



City of Alachua

ADAM BOUKARI
CITY MANAGER

PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C. Calendar Year 2020

1) Introduction

CITY OF ALACHUA

PO BOX 9

ALACHUA, FLORIDA 32616

Mr. William Shiskin, Electric System Supervisor (wi_shiskin@cityofalachua.org)

Phone: (352)316-8182, Fax: (386)-518-5831

2) Number of customers served in calendar year 2020: **4744**

3) Standards of Construction

The City's construction standards, policies, practices and procedures are designed in accordance with industry standards in an effort to mitigate damages from extreme weather conditions. The City of Alachua works with Professional Engineers and Consultants from Florida Municipal Power Agency to review and evaluate the City's Electrical Standards.

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction Standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Alachua comply with the National Electric Safety Code (ANSI C-2 [NESC]). For electrical facilities constructed on or after January 1, 2017, the 2017 NESC applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to January 1, 2017, are governed by the edition of the NESC in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction.

b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards

The City of Alachua follows the guidelines for extreme wind loading in accordance the NESC standards. The City of Alachua constructions standards are in compliance with 250-2(d) of the NESC, latest revision, for new construction, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities. The City design is based on 110 mph wind load for our area with a 1.25(minimum) safety factory for wind gust.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

The City of Alachua is not located in a coastal area subject to storm surges; therefore, storm surge has not been an issue.

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

New developments within the corporate limits are reviewed to ensure compliance to the City of Alachua's Electrical Construction Standards, approved materials, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures so as to facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance. All new facilities have complete access for maintenance by PUE (Public Utilities Easements) to insure compliance. The City decides on a case by case basis of existing facilities that need to be relocated; they will be placed in the safest and most accessible area as required.

e) Attachments by Others

The pole attachment agreement between the City of Alachua and other utilities includes language which specifies that the responsibility for poles strength evaluation and safety. The Pole Attachment Agreement includes language which specifies that the utility, not the City of Alachua, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before attachment to the pole. The City performs attachment audits as required to ensure conformance.

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.

The City of Alachua performs annual inspection of the electric wood poles in service. The goal is 12.5 % per year for an 8-year inspection cycle. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, 2020 inspections were postponed to 2021. Approximately 400 poles (16%) are scheduled to be inspected/tested during 2021 in effort to stay on the 8 year cycle.

Note: The City of Alachua owns only distribution poles, no transmission.

b) Number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2020.

Number of Poles: 2492 Inspected: 0

c) Number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection and the reason for the failure.

Distribution System Report for FY 2019- (423) poles inspected: Rejected (31) poles (7.3% of the total surveyed); Priority Rejects (6) due to Shell Rot at ground line, immediate change-out required; Non-Priority Rejects (25) due to Shell Rot, Decay Top, Split Top and Woodpecker Holes, replacement to be scheduled upon review by staff.

Average age of poles surveyed: 35 years.

- d) 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, including a description of the remediation taken.

The City of Alachua has no transmission poles. The wood poles failing annual inspection FY 2019 were 30'6(9), 35'5(4), 35'6(2), 40'4(1), 40'5(4), 45'4(9) or 45'5(2); these poles were evaluated by staff and replaced accordingly. All other poles inspected were treated and wrapped, check/repair all grounding connections, including installation of guy guards for safety.

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.

The Public Utility Research Center has held two vegetation management workshops in 2007 and 2009. Through FMEA, the City of Alachua has a copy of the report and will use the information to continually improve vegetation management practices. We will participate in future best-practice workshops if there interest

- b) Quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities.

The City of Alachua has no transmission system to maintain. The City trims approximately 62 miles of overhead primary distribution system on a three year cycle. The City trims approximately 30% each year. GIS mapping system is utilized to track trimming annually and to budget annual trimming projects.

6. Storm Hardening Research:

The City of Alachua 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 (PURC) 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.