

FEMA Provides \$1.2 Million to McCone Electric Cooperative Following 2021 Storms

Release Date: Tháng 8 16, 2022

DENVER – FEMA has approved an additional \$1.2 million in Public Assistance funding to help Montanans recover from severe storms that impacted five northeast Montana counties in June of 2021. The assistance was made available under a major disaster declaration issued August 13, 2021. FEMA has now provided more than \$3.66 million in total Public Assistance funds for the disaster recovery effort in northeast Montana.

FEMA Public Assistance funds were awarded to the McCone Electric Cooperative for the cost of restoring electric service after straight-line winds caused extensive damage to the utility's distribution and transmission systems in Dawson, Richland, McCone, and Garfield counties. To restore the power distribution system, the cooperative replaced power poles and transformers along with the necessary hardware and crossarms.

Additionally, the McCone Electric Cooperative proposed hazard mitigation to strengthen the power lines by adding a combination of "storm" guy system, and steel channel ground line reinforcement to allow the overhead power system to better withstand the transverse load from winds.

FEMA's Public Assistance reimbursements are made on a cost-sharing basis to states, tribes, counties, municipalities, and certain private nonprofit organizations for emergency work and restoration of infrastructure. The approved federal grant represents 90 percent of the total cost of the project.

FEMA's Public Assistance program covers eligible disaster-related debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair or rebuilding of public facilities such as roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, public utilities, parks and recreational facilities.



Additional information about FEMA's Public Assistance program can be found at www.fema.gov/assistance/public.

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