

Lakeland Electric
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2012

1) Introduction

- a) Name of city/utility
City of Lakeland Department of Electric Utilities / Lakeland Electric
- b) Address, street, city, zip
501 East Lemon Street
Lakeland, FL 33801
- c) Contact information: Name, title, phone, fax, email
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2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2012

167,000

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the Lakeland Electric (LE) comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2012, the 2012 NESC applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to February 1, 2012 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 Lakeland Electric have considered the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the NESC for 1) new construction; 2) major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after December 10, 2006; and 3) targeted critical infrastructure facilities and major thoroughfares. Per NESC Rule 250C, LE designs and builds to meet or exceed the extreme wind loading strength requirements for all poles that exceed a height of 60 feet above ground or water level. All structures below this height are designed and built to meet or exceed the requirements of Grade B construction.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

The LE service territory is not a coastal area and, therefore, not subject to storm surges or other wide-spread significant flooding.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at Lakeland Electric provide for placement of new and replacement distribution facilities so as to facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance. In all locations possible and with rare exception facilities are immediately adjacent to public roadways. Rear lot line construction away from roads and alleyways was discontinued over 30 years ago. Where significant reconstruction of inaccessible line sections may occur, they are considered for relocation to the roadway.

e) Attachments by Others

Lakeland Electric's engineering and construction standards account for the influence of potential telecommunications attachments for pole strength and height in maintaining compliance to the applicable NESC standards. Additionally, the current City of Lakeland Ordinance # 4899 governing pole attachments with external entities has maintained requirements that those making the licensed attachments comply with NESC requirements in their design, construction, operation, and maintenance activities. The pole strength calculations completed during the pole inspections include modeling all attachments in the assessment.

4. Facility Inspections

a) Describe the utility's policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures for inspecting transmission and distribution lines, poles, and structures including, but not limited to, pole inspection cycles and pole selection process.

Lakeland Electric initiated a contract in 2007 to inspect all wood poles on an eight year cycle using visual and the sound and bore techniques with ground line excavation and strength calculations that include all pole attachments. Additionally, LE personnel inspect for T&D facility damage throughout the service territory during the course of normal travel, operations work, and in response to outages. LE also uses concrete and tubular steel poles which receive a visual inspection only.

b) Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2012.

<u>Documented pole inspection results</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Transmission</u>	<u>Total</u>
Poles planned for inspection	7500	147	7647
Percentage planned	12.5 %	12.5%	12.5%
Poles inspected	3679	11	3690
Percentage inspected	6.1%	1%	6%

The number and percentage of poles planned for inspection are the total in each category divided by the eight year cycle. Because the inspections are done by geographical region the actual number of poles completed will vary by the percentage of distribution poles to transmission poles in the region but the total number of inspections should meet or exceed the combined totals. The inspected percentage was lower this year because Lakeland Electric’s inspection percentages were higher in previous cycles, and we were trying to balance our work load due to the number of failed poles from last year.

c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2012 and the reason for the failure.

7 transmission poles or 63.6% of those inspected failed to meet minimum strength requirements due to decay. 440 distribution poles or 11.9% of those inspected failed to meet minimum strength requirements due to decay.

d) Describe the 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 in 2012, including a description of the remediation taken.

All poles recommended for strengthening from the inspections during the calendar year of 2011 were assessed for appropriate action. 101 distribution poles were reinforced with struts by May, 2012 and 673 distribution poles were replaced, repaired, or removed by the end of 2012. 251 distribution poles will be deferred until 2013. 13 transmission poles were replaced. 10 transmission poles were deferred to 2013.

5. Vegetation Management

a) Describe the 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.

Lakeland Electric’s vegetation management program entails circuit based maintenance provided by contractual services. Species specific distance trimming and directional pruning techniques are used as guidelines to establish a three year trimming cycle on

transmission circuits and distribution circuits. Vegetation interference that exceeds the anticipated maintenance cycle on feeder circuits is trimmed in between cycles to enhance reliability. Trees less than twelve inches in diameter that will require future maintenance are removed with property owner permission and hazardous trees within ten feet of high voltage power lines are topped to a safe height. Lakeland Electric provides tree planting guides with setback recommendations by tree species that coincide with city and county land development ordinances. Lakeland Electric finds these practices sufficient because the anticipated tree growth will generally not exceed the established 3 year cycle length and there are budgetary allowances for priority situations.

b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2012.

The annual inspection of all 230 kV transmission lines was completed to verify clearance meets or exceeds the compliance requirements. 40 miles of 69kV transmission line maintenance and 350 miles of distribution line maintenance were planned. 28.5 miles and 406 miles were completed, respectively. Distribution maintenance includes secondary voltage lines and service drops not included in the stated mileage. All maintenance was inspected to verify that it meets the required clearance specification.

The Public Utility Research Center has held two vegetation management workshops in 2007 and 2009. Through FMEA, (City/Utility Name) has a copy of their reports and will use the information to continually improve vegetation management practices. We will participate in future best-practice workshops if there is interest.

6. Storm Hardening Research

Lakeland Electric 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:

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