



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 EXTREME WEATHER RESILIENCE FOR XCEL ENERGY

Xcel Energy will implement seven projects in its Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas service territory that will provide system-wide wildfire risk mitigation including non-expulsion fuses; 6,000 wood pole fire-resistant coating; wildfire safety settings for restoration response; undergrounding of select high-risk distribution circuits; hazard tree clearing; wind strength testing; and fire spread modeling. Further, Xcel Energy will partner with the World Resources Institute to demonstrate a school bus-to-building electric vehicle (EV) demonstration project, providing a facility that will maintain power in the event of a wildfire-caused system disruption. Lastly, in partnership with WeaveGrid, Xcel Energy will develop an EV charging program to ensure vehicles that may be needed to evacuate a fire area are charged and ready to go.

In Xcel Energy's Upper Midwest territory, projects related to mitigating increasing risks of extreme weather events including: advanced technology deployment of satellite imagery for hazard tree identification and removal; undergrounding for storm resilience for select distribution segments; microgrid development for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color community centers in Minnesota; and a system resilience installation for a wastewater treatment facility in Wisconsin.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

- › Enhanced wildfire mitigation and vegetation management activities to reduce the frequency and risk of long-duration outages from wildfires and other vegetation-related impacts.
- › Undergrounding and system hardening projects near critical community infrastructure including hospitals, police stations, fire stations, water treatment facilities, community emergency operations centers, and high-density residential complexes.
- › Enhanced processes and tools as protocols for managing public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) to reduce the risk of immediate wildfire danger to grid assets and communities.
- › Solar/battery microgrids will provide adaptive capacity to community centers and will enable selected sites to function as resilience hubs for their neighborhood.
- › Commitment to remain connected to community and labor perspectives on the project during planning, construction, and operation of the project.
- › Commitment to attract and retain a qualified workforce through collaborative union engagement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), continuing training on new smart grid technologies, partnerships with community colleges and schools to recruit diverse local workers, paying above prevailing wages, and providing robust benefits.
- › Enhanced procurement pathways and support services for minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses.
- › High winter-storm and wildfire-risk communities targeted for the project are also **disadvantaged communities** (DACs), which will directly benefit from undergrounding and tree hazard clearing.

PROJECT DETAILS

- › **Project:**
Wildfire Mitigation and Extreme Weather Resilience for Xcel Energy
- › **Applicant/Selectee:**
Xcel Energy Services, Inc.
- › **GRIP Program:**
[Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants](#) (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40101(c))
- › **Federal cost share:**
\$100,000,000
- › **Recipient cost share:**
\$142,020,463
- › **Project Location:**
Colorado, Minnesota, New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin
- › **Project type:**
Wildfire Mitigation

HELPFUL LINKS

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