

**ANNUAL POWER POLE INTEGRITY PROGRAM
MAY 2005
SUMMARY**

Overview

In the spring of 2005, due to concern over the number of poles damaged and downed by the storms of 2004, the Commission's Electric Safety group conducted a physical inspection on a sample of utility poles. This field inspection was the first of a now annual and ongoing utility pole inspection program. The goal of the inspection sample (and program) was to identify any power poles that might be rotted, damaged or otherwise structurally compromised and needing repair or replacement. This first investigation focused on areas served by Florida's two largest power companies, Florida Power and Light and Progress Energy-Florida. Future investigative samples will include all regulated electric utilities and may be expanded to include all regulated utilities with poles.

To ensure inspection of older poles, as opposed to newer ones that would have been installed in the reconstruction after storms, inspections were conducted in areas not seriously affected by the hurricanes of 2004. Further, within certain constraints, the sample was done as randomly as possible.

One constraint to the sample design was location. That is, many of the less densely populated areas of Florida are served by electric cooperatives or small municipalities and not by the larger investor owned utilities. In these less densely populated areas it was difficult and too time consuming to accurately locate and identify IOU power lines for sample purposes. Therefore, sample inspections were intentionally targeted to larger towns and cities more likely to be served by investor owned utilities.

Summary of Results

23 counties were included in the sample of Florida Power and Light's service area with 600 poles documented as physically inspected. In addition, nearly 1800 poles were informally inspected with any identified damage included in the results. Out of these 600 documented pole inspections, five poles were found with minor to moderate surface damage and one with apparent significant structural damage. No poles were identified with any significant visible rot. Pictures were taken of the identified poles with the noted damage (see attachments).

16 counties were included in the sample of Progress Energy's territory with 553 poles documented as physically inspected. In addition, nearly 1500 poles were informally inspected with any identified damage included in the results. Out of these 553 documented pole inspections, no poles were identified with any visible rot or significant

structural damage. Field inspections did note many “braced” poles found, all of which were extremely old but still standing. It is worth noting that the fact that the braced poles withstood the onslaught of the hurricanes of 2004 is testimony to the effectiveness of braces.

The following table is a breakdown of the counties included and the number of poles documented in each for both Florida Power and Light and Progress Energy-Florida. In each case the utility was notified of the specific pole and noted problem.

<u>Florida Power and Light</u>		<u>Progress Energy-Florida</u>	
Alachua	1	Hardee	25
Baker	10	Hernando	50
Bradford	7	Highlands	25
Brevard	15	Lafayette	25
Broward	117	Lake	60
Collier	60	Madison	25
Columbia	15	Marion	51
DeSoto	25	Orange	25
Flagler	20	Osceola	9
Hendry	25	Pasco	49
Lee	25	Pinellas	59
Manatee	25	Polk	28
Miami-Dade	99	Seminole	30
Nassau	15	Sumter	24
Okeechobee	17	Taylor	25
Palm Beach	25	Volusia	43
St. Lucie	7		
Putnam	20		
Sarasota	25		
Seminole	10		
St. John's	20		
Suwannee	10		
Volusia	7		

Photos of Poles Identified As Damaged



**9PLS/W/O NW 8 AVE ON OLD GRIFFIN RD.
BROWARD COUNTY**

9PLS/W/O NW 8 AVE ON OLD GRIFFIN RD. - A significant fracture approximately half way up the pole has compromised it's structural integrity. It is possible that the upper half may topple over during a storm with high winds. Although not visible in the photo, the pole supports primary conductors.



ON 23 AVE & 2PLS/S/O CODY ST. - A semi-circular pattern of damage can be seen at the base of this pole.



R/O 2444 POLK ST - A deep gash is visible between 1 and 3 feet above the ground.



R/O 2458 POLK ST.
BROWARD/HOLLYWOOD

R/O 2458 POLK ST - A deep gash is visible between 1 and 3 feet above the ground.



R/O 2823 VAN BUREN ST - Decay near base of pole.



220 Suntan Ave
Sarasota

220 Suntan Ave in Sarasota, FL - Several deep woodpecker holes have exposed the pole's interior to the elements. Banging on the pole revealed a hollow, spongy sound indicating that internal rot may be present.