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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative Powers Up for Tropical Storm Debby: Your Safety is Our Top Priority

Sunday, August 4, 2024 - As Tropical Storm Debby moves northward, it is anticipated to strengthen into a potentially dangerous hurricane before making landfall in the Big Bend area of Florida. WREC urges residents to take immediate precautions as the storm is expected to bring strong winds, heavy rains, and significant coastal flooding.

Our service area is to expect 6-10 inches of rain, 2-4 feet of storm surge, and potential tornadoes. It is crucial to stay informed by monitoring weather updates and following instructions from local emergency management officials. Adhere to evacuation orders if issued to ensure your safety.

Please stay clear of downed power lines and report them immediately to 911 and your local WREC office. If you have water entering your home turn off your main breaker to protect yourself and your property.

WREC's personnel along with in-house contractors prepare for these events year-round and are fully ready to respond to the storm. We are coordinating with state and local government agencies, as well as first responders, to maintain power and ensure public safety. Additional support from out-of-state crews and mutual aid partners are staged locally and ready to assist as needed.

We understand the importance of timely and accurate information. We are providing regular updates through our website and social media channels. Please remember, the most effective and efficient way for Members to report an outage is on the SmartHub app. Please stay safe and rest assured WREC is ready to respond.

For updates and assistance, please visit our website at <u>wrec.net</u> and follow us on social media for real-time updates and information.

About Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WREC):

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving over

260,000 homes and businesses in Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Polk, and Sumter counties since 1947. WREC is dedicated to providing reliable and affordable electric services to its members while actively contributing to the communities it serves.