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# GPA Moves Forward with Undergrounding Power Lines
# $3.9 Million Project to Strengthen Power Reliability for Water Wells

**(Fadian, Mangilao) -** The Consolidated Commission on Utilities (CCU) approved a resolution Tuesday authorizing the Guam Power Authority (GPA) to procure construction services for a $3.9 million project to convert a portion of its overhead distribution lines to underground power lines.

The P-087 GWA Underground Conversion Project will improve power reliability for eight active Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) water wells in Dededo. GPA aims to minimize interruptions to water service for homes and businesses in Dededo and surrounding communities by reducing the risk of storm-related damage to the electrical lines serving these wells.

GPA has made strengthening Guam's power grid a priority, with undergrounding identified as an important part of its long-term strategy. Unlike overhead lines, underground power lines are less vulnerable to high winds, falling trees, and flying debris that can cause widespread outages during typhoons.

"The storms we've experienced this year have required significant time, manpower, equipment and materials to repair damaged overhead power lines," said GPA General Manager John M. Benavente, P.E. "When power to water wells is lost, water service can be disrupted, affecting the health and safety of our communities. Putting these lines underground will help reduce that risk and allow our crews to focus on restoring power to other customers."

The P-087 GWA Underground Conversion Project is estimated to cost $3,945,438, with approximately 62 percent, or $2,455,334, being funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under its Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants program. GPA will contribute the remaining $1,490,104 through equipment, materials, and labor.

The project involves placing a portion of the feeder underground, installing new electrical infrastructure and adding a recloser to improve reliability during storms. The improvements will also reduce maintenance demands at water well locations that can be difficult for GPA crews to access.

Feeder P-087 serves 26 GWA water well locations in Dededo, including four inactive wells. The initial project will address eight active wells, with GPA exploring opportunities to underground power lines serving the remaining 18 well locations in future projects.

"This is a starting point," Benavente said. "We want to continue looking at ways to protect the remaining water wells and eventually extend these improvements to other critical facilities throughout Guam."

Under the approved resolution, GPA will seek Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approval of the project's bid documents before proceeding with procurement. Construction is expected to be completed within 580 days following issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

The project is part of GPA's broader Grid Resiliency Plan, which prioritizes undergrounding and strengthening power lines serving water and wastewater systems, medical facilities, communications infrastructure, and other critical areas. These investments are intended to reduce storm-related damage, improve restoration times, and build a more resilient power system for Guam.

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