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PROJECT NO. 56822

**INVESTIGATION OF EMERGENCY § PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BY §
UTILITIES IN HOUSTON AND § OF TEXAS
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES §**

**COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TO TARGETED ELECTRIC MOUS
QUESTION NOS. STAFF 1-1 THROUGH 1-120**

RESPONSE FROM CITY OF JASPER, TX 08-19-2024

Electric Utilities – Emergency Planning and Event Response

Staff 1-1a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h.

The City of Jasper does not conduct hurricane or major storm drills.

Staff 1-2,3,4

The City does not seek participation of customers or departments for any hurricane drills.

Staff 1-5,6,7

The Light and Power director utilized the NOAA and Accuweather websites and the Texas Emergency Management System to track Hurricane Beryl. Tracking typically begins approximately 4-5 days before landfall and is the case for Hurricane Beryl.

Staff 1-8

The City has no outage tracking system.

Staff 1-9

A request for assistance was issued after Hurricane Beryl made landfall.

Staff 1-10

Restoration efforts are organized based on the following order of priorities:

1. Hospitals and eldercare facilities
2. Water and Sewer Treatment facilities
3. Emergency Services (police & fire department)
4. Grocery stores, Pharmacies, and Service stations
5. Banks and key businesses
6. Residences

Electric power service was confirmed for all Hospitals and Eldercare facilities first. Water and sewer facilities did not experience power outages. Restoration of most facilities followed as outlined above.

Staff 1-11

The electric department assessed the damage to each feeder and various locations in the service area. Calls were taken by City Hall personnel for outages and trees blocking streets. The City uses the local radio station KJAS, the City social media website and the official City website to communicate information concerning outages and restoration.

Staff 1-12,13

The City does not use any operating condition system.

Staff 1-14

Annually, in the month of May, the Light and Power Director reviews material inventory in preparation of storm repairs and ensures any necessary items are ordered prior to hurricane season. Tasks and Actions are referenced in the EOP Annex E section E.3.

Staff 1-15

The City was not affected by the May 2024 Derecho. On July 8, 2024 Hurricane Beryl made landfall. By noon damage was reported for the City's service area. Employees were dispatched to assess the damage. TPPA was contacted at 3 pm to request mutual assistance. Local crews began working Monday night to identify feeders that could be switched or re-energized. Tuesday morning local crews began assembling materials for repairs. New Braunfels Utility arrived Tuesday evening to assist with repairs. Crews continued repairs through Thursday evening.

Staff 1-16

Feeders 3, 5, 6, and 7 affected approximately 1,200 customers for 10 hours on July 8th. Feeder 12 affected an additional 300 customers for approximately 36 hours. Included in the 300 customers were 12 who were out of power for 72 hours. Additionally, 10 customers had damaged to their meter/service wires that affected their power for 84 hours or longer. Some homes had extensive damage that prevented restoration of power.

Staff 1-17a.

The City of Jasper was not affected by May 2024 Derecho.

Staff 1-17b,c.

Geographic areas are shown by attached feeder maps. All neighborhoods are located in the City of Jasper, Texas, 75951, Jasper County. The factors that contributed to the damage to utilities were from trees and limbs.

Staff 1-18

No major challenges were encountered in restoring operations.

Staff 1-19,20

No after-action reports are available.

Electric Utilities Communication and Coordination

Staff 1-21a,b,c

The electric utility communicates restoration activities and progress to City Hall. Officials and employees at City Hall coordinate with each utility for any labor and repairs that need to be done. The City manager contacts each utility department head to assess the needs of each department. No additional staff are assigned to the call centers or help desks. The help desk employees provide information on Facebook and to the local radio station concerning updates for restoration. The City does not serve any retail electric providers.

Staff 1-22

Communication includes updates for Facebook, the City of Jasper website, and the local radio station.

Staff 1-23,24,25

The social media website was created to aid in communication and updates to all customers. No additional steps are being taken at this time.

Staff 1-26a,b,c,d,e,f.

City Hall employs 5 full time employees who assist with its help desk. No additional employees, contract labor, or temporary workers were needed. The target wait time is 4 minutes and resolution time for communicating restoration a schedule is 10 minutes for most calls. In-house supervisory training is provided for help desk operators. The maximum call volume for Hurricane Beryl was approximately 2,000 calls.

Staff 1-27

The Peak call volume was approximately 2,000 calls on July 8th, 800 calls on July 9th, and 200 calls on July 10th. By July 11th 99% of the customers had restored power.

Staff 1-28

Communication includes updates for Facebook, the City of Jasper website, and the local radio station.

Staff 1-29,30

City Hall logs customer calls and creates work orders for restoration. West Park Communications is contracted as an after-hours call center.

