

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

VOTE SHEET

FEBRUARY 7, 2006

RE: **Docket No. 060078-EI** - Proposal to require investor-owned electric utilities to implement ten-year wood pole inspection program.

**Docket No. 060077-TL** - Proposal to require local exchange telecommunications companies to implement ten-year wood pole inspection program.

**Issue 1:** Should the Commission require each electric IOU to implement a ten-year pole inspection cycle, utilizing the standards of the National Electric Safety Code, and to annually report to the Commission the results of the inspections of its wood transmission and distribution poles?

**Recommendation:** Yes. The electric IOUs are required by rule to comply with the provisions of the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), including wood pole inspections. The Commission should require each of the electric IOUs to implement a ten-year pole inspection cycle and to annually report the results of their wood pole inspections for the previous year.

**MODIFIED**

*Approved with modification that electric IOUs will be required to implement an eight-year inspection cycle and with correction to page 6 of staff's recommendation as stated at the conference. (see dissent language below.)*

COMMISSIONERS ASSIGNED: All Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS' SIGNATURES

MAJORITY

DISSENTING

*[Handwritten signatures of majority commissioners]*

*[Handwritten signature of dissenting commissioner]*

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

01086 FEB-7 06

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

REMARKS/DISSENTING COMMENTS:

*Commissioner Arriaga ~~did~~ dissented only concerning the fact that electric munis and co-ops will not be included in 8-year inspection requirement (Issue 1) in staff's internal workshop.*

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**Issue 2:** Should the Commission require each local exchange company to implement a ten-year pole inspection cycle, utilizing the standards of the requirements of the National Electric Safety Code, and to annually report to the Commission the results of the inspections of wood poles?

**Recommendation:** Yes. The local exchange companies are required by rule to comply with the provisions of the National Electric Safety Code, including wood pole inspections. The Commission should require each of the companies to implement a ten-year pole inspection cycle and to annually report the results of their wood pole inspections for the previous year.

**APPROVED**

*Approved with correction to page 13 of staff's recommendation as stated at the conference.*

**Issue 3:** If the Commission determines in Issues 1 and 2 that the electric IOUs and local exchange companies should annually report the results of pole inspections reflecting a ten-year pole inspection cycle, what method of pole inspection should the electric IOUs and local exchange companies be required to implement?

**Recommendation:** The inspections should be based on the sound and bore technique for all wood poles, and should include excavation for all Southern Pine poles and other wood pole types as appropriate. The inspections should include strength impact assessments of pole attachments.

**APPROVED**

**Issue 4:** If the Commission determines in Issues 1 and 2 that the electric IOUs and local exchange companies should annually report the results of pole inspections reflecting a ten-year pole inspection cycle, what should be the filing requirements of the reports?

**Recommendation:** Preliminary to filing any such reports, and by no later than April 1, 2006, the electric IOUs should submit a comprehensive wood pole inspection plan to the Director of the Division of Economic Regulation. Likewise, the local exchange companies should submit a comprehensive wood pole inspection plan to the Director of the Division of Competitive Markets and Enforcement by April 1, 2006. In their filings, each electric IOU and local exchange company should include their plan for pole-specific data gathering, pole inspection program enforcement, and how poles shared by two or more companies will be inspected. The plans should also identify any pole inspection standards utilized by the electric IOU or local exchange company that supersede those of the NESC and any other details necessary to understand its pole inspection program.

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The annual report of pole inspections, hereafter referred to as the Pole Inspection Report, should be filed by March 1 of each year with the Division of Economic Regulation and the Division of Competitive Markets and Enforcement. It should contain the information listed below for the previous calendar year. The first report should be provided March 1, 2007, but it should contain inspection data for May 2006, through December 2006, rather than a full twelve-month period, given the timing of this recommendation. All annual inspection reports, including the 2006 Pole Inspection Report, should contain the following informational sections:

- 1) A review of the methods the company used to determine National Electric Safety Code compliance for strength and structural integrity of the wood poles included in the previous year's annual inspections, taking into account pole loadings where required;
- 2) An explanation of the inspected poles selection criteria, including among other things geographic location age, and the rationale for including each such selection criteria;
- 3) Summary data and results of the companies' previous year's transmission and distribution wood pole inspections, addressing the strength, structural integrity, and loading requirements of the National Electric Safety Code (See Attachment B of staff's memorandum for proposed data reporting requirements in a sample format); and
- 4) Identification of the cause(s) of each pole failure for those poles failing the inspection, to the extent that such cause(s) can be discerned. Also, the specific actions the company has taken or will take to correct each pole failure.

**APPROVED**

**Issue 5:** Should these dockets be closed?

**Recommendation:** Yes. If no protest is filed by a person whose interests are substantially affected within 21 days of the Commission order, the dockets should be closed upon the issuance of a consummating order. If a timely protest is filed by a person whose substantial interests are affected within 21 days of the Commission Order, these dockets should remain open pending the resolution of the protest. Any protest of the Commission's decision in this matter should identify with specificity the item or measure being protested, and any such protest should not prevent the remainder of the Order from becoming final and effective.

**APPROVED**

*with understanding the PAA order will be severable; that the order will become final for any company not protesting. Additionally, staff will hold an informal workshop with telephone companies. The workshop will be scheduled on an expedited basis before the protest period runs on the PAA. If necessary, staff will bring the matter back to the Commission.*