are in areas that are federally recognized as disadvantaged communities. Through this proposal, SECO Energy seeks to fund a \$70.5 million investment plan to improve power affordability, lower costs of wholesale power, increase grid resilience, reduce energy disparity and increase energy democracy. SECO Energy has developed a comprehensive Community Benefits Plan that outlines the current conditions and sets SMART goals and implementation strategies to advance cooperative performance across the four pillars of community benefit stipulated in federal guidance: **community and labor engagement; investments in our local workforce; diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility; and the Justice40 Initiative.**

Introduction

Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. d/b/a SECO Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative in which the account holder at every service location has an ownership stake in the cooperative's equity and a right to vote in elections for member representatives to the governing Board of Trustees. The founding principles of cooperatives include:

- Open and Voluntary Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

SECO Energy has applied those principles to develop an approximately \$70.5 million investment plan to improve affordability and service reliability for our member-owners, lower power costs from our wholesale power provider, increase grid resilience and accelerate decarbonization. Our Project leverages past and future system improvement investments. When fully implemented at the end of the grant period, SECO Energy will have completed grid upgrades that:

- reduce energy line loss to lower wholesale power costs and create downward pressure on rates for all members;
- support load growth in some of Florida's fastest growing counties;
- support the economic and workforce development initiatives in areas typically lacking in resources and investment opportunities, including several Justice40 tracts;
- reduce line loss, increase voltage, and improve backfeed capabilities for a more robust grid system-wide;
- improve infrastructure stability and resilience in the face of increasingly volatile, climate-change driven weather impacts; and,
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by building a more balanced, efficient and resilient grid that improves capacity and reliability.

There are 49 Justice40 census tracts within SECO Energy's territory and more than 36% of the members of SECO Energy reside in these areas identified by the Federal Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool as disadvantaged.

Community and Labor Engagement

The proposed project is a product of a comprehensive system-wide audit that identified the utility improvements necessary to strengthen the resilience of the grid and support capacity. In addition to engagement with members of SECO Energy leadership and the Board of Trustees, SECO Energy engaged with its service area partner counties to solicit feedback and incorporate strategies and recommendations made in the county local mitigation strategy plans. Member-

Community Benefits Plan

owners of SECO Energy are the primary stakeholders in its investment plans that improve affordability, increase energy resilience, and accelerate decarbonization. SECO Energy communicates with its 231,000 member-owners through multiple methods, including monthly newsletters, regularly updated website blogs and news releases, System Improvement and Outage Maps and maintaining a robust social networking presence on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram to facilitate two-way engagement.

Of note, SECO Energy has historically supported community benefit programs through grants made from a funding stream raised from the member-supported bill round-up program previously called the Pennies from Heaven Program, which has now been rolled into the recently founded 501(c)(3) SECO Energy Foundation. The Foundation supports several types of charitable programs including Veterans' Initiatives, Health and Human Services and Public Safety Projects that benefit vulnerable populations; Environmental Projects and Energy Efficiency Projects that address the chronic burden of high energy costs due to low building energy performance; and supporting educational STEM projects and a scholarship program. For almost 20 years SECO Energy holds an annual United Way Employee Giving Campaign, with pledges totaling \$38,843 for 2023 and \$1,083,287 since campaign inception. This mechanism for expressing Concern for Community is based on a charitable, nonprofit model that is easy to sustain but not easy to scale to meet the actual level of need. That experience is part of the motivation for SECO Energy to integrate into its business model inclusive investments in system-wide upgrades that produce community benefits.

The engagements with the most influence on investment priorities, policies and practices taken by SECO Energy's Board include the triannual election of Board representatives (referred to as Trustees). Open Board meetings, live engagement through previously solicited questions via email, live Facebook and Twitter monitoring during the Annual Business Meeting, and individual Trustee engagements, which include individual District Meetings and responding to direct member inquiries made via email addresses posted to our website. In addition to the website's Outage Map and Reporting tool and the System Improvement Map, the management team implements quarterly third-party customer satisfaction surveys and assesses the causes of calls to the call center and visits to customer service sites. Indicators from these vital feedback loops guide management decisions and enforce accountability to the Board for performance goals set by the Board in SECO Energy's most recent strategy map and execution system.

