



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.

## GRID MODERNIZATION FOR RESILIENCE AND WILDFIRE SAFETY

The Strategic Distribution System Modernization for Resilience and Wildfire Safety project will modernize Missoula Electric Company's (MEC) power grid with an intelligent network of high-voltage overcurrent devices that can be operated remotely based on data gathered by an array of strategically located weather monitoring devices. MEC's service territory in Montana and Idaho is considered high-risk for catastrophic wildfire. However, once complete, the project will use real-time and forecasted data to enhance operational decision-making and mitigate the impact of potential wildfires.

### Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

- The proposed work will enhance data gathering and remote operation of grid components for safer, more reliable operations and create a range of benefits for local communities, including:
- › Reducing the risk of wildfires by proactively adjusting recloser configuration settings driven by real-time wildfire risk data. Reclosers are devices on the electrical system that detect issues, mitigate impacts from outages, and protect the electrical grid from damage.
  - › Minimizing unintended outages associated with the operating characteristics of the existing recloser network, thereby increasing service reliability during periods of increased wildfire risk.
  - › Providing community stakeholders with location-specific data to make timely, informed decisions in relation to wildfire hazards.
  - › Installing modern reclosers and a secure control and data acquisition (SCADA) network to communicate and control the new reclosers. Committing that at least 40% of project benefits accrue to **disadvantaged communities** (DACs).
  - › Reducing or eliminating air pollutants associated with wildfire smoke, improving air quality for communities.
  - › Ensuring good-paying jobs that exceed the prevailing wage and have good benefits by engaging with a local labor union through a collective bargaining agreement.
  - › Facilitating workforce development opportunities for students through apprenticeship programs
  - › Developing Community Benefit Agreements with key stakeholders.

### PROJECT DETAILS

- › **Project:**  
Strategic Distribution System Modernization for Resilience and Wildfire Safety
- › **Applicant/Selectee:**  
Missoula Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- › **GRIP Program:**  
[Smart Grid Grants](#) (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40107)
- › **Federal cost share:**  
\$2,749,071
- › **Recipient cost share:**  
\$2,749,070
- › **Project Location:**  
Montana and Idaho
- › **Project type:**  
Visibility and Control

### HELPFUL LINKS

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