

Timolyn Henry

From: S. Denise Hill [dhill@publicpower.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 11:08 AM
To: Filings@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Homestead Storm Hardening Report

Attachments: Homestead.Storm Hardening Report.doc



Homestead.Storm
Hardening Repo...

Dear Sir/Madam,

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

Denise

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Homestead Energy Services' Ongoing Storm Preparedness Plan

A. Overview

The City of Homestead is located approximately twenty-five miles south of Miami situated between two National Parks (Biscayne NP & Everglades NP) and serves as the gateway to the Florida Keys.

In 1992 Hurricane Andrew devastated Homestead including ninety percent of the electric system. More recently, in 2005, Homestead received major impacts from Katrina and Wilma as well as feeling the effects of other named storms.

The utility encompasses approximately fifteen and one-half miles of service territory and serves 19,500 customers.

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B. Three-Year Vegetation Management Cycle

- a. Homestead Energy Services contracts with Asplundh to perform vegetation management. Tree trimming is an ongoing process and all distribution feeders and laterals are trimmed on a frequency of less than three years. Service drops are trimmed upon the request of customers.
- b. The City of Homestead recently passed an ordinance requiring residents to keep trees on private property trimmed to prevent interference with electric lines.

C. Transmission and Distribution Geographic Information System

- a. Homestead Energy Services utilizes ArcInfo software for its GIS database which is currently being populated. Currently, all crews have hardcopy maps of the system. When the GIS database is complete, plans are to institute an electronic outage management system and provide crews with laptop computers.

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D. Wooden Transmission vs. Concrete Transmission Structures

- a. Homestead Energy Services' transmission poles are all spun concrete and have not experienced any storm-related failures. Any new construction of transmission facilities will utilize spun concrete poles designed for 150 mph wind loading.

E. Post-Storm Data Gathering, Data Retention and Forensic Analysis

- a. Homestead Energy Services tracks and records the cause of every outage. After major events staff meetings are held to determine the cause and make recommendations for system improvements to prevent future occurrences.

In addition, through FMEA, Homestead staff has participated in post-storm roundtable discussions with other municipal utilities to share and learn from each other's hurricane experiences.

F. Audit of Joint-Use Pole Attachment Agreements

- a. Homestead completed a system wide joint use audit in 2003. By the terms of joint use contracts, audits are conducted on a five-year time frame.

All requests for new attachments are reviewed by the Engineering Department and stress calculations are performed

G. Six-year transmission Inspection Program

- a. In 2005, Homestead Energy Services contracted with a firm to do a complete inspection of its transmission system. All required maintenance that was found at this time was completed. Thermographic inspections are done on a frequency of two years or less. It is the intent of the utility to perform transmission line inspections in accordance with the PSC's six-year recommendation.

H. Collection of Outage Data Differentiating Between the Reliability Performance of Overhead and Underground Systems

- a. Homestead Energy Services utilizes APPA's service reliability software to record all of the industry standard outage indices. While we do not record separate indices for overhead and underground systems, the software does differentiate between overhead and underground outages and separate reports can easily be generated from the database.

I. Coordination with Local Governments

- a. Homestead Energy Services operates as a department of the City of Homestead. Prior to, and after a storm event, all City departments work together closely to prepare or recover from a storm.
- b. Homestead Energy Services has a representative staff the local EOC. This insures that the utility can closely coordinate activities with the local police and fire departments to provide for public safety.
- c. The City of Homestead has purchased generators for all critical City facilities to insure that post hurricane efforts of the local governmental agencies will not be impeded.

J. Collaborative Research Through the Public Utility Research Center (PURC) at the University of Florida

- a. Homestead Energy Services 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.