SMART GOAL: Develop communications tools specifically targeting Justice40 tract members for bill payment assistance and energy efficiency programs and tools. Develop tools by Year 1, Quarter 1.

Workforce participants in the SECO Energy service area who have or seek career opportunities in the energy field are also primary stakeholders in the development of plans for this unprecedented level of investment in grid resiliency upgrades in the service area. One-third of the current employees of SECO Energy are members of a union, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW Local 108). SECO Energy has working partnerships with several educational institutions in proximity to the service area to promote STEM education and careers in the energy sector, including support for high school accelerated credit opportunities through Marion County's Career and Technical Education Power and Energy Academy, postsecondary workforce development programs through College of Central Florida and Lake-Sumter State College and Florida's only state-approved apprenticeship program through Northwest Lineman College.

The U.S. Department of Education recognizes two educational institutions within 50 miles of SECO Energy's service area as Minority Serving Institutions¹: Seminole State College of Florida in

¹ Minority-Serving Institutions, 2022.

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Sanford, FL, and Valencia College in Orlando, FL. Both institutions are listed as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) and are potential avenues of engagement for SECO Energy to expand its current educational and workforce development program. SECO Energy's current educational and workforce development program engages in robust partnerships with:

Marion County Public Schools' Power Generation Academy at Dunnellon High School provides students with experiences and a solid foundation in the power generation and energy industry. Coursework includes safety, power technologies, hand and power tools, rigging, industrial maintenance, welding, and communication and employability skills. Certifications: NCCER Electrical Levels 1 and 2. College Credits: up to 15 credits towards Engineering Technology, A.S. at College of Central Florida and up to 18 credits towards an Engineering Technology Certificate, Electrical Distribution Technology Certificate, Electrical Utility Line Worker certificate & Engineering Technology Substation Relay A.S. at Lake-Sumter State College.

Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC), with campuses in Sumterville, Leesburg and Clermont, FL, offers the state's only Engineering Technology Substation and Relay Technology Specialization program. The specialized coursework covers the theory of three-phase power, protective relaying, power transformations, high voltage breakers, electrical utility systems and documentation. The program is designed to place students into the role of Substation and Protective Relay Technician in electric utilities or co-generation utilities.

Northwest Lineman College, located in Edgewater, FL, in partnership with SECO Energy, offers the only active, state-approved apprenticeship program for electrical line workers. Effective February 27, 2022, SECO Energy's apprenticeship training program with its partner Northwest Lineman College has been approved by the Veterans Benefits Administration Education Service of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Educational assistance through the Veterans Administration is now available to veterans or other eligible applicants who are enrolled in SECO Energy's apprenticeship training program.

While the apprenticeship program serves as a reliable resource for SECO Energy's employment needs, it continues to actively recruit through CareerSource Central Florida-Lake and Sumter Counties, the Society of Hispanic Engineers, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and FloridaDiversity.com, an online employment platform that specializes in community and diversity outreach.

SECO Energy has engaged the commitment of resources from several community-based organizations, local educational and government partners, and its wholesale power provider. SECO Energy's proposed project and application has also garnered the support of several of our federal representatives and members of Congress, local chambers of commerce, workforce development organizations and numerous community leaders and organizations, many of whom represent our disadvantaged communities and would benefit from the community investments SECO Energy's project represents. Letters of community partnership and letters of commitment from these partners and organizations accompany this full application.

SMART GOAL: Develop a qualified and diverse workforce to future proof against predicted industry shortages by increasing educational engagement and enrollment, particularly in our Justice40 communities; explore the expansion of educational partnerships with minority serving institutions; promote and utilize scholarship and funding assistance programs and prioritize employment opportunities locally, again with the intent to increase engagement in our Justice40 communities. Explore additional educational partnerships by Year 1, Quarter 4; workforce development will be on-going throughout the entire period of performance and beyond.

Investing in America's Workforce Background

It is the policy of SECO Energy not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, genetics or individuals with disabilities and protected veterans.

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In order to recruit and retain skilled employees for all the functions of our organization, SECO Energy periodically undertakes compensation reviews to ensure our workforce is not only receiving compensation that is above average in our service area but that it is competitive with pay and benefits offered by utilities in surrounding areas.

SECO Energy has a good relationship with the union that collectively bargains the terms of employment for 33% of the employees of the cooperatively owned utility. The terms of that contract include indicators of high-quality jobs as described in the next section.

