



FACT SHEET

GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office is administering a historic \$10.5 billion investment via the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program to enhance grid flexibility, improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change, and ensure American communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity when and where they need it.

DISTRIBUTION AUTOMATION IN MISSOURI, KANSAS, ARKANSAS, AND OKLAHOMA

Project DA will install and integrate 261 new and 49 existing vacuum autoreclosers arranged in 43 clusters, while upgrading telecommunications, poles, and stations for automatic system restoration and improved resilience outcomes. The project's intended sites across the four adjacent states that the Empire District Electric Company (d/b/a Liberty) serves (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma) include 39 **disadvantaged communities** (DACs). The project will improve reliability, facilitate direct and indirect job creation, increase local capacity to accommodate renewables, and reduce the impact of outages on homes and businesses.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

- The proposed work will enable a comprehensive sectionalization of the electrical system for greater reliability and flexibility, especially in disadvantaged communities impacted by severe weather events, offering a range of benefits, including:
- › Improving reliability by 33% by implementing a modernized automated distribution system with reinforced resilience features at key distribution automation (DA) nodes.
 - › Supporting grid flexibility, including system capacity for electrification and renewables growth in 71 communities, 39 of which are DACs.
 - › Deploying well-understood, commercially demonstrated distribution components to replace outdated manual equipment and safeguard energy access for local communities.
 - › Commitment that 40% of system capacity additions to benefit DAC communities and that 40% of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations built over the five-year project period to be within a five-mile radius of a DAC.
 - › Commitment to maximize labor from DACs, including from the Wyandotte Nation Tribe.
 - › Commitment to execute community agreements with at least three partners, including two DACs.
 - › Commitment to equip local line crews and other skilled trades in Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma.
 - › Written support from local unions, tribes, emergency institutions, and business organizations.
 - › Nearly 100% of the labor used in the project will come from internal teams or local unions.

PROJECT DETAILS

- › **Project:**
Project DA: Distribution Automation Deployment in Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma
- › **Applicant/Selectee:**
The Empire District Electric Company (d/b/a Liberty)
- › **GRIP Program:**
Smart Grid Grants (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40107)
- › **Federal cost share:**
\$47,491,810
- › **Recipient cost share:**
\$47,491,810
- › **Project Location:**
Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma
- › **Project type:**
Resilience and Sectionalization

HELPFUL LINKS

- › [Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program](#)
- › [About the Grid Deployment Office](#)