Staff 1-31

The City of Jasper does not have audio recordings in its possession.

Staff 1-32a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j; 1-33; 1-34; 1-35; 1-36

The City of Jasper does not utilize an outage tracker.

Staff 1-37

No smart meters are installed for the City of Jasper.

Staff 1-38

No other local governments were contacted.

Staff 1-39

The City Manager contacts departments such as fire and police to prepare employees for response as outlined in the EOP sections 2.2 and 2.4.

Staff 1-40,41,42

These questions do not apply to the City of Jasper.

Electric Utilities – Customer Restoration Workflow**Staff 1-43,44**

A service restoration plan includes a priority list for outage restoration. See EOP 5.5. The priority restoration is summarized as the following:

1. Hospitals and eldercare facilities
2. Water and Sewer Treatment facilities
3. Emergency Services (police & fire department)
4. Grocery stores, Pharmacies, and Service stations
5. Banks and key businesses
6. Residences

Staff 1-45,46,47

No changes have been made to the restoration plan.

Staff 1-48

City Hall receives and logs calls for outages. Work orders are created and communicated to the electric utility employees. The employees assess the damage and repair workers are contacted for work.

Staff 1-49

Records of materials and labor are created to provide information to FEMA. No other coordination is required.

Staff 1-50,51,52,53

No major challenges were experienced during restoration after Hurricane Beryl. No Incident Management System is utilized by the City.

Distribution Infrastructure**Staff 1-54a,b,c**

Poles are inspected on a biannual basis by sounding and prodding each pole. When a decision is made to replace a pole, the pole is tagged for replacement and a work order is created for the electric utility to begin work.

Staff 1-55

The minimum right-of-way is 20' for distribution lines.

Staff 1-56a

There are approximately 4,000 wood distribution poles, 40 steel distribution poles, and 50 steel transmission poles installed in the system.

Staff 1-56b,c,d,e,f,g

There were 12 wood distribution poles damaged due to Hurricane Beryl. The primary cause of pole break failures were trees. The NESC construction is built to Grade C.

Staff 1-57a,b,c

There are no distribution poles taller than 60'.

Staff 1-58,59,60,61

Distribution pole embedment is installed according to RUS standards of 10% pole length + 2'. These standards have not changed in the last 10 years. Standard pole sizes are as follows: Single phase – 40'CL4; Three phase – 45'CL2. Construction strength is NESC Grade C. NESC Grade B is used for major US Highway crossings for increased strength and reliability.

Staff 1-62a,b,c,d,e

The impacted area that did not lose power was designed as NESC Grade C, wood poles located in 20' ROW widths. These lines were not designed to the latest NESC overload factors. Some falling limbs damaged lines and crossarms while the poles remained standing.

Staff 1-63,64

The City of Jasper was not affected by Derecho.

Staff 1-65,66

A total of 12 distribution poles were broken by trees during Hurricane Beryl. There are no reports available from the previous pole inspections.

Staff 1-67

The NESC provides national minimum standards that should be followed for equipment and lines in hurricane prone areas.

Transmission Infrastructure**Staff 1-68,69,70,71,72**

The City of Jasper does not have a process for evaluating the hardening of transmission lines since it only owns and operates a small amount of transmission lines that interconnect its own substations on a radial feed. No transmission structures have been affected by hurricanes since installation in 1996. The designed wind loading is 140 mph for the transmission structures.

Vegetation Management**Staff 1-73a,b,c,d,e**

For the past 5 years, the ROW crew includes 8 full-time employees. No independent contractors are used for vegetation management. The size of the crew is based on the ability to

manage and maintain the existing ROW. The City does not use contractors for vegetation management and does not have any data for cost difference. The City does not retain an arborist.

Staff 1-74,75,76,77

Clearance from vegetation is 20' for transmission lines and 10' for distribution lines. The ROW crew works year-round to provide clearance from vegetation for distribution and transmission lines. There are no inspection logs or field reports on hand for the past five years.

Staff 1-78a,b,c,d,e

The 12.4kV feeders that experienced outages during Hurricane Beryl are as follows:

1. Feeder 3 - 10 hours beginning July 8th
2. Feeder 5 - 10 hours beginning July 8th
3. Feeder 6 - 10 hours beginning July 8th
4. Feeder 7 - 10 hours beginning July 8th
5. Feeder 12 - 72 hours beginning July 8th

All outages were due to Fall-In or Blow-In trees.

Staff 1-79

Vegetation management records are not available.

Staff 1-80, 81, 82,83

The percentage of forced interruptions related to vegetation (trees) for Hurricane Beryl was 100%. Trees in the hardest hit area were affected by a tornado during Hurricane Beryl and are being cleared in the next two months. 100% of the trees that contributed to the outages were outside of the easement or ROW.

