



FECA

Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc.

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April 16, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Carlotta S. Stauffer
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

RE: Docket No. 20170215-EU – Review of electric utility hurricane preparedness
and restoration actions

Dear Ms. Stauffer:

Attached is Florida Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.'s slide
presentation for filing in the above-referenced docket.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Bjorklund
Executive V.P. and General Manager

Attachment

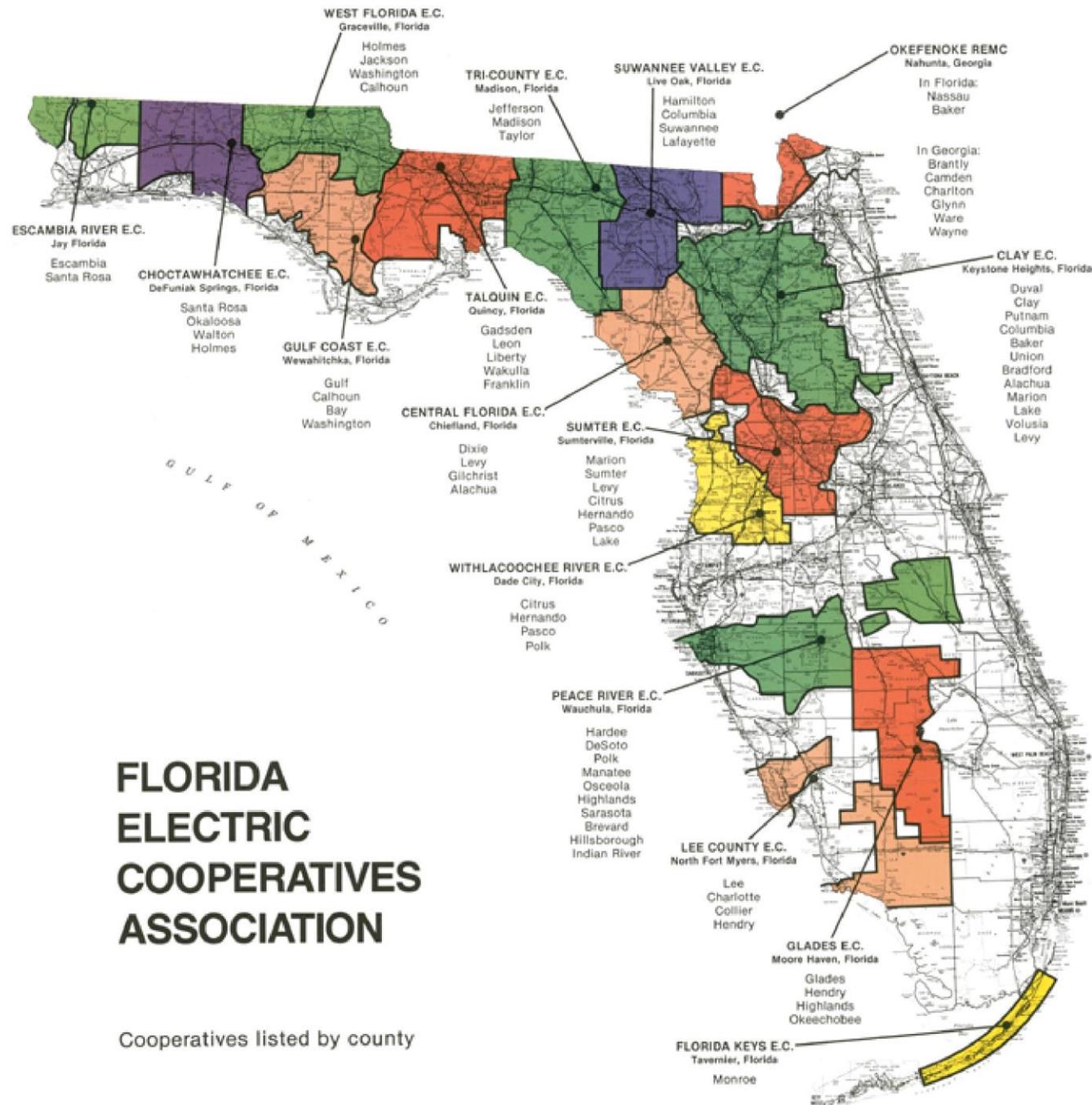


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**Florida Electric Cooperatives
Association, Inc.**

Florida's Electric Co-ops

- There are 17 electric co-ops that are members of the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association (FECA).
 - 15 of the 16 distribution electric cooperatives in FL.
 - And, 2 Generation & Transmission electric cooperatives.
- Collectively, electric co-ops in Florida serve over 1 million meters, which is approximately 11% of Florida's population, and span over 60% of Florida's land mass.
- Our members are located throughout Florida from the Panhandle, down to the upper Keys.



