

## **Electric Grid Investments to Provide Reliable Service for Monroe County**

Since the company's last base rate increase in 2020, **Duke Energy Indiana has invested \$1.6 billion in its electric grid, power plants and overall system on behalf of its customers.** More than half of the company's rate request is comprised of investments in the electric grid, including infrastructure upgrades to reduce power outages, improve physical security of key infrastructure, and keep pace with growth in communities like Monroe County.

This includes grid investments to serve new residential and business customers, including power lines and subdivision infrastructure. In addition to accommodating growth in the county, we've also been making investments in the reliability of the grid to reduce power outages. The company's investments in advanced technology have helped avoid more than 121,000 customer outages in Monroe County, saving nearly 280,000 hours (or 16.8 million minutes) of total outage time.

There are a number of Monroe County grid improvement projects that are part of the rate request. Below are a few examples:

- **Substation optimization:** Duke Energy has invested tens of millions of dollars in major upgrades to several substations in Monroe County, including the Bloomington Northwest Substation, the Bloomington Rogers Street Substation, the Meadow Park Substation and the Whitehall Pike Substation. This work includes replacing and modernizing key equipment inside the substations to improve reliability, as well as installing modernized equipment and automated technologies along the power lines that can restore power (like the breaker in your house) or reroute power to other lines to help mitigate outages.
- **Power line, equipment upgrades:** The company has invested millions of dollars in constructing and upgrading miles of power lines in Monroe County to improve reliability, reduce power outages and support growth in the region. Adding new energy pathways has supported grid efficiency improvements, allowing the company more options to reroute power to customers during weather-related outages. It has also added a control building, which provides crews access to generators, electrical controls and other equipment from a protected environment.
- **Replacing wood poles with steel poles:** The company has upgraded wooden poles to new steel structures that are stronger and more reliable. Steel poles better withstand the high wind impacts of severe storms, like what Monroe County experienced in late June/early July 2023. Steel poles are also more resistant to damage from insects, woodpeckers and other species.

All of this work is part of a smart, multi-layered grid improvement strategy to help improve reliability and resiliency and strengthen the grid against severe weather and other impacts.