Quality Jobs

For any new jobs created at SECO Energy, the strategy for filling those positions begins with a compelling position description with compensation and benefits that include:

- Above prevailing wages;
- Employer-sponsored health insurance and pension/retirement coverage options;
- Work-family benefits, such as paid family and medical leave, paid sick leave, other paid time off, and mental health supports;
- Employer investments in training, such as safety and health management programs that include hazard prevention and control, safety and health training, and anti-harassment training;
- Caregiving supports like flexible schedules, telework, childcare facilitation, and back-up childcare;
- Predictable scheduling

As discussed in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility section, SECO Energy aims to hire locally within its service area for all positions. Among the current members of the workforce, 48.7% of SECO Energy's workforce lives in economically-disadvantaged areas identified by the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool².

Workforce Development

a. Workforce training, education, and development

As described above in the community and labor engagement section, SECO Energy partners with several community colleges and one of the local school districts to promote STEM education and support pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs that strengthen the pool of appropriately qualified and credentialed members of the workforce in the SECO Energy service area. In addition, SECO Energy partners with IBEW Local 108, the union representing electricians, facilities technicians, fleet technicians, member services agents and line workers, to support the training, education, and development of licensed professionals that can join our workforce.

b. Continuing advancement and skill acquisition

SECO Energy provides all employees with access to paid time to participate in skills training and a tuition benefit program to earn credentials and degrees relevant to their career pathway. SECO Energy supports career advancement with personalized learning offered free through the LinkedIn Learning online platform and required supervisor/manager training. Another training opportunity includes participation in the annual PowerXchange meeting hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which certifies continuing education units that can be recognized for fulfillment of some professional credentials. It also includes training offered by the union, partner community colleges, and online training programs for certain certificates relevant to electric utility system upgrades. Employee advancements are further championed with required routine training for employees in supervisory roles to develop and hone skills needed for the new roles. SECO Energy also offers tuition reimbursement for recent college graduates.

² [CEJST Tool](#)

Community Benefits Plan

Worker Rights

Worker Organizing:

SECO Energy maintains a workplace environment that respects the rights of workers to have a free and fair chance to join a union.

Creating a safe work environmental and a culture of safety

SECO Energy considers the safety of its employees one of its most important Core Values. SECO Energy has an employee-led health and safety plan that contributes to developing a safety culture, and SECO Energy has an anti-harassment policy with associated training. Safety training is a fundamental part of on-boarding each new employee, and safety training requirements are included in all contracts for services at sites SECO Energy either owns or serves.

Retention

SECO Energy conducts annual employee satisfaction surveys to track whether workplace conditions are conducive to retaining a skilled workforce. SECO Energy also has a formal grievance process to ensure that workplace concerns can surface without retaliation. SECO Energy tracks overall retention of employees, including voluntary and involuntary turnover rates. Like virtually all electric utilities, retirement is a significant factor in voluntary departures, which underscores the importance of SECO Energy’s investment in workforce development initiatives that also help improve the diversity of workforce participants consistent with the non-discrimination policy of the utility.

Strategies, Milestones, and Timelines

Table 1. Goals, Outcomes, and Strategies for Investing in America’s Workforce.

Goal	Outcome	Implementation Strategy
Job Creation: Increase the number of crews (lineman and technicians) to meet the grant timeline.	100% of the additional crew hires will be from the local service territories. The lineman apprenticeship program is a 4-year program. Given current market conditions, employment post-apprenticeship is nearly 100%.	Continue existing partnerships with nearby high schools, community colleges, Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and other training centers to increase participants in the state’s only registered apprenticeship program that will train local individuals with the skills needed to fill future project roles.
Job Creation: Increase engagement of local external contractors to supplement existing crews to meet the grant timeline.	100% of the external contractors hired to supplement crews are from the local service territory and typically sign long-term (3-5 year) contracts.	Maintain strong service partnerships with existing local contractors and solicit and engage with additional qualified, competitively procured service contractors, particularly those representing minority-, women-, veteran- or disadvantaged group-owned, to meet high demand growth.
Job Retention: Retain at least 60% of high-performing, full-time, skilled workforce participants in the grid resiliency investment program each year.	High-performing, full-time, skilled workforce participants are minimizing risk to the utility related to work quality and safety.	Retain 70% of high performing participants from the grid resiliency investment program for future projects.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Background