Staff 1-84,85

Property owners love their trees and refuse to work with the utility to clear any potentially hazardous trees.

Staffing and Mutual Assistance

Staff 1-86,87,88,89

The City of Jasper was provided mutual assistance from the City of New Braunfels through the Mutual Aid membership of TPPA. A copy of the agreement and list of members are attached. After Hurricane Beryl affected the area of Jasper on July 8th, TPPA was contacted by the Light and Power Director. TPPA confirmed availability of crews from the City of New Braunfels. The mutual assistance crews were dispatched to Jasper Tuesday morning and arrived Tuesday afternoon. The mutual assistance crews were assigned separate areas to repair. The City of Jasper Line Foreman provided direction to the mutual assistance crew foreman for the assigned areas to repair.

Staff 1-90

The City Electric Utility Warehouse gathered materials needed for repairs and provided them to the working crews.

Staff 1-91a,b,c,d,92

The City of Jasper only received mutual assistance from the City of New Braunfels through TPPA. Crews of linemen and equipment were provided with no materials. The request was made via phone calls, so there is no documentation of the request however, confirmation of mutual assistance is provided through the Mutual Aid Agreement. The City is able to accept or decline resources based on need.

Staff 1-93,94

Reimbursement of costs and expenses are covered in the mutual aid agreement. The warehouse was established as the staging area. There are 1 or 2 employees assigned to assist with materials and equipment at the warehouse.

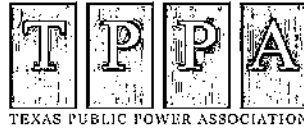
Staff 1-95,96,97

Similar crews and mutual assistance were provided as compared to the last Hurricane event. Internal staff were organized for local crews to begin repairs. The Line Foreman was assigned to direct and communicate with the mutual assistance crews. No training was required for the mutual assistance crews.

Mobile Generation**Staff 1-98 through 1-120**

The City of Jasper did not operate, utilize, or loan any mobile generation during or following Hurricane Beryl.

The above information is provided and witnessed by Lee Wellman, Light and Power Director for the City of Jasper, TX and is accurate to the best of his/her knowledge.



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[MEETINGS & EVENTS](#)

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[MEMBER LOGIN](#)

MEMBER UTILITIES

TPPA Member Utilities



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MOUs own wires/poles/meter infrastructure, acquire power supplies and provide customer service to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Some larger MOUs own and operate electric power plants. Local authorities govern MOUs setting rates and policies that are responsive to community priorities.

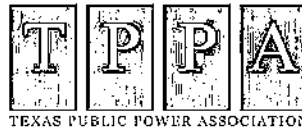
TPPA Member Systems

Municipally Owned Utilities (MOUs)

- Austin Energy
- City of Barlett*
- Bastrop Power & Light*
- City of Bellville
- City of Boerne
- City of Bowie
- City of Brady*
- City of Brenham
- City of Bridgeport
- City of Farmersville
- City of Flatonia
- Floresville Electric Light & Power System
- City of Floydada
- City of Fredericksburg
- Garland Power & Light
- Georgetown Utility Systems
- City of Giddings
- City of Goldsmith*
- City of Goldthwaite
- City of Lampasas*
- City of Lexington
- City of Liberty
- City of Livingston
- City of Llano*
- City of Lockhart
- Lubbock Power & Light
- City of Luling
- City of Mason
- City of Moulton
- New Braunfels Utilities
- City of Waelder*
- City of Weatherford
- City of Weimar*
- City of Whitesboro
- City of Yoakum

Cooperatives

- Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
- Fayette Electric Cooperative



ABOUT US

- City of Castroville*
- City of Coleman
- College Station Utilities
- CPS Energy
- City of Cuero
- Denton Municipal Electric
- City of Electra

MEMBERSHIP

- City of Hearne*
- City of Hemphill
- City of Hempstead*
- City of Hondo*
- City of Jasper*
- Kerrville PUB
- City of Kirbyville
- City of La Grange

MEETINGS & EVENTS

RESOURCES

- City of Sanger
- City of Schulenburg
- City of Seguin
- City of Seymour*
- City of Shiner*
- City of Smithville
- City of Timpson
- City of Tulia

MEMBER LOGIN

- ~~San Rayburn Municipal Power Agency*~~
 - Texas Municipal Power Agency
 - West Texas Municipal Power Agency*
- River Authority**
- Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

**inactive city member*



TEXAS PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

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Powering Texas Communities

MOUs were a driving force in the development of electricity in Texas, beginning in 1891 with the city of Greenville's election to form an electric company.

