

May 10, 2024

Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

Subject: Duke Energy Vegetation Maintenance Management Activities in Hernando County: BFR-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. In order to ensure continued reliable electric service, crews will be pruning and, in some cases, removing trees within the BFR-1 69kV transmission power line corridor. Affected landowners will be notified individually as the project proceeds and prior to work commencing on their property. Although we do not anticipate any power interruptions at this time, should an outage become necessary to complete this work, we will notify affected customers in advance. This work is scheduled to begin in the next few weeks. This letter constitutes the notice required by Florida Statute 163.3209.

The BFR-1 69kV is a 14.99 mile right-of-way that begins at the Brooksville Substation, located at 1625 East Jefferson St., Brooksville, FL, and ends at the Florida Rock Substation, located at 4000 NW CR 235, Newberry, 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 maintenance project is only 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,

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