Consistent with the NRECA industry association's member resolution on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), SECO Energy recognizes the value and business advantages of understanding and incorporating (DEI) and accessibility into its business practices to achieve greater member-owner loyalty and increased member-owner satisfaction. SECO Energy supported the NRECA resolution to provide assistance to members seeking to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in their businesses. SECO Energy's own CEO, Curtis Wynn, while serving as NRECA's board president led NRECA's efforts to establish the above-mentioned resolution and later worked with the board to establish a Diversity Champion Award. Subsequent to his NRECA board leadership tenure, the board named the Diversity Champion Award in his name. Wynn was recently appointed to the USDA's newly established Equity Commission Subcommittee on Rural Community Economic Development, which was created to identify the kinds of systemic, structural and cultural changes essential to advancing equity in rural community economic development across the nation.

SMART Goal: SECO Energy is currently undertaking a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Assessment tailored for electric cooperatives by The Gatling Agency. That assessment will inform a DEI Action Plan, similar to the one publicly released for transparency by [Rappahannock Electric Cooperative](#). SECO Energy will release its own assessment upon completion and review and approval by the Board of Trustees and executive leadership by Year 5, Quarter 4.

In the Community & Labor Engagement section, SECO Energy identified two-way engagement with the elected Board Trustees as one of the most influential forms of engagement affecting the investment priorities, policies, and practices of the electric cooperative. Member participation in the election of Trustees to the Board has historically been low. SECO Energy has taken proactive steps to remove barriers to participation and expand ways members could cast votes for the Annual Meeting. Additionally, SECO Energy transitioned to an online platform for Annual Meeting business, including bylaws revisions, meeting minutes and Articles amendments, which tripled with electronic access. In 2018, SECO Energy had 3,138 votes cast while the 2023 Annual Meeting had record participation with 14,375 votes cast, a 358% increase, due to the new online Annual Meeting format.

Vision

SECO Energy's current Vision is to lead the industry in member satisfaction and engagement and to be the preferred employer in the region, while maintaining the core values of safety, member commitment, honest and integrity, a strong work ethic, inclusive culture, accountability, and teamwork. SECO Energy recognizes that this vision is ever-evolving and will implement the results from its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Assessment and related Action Plan. Additionally, SECO Energy is exploring other methods of increasing community engagement and diversity, including the potential formation of an ad-hoc member advisory committee to review SECO Energy's Strategy Map and related action plans, advise on implementation of any action items, and provide community feedback to the Board and executive leadership.

SMART Goal: Explore the formation of an ad-hoc member advisory committee to increase community engagement and diversify member representation by Year 5, Quarter 4.

Assessment

Assessing DEI culture and training in the organization

SECO Energy has a philosophy of embedding and integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion across the organization, assigning related responsibilities to every manager that are then included in annual job performance evaluations. SECO Energy is in the process of developing a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan that establishes goals and milestones with metrics of performance that will be tracked over time. Employee feedback will be incorporated into the review and annual reporting on implementation of the Action Plan to the Board at a regular Board meeting.

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SECO Energy tracks employment, salary, retention, and promotion data. It is disaggregated by race, gender, and other demographic variables, including disability and veteran status.

SECO Energy is using Dennison Consulting Group in the implementation of a customized workplace culture survey and assessment tool to identify gaps and work with a facilitator on a follow-up plan. Additionally, SECO Energy utilizes its subscription to LinkedIn Learning which offers several certificate programs for co-op staff and Board directors on concepts integral to building diversity, equity, and inclusion into workplace culture, and SECO Energy supports staff time to undertake these certificate programs.

Assessing hiring with persons from underrepresented groups

SECO Energy employs 424 full-time employees, including 77 in management/supervision positions. Among all employees, 25.4% are from underrepresented groups at the organization, including people who speak Spanish as a first language. Among managers/supervisors, 19.4% are from underrepresented groups.

Recruitment

When SECO Energy seeks applicants for employment positions, the primary method of recruitment is through the online platform called JobVite. In addition to the corporate non-discrimination policy stated in the *Investing in America's Workforce* section, SECO Energy has the following corporate policies that are intended to mitigate bias in all employment related decisions:

- Equal Employment Opportunity policy
- Right to Work policy consistent with the Department of Justice advisory for immigrants with documentation
- an affirmative action policy for persons with disabilities and veterans
- Non-discrimination policy consistent with requirements of the USDA-Rural Utilities Service

For 2022, the percentage of job applicants from underrepresented groups was 9.5%.