MOUs provide affordable, reliable power to community owners.



23,872 Miles of Lines and Infrastructure

MOUs invest in Texas and its communities through capital investments, including system growth

A-A+ Typical Investment-Grade Bond Ratings

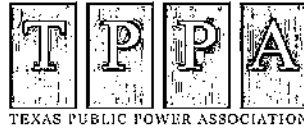
MOUs play a stabilizing role in the ERCOT market due to investment-grade ratings and the ability to commit to long-term power purchase contracts.

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- (512) 472-5965
- info@tppa.com

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AN AFFILIATE OF



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MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

This **MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT** (the "Agreement") is between **NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES**, a municipal owned utility of the City of New Braunfels, Texas ("NBU"), and the **CITY OF JASPER, TEXAS** ("Jasper"). This Agreement is intended to set forth the terms and conditions under which one Party (the "Providing Party") will render assistance to the other (the "Requesting Party") in the event the Requesting Party's electric system suffers damage or outages due to adverse weather events or natural disaster. It is effective July 8, 2024.

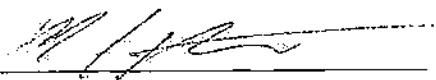
1. Request for Assistance. The Requesting Party shall make its request for assistance under this Agreement in writing and with reasonable specificity as to the amount and nature of the assistance requested. Upon receipt of such a request, the Parties shall further detail, in writing, the assistance to be provided with respect to numbers and types of personnel and equipment.
2. Aid is Discretionary. The rendering of assistance under this Agreement is solely at the discretion of the Providing Party. The agreement to render aid is expressly not contingent upon a declaration of a major disaster or emergency by the federal government or upon receiving federal funds. The Providing Party reserves the right to withdraw any crews or equipment from the Requesting Party's service area at any time.
3. Invoice. The Requesting Party shall reimburse the Providing Party for any and all costs of any nature incurred by the Providing Party in rendering the requested assistance, including wages, meals, lodging, transportation and equipment and materials costs. Within 120 days of assistance work completion by the Providing Party, the Providing Party shall submit to the Requesting Party an invoice of all costs and charges related to the assistance provided under this Agreement. Charges for labor, including administrative support, shall be billed at the Providing Party's actual cost for hourly pay and any overtime. Charges for equipment and transportation shall be billed at the Providing Party's standard rates and practices in effect at the time. Meals, lodging and other incidental expenses shall be reasonable and billed at actual cost. Materials furnished shall be billed at actual cost. Both Parties are entitled to a reasonable opportunity to examine billing records and conduct an audit to verify charges. The invoice shall be due and payable thirty (30) days after receipt and any due and unpaid amounts shall bear interest at the rate of 1% per month. If a dispute arises with respect to an invoice, the Parties shall first negotiate in good faith to resolve the dispute, and failing resolution by such means, shall then submit the dispute to a mutually agreeable non-binding dispute resolution process before resorting to litigation.
4. Term. This Agreement shall continue in effect until after a Party to this Agreement gives the other thirty (30) days written notice of its intent to cancel.
5. Damages, Disclaimer of Warranty, and Indemnity. In no event shall the Providing Party be liable to the Requesting Party for any special, indirect, incidental, punitive, exemplary or consequential damages with respect to any claim arising out of or related to the assistance rendered under this Agreement or the work performed by the Providing Party's personnel or equipment. All work and assistance will be performed, and all equipment or material shall be provided, without warranties, which the Providing Party hereby disclaims, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. The Providing Party's liability to the Requesting Party shall be limited to amounts payable under this Agreement, and all other damages at law or in equity are waived by the Requesting Party.

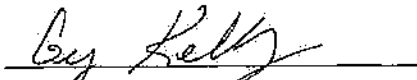
The Requesting Party assumes all risk of and responsibility for, and agrees to save harmless the Providing Party and its directors, officers and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, recoveries, judgments, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney's fees) in connection therewith, made, brought, or obtained on account of loss of life or property, or injury or damage to the person or property of any person or persons that arise out of or relate to the Providing Party's performance of this Agreement, except to the extent such liabilities are the direct result of gross negligence or willful misconduct by Providing Party.

6. Force Majeure. In the event that either Party shall be prevented from completing performance of its obligations under this Agreement by an Act of God, or other occurrence whatsoever, which is beyond the control of the acting Party, then the acting Party, after attempting to mitigate adverse impacts, shall be excused from any further performance of its respective obligations and undertakings.
7. No. Third Party Beneficiary. The Parties are entering in this Agreement solely for the benefit of their entities and agree that nothing herein shall be construed to confer any right, privilege or benefit on any person or entity other than the Parties hereto.
8. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement, and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings between the Parties concerning the subject matter of this Agreement.
9. Governing Law and Venue. The laws of the State of Texas shall apply to the interpretation and enforcement of this Agreement. Exclusive venue of any legal proceedings related to this Agreement shall be in the county in which the Providing Party maintains its principal place of business.
10. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, with each counterpart being deemed an original agreement, but with all counterparts assembled together being one Agreement.

