



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.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCESS IN WESTERN KANSAS

Dry weather and arid conditions throughout Midwest Energy's service territory results in an additional burden of elevated fire danger. Midwest Energy's Transmission Line Rebuild/Replacement for Wildfire Mitigation and Renewable Resource Access project will provide \$145 million in transmission system and substation protection upgrades in central and western Kansas. The project addresses the transmission capacity, age, and condition of facilities, as well as wildfire mitigation and improved access to renewable resources in western Kansas. Specifically, this project accelerates substation and transmission line upgrades, including rebuilding and/or replacing 150 miles of transmission lines across seven counties, updating substation protection equipment in four counties, and building one new substation to serve a growing urban load. Conductor upgrades will increase the line capacity up to a factor of 2.5 and reduce or eliminate congestion.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

- › Commitment to employ at least 50% unionized labor for linework tasks by developing a request for proposal (RFP) process that gives preference to employers of unionized lineworkers. All Midwest Energy employees have the right to join the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 304.
- › Development and implementation of a supply chain equity policy that outlines goals, objectives, guidelines for how diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility principles will be incorporated into the process.
- › Midwest Energy and community groups have worked in tandem to build robust relationships with mutual trust to accomplish the goals of this project. Members routinely work with and have support from: IBEW Local 304; City of Hays, Kansas, ENGIE North America, Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University (FHSU), Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB), High Plains Mental Health, and Rush County Commission.
- › Incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives into workforce planning and recruitment programs.
- › Expand partnership with Pratt Community College to recruit lineworkers.
- › Identify K-12 schools in **disadvantaged communities** (DACs) within the Midwest Energy service area to teach students about careers in the utility industry.

PROJECT DETAILS

- › **Project:**
Transmission Line Rebuild/Replacement for Wildlife Mitigation and Renewable Resource Access
- › **Applicant/Selectee:**
Midwest Energy, Inc
- › **GRIP Program:**
Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40101(c))
- › **Federal cost share:**
\$96,942,707
- › **Recipient cost share:**
\$47,717,412
- › **Project Location:**
Kansas
- › **Project type:**
System Hardening

HELPFUL LINKS

- › [Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program](#)
- › [About the Grid Deployment Office](#)