For 2022, the percentage of hires from underrepresented groups is 32%.

Retention and Promotion

SECO Energy has robust pay equity processes that are grounded in statistical analysis with annual reviews. There are formal remediation protocols for ensuring pay equity. SECO Energy is developing strategies to retain workers from underrepresented groups as part of its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Plan. As discussed in the Retention section of *Investing in America's Workforce* above, SECO Energy tracks data on voluntary and involuntary separations with disaggregation of data for race and gender in order to examine trends.

SECO Energy promotes and fosters initiatives through its use of FloridaDiversity.com as a recruitment tool, and its partnerships with the Society of Hispanic Engineers, the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) and the NRECA which has a Women in Power network for women who work at electric cooperatives, and SECO Energy encourages women employees to join that industry-wide network.

SECO Energy has an affirmative action policy for persons with disabilities, and it has a process for requesting and providing reasonable accommodations.

Contracting with minority-, women-, veteran-owned businesses and other disadvantaged businesses

When SECO Energy seeks bidders for contractors to supply products or services, the primary method of solicitation is through the online platform called VendorLink. SECO Energy has a

Community Benefits Plan

supplier diversity program. SECO Energy, through VendorLink, uses federal, state, and local directories of certified minority-, women-, veteran-owned or other disadvantaged businesses.

SECO Energy has relationships with Ocala Metro Chamber & Economic Partnership, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce and Sumter County Economic Development Council (see LOC.pdf) and will coordinate with those economic partners, where available, to identify those applicable, qualified contractors that represent minority-, women-, Veteran-owned and other disadvantaged businesses.

Justice40 Initiative Background

Across the service area of SECO Energy, 36% of total residential members are in census tracts identified through the Climate & Economic Justice Screening Tool³ as disadvantaged. Figure 1 illustrates the SECO Energy Justice40 tracts within each county.

Across these 49 census tracts, the applicable criteria for disadvantage set by the Council for Environmental Quality include climate change, health burden, energy burden, housing, transportation, legacy pollution, and low-income. Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities

caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss. The CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index (CDC/ATSDR SVI) uses 16 U.S. Census variables to help local officials identify communities that may need support before, during, or after disasters. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) as a way to measure a community's vulnerability to emergencies, such as a pandemic. The index considers 15 unique factors within a community and determines a social vulnerability score for that community ranging from 0 to 1. Communities with scores closer to 0 are less vulnerable to emergency situations, while communities with scores closer to 1 are more vulnerable. Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, to develop, implement, and enforce environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The CDC/ATSDR Environmental Justice Index (EJI) measures the cumulative impacts of environmental burden based on social factors like poverty, race, and ethnicity to identify those areas most at risk. The proposed project includes project components that directly benefit 18 specific Justice40 census tracts within SECO Energy's service area, including the planned rollout of the Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program. Table 2 below illustrates these Justice40 tracts by county and identifies the average SVI and EJI scores county-wide and Table 3 illustrates Key Demographic Data for the counties included in this project.

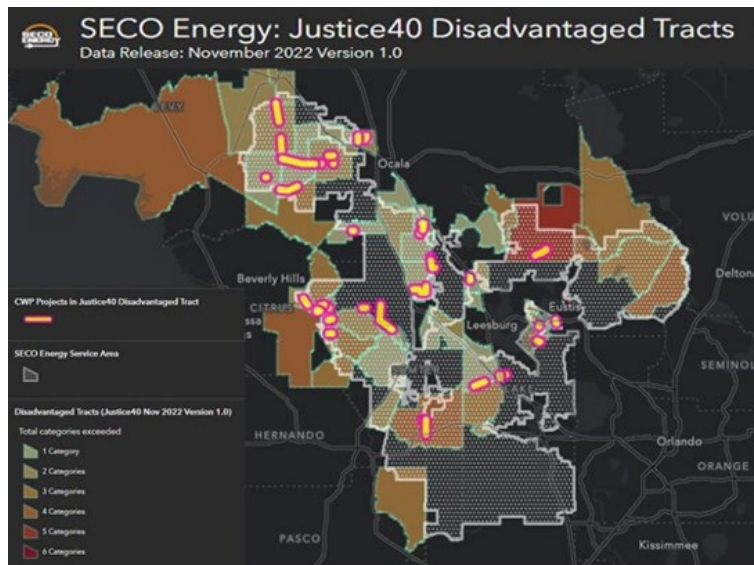


Figure 1. Service area map with federally recognized disadvantaged communities.