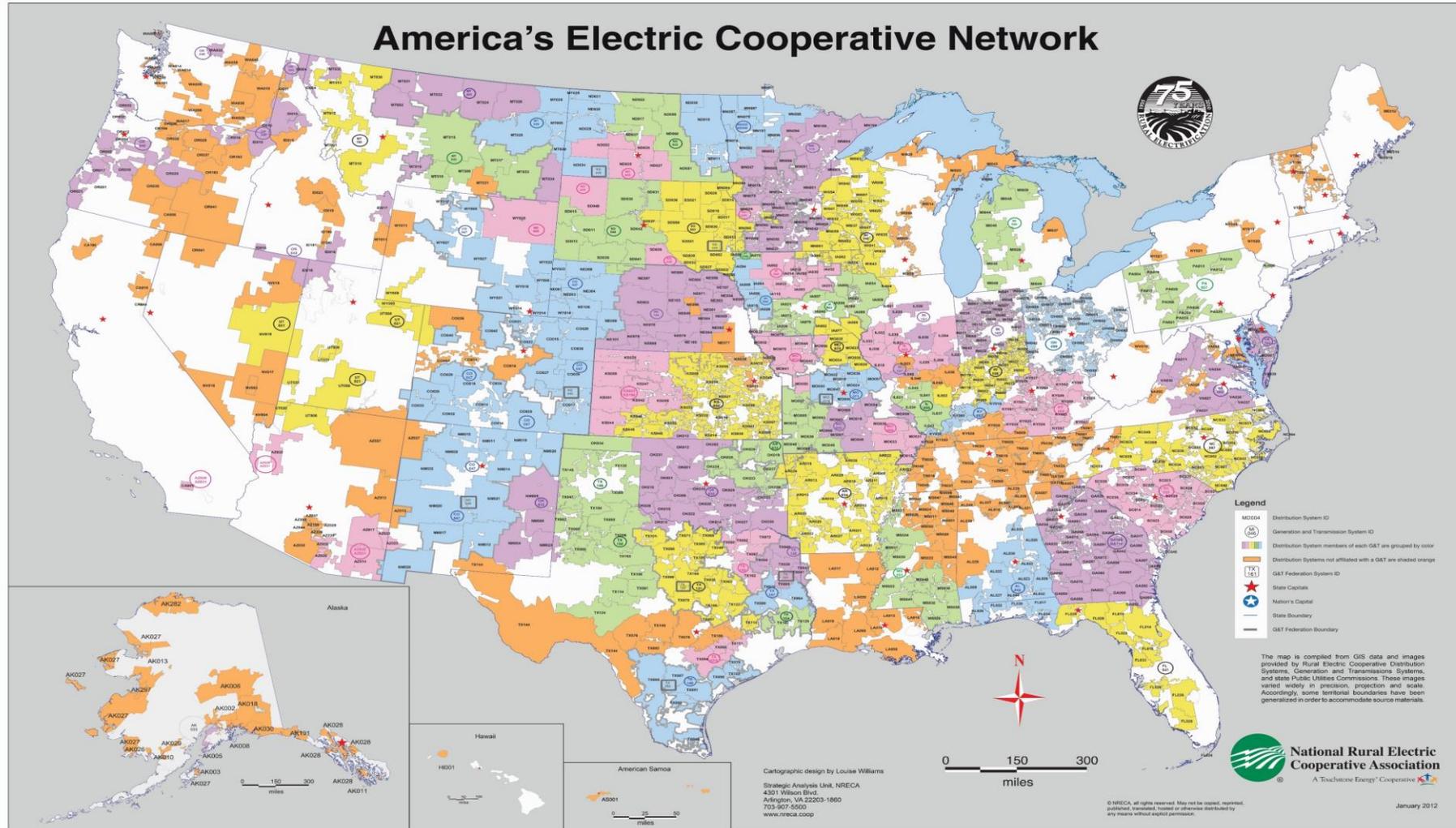
FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ASSOCIATION

Cooperatives listed by county

FECA's Storm Preparedness & Assistance

- FECA's 15 distribution cooperatives are located throughout Florida from the Panhandle, down to the Keys. FECA serves as the centralized point of contact for its members when a hurricane is threatening Florida.
- FECA maintains a mutual aid plan that is updated annually and provided to our members.
- After we have some idea of the storm's track and after contact with the co-ops that may be affected, FECA immediately reaches out to co-op storm coordinators in other states. There are 834 distribution co-ops throughout the country (map in power point) which gives us a tremendous amount of mutual aid support to draw from. In addition, if needed we also have mutual aid arrangements with the municipal electric utilities in Florida and from other states to draw from.
- FECA provides the State EOC with contact information for all of its employees. FECA's storm book includes all EOC staff emails and telephone numbers. If necessary and requested, FECA will have a person on hand at the State EOC during an event. However, based on our experience in the past, staffing the EOC is not as beneficial to FECA's members as being available to EOC staff by phone or e-mail.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



