

**City of Ocala Utility Services
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2012**

1) Introduction

- a) **Ocala FL/ City of Ocala Utility Services**
- b) **1805 NE 30th Ave, Bldg. 400, Ocala, FL 34470**
- c) **David Anderson, Regulatory Manager, Office: (352) 351-6693, Fax: (352) 351-6630**

2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2012

City of Ocala Utility Services has a total electric service territory of 160.2 sq. miles and serves a total of 47,878 metered Electric Customers

Customer Break down:

Residential Customers	39,651
General Service Customers	7,514
General Service Demand Customers	1,005

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

City of Ocala Utility Services standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures comply with the NESC. The City of Ocala passed an ordinance on 12/18/2007 requiring all new developments to be underground. This ordinance will help lessen exposure to wind damage, and speed restoration efforts after future storm events.

b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards

City of Ocala Utility Services standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures comply with the extreme wind loading standards of the NESC for:

- a. New Construction.
- b. Expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities.

The City of Ocala passed an ordinance on 12/18/2007 requiring new developments to be underground. This ordinance will help lessen exposure to wind damage, and speed restoration efforts after future storm events.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

Ocala is located 80 miles from the west coast of Florida and is not subject to storm surge and has limited exposure to flooding. Both the City of Ocala and Marion County require new developments to provide water retainage for 100 year, 24 hour events. The previous standard was a 10 year, 24 hour event. City of Ocala Utility Services practices do not allow poles and underground equipment within retention areas, swales or other flood prone areas. Where flooding occurs, Ocala evaluates the facilities for relocation to less flood prone areas.

City of Ocala Utility Services is also participating in the Public Utility Research Center's (PURC) study on the conversion of overhead electric facilities to underground and the effectiveness of undergrounding facilities in preventing storm damage and outages through the Florida Municipal Electric Association.

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

Electric construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Ocala Utility Services provide for placement of new and replacement distribution facilities so as to facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance. Our policy is to install all new overhead and underground facilities adjacent to right-of-way or paved areas to allow for access.

e) Attachments by Others

City of Ocala Utility Services requires attachment agreements with all third-party attachees on its poles and requires permits for all new attachments. The permits include information for City of Ocala Utility Services to evaluate the impact of the attachment on pole loading. City of Ocala Utility Services is evaluating all new pole attachments for their impact to pole loading and compliance with the NESC. In addition, as part of our eight-year pole inspection cycle, City of Ocala Utility Services evaluates the impact of third party attachments as part of that inspection.

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.

Our policy and primary purpose is to be consistent with the Florida Public Service Commission's rules for wood pole inspections and to provide pole restoration where it is economically feasible. Currently we support an eight-year inspection cycle of our system. Our guidelines are selected on geographical areas based on the age of our poles. Practices and Procedures include Above-Ground Inspection, Excavation, Sounding, Boring, Chipping, Internal Treatment, and Evaluation of each pole to determine remaining strength and reject criteria along with pole loading estimates.

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

The following two tables show distribution and transmission poles inspected by year for the current 8 year inspection cycle. Since 100% of the transmission poles were inspected in 2007, transmission poles will not be inspected again until the start of our next 8 year inspection cycle.

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF DISTRIBUTION POLES	POLES INSPECTED	% OF TOTAL DISTRIBUTION POLES INSPECTED
2007	28000	2056	7.34
2008	31682	4594	14.50
2009	31573	3150	9.98
2010	32489	6457	19.87
2011	31950	4592	14.37
2012	31906	11057	36.06
TOTALS		31906	100%*

*OUS has completed 100% of pole inspections, however there still remains work to be done in 2013 & 2014 to complete pole changes identified in the 2012 inspection process.

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSMISSION POLES	POLES INSPECTED	% OF TOTAL POLES INSPECTED
2007	672	672	100
2008	100% Completed in 2007		

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

The following two tables show rejection rates and reason for failure for distribution and transmission poles (transmission poles will be inspected again in 2015).

YEAR	NUMBER OF DISTRIBUTION POLES REJECTED	REJECT %	REASON FOR FAILURE
2007	180	8.8	SHELL ROT/DECAYED TOP
2008	480	10.4	SHELL ROT/DECAYED TOP
2009	381	12.1	SHELL ROT/DECAYED TOP
2010	612	9.5	SHELL ROT/DECAYED TOP
2011	502	10.9	SHELL ROT/DECAYED TOP
2012	802	7.2	SHELL ROT/DECAYED TOP
TOTALS	2975	9.27	

YEAR	NUMBER OF TRANSMISSION POLES REJECTED	REJECT %	REASON FOR FAILURE
2007	35	5.21	SHELL ROT/DECAYED TOP
2007	61	9.08	OVERLOADED
2008	100% Completed in 2007		
2009	100% Completed in 2007		
2010	100% Completed in 2007		
2011	100% Completed in 2007		
2012	100% Completed in 2007		

- 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.

The following tables show distribution poles braced and replaced, transmission poles braced and replaced, distribution poles replaced by height and class and distribution poles braced by height and class.

