

City of Blountstown
Storm Hardening Report to the Florida Public Service
Commission Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2012

1. Introduction

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2. Number of customers served in calendar year 2012

The City of Blountstown had a total number of 1330 active metered accounts for year 2012; down slightly from what we had in 2011.

3. Standards of Construction

- a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Blountstown comply with the National Electric Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2007, the 2007 NESC applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to February 1, 2007, are governed by the edition of the NESC in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction.

- b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Blountstown are currently guided by the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2002 edition of the NESC for major planned work, including expansion, rebuild or relocation of existing facilities and major thoroughfares. For work done by City crews we use a larger minimum pole standard of a class 3 pole, effective November 2007, in an effort to harden our system. The City of Blountstown has completed a major construction project

effecting facilities throughout the city's electric system. During the project, we replaced 200 each old poles with new poles meeting the Class 3 minimum pole standard. We will also look to implement the stronger wind load standards along new construction. After each event, The City of Blountstown is reviewing our system to determine if there is a systemic problem that needs to be addressed through changes in system standards. The City of Blountstown will continue to examine this issue through 2013.

The City of Blountstown is also participating in the Public Utility Research Center's (PURC) granular wind research study through the Florida Municipal Electric Association.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

The City of Blountstown has no underground facilities. As a part of the process of evaluating the City's Current electrical system, the City of Blountstown is looking at measures to flood proof our substation. Our construction project has raised our substation facilities above historical flooding. Access may have to be made by boat; but components at the facility will not suffer from flooding directly. We have begun talks with our power supplier to have them take action to assure the power substation is flood proofed as well. We are continuing to discuss with Gulf Power/ Southern Company about efforts they might take to flood proof the transmission substation for the City of Blountstown and Florida Public Utilities.

d) Safe and Efficient Access of New and Replacement Distribution Facilities

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Blountstown provide for placement of new and replacement distribution facilities so as to facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance. Wherever new facilities are placed (i.e. front, back or side of property), all facilities are installed so that the City of Blountstown's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. The City of Blountstown decides on a case-by-case basis whether existing facilities need to be relocated. If it is determined that facilities need to be relocated, they will be placed in the safest, most accessible area available.

e) Attachments by Others

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Blountstown do not include written safety, pole reliability, pole loading, capacity and engineering standards and procedures for attachments by others to the utility's electric transmission and distribution poles. The City of Blountstown is reviewing Pole Attachment Agreements to require others to

conform to the 2007 Standards. These agreements do not expire until 2015. When we make replacements, we are pushing for compliance on the new connections. When we find safety issues we are requiring compliance in the connections be made. We will continue to examine our system in search of safety issues into 2013.

4. Facility Inspection

- a) Policies, guidelines, practices and procedures for inspecting transmission and distribution lines, poles and structures.

The City of Blountstown has a total of 1,704 utility poles and does visual inspections of all poles once a year. The City of Blountstown is currently in negotiations with entities associated with FMPPA to provide a practical inspection system to be implemented in 2013.

- b) Number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2011.

The City of Blountstown visually inspects 100% of our poles every year.

- c) Number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection and the reason for failure.

As a result of our visual inspection, we found 22 poles that required replacement and we have reconductored about 1500 linear feet of distribution line. Reason for the replacement was ground rot, extreme cracking and warping and splices in the lines.

- d) Number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles, by pole type and class of structure, replaced or for which remediation was taken after inspection, including a description of the remediation taken.

The 22 poles that were replaced were class 5 poles and were all replaced with stronger class 3 poles.

5. Vegetation Management

- a) Utility's policies, guidelines, practices and procedures for vegetation management, including programs addressing appropriate planting, landscaping and problem tree removal practices for vegetation management outside of road right-of-ways or easements and an explanation as to why the utility believes its vegetation management practices are sufficient.

The City of Blountstown has established a four year cycle for tree trimming with a ten (10) ft clearance of our lines and facilities. After success at trimming for

three years, we have seen a remarkable difference in vegetative issues along our electric system. Policies adopted to allow for dead, dying, or potentially problematic trees to be removed before damage occurs has saved the city thousands of dollars in revenue not lost or manpower not called out to make repairs.

- b) Quantity, level and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities.

The City of Blountstown will trim twenty-five (25) percent of our system with a ten (10) ft. clearance in 2013.

6. Storm Hardening Research

The City of Blountstown is a member of the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA), which is participating with all of Florida's electric utilities in storm hardening research through the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida. Under separate cover, FMEA is providing the FPSC with a report of research activities. For further information contact Barry Moline, Executive Director, FMEA, 850-224-3314, ext. 1 or bmoline@publicpower.com.