

**Lakeland Electric**  
**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to**  
**Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.**  
**Calendar Year 2013**

**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 2013**

122,000

**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 2013.**

Documented pole inspection results	Distribution	Transmission	Total
Poles planned for inspection	7500	147	7647
Percentage planned	12.5 %	12.5%	12.5%
Poles inspected	4525	58	4583
Percentage inspected	7.5%	4.9%	7.5%

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 2013 and the reason for the failure.**

Two transmission poles or 3.4% of those inspected failed to meet minimum strength requirements due to decay. There were 638 distribution poles or 14.1% 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 2012 were assessed for appropriate action. There were 19 distribution poles reinforced with struts by May, 2013 and 485 distribution poles were replaced, repaired, or removed by the end of 2013. Lakeland Electric will defer 185 distribution poles until 2014. Seven transmission poles were replaced in 2013 and five transmission poles were deferred to 2014.

## **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 programs entails circuit based maintenance provided by contractual services. Species specific distance trimming and directional pruning techniques are incorporated to maximize tree/conductor separation and to establish a 3-year trim cycle on the transmission and distribution circuits. Vegetation interference that exceeds the anticipated maintenance cycle on feeder circuits is trimmed in between cycles to enhance reliability.

Lakeland Electric's tree removal program includes any tree less than twelve-inches in diameter that will require future maintenance. Tree replacement certificates are used as an incentive to promote proper tree selection and energy conservation. Tree planting information booklets include setback recommendations that coincide with the City of

Lakeland and Polk County land development ordinances.

Lakeland Electric finds these practices sufficient because the anticipated tree growth will generally not exceed the established 3-year tree trimming cycle 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 2013.**

Lakeland Electric planned, trimmed and inspected 27 miles of 230 kV transmission lines to verify clearance meets or exceeds the FAC-003 compliance requirements. Lakeland Electric planned and completed 29 miles of transmission lines while completing 345 of the planned 400 miles of distribution lines for 2013. Distribution maintenance includes secondary voltage lines and service drops not included in the stated mileage.

All maintenance trimming was inspected to verify that it meets the required clearance specifications.

**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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