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.

INVESTING IN GRID RESILIENCE AND EQUITABLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE WEST

PacifiCorp’s Equity-aware Enhancement of grid Resiliency (PEER) project invests in regional asset hardening and system automation technologies, while also addressing a critical community and industry need of training new workers. System hardening for fire resistance and prevention includes the replacement of overhead bare wire with covered conductors, fire-resistant poles, and non-expulsion fuses. In addition, system hardening includes new substation infrastructure to avoid water impact in flood-prone areas of Yurok tribal land. System automation includes adaptive protection and control microprocessor relays with remote communications.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

› Reduce outages per mile per year by 50%.
› Effectively eliminate ignition risks from overhead distribution lines in the project area.
› Cease flood-related outages impacting the Yurok tribal community.
› Implement project benefits entirely in disadvantaged communities (DAC) and tribal regions vulnerable to wildfire, flooding, and other extreme weather events.
› Enhance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility training program for PacifiCorp’s senior leaders and decrease diverse employee turnover rates to levels at parity with all employees.
› Employ unionized field crew labor for project implementation.
› Incorporate Yurok Tribe feedback to provide a comprehensive solution to system needs in their territory.
› Expand pre-apprenticeship program in partnership with Yurok Tribe, Crater Lake Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Center, and Utah State University. PacifiCorp will distribute at least 75% of allocated workforce development funds in DACs and train over 400 pre-apprentices.