³ CEJST Tool

Community Benefits Plan

Table 2. List of Project-Specific Justice 40 census tracts – SVI and EJI Scores

SECO Energy Service Territory by County	Justice40 Census Tracts	Disadvantaged Members % (Avg.)	Justice40 Burden/s	SVI Score ⁴ (0–low; 1–high) (Range)	SVI Level	EJI Ranking ⁵ (Avg.)	EJI Risk Level
Citrus	12017451000 12017451102 12017450902 12017450800 12017450702	4,558 of 9,006 (51%)	Climate Change, Energy and Health	.48 to .71	Medium to High	.65	Moderate
Lake	12069030806 12069031101 12069030803 12069030104 12069030106	6,884 of 12,018 (57%)	Climate Change, Health, Legacy Pollution, Workforce Development	.34 to .79	Low to High	.74	High
Levy	12083002701 12075970500 12075970600	1,091 of 2,140 (51%)	Climate Change, Health, Transportation, Legacy Pollution	.50 to .84	Medium to High	.81	Very High
Marion	12083002602 12083000604 12083002503	2,049 of 3,606 (57%)	Climate Change, Health, Legacy Pollution, Transportation, Workforce Development	.50 to .77	Medium to High	.78	High
Sumter	12119910100 12119910700	7,527 of 9,661 (76%)	Housing Climate Change, Health, Transportation	.6 to .88	Medium to High	.83	Very High

Table 3. Member Demographics by County

Member County	Member Demographics ⁶	
Citrus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 86.7% White • 3.3% Black/African American • 6.7% Hispanic • 4.2% Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.6% under age 5 • 15% under 18 • 30.2% 18-64 • 51.2% 65 and over
Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 66.6% White • 12.2% Black/African American • 6.7% Hispanic • 5.4% Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.7% under age 5 • 19.2% under 18 • 49.6% 18-64 • 26.5% 65 and over
Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 78.4% White • 9.5% Black/African American • 9.5% Hispanic • 3.9% Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.9% under age 5 • 19.6% under 18 • 49.8% 18-64 • 25.3% 65 and over
Marion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68% White • 13.7% Black/African American • 15.5% Hispanic • 2.8% Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.8% under age 5 • 18.8% under 18 • 47.7% 18-64 • 28.7% 65 and over
Sumter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84% White • 7% Black/African American • 6.2% Hispanic • 2.8% Other 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.7% under age 5 • 7% under 18 • 33.1% 18-64 • 58.2% 65 and over

⁴ [CDC/ATSDR SVI](#)

⁵ [EJI Explorer](#)

⁶ [U.S. Census Bureau Data](#)

Implementation Strategy

Background

Energy justice includes a recognition of historical conditions of inequity that are persisting in the present, procedural equity and distributive equity. SECO Energy recognizes that more than 1/3 of its member-owners reside in census tracts that meet one or more of the federal criteria for disadvantaged communities. SECO Energy has identified the Justice40 tracts located across its seven-county service territory, as well as identified the account numbers located in these tracts and have applied a tabbed layering system to the interactive Bill Payment Assistance Map to identify local social service agencies with designated funding from the SECO Energy Foundation. SECO Energy has also implemented a Justice40 tract overlay on its System Improvement Map to identify infrastructure improvements within Justice40 tracts and developed a communications campaign to notify, on a priority basis, members who reside within a Justice40 tract of energy-efficiency tools and bill payment assistance resources. However, these strategies do not offer any financial solution for the upfront cost of the upgrades that have historically been a barrier to participation for all but those able and willing to pay with cash or credit. In recognition of these signs of distress for disadvantaged members across all census tracts in the service area, and with concentration in those meeting federal criteria for disadvantage, SECO Energy is seeking this federal grant to implement the backbone infrastructure necessary to support residential improvement programs, like overhead to underground residential conversions, and accelerate these programs. The first such program will be the Overhead to Underground Residential Conversion (OURC) Member Pilot Program as part of this grant application. In conjunction with SECO Energy's planned utility hardening and resiliency investments, SECO Energy plans to deploy its initial residential connection upgrades to eligible members residing throughout seven Justice40 tracts in its service territory.

