

## **Request for Proposal**

The University of Florida's Public Utility Research Center is assisting Florida's electric utilities in coordinating research related to hardening their infrastructure to better withstand and recover from hurricanes. In this role PURC, is seeking proposals from prospective vendors to address issues of undergrounding the electric infrastructure.

The project sponsors are Florida Power & Light Company, Progress Energy Florida, Inc., Tampa Electric Company, Gulf Power Company, Florida Public Utilities Company, the Florida Municipal Electric Association, Florida Electric Cooperatives Association, Inc., and Lee County Electric Company. The project sponsors are providing financial support to PURC for the coordination of this research. PURC will also serve as a liaison between the vendor and the project sponsors, as needed.

The project will have three components: (a) a meta-analysis of existing studies, both published and unpublished, on the costs and benefits of undergrounding; (b) an examination of four recent undergrounding cases in Florida; and (c) the development of a methodology for Florida for identifying and evaluating, *ex ante*, the costs and benefits of undergrounding specific areas of existing electricity distribution infrastructure in Florida. By *ex ante*, we mean that the costs and benefits would be estimated prior to deciding whether to perform the undergrounding project. Benefits to be considered include, but are not limited to, reliability impacts, private and public benefits, reduced outages and changes in restoration times, reduced operating and maintenance costs, and reduced vegetation management costs.

Qualified entities encouraged to consider responding to the RFP by November 15th, 2006.

### **Undergrounding Literature**

Following are articles, papers, and studies related to the issue of moving overhead electric utility infrastructure to underground. It is expected that the vendors who perform the undergrounding research will include these items in the meta-analysis, including studies identified by the Florida Public Service Commission on its web site, other articles, papers, and studies that the vendor finds in its comprehensive search of the existing body of knowledge.

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- Florida Public Service Commission. 2005. [Preliminary Analysis of Placing Investor-Owned Electric Utility Transmission and Distribution Facilities Underground in Florida](#). Tallahassee, Florida.
- Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. 2005. [Draft Report of Qualitative Advantages and Disadvantages of Converting Overhead Distribution Facilities to Underground Facilities within the Service Territory of the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority. By Hi-Line Engineering LLC](#). Fort Pierce, Florida.
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