Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2018

1) Introduction

a) Fort Pierce Utilities Authority

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2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2018

At the end of the 2018 calendar year, FPUA had 28,285 electric meters

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

FPUA's construction, design standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures are in compliance 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 the FEMA 100 Year Flood Zone at part of the design process to facilitate construction and maintenance of pad mounted equipment. This includes determining the appropriate elevation of equipment or use of fully submersible equipment.

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 carefully evaluates 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 standards and policies include attachments by others to FPUA's 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 ten 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.

Additional inspection applicable to transmission structures: FPUA conducts a pole-by-pole visual and manual inspection performed from the ground. 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 2018.

Inspections are divided into sections based on budget. While each section contains a combination of distribution and transmission structures, the yearly target is based on area and does not differentiate between distribution and transmission.

2018 Inspection	Distribution	Transmission	Total	% of system
Target	3000	100	3100	15.2%
Actual	2852	5	2857	14.0%

c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2018 and the reason for the failure.

Of the 2857 wood poles inspected, 205 (7.2%) failed inspection. Of the failed inspections, 196 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 for mechanical reinforcement. These poles will be reinforced or replaced during the 2019 and 2020 fiscal years.

No transmission poles failed inspection during 2018 inspections.

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 2018, including a description of the remediation taken.

Distribution: FPUA replaced 102 wood poles that failed inspection using both FPUA labor and contracted labor.

Transmission: no transmission 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 four-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 2018.

FPUA continues to budget $300,000 each year for trimming, removal and disposal of vegetation waste. FPUA has focused more on the vegetation management of lateral sections on the distribution system versus the feeder sections to account for any extra growth. All of the funds were used effectively in 2018. The target of addressing one-third of our transmission and distribution system was met.

6. Storm Hardening Research

Fort Pierce Utilities Authority 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 Amy Zubaly, Executive Director, FMEA, 850-224-3314, ext.1, or azubaly@publicpower.com.