Working with its community partners, like United Way, SECO Energy will identify potential candidates for converting existing overhead residential connections to underground residential connections. This conversion improves resilience, hardens residential connections against inclement weather, and reduces outages and associated recovery costs. Average costs for this type of program would normally cost a member upwards of \$4,500, which is not financially feasible in Justice40 communities, but with the assistance of the federal grants awarded under the GRIP funds, SECO Energy will be able to provide this service at no or low-cost to eligible members in the most disadvantaged and underserved communities. One such community is the community of Royal, Sumter County, FL, located within a Justice40 tract. Royal is one of Florida's oldest African American communities, founded by former slaves who received 40 and 80 acre parcels under General Sherman's Special Field Order #15 (the 40 acres and a mule rule). The community of Royal is a nationally unique example of an increasingly rare aspect of African American history and rural, agricultural heritage. SECO Energy has had engagement with the community and is in regular contact with community leadership through discussion of several of the community's improvement projects including coordinating assistance and resource matching for community beautification projects and community needs.

SECO Energy's OURC pilot program demonstrates the primary implementation strategy of inclusive utility investments, which have a track record in the field of effectively reaching households on inclusive terms, even in areas recognized for persistent poverty.

Milestones and timelines

Milestones for maximizing benefits and minimizing negative impacts: Higher project benefits result from integrating inclusive utility investment in grid resiliency projects with other programs, policies, and value streams. Examples of each include:

- *Integration with delivery of federally funded energy efficiency upgrades.* SECO Energy has included Community Action Agencies that operate the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Weatherization Assistance Program locally as key stakeholders.

Community Benefits Plan

- *Reducing post weather- or disaster-related recovery costs.* Investing in grid hardening and resiliency upgrades decreases the time and costs associated with recovery, particularly in areas more vulnerable to climate change. Specifically, the OURC pilot program will decrease the vulnerability of overhead residential electric connections to weather-related loss, mitigate roof damage typically associated with wind damage incurred during hurricanes or other weather events, and decreases the need for FEMA or other disaster-related recovery costs.

For future work: Once the work under this grant has been completed, SECO Energy will complete an annual system-wide audit to verify that the hardening and system improvements are performing as anticipated and have decreased outages and recovery time, thereby increasing resiliency, which will be shared with the Board and membership for transparency. SECO Energy will specifically confer with key local stakeholders, community partners and leaders, educational partners, and pilot program participants to update the assessment of project impacts on an annual basis; taking into account feedback solicited from participants, non-participants, and workforce development and community partners, begin the next steps to explore the feasibility and scalability of its OURC pilot program in additional Justice40 communities. When using surveys, SECO Energy will seek to oversample in areas identified as disadvantaged communities and households for which English is not the primary language to improve the quantity and quality of input received from Justice40 communities.

SMART GOAL: SECO Energy executive leadership directly engaged the Justice40 Policy Lab at Stanford University to assist with the development of this Community Benefits Plan, and the resulting document went well beyond the limitations set under this grant application. SECO Energy will, upon review and approval by the Board of Trustees and executive leadership, publish its full Community Benefits Plan on its website to inform members and community partners of SECO Energy's commitment to the communities it serves and to solicit further input and feedback on future community benefits planning.

TOTAL PROJECT INVESTMENT

Approximately \$70.5 million, of which **approximately \$31 million (44%) will be invested in Justice40 communities** throughout SECO Energy's service territory.

TOTAL POPULATION IMPACTED

Of SECO Energy's approximately 486,500 member population, **this project will impact 138,314 members**. Of those impacted members, **64,597 (47%) are located within Justice40 tracts**, representing 22 of the 49 Justice 40 tracts within SECO Energy's service territory.

Overall, the \$70.5 million investment proposed under this grant application is small compared to the absorptive capacity in the SECO Energy service area and will allow SECO Energy to deploy grid resiliency and socioeconomic investments at an unprecedented scale to areas historically disadvantaged and underserved, while keeping these costs from impacting members.