

February 25, 2013

1. Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LCEC)  
PO Box 3455  
N Ft Myers, FL 33918-3455
2. Mr. Marshall Willis, Director  
Division of Economic Regulation  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
3. Dear Mr. Willis,
4. Enclosed is Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s (LCEC) Annual Report on Standards of Construction, Facility Inspections, and Vegetation Management for calendar year 2012. We are making this filing pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343 F.A.C.
5. Also enclosed is a matrix that summarizes many of LCEC's activities for the calendar year 2012
6. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me (239) 656-2347.
7. Sincerely,
8. s/ Frank R. Cain, Jr., Director  
Regulatory & Governmental Relations and Chief Risk & Compliance Officer
9. cc: Clark Hawkins

**Annual Report on Lee County Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s (LCEC)  
Standards of Construction, Facility Inspections, and Vegetation Management  
for calendar year 2012**

**Standards of Construction:**

- a) LCEC's construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. Electrical facilities constructed through December 31, 2012 comply with the edition of the code in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction.
- b) LCEC has construction standards, for required facilities, that meet the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2012 edition of the NESC.
- c) Although not waterproof, LCEC's equipment and constructed facilities are designed to be water resistant. The majority of our underground facilities (excluding conduits and cables) are at or above existing/surrounding grade. Even with these design and installation considerations, LCEC experienced some significant damage to our underground facilities as the result of flooding and storm surges. On the other hand, it has been LCEC's experience that flooding and storm surges have little effect on overhead facilities whether part of an underground or overhead system.
- d) Although often at odds with the desires of customers and governmental entities, LCEC's current practice is to place the majority of new and replacement distribution facilities in the front of lots. This does provide in most cases the safest and most efficient access for installation and maintenance. If necessary, easements for placement of distribution facilities are requested from customers.
- e) LCEC's standards for joint use provide clearances (distances) for conductors, equipment, and risers. The joint use agreements that are entered into with pole attachment parties detail the process for evaluating pole loading capacity. Additionally, the agreements define the responsibilities for pole reliability and upgrading. Currently, LCEC does not permit attachments to transmission poles.

**Facility Inspections:**

- a) Transmission inspection annual (230 kV) and 2-year cycle (138 kV): Inspect all poles and structures by either climbing or with the use of a bucket truck. Inspect poles, structures, guys, anchors, insulators, crossarms, conductors, shield wires, right-of-way, for any structural deficiency or any situation that may impact the structural integrity of the facility. Inspections are conducted by either climbing the pole/structure or with the use of a bucket truck.

Distribution inspection: 2-year cycle visual inspection: Single Phase, visually inspect all poles for splitting, cracking, visual decay, twisting, and bird damage. Patch minor woodpecker holes. 10-year cycle: Inspect all poles for splitting, cracking, visual decay, twisting, and bird damage. Patch minor woodpecker holes. When digging around ground line of poles for ground rod

checks, check pole for ground rot. Sounding and assessing each pole for deteriorating by probing with a screwdriver. Examine concrete poles for evidence of cracks and physical damage. Plumb poles if they are (1+) pole top out of plumb.

In 2012, LCEC inspected 1706 out of a total of 2713 transmission poles and structures. This included 100% of the 230 kV facilities and 54% of the 138 kV facilities. This was 100% of scheduled.

In 2012, LCEC completed inspections on 139,236 distribution poles. This was 100% of inspections scheduled and 97.0% of total poles.

During the 2012 inspection of the transmission facilities, 186 poles (.06% of inspected) failed inspection criteria. Of these, 118 failed due to rot, 6 to woodpecker damage, 54 bad arm and 8 to grounds

During the 2012 inspection of the distribution facilities, 202 poles (0.145% of inspected) failed inspection criteria. Of these, 141 failed due to rot/split top, 23 failed due to out of plumb, and 38 failed due to woodpecker damage.

In 2012, LCEC replaced 118 transmission poles due to rot. The replacement poles are concrete and steel the majority being concrete

In 2012, LCEC repaired through re-plumbing 23 poles (11.4% of total that failed inspection); and repaired through patching 9 (4.45% of total that failed inspection). The replaced poles consisted of fourteen (14) Class-2; eighteen (18) Class-3; twenty-two (22) Class-4; ninety (90) Class-5; and twenty-six (26) Class-6.

### **Vegetation Management:**

(a) LCEC has developed the following Vegetation Management Program for the control of vegetation on its distribution facilities. This Program covers the maintenance of vegetation for the **3,947** miles of single, double and three-phase distribution lines. Goals and strategies of the program are:

- 1) Maintain reliability of the distribution lines by controlling vegetation to meet the requirements of NESC and ANSI.
- 2) Strategies for control include cultural, mechanical, manual, and chemical treatments.
- 3) LCEC's practices planned circuit trimming on a six year cycle for single phase and a three year cycle for double and three phase distribution.
- 4) Approved procedures include directional trim techniques per ANSI A300 standard. Maintain side clearance of 8-10 feet or employ the use of directional trim technique of taking the cut to the next lateral beyond the standard clearance point. Standard ground/horizontal clearance is one foot below the lower most cable attachment or 12 feet from the primary, which ever is

greater. Palm trees are tipped back so fronds will not make contact with the primary when they drop. Overhang less than 15 feet above the primary is removed. All vines are cut and sprayed.

LCEC's TREES (To Respect Electricity and the Environment Safely) communication program focuses on planting and landscaping. Key messages are incorporated into the customer newsletter at least twice a year. Door hangers with brochures containing detailed information about planting the right tree in the right place are distributed throughout neighborhoods prior to circuit trimming. Through LCEC's Public Relations Department, presentations are used to promote smart landscaping to city government, builders and local agencies

LCEC maintains a bi-annual ground inspection of ROW Restriction Vegetation with trim/maintenance done as required.

- (b) 2012's Planned Vegetation Management for transmission and distribution was completed as follows:

<b>2012 Vegetation Management Schedule</b>			
	YE Actual	YE Goal	% YE
Transmission trimming*	196	196	100.0%
Three-phase trimming*	374	374	100.0%
Single-phase trimming*	390	390	100.0%
Transmission mowing*	15	15	100.0%
230 kV Inspection	Feb. & Sep	Bi-annual	100.0%
138 kV inspection	Jan thru Dec	Annual	100.0%
ROW Restriction Inspection/Maintenance	Jan & Aug	Bi-annual	100.0%

\* Miles