

**Fort Pierce Utilities Authority**  
**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to**  
**Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.**  
**Calendar Year 2013**

**1) Introduction**

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**2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2013**

27,822 at the end of calendar year 2013

**3) Standards of Construction**

**a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at FPUA comply with the applicable version of the National Electrical Safety Code at the time of construction.

**b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards**

FPUA designs all facilities in accordance with the extreme loading criteria as defined in the NESC.

**c) Flooding and Storm Surges**

FPUA references to the FEMA 100 Year Flood Zone when determining minimum grade requirement for pad mounted equipment installation. Alternatively, FPUA may elect to install fully-submersible equipment at grades that do not meet the minimum requirement.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at FPUA 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), they are installed so that FPUA's crews and vehicles can perform maintenance as expeditiously and safely as possible. FPUA 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 FPUA include written safety, pole reliability, pole loading capacity, and procedures for attachments by others to the FPUA's utility poles.

**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.**

FPUA utilizes a contractor to perform safety inspection of all wood distribution and transmission poles on an eight year cycle. The inspection process begins with a visual inspection from the ground line to the top of the pole. For all poles fifteen years and older, an excavation is performed to assess the presence of decay below grade and a chemical treatment is applied. If the level of decay results in a calculated remaining strength of 67% or less, the pole is identified as a candidate for reinforcement (e.g., bracing) or replacement. Poles that cannot be excavated are inspected using a sound and bore method.

A random sample size of at least 1% of the poles less than 15 years old will be excavated to assure that the 15 year threshold is adequate. If at any time the results indicate that a lower threshold is required, FPUA will use inspection data to improve the process (e.g., lower from 15 year criteria to 10 year).

Additional inspection applicable to transmission structures: FPUA conducts a visual and manual inspection performed from the ground and an aerial device of the structure and all attached components. The inspection is performed on a three year cycle and includes all wood, steel and concrete poles.

**b) Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2013.**

To maximize cost effectiveness, pole inspections are performed using geographical boundaries. The actual mix of distribution and transmission structures will ultimately be driven by the population of poles within the geographical boundary. Therefore the yearly target is for total pole count and does not differentiate between distribution and transmission.

2013 Inspections	Dist. Poles	Trans. Poles	Dist. + Trans.	% of System Inspected
Target	n/a	n/a	2,000	13%
Actual	2,839	28	2,867	18%

**c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2013 and the reason for the failure.**

Of the 2,839 distribution wood poles inspected, 483 poles (17%) failed inspection. The majority of the failures (356) are considered non-priority, meaning that the calculated remaining strength fell below 67% due to the decay at the ground line but had sufficient mechanical integrity to be scheduled for regular replacement. Also, 348 out of the 483 poles failing inspection were identified as candidates for reinforcement. FPUA plans to replace most of these poles instead of reinforcing them.

No transmission poles failed inspection.

**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 2013, including a description of the remediation taken.**

Distribution: FPUA replaced 35 wood poles that failed inspection (most were either class 4 or class 5). We fell behind schedule to issue a bid for a unit price contractor to assist with pole replacements in 2013. We expect to have the contractor begin work by the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2014. We also did not perform any pole reinforcement (remediation) in 2013. We have identified a sample of 56 pole locations to evaluate pole reinforcements this year.

Transmission: No poles failed inspection

**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.**

FPUA maintains a three year vegetation management cycle for our entire transmission and distribution system with a goal of maintaining foliage cut back at a minimum to a three-year level. We also aggressively seek to remove problem trees when trimming is not an effective option due to the growth rate of the species or the other aspects that threaten overhead circuits.

FPUA continuously works closely with customers and developers to minimize vegetation conflicts with overhead and underground utilities.

FPUA's 3-year vegetation management cycle is believed to be effective based upon industry benchmarking and analyses of vegetation-related outage history.

**b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2013.**

FPUA spent \$300,000 for the trimming, removal and disposal of vegetation waste in fiscal year 2013. This was sufficient to meet the yearly target of addressing one-third of our transmission and distribution system.

**6. Storm Hardening Research**

FPUA 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).