LUMA's Response to Hurricane Fiona

NEPR-MI-2022-0003

Response: RFI-LUMA-MI-2022-0003-20221118-PREB-E001

SUBJECT

Outage Management System (OMS) – Effective Operation

REQUEST

Did the OMS effectively operate during the event? Explain fully.

RESPONSE

While the Outage Management System (OMS) is capable of supporting major outages, it is not a common best practice for an OMS system to support complete blackout conditions like the conditions that occurred during Hurricane Fiona. OMS works at the distribution feeder level and looks towards the customer meter. OMS works optimally when there is ample generation and a stable transmission system to supply the distribution network. OMS systems are not designed for scenarios of blackout or when there is a significant amount of instability on the transmission system.

Leaving the OMS system activated would have overwhelmed the Dispatch team with mass outage calls when there is a known blackout. This would have caused confusion in the field around outages and prioritizations. This is further amplified since there are known legacy inaccuracies in the OMS connected model (customer mapping). As a result, LUMA turned off the OMS and transitioned to using an organized, restoration program focused on prioritization in accordance with the ERP and the Restoration Annex. This manual yet systematic process has been used effectively in previous blackout conditions and utilizes data from EMS/SCADA to bring power generation back on line to support the transmission system. Once the grid was stabilized and the OMS model came in line with the manual focused restoration process, the OMS was re-activated.