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OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
MICHAEL R. BOYD  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
(850) 413-6199  
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Public Service Commission

COMMISSION  
CLERK

July 25, 2008

John T. Burnett  
Progress Energy Florida  
P.O. Box 14042  
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-4042

STAFF DATA REQUEST

**Re: Docket No. 080256-EI - Petition to modify wood pole inspection plan by Progress Energy Florida, Inc.**

Dear Mr. Burnett:

By this letter, the Commission staff requests that Progress Energy Florida (PEF or utility) provide responses to the following data requests.

Page 8 of PEF's Comprehensive Wood Pole Inspection Plan states that the use of the drilling resistance measuring device (resistograph) was implemented to improve the results of the inspection of concrete encased poles.

1. Since the results from the resistograph inspection method were not superior to the traditional sound and bore method, is PEF planning to implement any alternative inspection methods to improve the results of the inspection of concrete encased poles?
2. Please state what relevant facts and circumstances PEF would use to determine which method, resistograph or sound and bore, is the most reliable.
3. Please state whether PEF would be willing to adopt a process similar to the one utilized by FPL and TECO which is outlined in Order No. PSC-07-0078-PAA-EU:

For all Southern pine poles that cannot be excavated because they are surrounded by concrete or pavement, FPL uses a three-step process developed by its contractor, Osmose. First, poles are visually inspected above ground level to check for woodpecker holes, cracks, etc. Poles that do not pass visual inspection are scheduled for replacement. If poles pass this inspection, they are sounded and bored.

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

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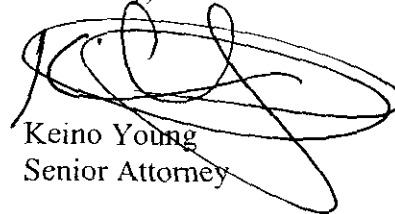
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Second, poles are sounded from ground level to as high as the inspector can reach in order to locate interior pockets of decay. For boring, Osmose has developed a ground level inspection method that is referred to as "Shell Boring." The drill bit is placed and aimed so it will inspect the outer shell of the pole below ground. Southern yellow pine poles are bored both into the heart of the pole and into the outer shell below ground. FPL believes the shell boring procedure used by Osmose increases the accuracy of inspection, since shell rot is the predominant decay pattern. Third, poles are internally treated with a type of remedial wood preservative.

Please file the original and five copies of the requested information by Wednesday, July 30, 2008, with Ms. Ann Cole, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0850. Please feel free to call me at (850) 413-6226 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Keino Young  
Senior Attorney

KY/tfw

cc: Office of Commission Clerk  
Robert Graves, Office of Strategic Analysis & Governmental Affairs  
Paul Lewis, Jr., Progress Energy Florida