

## STATEMENT FROM FECA (FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ASSOCIATION)

Florida's not-for-profit electric cooperatives have a proven track record of timely post-hurricane power restoration spanning nearly 80 years. The availability of necessary materials is vital to the restoration process. Despite the electric cooperatives' experience and reputation for efficiently restoring electric service after storms, supply chain issues beyond our control could lengthen power restoration efforts if materials used to construct and maintain electric infrastructure are delayed or unavailable.

Like other industries around the country, the electric industry is also feeling the strain of supply chain issues. The supply chain challenges stem from various issues such as the lingering effects of the pandemic, rising costs due to inflation, as well as labor and material shortages. This is not an issue solely impacting Florida; it is a national issue where electric utilities are experiencing significant delays due to supply chain disruptions. These delays contribute to a shortage of materials essential to providing power. Previously, items that took 10 weeks to receive are now taking eight months or longer. Some manufacturers are declining to accept new orders altogether due to historic backlogs.

The electric utility industry is focused on federal efforts to address the supply chain challenge through the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council's (ESCC) actions. This CEO-led group holds regular meetings with high-level federal officials. The ESCC recently created a "Tiger Team" to work with the U.S. Department of Energy to identify federal actions that could alleviate current and long-term supply chain issues. The Tiger Team has been meeting weekly and is in the process of quantifying the extent and breadth of the supply chain challenges.

The effects that current supply chain issues will have on the duration of outages following a disaster are nearly impossible to predict. Florida's electric cooperatives are maintaining inventory to the best of our ability and will continue to work with others in the electric utility sector nationwide to increase inventories where necessary and as supplies allow. Consumers can rest assured, Florida's electric cooperatives will do everything within our power to restore service as quickly and safely as possible following any event, regardless of constraints.

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About FECA:

Based in Tallahassee, Florida, FECA is the professional trade association that represents the collective interests of 17 electric cooperatives that provide electric service in Florida. FECA and its's members serve 2.4 million Floridians across the state.

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