Distribution Poles Braced and Replaced by Year				
YEAR	NUMBER OF POLES BRACED	NUMBER OF POLES REPLACED	% OF REJECTED POLES BRACED	% OF REJECTED POLES REPLACED
2007	80	100	44	56
2008	142	338	29.6	70.4
2009	109	272	28.6	71.4
2010	130	482	21.2	78.8
2011	47	502	8.6	91.4
2012	102	700	12.7	87.2
TOTALS	700	2394		

Transmission Poles Braced and Replaced by Year				
YEAR	NUMBER OF POLES BRACED	NUMBER OF POLES REPLACED	% OF POLES BRACED	% OF POLES REPLACED
2007	65	31	67.71	32.29

Distribution Poles Replaced by Height and Class		
QUANTITY	HEIGHT (FT)	CLASS
159	30	5
248	35	3
258	40	3
30	45	3
5	50	1

Distribution Poles Braced by Height and Class			
QUANTITY	HEIGHT (FT)	CLASS	REMEDIATION
8	30	5	C-TRUSS
21	35	3	C-TRUSS
61	40	3	C-TRUSS
8	45	3	C-TRUSS
4	50	1	C-TRUSS

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.**

The City of Ocala Utility Services is required by the Florida Reliability Coordinating Council (FRCC) to submit an annual Transmission Vegetation Management Plan (TMVP), which must provide specific allowable distances, work methods, practices, and an annual work schedule for all transmission over 200kv.

A staff utility arborist is employed to plan and coordinate the work schedule and make contact with adjacent property owners when problem and hazard trees are identified along the 13 mile easement corridor. A four (4) man in-house tree crew performs most of the work that is set forth in the work schedule, and performs most new construction clearing and tree related emergency response work required by the Utility.

A professional tree company is contracted for routine vegetation maintenance over one third of the distribution system annually as well as demand work including trimming or removal of problem and hazard trees, customer requests, and hotspot work as is needed outside of the scheduled trim cycle.

Ocala Utility Services applies annually for Tree Line USA designation, which has been awarded for the past 10 years by the Arbor Day Foundation and Florida Forest Service. Designation is based on the Utility following guidelines set forth in ANSI A300, and includes requirements for annual crew training, quality pruning and integrated vegetation management, as well as participating in a tree planting program, an Arbor Day celebration, and providing customer education.

All pruning is required to conform to the guidelines set forth in the ISA's Best Management Practices "Utility Pruning of Trees" and the ANSI A300 Standards, and is overseen by an ISA Certified Arborist/ Utility Specialist on staff who provides information and guidance to Utility personnel, plans and participates in the Arbor Day Festival, and oversees line clearance operations as well as providing education and training to utility tree crews.

The Utility Arborist worked with City Planners in 2007 to update the City's Tree Ordinance, which now contains wording requiring specific planting distances from utility lines depending on species growth habits. The City of Ocala Planning Department uses these as a guide when approving site development plans.

In 2006 the Utility renewed its' affiliation with the American Public Power Association and committed to budget for a "Remove and Replace" tree voucher program. The program addresses problem and hazard trees on property adjacent to utility easements by providing removal services, and rewarding customers who cooperate with replacement vouchers and education as an incentive.

In 2007, and again in 2009, FMEA and the Public Utility Research Center University of Florida held a vegetation management conference for the purpose of developing a guideline for "Best Practices in Vegetation Management". City of Ocala Utility Services staff Utility Arborist participated in the conferences and possesses copies of these reports, which are used to continually improve the vegetation management practices at the City of Ocala Utility.

In 2011 it was noted that the majority of tree related outages were being caused by overhanging limbs, which had clearance, but broke off onto the lines from outside of the clearance zone. In response contract tree crews were instructed to reduce or remove all accessible overhanging limbs, and wording to that end was added to the Tree Trimming Contract that was put out to bid in February, and was put into action during 2012.

In March 2013 the Utility will be implementing an IVM style pruning program, which will use mechanical pruning for line clearance, overhang and removals and moving more toward the use of herbicide for managing brush under lines in areas where permissible. This will allow the utility to maintain a three year trim cycle over all system lines.

Overall the Utility is relying on this two pronged approach of thoughtful planning and tree care combined with a well planned vegetation management program that targets the major causes of outages on the system to payoff in both long and short term; the overall tree canopy is being improved and outages caused by afternoon storms as well as major weather reduced.

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

The Utility consists of approximately 1000 miles of lines; 766 miles are overhead primary, 84 miles transmission lines include 69kV that is mostly contiguous with under-built primary, and 13 miles of designated 230kV easement. Approximately one third of the system is scheduled for trimming annually.

In 2011 over 6 miles of the 13 mile 230kV transmission easement was cleared to new construction clearances as well as over 200 miles of primary/ 69kV transmission lines.

The annual work schedule for 2012 included a combination of trimming mowing and herbicide over approximately 5 miles or 230kV easement and 250 miles of primary circuit, which is in line with the best management practices for utility line clearance.

6. Storm Hardening Research

City of Ocala Utility Services 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.