

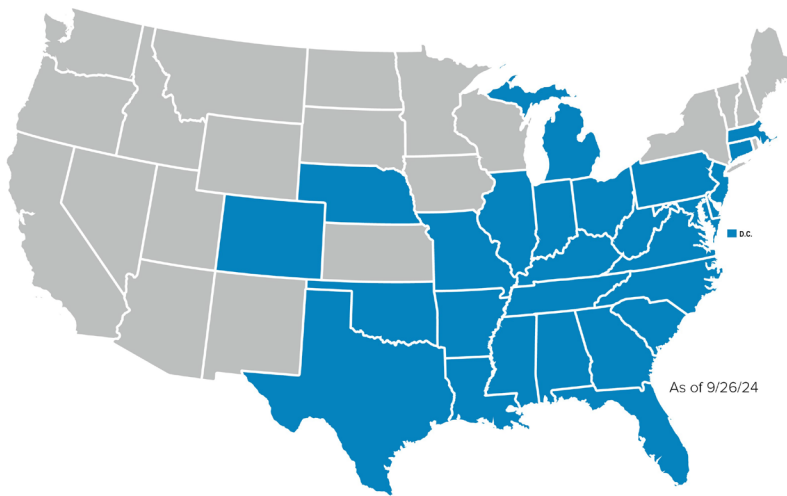


Electricity Subsector
Coordinating Council

Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ESCC: Electric Power Industry Is Coordinating Hurricane Helene Response Efforts With Officials Across All Levels of Government



Nearly 50,000 workers from at least 27 states and the District of Columbia are being strategically prepositioned to respond to any power outages when and where they can, provided it is safe to do so. Customers are urged to pay attention to local alerts and to heed all safety and evacuation warnings.

WASHINGTON (September 26, 2024) – Hurricane Helene is expected to make landfall later today in Florida’s Big Bend as a strong and catastrophic storm.

Investor-owned electric companies, public power utilities, and electric cooperatives in the path of Hurricane Helene are pre-positioning equipment, resources, and nearly 50,000 workers from at least 27 states and the District of Columbia in strategic locations in advance of the storm to prepare for anticipated power outages and to minimize the time needed to begin damage assessment and recovery efforts once it is safe to do so. Impacted entities will work around the clock to restore power safely and as quickly as possible when and where conditions allow.

Given the forecasted conditions for Helene, assessing damage and restoring power may take several days or more in some areas. Customers in Hurricane Helene’s path are urged to heed all local safety and evacuation warnings and to prepare for the possibility of long-duration power outages.

Power restoration is a team effort, and strong industry-government coordination and cross-sector collaboration are essential. The CEO-led Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) is working in close coordination with senior federal government officials to support ongoing preparation and staging activities and the movement of mutual assistance crews. The ESCC stood up its first call last night to ensure that potentially impacted entities have no unmet needs. ESCC coordination will continue throughout the event.

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 the storm clears and it is deemed safe for them to enter. Crews will not be able to use certain equipment, including bucket trucks, until high winds subside. Search and rescue and life safety will be the top priorities once the storm passes.

It is critical that customers allow the first responders to do their jobs. 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.

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/>
