

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

1) Introduction

Escambia River Electric Cooperative is located in Santa Rosa County and serves the Northern parts of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. EREC serves approximately 13,000 meters with approximately 1,700 miles of distribution line and no transmission lines or structures. EREC owns all of the distribution, which operates at 12,470 V, and our generation and transmission partner owns all of the transmission and substations that are used to serve our customers.

Contact Information

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2) Number of meters served in the calendar year 2020

Escambia River Electric Cooperative served approximately 13,000 meters in 2020.

3) Standards of Construction

a. National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at Escambia River Electric Cooperative comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2017, the 2017 NESC applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to February 1, 2017, are governed by the edition of 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 Escambia River Electric Cooperative are guided by the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2017 edition of the

NESC for major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after December 10, 2006.

- 1. New construction;**
- 2. Major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after the effective date of this rule;**
- 3. Targeted critical infrastructure facilities and major thoroughfares taking into account political and geographical boundaries and other applicable operational considerations.**

c. Flooding and Storm Surges

Escambia River Electric Cooperative is a non-coastal utility; therefore, storm surge is not an issue.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at Escambia River Electric Cooperative 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 Escambia River Electric Cooperative's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. Escambia River Electric Cooperative 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

The pole attachment agreements between Escambia River Electric Cooperative and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the cooperative, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety, as set forth in the NESC, before they attach to the pole. Escambia River Electric Cooperative performs follow-up audits of attachments to ensure the attachment is properly installed, maintained, and meet NESC requirements for pole attachments.

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.**

Escambia River Electric Cooperative inspects each distribution pole on an 8 year cycle using visual, sound and boring techniques in accordance with RUS standards. Additionally, Escambia River Electric Cooperative uses data gathered during outages to proactively identify troubled lines, poles, equipment, and right-of-way. All of the data feeds back to our pole selection process, which provides a method to determine which poles not to purchase.

- b. The number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed.**

We planned for 4200 (12%) of distribution poles to be inspected for the 2020 year. The number of poles inspected in 2020 was 3612 (10.3%) of distribution poles were inspected. The amount of pole inspections was less than originally projected as we were delayed in getting our contractor in toward the end of the year. Escambia River Electric plans to perform inspections and treat approximately 4800 poles in 2021 to maintain our 8-year cycle.

Escambia River Electric Cooperative does not own any transmission poles.

- c. Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2020 and the reason for the failure.**

Approximately 132 poles did not pass initial inspection. The common reason for rejection was pole rot at the top and bottom of poles. The majority of these rejections will have the top of poles re-inspected before replacement as the initial inspection was from the ground.

- d. Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles, by type and class of structure, replaced or for which remediation was taken**

after inspection in 2020, including a description of the remediation taken.

Poles replaced were of various size and class, and have been or will be replaced with the appropriate size and class.

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.**

Escambia River Electric Cooperative uses a 5-year vegetation management cycle for all distribution lines. The primary reason for this is that the right-of-way is cleared 10 feet on both sides of the lines making a total clearance of 20 feet. While the crews are managing vegetation on a line they look for foreseeable future problems and take care of them at that time. If at anytime there is a problem tree or landscaping, Escambia River Electric Cooperative works with the home owner toward trimming, if possible, or removal, if necessary, while providing restitution if necessary for trees or landscaping that is outside the easement or right-of-ways. In all cases our current policy is providing the necessary vegetation management needed to reduce outages due to vegetation.

- b. Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2020.**

As described in question 5(a), Escambia River Electric Cooperative planned to manage vegetation on 20% or 340 miles of the overhead distribution power lines. In 2020, we managed vegetation of approximately 381 miles of distribution power lines, or 22.4%.