NEW BRAUNFELS UTILITIES

CITY OF JASPER, TEXAS

By: 

By: 

Name: Mark Steelman

Name: Greg Kelley

Title: Chief Operations Officer

Title: City Manager

Date: July 8, 2024

Date: 7-8-2024

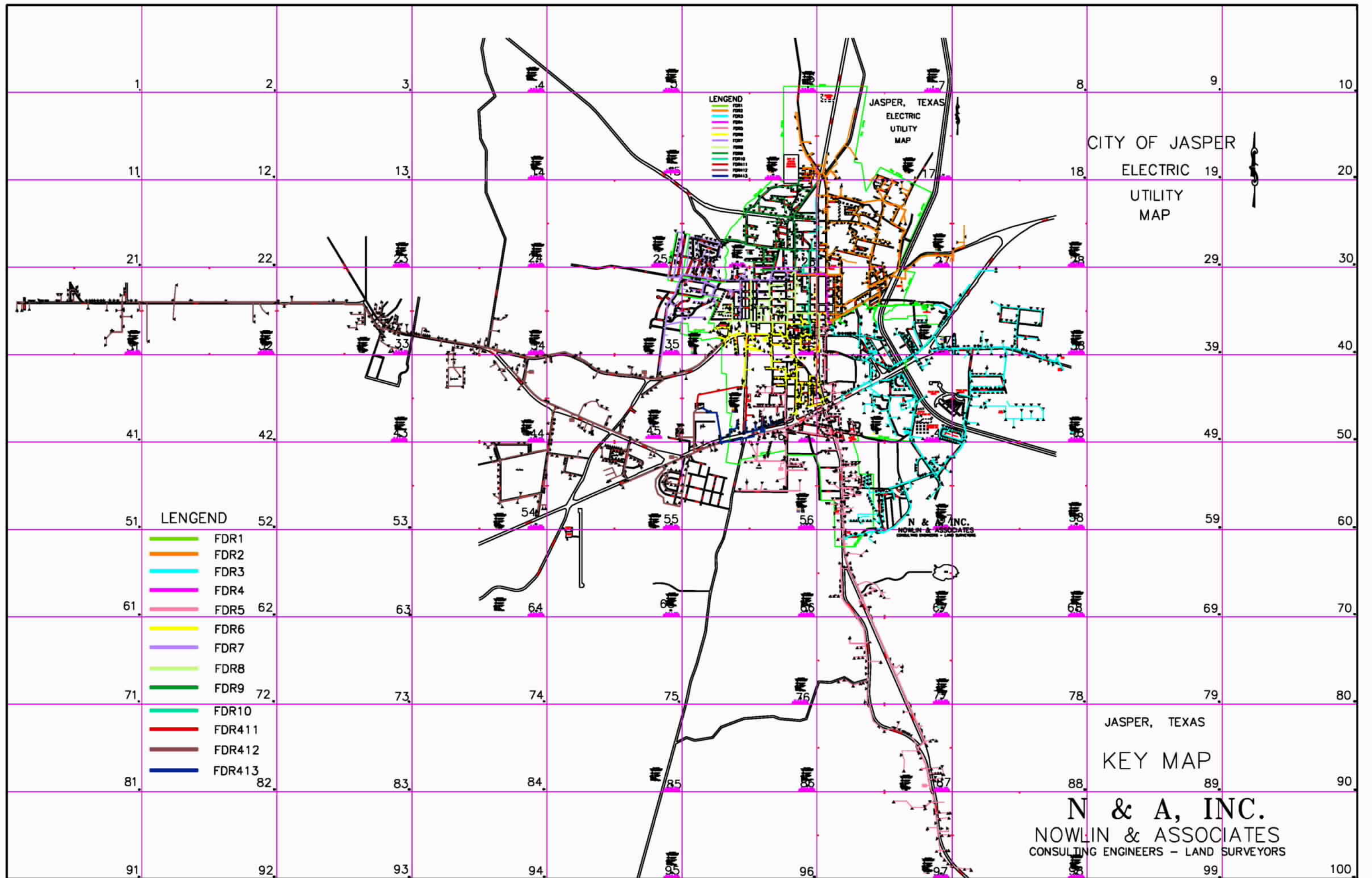
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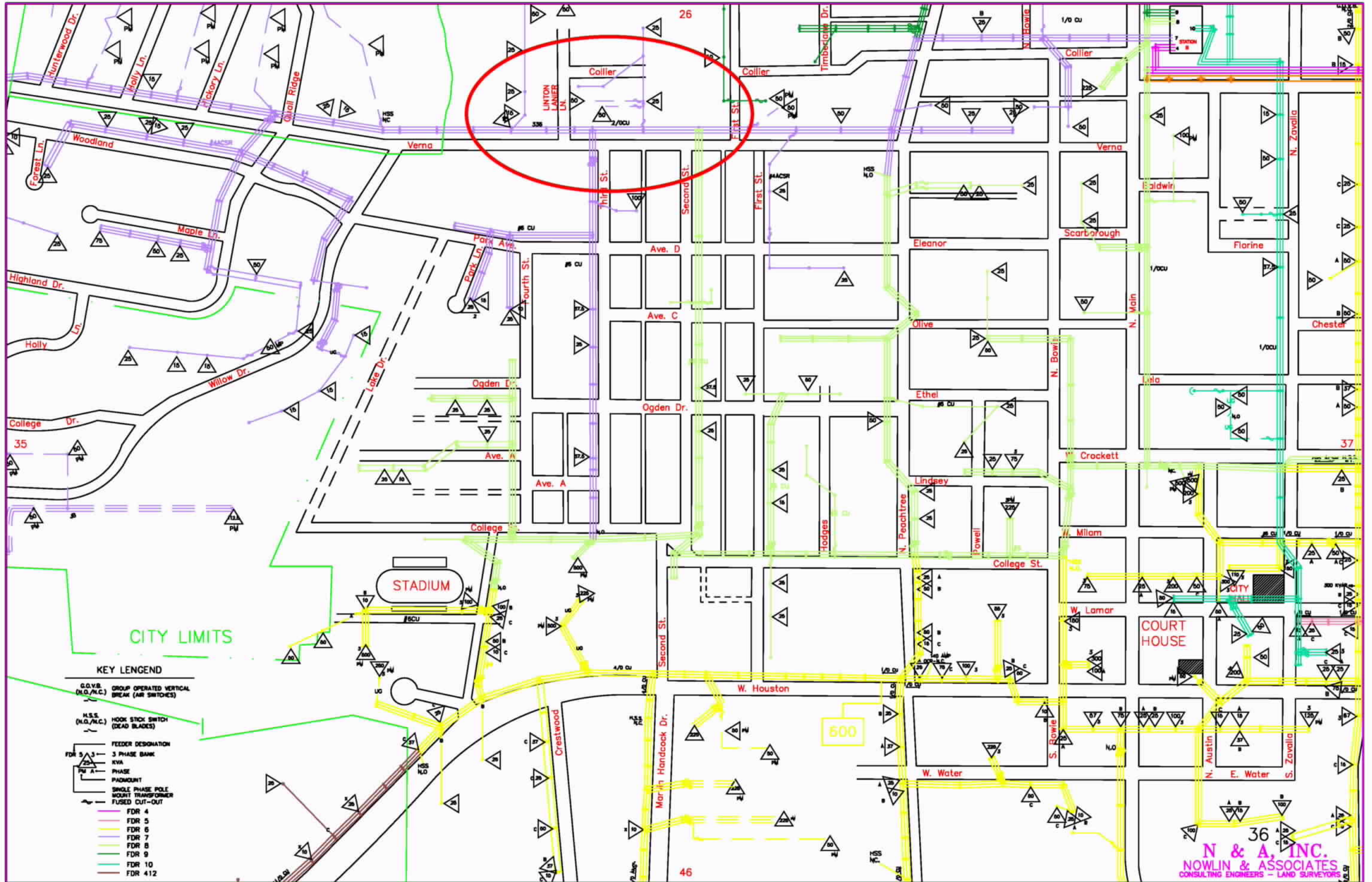
City /Town		
New Braunfels Utilities		
Home Office Contact Person(s)	Name	Office #
Chief Operating Officer	Mark Steelman	830.629.8416
Director of Electric	Gretchen Reuwer	830.608.8823
Manager of Electric	Justin Green	830.608.8870
Traveling Foreman / Superintendent	Name	Office #
Assistant Manager	Coby Henk	830.608.8877
Supervisor	Keith Marsh	830.608.8879

Crew General Information	Number
Total number of people traveling	9
Crew Size (# people per crew)	8
# of Line Crews	1
# of Service Crews	
# of Tree Crews	

