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From: S. Denise Hill [dhill@publicpower.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 2:21 PM
To: Filings@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Clewiston Storm Hardening report

Attachments: Clewiston Storm Hardening report 5.2006.doc



Clewiston Storm
Hardening repo...

Dear Sir/Madam,

Attached is the Implementation Plan for Ongoing Storm Preparedness for the City of Clewiston.

Denise

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Outline of Implementation Plan for Ongoing Storm Preparedness

A. Introduction

City of Clewiston Utilities
Kevin McCarthy Director
141 Central Av
Clewiston, Fl 33440
863-983-1454
kevin.mccarthy@clewiston-fl.gov

The City of Clewiston is located 60 miles inland from either coast on the southern shore of Lake Okeechobee. We have been impacted by Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne in 2004, and Wilma in 2005. After Hurricane Francis we were 100% restored in 5 days, Jeanne 2 days and Wilma 8 days. We provided assistance to our other municipal utilities after Charley, Francis and Katrina, and received assistance after Francis and Wilma.

Through three hurricanes we have had less than 5% of our poles broken almost all of which were caused by uprooted trees, not branches, that have fallen from outside the utility easement or by impact from roofing materials acting as a sail on our lines.

The City of Clewiston has traditionally been built with all utilities being overhead in the rear easement. All new developments have been required to be underground since 1985 and as of last year are required to have front yard easements. Where practical all redevelopment projects also are placed underground.

B. Three-Year Vegetation Management Cycle

- a. The Clewiston Utilities trims its lines on an ongoing basis. Our transmission lines have no trees in or adjacent to the right of way. All of our feeders are trimmed prior to each hurricane season. Rear easement taps are trimmed through customer requests and the utility began two years ago removing any trees in the easement as opposed to trimming.

C. Transmission and Distribution Geographic Information System

- a. Clewiston Utilities began a program three years ago converting all of our paper maps to a GIS system, this is intended to be a 10 year program involving electric, water, sewer, roads and storm drains. The information when completed will include all pertinent data relating to age, construction, and inspections.

D. Wooden Transmission vs. Concrete Transmission Structures

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- a. Clewiston Utilities uses only concrete poles in its transmission system. All the poles are cast and we have had no failures through three hurricanes.
- E. Post-Storm Data Gathering, Data Retention and Forensic Analysis
- a. Clewiston Utilities records the cause of every outage, we have staff meetings after major outages to discuss improvements that can be made and priorities to prevent future outages. We have not had a need to use forensic analysis to determine system failures and as part of our GIS project plan to tie data to specific poles instead of our current address system.
- F. Audit of Joint-Use Pole Attachment Agreements
- a. Clewiston Utilities has no attachments to poles owned by other utilities. We audit our pole attachments every 5 years. All pole attachments are reviewed by our engineer to ensure compliance with our standards. However, all new developments are underground utilities so we have had no additional attachments in several years. We have had no pole failures through the last three hurricanes due to overloading of poles or other utilities attachments.
- G. Six-year transmission Inspection Program
- a. Clewiston Utilities visually inspects its transmission poles and circuits after any circuit trip and thermographically every two years.
- H. Collection of Outage Data Differentiating Between the Reliability Performance of Overhead and Underground Systems
- a. We currently track outages and record whether it is underground or overhead. We do not differentiate between them for the various indices.
- I. Coordination with Local Governments
- a. Clewiston Utilities is a department of the City of Clewiston, we have an ordinance in place protecting our utility easements from vegetation and other obstructions. We also operate as the EOC for the City and facilitate coordination with the other City departments as well as the County EOC. Our offices, as well as all other critical facilities in the City are on backup generators. The Utilities department coordinates closely with the local Fire Department and Forestry and has used their assistance in clearing trees that have fallen into the easement. We provided a backup generator to the local hospital when theirs failed during Wilma.
- J. Collaborative Research Through the Public Utility Research Center (PURC) at the University of Florida
- a. Clewiston Utilities through its membership in the Florida Municipal Electric Association and its involvement with the Public Utility Research Center (PURC) at the University of Florida, participates in PURC activities related to storm hardening research.