



May 15, 2024

Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

Subject: Duke Energy Vegetation Management Herbicide Application in Hernando County: HB-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 HB-1 69kV 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 HB-1 69kV is a 15.33 mile right-of-way that begins at the Floral City Substation, located at 7800 East New Jersey Trl, Floral City, FL, then runs through the Nobleton (WREC) REA TAP, located at 26835 Osage St, Brooksville, FL. Next, runs through the Brooksville WREC TAP, located at 23884 CR-480 W, Brooksville, FL, and ends at the Brooksville Substation, located at 1625 E Jefferson St, 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
Transmission Vegetation Management
Duke Energy Florida

cc: Andrew Marquis: Andrew.Marquis@Duke-Energy.com
Staci Bertrand: Staci.Bertrand@Duke-Energy.com
Kenny Grecco: Kenneth.Grecco@Duke-Energy.com