

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Staff proposal to revise annual reporting requirements for Commission-ordered wood pole inspections by investor-owned electric utilities.

DOCKET NO. 070634-EI

In re: Staff proposal to revise annual reporting requirements for Commission-ordered wood pole inspections by incumbent local exchange telecommunications carriers.

DOCKET NO. 070635-TL

ORDER NO. PSC-07-0918-PAA-PU

ISSUED: November 14, 2007

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

LISA POLAK EDGAR, Chairman
MATTHEW M. CARTER II
KATRINA J. McMURRIAN
NANCY ARGENZIANO
NATHAN A. SKOP

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION
ORDER APPROVING REVISIONS TO THE ANNUAL POLE INSPECTION REPORTING
REQUIREMENTS

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

I. Case Background

On February 27, 2006, we issued Order No. PSC-06-0144-PAA-EI in Docket No. 060078-EI, requiring each electric investor-owned utility (IOU) to implement an eight-year wood pole inspection cycle. Similarly, we issued Order No. PSC-06-0168-PAA-TL on March 1, 2006, requiring the same in the telecommunications arena for incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs.) These orders also required companies to submit annual inspection reports.

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Specifically, Order Nos. PSC-06-0144-PAA-EI and PSC-06-0168-PAA-TL state: "All annual inspection reports, including the 2006 Pole Inspection Report, shall contain the following informational sections:

1. A review of the methods the company used to determine NESC 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 and the rationale for including each such selection criterion;
3. Summary data and results of the company's previous year's wood pole inspections, addressing the strength, structural integrity, and loading requirements of the NESC; and
4. The cause(s) of each pole failure for poles failing inspection, to the extent that such cause(s) can be discerned in the inspection. Also, the specific actions the company has taken, or will take, to correct each pole failure.

By March 31, 2007, all companies submitted a first annual inspection report for the 2006 reporting year.

After a thorough review and compilation of these initial company reports, our staff determined that certain revisions to the required information could help provide additional clarity to future reports.

To discuss possible revisions, our staff facilitated an informal teleconference with interested parties on September 13, 2007.

II. Analysis

Five items of information not previously included in our orders has been identified by as necessary to ensure comprehensive pole inspection monitoring. Additionally, a portion of one of the ordered elements of the annual pole inspection report was determined by our staff to be unnecessary for monitoring the companies' programs.

Our staff's review of the first annual reports also revealed that additional information would be beneficial to a fuller understanding of company inspection programs. The additional information needed for each year of reporting data consists of:

- The number of poles failing inspection and designated for replacement,
- The number of replacements made to date,
- The plan for replacement of the remaining poles that failed inspection,

- The projected number of poles to be inspected in the next annual inspection cycle, and
- The cumulative number and percentage of poles inspected in the eight-year cycle.

We note that several of the IOUs and ILECs provided some, or all, of this additional information in their 2006 activity reports.

Additionally, our staff's review of the first annual reports led to a conclusion that the portions of Requirement 4, that companies provide to this Commission "the cause of *each* failure for poles failing inspection" and "the specific actions...to correct *each* pole failure" are unnecessary and burdensome (emphasis added.) This level of detail in the annual report is unnecessary. Instead, the companies should gather and retain this data for "each pole," but that the requirement to annually provide data on each pole shall be removed. If a need for this data arises, or aggregated data such as total poles failing due to decay or overload, the companies shall then provide the requested data as a report supplement.

Modifying future reports in this manner would allow this Commission to more accurately gauge the status of pole inspection efforts and progress. This revision would provide a clearer, more comprehensive indication whether companies are on track to complete 100 percent of the required inspection in eight years.

Our staff presented these recommended changes in an informal conference call held on September 13, 2007. The teleconference was formally noticed and well-attended by the IOUs and ILECs impacted by the proposed changes. The participants made no objections.

III. Decision

Accordingly, we hereby approve the proposed revisions to the annual pole inspection reporting requirements as set forth above. Furthermore, Attachment 1 of this Order is adopted as the format for future annual pole inspection reports.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that we hereby approve the proposed revisions to the annual pole inspection reporting requirements as set forth in the body of this Order. It is further

ORDERED that Attachment 1 of this Order is adopted as the format for future annual pole inspection reports. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, these dockets shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 14th day of November, 2007.



ANN COLE
Commission Clerk

(S E A L)

AJT

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing that is available under Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on December 5, 2007.

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In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this/these docket(s) before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.

_____ (Company)
Annual Wood Pole Inspection Report
 (Reporting Year 20____)

| a | b | c | d | e | f | g | h | i | j | k | l | m |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| Total # of Wooden Poles in the Company Inventory | # of Pole Inspections Planned this Annual Inspection | # of Poles Inspected this Annual Inspection | # of Poles Failing Inspection this Annual Inspection | Pole Failure Rate (%) this Annual Inspection | # of Poles Designated for Replacement this Annual Inspection | Total # of Poles Replaced this Annual Inspection | # of Poles Requiring Minor Follow-up this Annual Inspection | # of Poles Overloaded this Annual Inspection | Method(s) V = Visual E = Excavation P= Prod S = Sound B= Bore R = Resistograph | # of Pole Inspections Planned for Next Annual Inspection Cycle | Total # of Poles Inspected (Cumulative) in the 8-Year Cycle To Date | % of Poles Inspected (Cumulative) in the 8-Year Cycle To Date |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| If b - c > 0, provide explanation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| If d - g > 0, provide explanation | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Description of selection criteria for inspections | | | | | | | | | | | | |