

Review of Electric Utility Hurricane Preparedness and Restoration Actions

Docket No : 20170215-EU

Name : Lauren Johnson

Electric Utility Provider : EI801 - Duke Energy

Zip Code : 32708

Category : Power restoration time

Comments : Hurricane Irma showed again how undependable the power grid is when a big storm hits. While my block was OK, my neighbors for a half mile radius had no power for at least a week, some for two weeks. This was very hard for them, especially the many elderly residents who cannot manage with A/C or "camp out" for long.

I've heard about families and businesses that were able to use solar and batteries to generate power after the storm. To me this seems like the smart way forward. I think the utilities need to invest in more solar and batteries near our neighborhoods. Or make it easier for customers to buy their own equipment and be able to use it when the grid goes down. Those kinds of technology should be used wherever they can to prepare for hurricanes. We need to make sure Duke is building the grid with modern technology and clean energy to make it more dependable, not just rebuilding the same old power lines that keep going down when we need them most.