



Electricity Subsector  
Coordinating Council

## Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **ESCC: Electric Power Industry Responding to Hurricane Milton as Rebuild and Recovery Continues After Hurricane Helene**

**WASHINGTON (October 10, 2024)** – Hurricane Milton caused devastating damage across the Florida peninsula, impacting approximately 3.4 million electricity customers.\* The investor-owned electric companies, electric cooperatives, and public power utilities in the path of Milton strategically pre-positioned equipment, resources, and mutual assistance workers to assist in their storm response and power restoration efforts.

This pre-landfall planning, preparation, and staging helped ensure that impacted entities had the initial wave of resources they needed to quickly begin damage assessments and power restoration once it was safe to do so. More than 50,000 workers from at least 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada are dedicated to the Milton response and will work around the clock to restore power when and where they can, provided it is safe to do so.

The first step in any restoration is damage assessment—in some cases, crews may not be able to gain access to the most heavily damaged and flooded areas until it is deemed safe for them to enter. Search and rescue and life safety are the top priorities in the areas most impacted by Milton.

The industry also remains focused on the rebuild and recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene, which left nearly 6 million customers\* in 10 states without power. Crews continue to work day and night to rebuild energy infrastructure and to restore power to those who are able to receive it in the areas of Georgia and the Carolinas hardest hit by the storm.

The CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) tonight will convene its seventh call to ensure unity of effort across the highest levels of industry and government as we work to ensure that the entities impacted by Hurricanes Helene and Milton have the resources they need.

Members of the public share the responsibility to ensure safe and efficient restorations. We urge Floridians to stay off roads, beaches, and waterways, and avoid returning home until state emergency officials have indicated it is safe to do so. Having roadways clogged with traffic will only impede restoration efforts.

We also urge customers to stay away from downed or sagging power lines, flooded areas, and debris. Treat all fallen wires and anything touching them as though they are energized, and remember to never use a generator inside a home, garage, or anywhere that lethal exhaust fumes can enter enclosed spaces.

*\*It is important to remember that outages measure customer meters impacted, not the number of individuals without power. Due to the nature of the storms, customers may have experienced more than one outage.*

## **About the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council**

*The ESCC serves as the principal liaison between leadership in the federal government and in the electric power sector, with the mission of coordinating efforts to prepare for national-level incidents or threats to critical infrastructure. Protecting the energy grid from threats that could impact national security and public safety is a responsibility shared by both the government and the electric power sector. The ESCC facilitates and supports policy- and public affairs-related activities and initiatives designed to enhance the reliability and resilience of the energy grid. These activities include all hazards, steady-state preparation, and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery for the nation's electricity sector.*

More information is available at: <http://www.electricitysubsector.org/>

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