



May 15, 2024

Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

Subject: Duke Energy Vegetation Management Herbicide Application in Hernando County: BBW-1 Line

Dear Stakeholders of Hernando County:

As part of Duke Energy's continuing commitment to provide safe and reliable electrical service to our communities, we must invest in the proper care and maintenance of the transmission infrastructure. Part of this maintenance program involves the vegetation management within our right-of-way corridor. To ensure continued reliable electric service, crews will be applying herbicide to vegetation within the BBW-1 115kV transmission power line corridor. Applications will be made by qualified personnel using an EPA registered non-restricted use herbicide, selective to the woody stem vegetation species in need of control. Affected landowners will be notified prior to work commencing on their property. This work is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks. This letter constitutes the notice required by Florida Statute 163.3209.

The BBW-1 115kV is a 10.42 mile right-of-way that begins at Brookridge Substation, located at 10032 Sunshine Grove Rd, Brooksville, FL, passes through the Hexam (WREC) REA Tap, located at 10479 Melanie Ave, Brooksville, FL. Next, runs through Weeki Wachee Tap, located at 11010 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, FL, and ends at the Brooksville West Substation, located at 13424 Cortez Blvd, Brooksville, FL.

Trees are a leading cause of power outages. Duke Energy's progressive vegetation management practices help to minimize outages during storms and reduces restoration time following storm-related damage. Duke Energy Florida has been recognized for its tree care practices with the distinctive Tree Line USA designation from The National Arbor Day Foundation. We work to balance the need for reliable electric power with sensitivity for the environment and aesthetic considerations. During the performance of this necessary work, our contracted herbicide crews use the most currently accepted standards within the industry and are supervised by a licensed arborist.

This herbicide project is one of many investments we are making on our transmission infrastructure. We strive to provide our customers and communities with excellent service and reliability.

To learn more about our tree care practices, see "How We Manage Trees" at <https://www.duke-energy.com/community/vegetation-management>.

Sincerely,

Bladimir Cardenas
Resource Coordinator
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Duke Energy Florida

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