

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2014

1) Introduction

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2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2014

FPUA had 27,279 electric meters at the end of calendar year 2014

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 pad mounted equipment elevation. FPUA may elect to install fully submersible equipment as deemed necessary.

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), all facilities are installed so that FPUA's facilities are

accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed 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

FPUA includes written procedures, safety and construction standards for attachments by others to the electric transmission and distribution 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 replacing. 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 lower the threshold from 15 years to 10 years.

Additional inspection applicable to transmission structures: FPUA conducts a pole-by-pole 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 2014.

Inspections are performed using geographical boundaries which will determine the mix between distribution and transmission structures. Therefore, the yearly target is for total pole count and does not differentiate between distribution and transmission.

2014 Inspections	Dist. Poles	Trans. Poles	Dist. + Trans.	% of System Inspected
Target	n/a	n/a	2,000	13%
Actual	1,846	28	1,874	12%

c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2014 and the reason for the failure.

Of the 1,846 distribution wood poles inspected, 278 poles (15%) failed inspection. The majority of the failures (175) 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, 232 out of the 278 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 2014, including a description of the remediation taken.

Distribution: FPUA replaced 84 wood poles that failed inspection using both FPUA labor and contracted labor (most of the poles were either class 4 or class 5). We had 62 poles reinforced using bracing.

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 nuisances to any overhead utility wire or 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 2014.

FPUA budgeted \$330,000 for trimming, removal and disposal of vegetation waste in 2014. All of the funds were used. The target of addressing one-third of our transmission and distribution system was met.

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.