

# FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Ralls County Electric Cooperative has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding through Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA).

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, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

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.

**Sub-Applicant:** Ralls County Electric Cooperative

**Project Title:** MO-DR-4665-HMGP-011; Ralls County Electric Cooperative Line Hardening

**Location of Proposed Work:**

Street Name	Beginning and End Points
Section 1: Huntington Road, Ralls County	GPS Start: 39.634085, -91.598819 to GPS End: 39.639609, -91.557390
Section 2: Huntington Road, Ralls County	GPS Start: 39.639656, -91.557075 to GPS End: 39.643497, -91.519433

**Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:**

The project sites are located in Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard, and crosses Zone A, areas of 1 percent annual chance of flooding. The distribution line has the potential to be impacted by future flooding events due to portions being located within the floodplain. The proposed work takes place in wetlands and non-wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory; however, using best management practices and wetland avoidance and minimization methods, the project will have little potential to impact or affect wetland values.

**Proposed Work and Purpose:**

Ralls County Electric Cooperative proposes to strengthen 4.6 miles of distribution line by rebuilding the line with shorter pole spans, taller poles and stronger electric wiring in accordance with the 2023 National Electric Safety Code and American Society of Civil Engineers requirements. Minimization methods applied to this project require construction activities and equipment staging to avoid wetlands and to use best management practices to prevent erosion

and sedimentation to the wetlands. As such, the useful life of this utility should increase, and no adverse impacts to the floodplain or wetlands should occur.

**Project Alternatives:**

**Alternative #1** (No action): The 'no action' alternative would result in recurring damages to the powerlines due to severe storms. By building back stronger, the community will sustain fewer power outages in the future.

**Alternative #2** (Installing underground power lines): Burying the electric lines is an accepted method of protecting against storms, however, the lifespan of underground electric lines is normally shorter than that of overhead lines. Additionally, it is much more expensive to bury the lines making this option less feasible.

**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 following email: [R7-MT-EHP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:R7-MT-EHP@fema.dhs.gov). Please send comments with the subject line MO-DR-4665-HMGP-011 Public Comment for Ralls County Electric Cooperative Rebuild Project.

All comments are due by no later than 15 days of the posted date of this notice.

**POSTED ON: November 15, 2023**

---

**End of Notice**