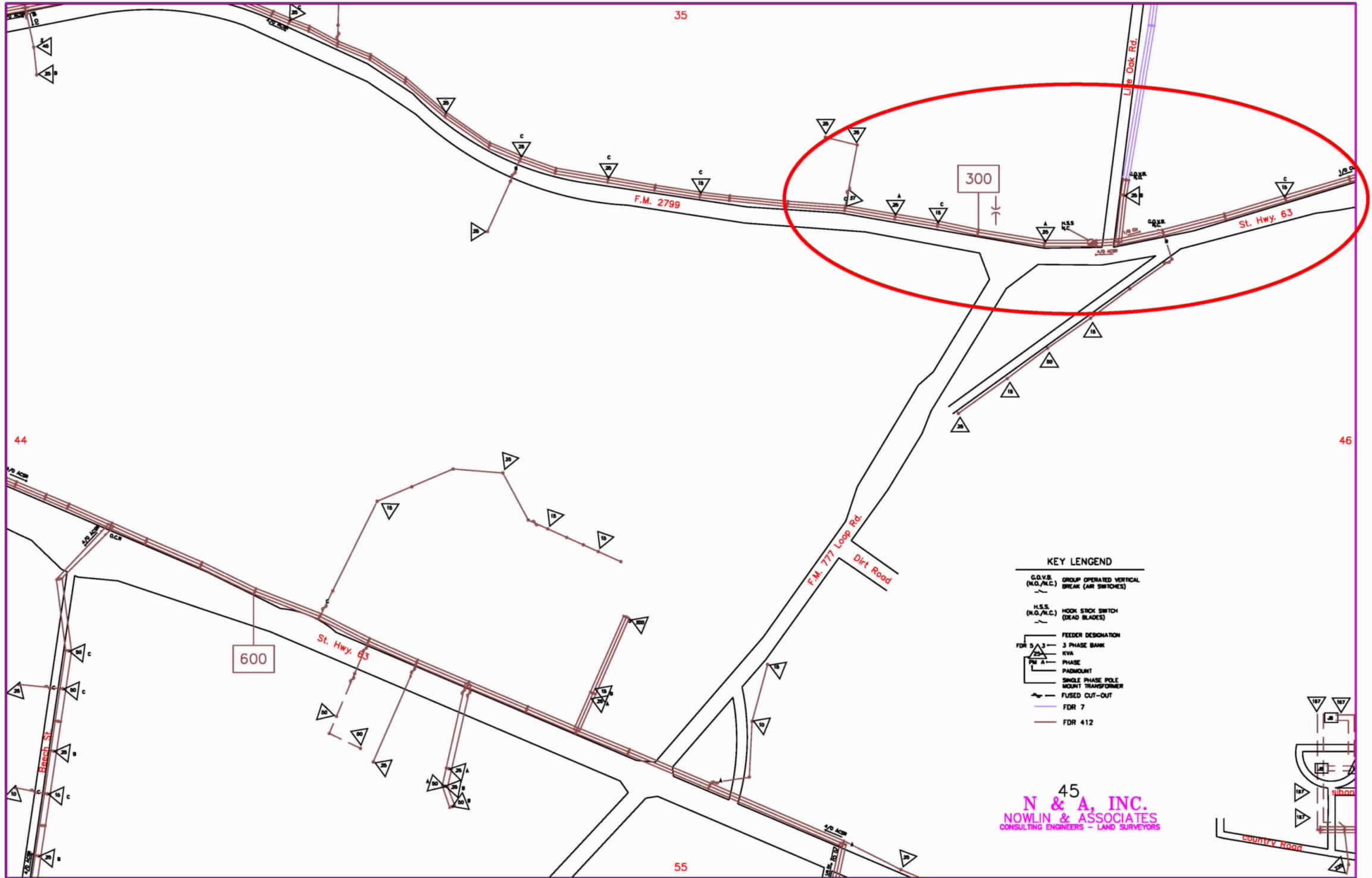
Employee Last Name	Employee First Name	Cell #
Klaerner	Austin	512-558-1372
Jenkins	Ryan	830-837-2328
Hidalgo	Levi	830-660-0544
Hardick	Mike	817-771-7393
Rice	Jordan	830-221-0623
Dietert	Lane	
Pennick	Karson	701-412-3565

Destination	Contact Name	Number
Jasper TX	Lee	409-382-5129
Jasper TX	Robbie Peek	
Jasper TX		





