

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
April 30, 2026**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds will be provided in accordance with Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Project Title:

HMGP-4834-(313) - Lee County Electric Cooperative Inc., Carnestown & Marco Island, Infrastructure Retrofit

Location of Proposed Work:

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

The project area is located within multiple areas of Collier County. These areas include the entirety of Marco Island Pine Island, Goodland, Carnestown, Everglades City, Plantation Island, Copeland, and various residential and commercial customers along Tamiami Trail and US-29.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The project proposes to provide protection by replacing and improving the existing secondary connectors and a air insulated switchgears across Marco Island and Carnestown with submersible-rated connectors and solid-dielectric, submersible-rated switchgears. Currently the existing underground power supply system is susceptible to corrosion and failure during storm conditions. Stormwater intrusion at the switchgear, secondary terminals connecting pad mounted transformers and secondary pedestals has resulted in electrical shorts, arcing, and extended outages for customers. The proposed project shall improve the resilience of the underground power supply system by enabling it to operate reliably under submerged conditions. Upon completion, the proposed project shall strengthen the existing distribution lines which would lower repair costs after storms, reduce outage durations for the community, improve voltage stability, and help restore power quicker for customers.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) elevating vulnerable electrical distribution equipment, including pad-mounted transformers and switchgear, above projected flood elevations. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1) vulnerable electrical distribution components would remain exposed to flooding, resulting in continued risk of corrosion, equipment failure, and prolonged power outages during future storm events. This alternative would not address the documented flood-related vulnerabilities of the system and would fail to meet the project's hazard mitigation objectives or the community's need for reliable electric service; and Alternative 2) Elevating electrical distribution equipment throughout the project area would require extensive reconstruction within established residential neighborhoods, resulting in substantial site constraints, access limitations, and potential community disruption. In addition, this alternative would be significantly more costly and complex to implement across a geographically dispersed system, making it impracticable compared to the proposed use of submersible-rated equipment that provides equivalent risk reduction with fewer impacts, and therefore not practicable.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2489 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice **May 18, 2026**. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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State Environmental Specialist Team
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