



FACT SHEET

GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office is administering a historic \$10.5 billion investment via the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program to enhance grid flexibility, improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change, and ensure American communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity when and where they need it.

IMPROVING NEW ORLEANS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Entergy New Orleans (ENO) resiliency project will enhance the local grid's resiliency against severe weather events. In addition to grid hardening and increasing resilience of energy infrastructure, this project will better position **disadvantaged communities** (DACs) to withstand impacts of weather events by increasing economic stability and mitigating climate change impacts to those in New Orleans East (NOE).

The goal of this accelerated infrastructure hardening and microgrid project is to provide an innovative, cost-effective, and resilient local grid supporting over 49,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers, 89% of which live in DACs in NOE. This project will modernize and improve the grid by completing three key tasks: hardening the transmission system, hardening distribution lines, and installing a battery system. Each task benefits NOE, which has a high proportion of DACs.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

- › Transmission hardening of approximately 97 structures and expected to avoid more than 564 million customer minutes interruptions.
- › Distribution hardening of approximately 381 structures and expected to avoid more than 45 million customer minutes interruptions.
- › Significantly improved resilience during extreme weather events, with lower expected outage frequency and duration due to electric infrastructure hardening and battery installation.
- › Deployment of a line hardening and battery backup project, which will reduce the energy bills for **disadvantaged communities** (DACs).
- › Commitment to train at least 200 students each year through a workforce development agreement established with the New Orleans Career Center, resulting in at least 1,000 students trained in clean energy related jobs throughout the life of the project. ENO will place five high school students into intern positions annually. Youthforce NOLA will pay each student a stipend of \$1,800 over the summer.
- › Collaboration with The First72+ and Delgado Community College to support formerly incarcerated individuals in completing ENO's lineworker training program and other workforce training programs.
- › Commitment to work with labor unions on hiring and procurement decisions.
- › Commitment to continue incorporating opportunities for communities' feedback and establish a Community Benefit Working Group to oversee the five-year commitment to deliver direct and measurable benefits to DACs.
- › Maximize engagement between project leads and the City of New Orleans to identify Disadvantaged Business Enterprise-certified suppliers. ENO will partner with the local Black and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce to coordinate semi-annual educational events to prepare local and minority-owned businesses for contracting opportunities created through the project.

PROJECT DETAILS

- › **Project:**
Line Hardening and Battery Microgrid in New Orleans, LA
- › **Applicant/Selectee:**
Entergy New Orleans, LLC (ENO)
- › **GRIP Program:**
Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40101(c))
- › **Federal cost share:**
\$54,828,178
- › **Recipient cost share:**
\$54,828,178
- › **Project Location:**
New Orleans, Louisiana
- › **Project type:**
System Hardening and Microgrid with Battery

HELPFUL LINKS

- › **Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program**
- › **About the Grid Deployment Office**