



South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association

P.O. BOX 1126
AMELIA, LOUISIANA 70340

P.O. BOX 4037
HOUMA, LOUISIANA 70361

April 5, 2023

Dear Camp Owner:

In regard to the rebuilding of our lake lines in Lake Decade, Grand Pass, Lake Fields and the island at the end of Four Point (boat access only) due to the historic damage of Hurricane Ida, we wanted to write you to address any concerns you have and to dispel any rumor or hearsay about the future of these lines.

First, we want to thank you for your patience and understanding as we are still very much in hurricane mode. We have been hard at work ensuring that SLECA's entire system is being rebuilt to our standards to ensure safe and reliable power to all of our members.

You may have noticed over the last several months, contractors have been working in the lakes to remove the damaged lines in order to keep boat travel as safe as possible for the public and to mitigate any liabilities in the lakes stemming from the damaged lines. We anticipate the contractors to continue to keep working in the lakes on the line removal for the next several months.

As reported in our previous letter to camp owners, we are still in the engineering and planning phase of the lake lines rebuild project. SLECA's staff, alongside our consultants have been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a plan which is prudent for not just our camp owners, but all of SLECA's membership.

Because of the amount of damage to our lake line facilities during Hurricane Ida, coupled with the frequency at which the lake lines have been damaged in prior storms, FEMA's rules and regulations will allow us to rebuild the lake lines to withstand hurricane force winds (170mph) in an effort to mitigate damages during any future storms.



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Many of you have asked the question "why not rebuild the lines back as they were before the storm?" The answer is very simple. If we rebuild the lines back as they were before the storm and choose to not harden the lines, there is a possibility that future storm damages to the lake lines will not be reimbursed by FEMA. This is simply a risk that SLECA cannot take as a future storm could potentially cripple SLECA financially and risk the long-term stability of the cooperative, its members (all members not just the camp owners), and the historically low rates which we work so hard to maintain. This is the reason why rebuilding the lines to withstand hurricane force winds (170 mph) is non-negotiable.

We want our camp owners to understand that the process of rebuilding the lake lines is very tedious and includes analyzing all of our options which are subject to FEMA review and approval. Once FEMA approves a proposed project, it will enter into an engineering design stage including permitting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as well as the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Once all of those processes are completed, we would only then enter into the construction phase which includes securing specialized equipment as well as materials that currently have lead times of 46 weeks which means a longer than normal construction period. All-in-all, the engineering design stage through construction is expected to take 3-4 years. Again, all of the plans regarding the lake lines are subject to FEMA's review and approval, and we will continue to keep you updated as more details emerge throughout this process.

Again, we want to THANK YOU for being so patient with us up to this point. We truly appreciate our camp owners, and we apologize for the inconvenience this situation has caused you. We sincerely hope this letter has given you a clearer understanding of the anticipated path forward and, like you, we look forward to life returning back to normal as soon as possible. If you should have any questions please feel free to call our office at 985-876-6880 and ask for Shannon Soudelier our Operation Superintendent.