



Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Program Grant Selections for Award Negotiations

Project Summary

***** Embargoed until 10am on April 30*****

All project components and funding amounts are subject to change during award negotiations and as the project proceeds.

Project Name: Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People Project

Selectee Name: PUD #1 of Ferry County

Location: Ferry and Okanogan Counties, Washington

DOE Funding: \$5 million

Technology: Grid Improvements

Project Summary:

This project aims to extend 30 miles of underground, electric distribution lines into a rural, unserved area in northeast Washington. These efforts include upgrades to the Strassburg Substation to increase its service capacity and resilience. Underground power lines are built to last, virtually eliminating outages due to infrastructure damage from heavy winds, fallen limbs, and wildfires. When complete, an estimated 135-190 unserved homes will have access to electrical service for the first time.

All communities served by the project are classified as disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Consistent access to electricity would reduce dependence on diesel generators, improving air quality and health, and power modern necessities like heating and cooling, refrigeration, internet, and lighting, which can increase employment and education opportunities while decreasing poverty. Providing grid access also improves utility efficiencies and promotes rate stability by adding more customers to the existing system, reducing per-consumer overhead costs.