

Proposed NSF Engineering Research Center for the Southeast: Utilities and Pole Companies as Models of Disaster-Impact Readiness

C. Elizabeth (Beth) Stokes

Assistant Professor

Mississippi State University

MSU is in a partnership with Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Austin, Louisiana State University, Tuskegee University, and Florida Atlantic University proposing a regional engineering research center (ERC) to enhance the resiliency and disaster readiness in the southeast's major manufacturing sectors, specifically the chemical, energy, and forest product industries. MSU represents the connection to forest products industries for the ERC, and seeks to develop models for other industries based on the history of successful disaster response by regional utility and wood pole companies in the region, while also developing strategies and tools that forest products industries may utilize to enhance their own preparedness and resiliency in the face of repeated major weather events.

About Beth

Beth Stokes is an assistant professor of Sustainable Bioproducts , with degrees from Mississippi University for Women and Mississippi State University, as well as teaching certifications for the state of Mississippi. Beth manages the deterioration and degradation laboratory, and oversees research projects involving railroad tie durability, preservative application, molecular biology of decay organisms, termite infestation of composite and mass timber products, and remediation methods.