FECA's Member Co-ops: Pre-storm Season Activities

- Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343 each distribution co-op files an annual report to the Commission on their Standards of Construction. The information submitted includes:
 - Compliance with the National Electrical Safety Code.
 - Pole Inspections
 - Vegetation Management
- Annually, each member-cooperative individually review and updates their storm plans, perform mock drills and update their contractor and vendor lists.
- Each cooperative's mutual aid plan is reviewed and updated by FECA annually.
- FECA meets with co-op storm coordinators in other states to determine if updates to the plan are needed.
- Each year, FECA members attend FECA's hurricane preparedness workshop - the next workshop is scheduled for May 4.

Hardening Efforts

- Most of our members have hardened their design and material standards through an on-going process since the 2004 hurricane season. In addition, our members have aggressive vegetation management programs.
- Between 2006 and 2018, FECA member-cooperatives have consistently hardened facilities and put lines underground after evaluating the costs and benefits of doing so.
- Each distribution cooperative files a Standards of Construction report to the PSC annually. This report describes the activities pursued by each cooperative in various required areas in order to mitigate damage caused by extreme weather. Stronger and taller poles are being utilized and undergrounding is pursued when viable, especially in new subdivisions.
- In addition to the PSC reporting requirements, FECA's member-cooperatives who are Rural Utilities Services (RUS) borrowers are required, under the terms of their financial arrangements, to abide by the strict RUS guidelines and standards for construction and maintenance of facilities, including building to extreme wind loading standards when necessary.

Hurricane Irma: Out of State Crews

- Almost all of our co-ops were impacted by Irma which made the allocation of mutual aid crews to affected co-ops even more challenging, however, crews from 16 states (including Florida) and from as far away as Wisconsin and Minnesota were successfully deployed and utilized during restoration.
- 1,383 Mutual Aid Workers
- 1,384 Contractors
- 2,520 Incumbent Utility Workers
- 5,287 in Total Workforce

UGD v OH

- Most electric cooperatives provide for underground lines, particularly in new, high density subdivision.
- Generally, UGD facilities perform well during storm events however, just because it is buried does not mean it is safe from outages.
- Where flooding is a major factor underground facilities did not fare well.
- Tree roots can jeopardize UGD as well. For instance, during Irma root systems of uprooted trees, up-ended pad mounted transformers.

Customer and Stakeholder Communication

- Electric cooperatives have a strong local connection to their communities and have established relationships with their local governments.
- Coordination with non-EOC related efforts with local governments is an on-going process and includes discussions on maintenance of rights-of-ways, tree trimming and any other projects involving the cooperative.
- FECA's electric cooperative are in constant contact with EOC personnel before, during and after a storm event. Storm preparation and restoration are discussed with local EOCs including identifying critical infrastructures. This contact may be in person or via e-mails, telephones or texts.
- All contact numbers for key staff at the cooperative are given to local EOCs to ensure communication remains open at all times.
- Electric cooperatives communicate with their members before, during and after storm events through media releases, in-person contacts, phone calls, email, websites, interactive restoration plan maps, and social media (FB and Twitter).

Impediments to Restoration

- **Fuel:** Seminole and its nine members encountered a severe shortage of fuel (gasoline and diesel) to supply utility trucks and vehicles during the build-up and response to Hurricane Irma. This shortage was felt throughout the state. Several members had instituted emergency fuel supply contracts for contingency support during this type of natural disaster. The suppliers were unable to support these contracts due to shortages and unavailability of fuel supply.
- Seminole facilitated emergency supply for its members by purchasing directly with out-of-state suppliers. Fuel suppliers from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri were contacted. Trucks were dispatched from Missouri, Mississippi, and Alabama at various points during IRMA response. State waivers were obtained via the state of emergency order to allow immediate delivery.
- Police escorts did not aid the ability of out of state crews to get into and throughout the state.
- Need additional staging sites.
- Hotel Rooms: In two separate instances, restoration crews were asked to leave because of a football game and golf tournament, respectively.

Lessons Learned

- Bolster cooperative fuel supply chain throughout Florida:
 - Seminole has entered into emergency supply contracts with multiple vendors in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, as well as local Florida suppliers to facilitate response to any future contingencies.
 - FECA is looking for ways to aid in this effort as well.
- Searching for more opportunities to increase staging sites.
- Staging sites, strategically placed in relatively safe areas, could reduce fuel consumption and improve response.