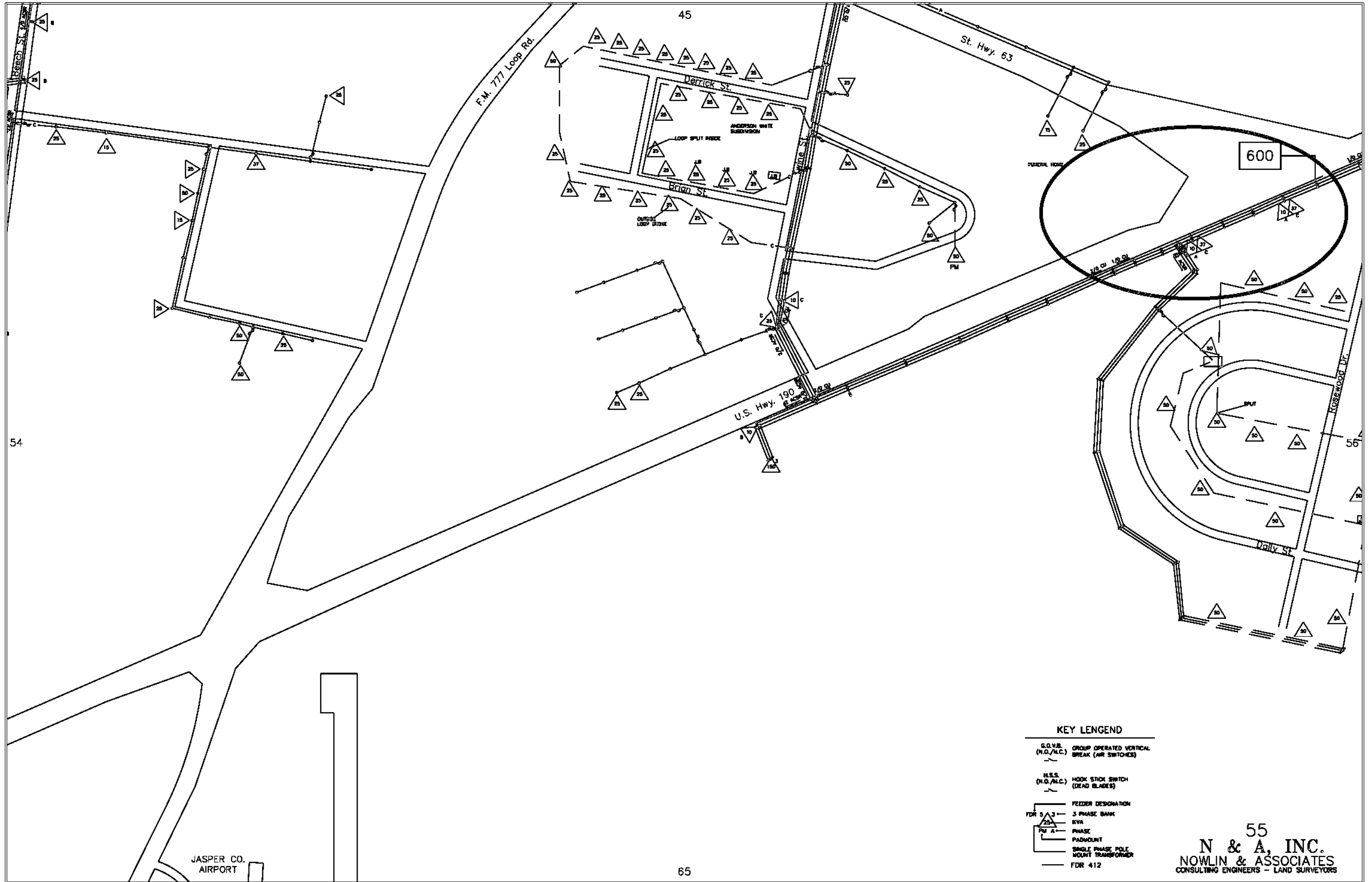
N & A, INC.
NOWLIN & ASSOCIATES
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS - LAND SURVEYORS



KEY LEND

	GROUP OPERATED VERTICAL BREAK (AIR SWITCHES)
	HOOK STICK SWITCH (DEAD BLADES)
	FEEDER DESIGNATION
	3 PHASE BANK
	KVA
	PHASE
	PADMOUNT
	SINGLE PHASE POLE MOUNT TRANSFORMER
	FUSED CUT-OUT
	FDR 7
	FDR 412

45
N & A, INC.
 NOWLIN & ASSOCIATES
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS - LAND SURVEYORS



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45

600

JASPER CO.
AIRPORT

65

- KEY LEGEND**
- G.O.V.B. (N.O./N.C.) GROUP OPERATED VERTICAL BREAK (AIR SWITCHES)
 - H.S.S. (N.O./N.C.) HOOK STICK SWITCH (DEAD BLADES)
 - FEEDER DESIGNATION
 - 3 PHASE BANK
 - 3 PHASE
 - PADMOUNT
 - SINGLE PHASE POLE MOUNT TRANSFORMER
 - FDR 412

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