



Control Number: 32182



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**Response from:**

**William J. Moffett  
Manager of Customer Service/Safety Coordinator  
Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
PO Box 370,  
Hondo, TX 78861**

**830-741-4384    ext 1050    email to: [billm@medinaec.org](mailto:billm@medinaec.org)**

**Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. response to impacted or could have been impacted utilities by Hurricane Rita.**

**Questions for workshop in Project 32182**

1. If your company provided service in the areas affected by Hurricane Rita, please provide your company specific information on the number of customers affected, the minimum, maximum and average outage duration for the customers affected.

**Response:            N/A – Fortunately the storm did not impact Medina**

2. Please provide information on additional non-company resources deployed in the area of restoral efforts.

**Response:            N/A – Again, Medina sustained no damage, but did sent crews to Cooperative Areas needing restoration assistance.**

3. Please provide information on the types and physical quantity of facilities affected by the hurricane in your service area.
  - a.)    What percentage of those facilities were replaced using existing inventory?
  - b.)    What percent of those facilities had to be newly procured?
  - c.)    Are the facilities replaced meet the existing standards or exceed the standards to ensure survivability in the event of another hurricane of category 4 or higher?

**Response:            N/A to all above questions.**

4. What lessons were learned in the process that would improve restoral time or reduce cost of restoral in the future?

**Response:            Emergency Response Plans should be in place prior to events.**

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5. How might your company's physical infrastructure be modified or replaced to enhance its ability to withstand severe hurricanes?

**Response:** Although no impact on Medina was sustained, agreements and contingency plans should be made and/or researched prior to events. Backup systems should be in place with facilities pre-designed for rapid installations of those backup systems.

6. What, if any, additional costs would be associated with improvements from lessons learned identified above? To what degree, if any, might they be offset by more timely restoral of services?

**Response:** Costs associated with preparations are a lot less than those associated with replacement costs.

7. How might your company's physical infrastructure be modified or replaced to enhance its ability to withstand severe hurricanes?

**Response:** At the present time all facilities are engineered the same. Damages to Medina's system are normally associated with tornadoes spun from hurricanes. Damages from these storms are normally minimal.

8. How does the cost of the modifications and replacements identified above compare with that of replacing storm-damaged infrastructure in the past?

**Response:** N/A

9. Has your company modified the planning, engineering and construction practices since Hurricane Rita for deploying facilities in the Texas Gulf coast region, if so how, please provide details.

**Response:** No Changes at the present time -- other than to rent standby Generators large enough to handle Office Operations in advance.

10. How should the cost identified in the responses to the previous questions be recovered? Should the cost be recovered from general body of ratepayers, form the ratepayers in the affected areas, or from some other source?

**Response:** Preparation costs should come from general ratepayers from that particular utility. Restoration, depending on severity should continue to come from other sources such as FEMA and insurance carriers.

11. What changes in depreciation practices are appropriate?

**Response: Our standard depreciation rates have not been changed or altered. We believe these rates are still viable.**

12. Should utility standards of construction in the coastal area be upgraded? Has your company provide input or planning to participate in the activities of standard setting organizations? If so provide details.

**Response: At the present time our construction standards are uniform for our entire system.**

**Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc. received no damage from Hurricane Rita.**

**Please respond to the following questions if your company sustained more than minimal damage from Hurricane Rita.**

1. Please provide the following information regarding transmission lines damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Total number of lines in the system and the number of lines sustaining damage

Total number of structures in each type before the hurricane and the number of structures repaired or replaced by voltage class.

Wood single-pole  
Wood (other)  
Steel single-pole  
Steel lattice  
Steel lattice  
Steel (other)  
Concrete single-pole  
Concrete (other)

Total number of feet/miles of conductor and amount repaired and amount replaced by voltage class

2. Please provide the following information regarding distribution lines (feeders) damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Total number of lines in the system and the number of lines sustaining damage

Total number of structures in each type before the hurricane and the number of structures repaired or replaced by voltage class.

Wood single-pole  
Wood (other)  
Steel single-pole  
Steel lattice  
Steel lattice  
Steel (other)  
Concrete single-pole  
Concrete (other)

Total number of feet/miles of conductor and amount repaired and amount replaced by voltage class

3. Please provide the following information regarding transmission only substations in system

Number of substations sustaining damage and total number of substations in system

Number of substations sustaining control house damage due to:

Flooding  
Wind  
Flying debris  
Other

Number of substations sustaining damage to other equipment (including underground wiring) due to:

Flooding  
Wind  
Flying debris  
Other

4. Please provide the following information regarding distribution substations damaged by Hurricane Rita.

Number of substations sustaining damage and total number of substations in system

Number of substations sustaining control house damage due to:

Flooding  
Wind  
Flying debris  
Other

Number of substations sustaining damage to other equipment (including underground wiring) due to:

Flooding  
Wind  
Flying debris  
Other

5. Please provide the number of distribution substations that were:

Unable to serve load due to damage to the station from Hurricane Rita

Unable to serve load solely because of transmission line outage from Hurricane Rita