

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

**1) Introduction**

- a) City of Winter Park
- b) 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, Fl. 32789
- c) Mark Brown  
Electric Utility Specialist  
407-599-3457  
[mbrown@cityofwinterpark.org](mailto:mbrown@cityofwinterpark.org)

**2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2012**

The City of Winter Park served a monthly average of 13962 electric customers in 2012.

**3) Standards of Construction**

**a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance**

Construction standards, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Winter Park comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. Electrical facilities constructed after February 1, 2007 comply with the 2007 NESC. The electrical facilities constructed prior to February 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**

In January 2008, The City of Winter Park began an ambitious initiative to put its entire distribution system underground. Phase 1 was funded by \$14 million in bonds to fund the undergrounding of 9.3 miles of mainline feeder underground and provide \$2.5 million in matching funds for neighborhoods that want to participate in the funding to accelerate the undergrounding of the distribution system within their neighborhood. The City of Winter Park requires that new residential electric services be installed underground and to date, our distribution system is fifty one percent (51%) underground.

The Winter Park electric distribution system was originally designed by Progress Energy Florida (PEF). When the system equipment requires replacement, the defective equipment is replaced with equivalent equipment. In some cases the City will install equipment upgrades. For instance, the City began a program to replace steel cross arms and switch arms with arms constructed of fiberglass. This has been a successful strategy to reduce the number of outages caused by animal contact and is consistent with the City's overall plans.

At this time, the City of Winter Park facilities are not designed to meet the extreme loading standards on a system wide basis. The City of Winter Park is participating in the Public Utility Research Center's (PURC) granular wind research study through the Florida Municipal Electric Association. We continue to self-audit and evaluate our system to determine any immediate needs for system upgrades and hardening in specific areas. We will monitor the results of this research to determine the most appropriate response for system upgrades and hardening.

**c) Flooding and Storm Surges**

The City of Winter Park is not a coastal community and storm surges are not a major concern. Flooding was not a significant problem during the hurricanes of 2004 or Tropical Storm Fay. The City of Winter Park 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**

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Winter Park 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 City'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 Winter Park 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. One of the goals of the undergrounding projects is to improve accessibility by moving the back-lot line equipment out to the front of the property so that facilities are accessible from the street.

**e) Attachments by Others**

The City of Winter Park implemented a joint pole use agreement with Brighthouse Networks, Inc. during 2008 which covers the vast majority of the attachments on the City's poles. In addition, the City has attachment agreements with other utilities such as Embarq and AT&T.

**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.**

The City of Winter Park does not own transmission poles or lines. The City employed an outside contractor (Osmose Utility Services Inc.) to complete an inventory of distribution poles owned by the City. The initial inspection was completed in 2007. Wood pole inspections vary, three basic methods are used, and usually in combination, in order to assess the condition of a wood pole. Employees use a visual inspection and an assessment prior to climbing poles in conjunction with field work, and sounding a pole with a hammer to determine the soundness of a pole. The length of the inspection cycle is being evaluated to determine what is appropriate but it is presently planned not to exceed eight years or 12.5% per year. Replacement poles are pressure treated southern pine, and are class 1, 2, or 3.

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

The City Of Winter Park contracted with Osmose to inspect the required number of distribution poles October 2011. In September 2011, Winter Park contracted with Osmose for inspection of our remaining distribution poles that would have normally been scheduled for inspection in 2012. WPE employees use a visual inspection and sounding with a hammer to assess the soundness of a pole prior to climbing in conjunction with field work. The City of Winter Park does not own transmission poles or lines.

**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 City Of Winter Park did not contract pole inspections in the calendar year 2012, the 2012 inspections were performed as part of the 2011 inspections. Of the distribution poles that failed inspection, 5% had base rot, 4.8% had either top rot or a split top.

**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.**

Based on the 2007 full system inspection, all repairs and replacements have been made. The next full system inspection will begin in 2015. The City of Winter Park routinely inspects the poles that are involved with daily jobs and work orders. Poles requiring remediation or replacement were class 1, 2, or 3 wood. Pole damage from decay or insects would be treated with chemicals to inhibit decay and discourage insects. On some restorable poles, a metal truss is recommended to reinforce the base of the pole; Winter Park Electric prefers to schedule the pole in question for replacement. Replacement poles are pressure treated southern pine, and are class 1, 2, or 3.

## **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 Winter Park has employed an outside contractor to perform the required tree pruning. They are managed by a full time City Of Winter Park arborist, and the City's distribution services provider ENCO Utility Services. The City's program is based on a three (3) year trim cycle, which is augmented as needed to maintain clearance between cycles. Dead and hazard trees located outside of right-of-way on private property, which present an imminent threat to power lines or equipment, are reported to the City's Arborist who has the authority to order the tree pruned or removed. The City's pruning policy language specifies that all routine pruning shall adhere to the National Arbor Day Foundation standards for Line Clearance, comply with ANSI A300 standards for tree trimming and the International Society of Arboriculture Best Management Practices. This program of tree pruning, hazard tree and vine removals, combined with good pruning practices that direct future growth away from lines allows Winter Park Electric Utility to provide safe and reliable electrical service to customers on a day to day basis and reduces the potential for damage during storms. The Winter Park Electric Utility can see evidence of the effectiveness of its vegetation management program by the steady improvements in the SAIDI and MAIFI reliability index.

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

The City's vegetation management program is planned for a 3 year trimming cycle. The City has a mature, well developed canopy of Oak trees and our crews trimmed approximately 126,825 ft. of distribution lines in 2012. The City believes that the quantity, level, and scope of its vegetation management are having a positive effect on production and the reliability indices for the City of Winter Park. The Public Utility Research Center has held two vegetation management workshops in 2007 and 2009. Through FMEA, The City of Winter Park Electric Utility has a copy of their reports and will use the information to continually improve vegetation management practices. We will participate in future best-practices workshops if there is interest.

### **Storm Hardening Research**

The City of Winter Park Electric Utility 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](mailto:bmoline@publicpower.com).