

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
February 23, 2023**

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:

City of Jacksonville Beach-DBA Beaches Energy Services

Project Title:

HMGP-4734-043-R Beaches Energy Services Engineering, Ft. Diego Substation, Flood Risk Reduction-Infrastructure Retrofit-Generator

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of homes in the following locations:
Roscoe Blvd N, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The project shall provide protection by purchasing and installing one permanent generator at the control house to appropriately support the facilities' critical operations. The project includes installing automatic transfer switch (ATS), concrete pad, and electrical connections for a permanent generator. The project also includes replacing and elevating transformers and the control house above elevation 10.8 feet, installing circuit switches, and all necessary cables and electrical connections. Currently, the Fort Diego Substation transformers and control house, at elevation 6.8 feet, are exposed to flood risk and require manual intervention with sandbags to protect the infrastructure, also the control house is unprotected without a source of backup power. Flooding at the substation can cause loss of electrical service to the residential metered connections. The proposed project shall improve the Fort Diego Substation, decreasing the risk of electrical utility failure.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative and 2) Relocation of the substation to a new location above the flood plain, and purchase of a mobile generator. These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under Alternative 1); Recurring flooding would not be addressed. As flooding persists, portions or all of the electrical equipment at the substation could fail, resulting in the inability to provide

power to residents, utilities, and businesses in the surrounding area; and Alternative 2) The projected cost of \$42 million, which is neither funded nor approved, combined with a lead time of 3 to 5 years, makes this option unfeasible. The burden of these costs would fall on the local residents and businesses. As responsible stewards of public resources and affordable power, it would conflict with our core values and the public's interest to pursue a solution that is eight times more expensive for the same outcome. Furthermore, the mobile generator requires staff to deploy the mobile generator from the storage area and dedicate limited staff time during storm preparation activities to this effort.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impact of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 15 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested people may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Nick Johnson, Electrical Engineer
Beaches Energy Services

Phone: 904-247-6281
Email Address:
NJohnson@Beachesenergy.com

State Environmental Specialist Team
Florida Division of Emergency Management

mitigationEnvironmental@em.myflorida.com