

State of Florida



# Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

**-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-**

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**DATE:** June 16, 2017

**TO:** Carlotta S. Stauffer, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

**FROM:** Clyde D. Rome, Public Utility Analyst II, Division of Economics *CDR*

**RE:** Docket No. 170073-EI: Petition for approval of revised underground residential distribution tariffs, by Tampa Electric Company

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Please place the attached notes in the subject docket file. Thank you.

RECEIVED-FPSC  
2017 JUN 16 AM 9:17  
COMMISSION  
CLERK

## Don Rome

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**From:** Stiles II, Billy J. <wjstiles@tecoenergy.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 15, 2017 5:19 PM  
**To:** Don Rome  
**Cc:** REGDEPT REGDEPT; Grant, Lisa L.  
**Subject:** Response to inquiry re 35' poles

Don, below is Tampa Electric's response to your question about the company's use of 35' poles. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Billy

Q. The company no longer uses 30-foot Class 6 wooden poles because they do not meet wind-loading/clearance guidelines; therefore, they have been replaced with 35-foot Class 4 wooden poles. Need to clarify if this was solely an internal decision, or was it necessary to comply with changes included in the new 2017 NESC code standards.

A. Pole Loading Compliance: Tampa Electric continues to use "PoleForeman," a pole loading software program to assure that Tampa Electric is in compliance with all NESC loading requirements and company construction standards. The program utilizes the company's construction standards with templates to model each pole and assist company distribution design technicians. The technician inputs the appropriate template, conductor, pole size and class, which the program uses to determine all loads on the pole. The program applies the loads to the structure and calculates the resulting stresses as a percent utilization of the pole. As part of the software programming, the company designs the build one higher level than called for by the National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC"). While the NESC supports Grade B (typically for urban design) and NESC Grade C (typically for rural design), the more rigorous NESC Grade B has been adopted for all Tampa Electric construction.

The company still uses poles of a 30-foot height (class 4 or 6) mostly for lighting pole installations due to tariff requirements and in some installations to replace an existing pole. The company commonly uses the 35-foot height (class 4) in distribution installations. These 35-foot height poles have been the consistent inputs into the "PoleForeman" software to meet the 2012 NESC Standards since 2009, at which time the company stopped using the 30-foot height poles for new distribution installations. Tampa Electric has reviewed the 2017 NESC and nothing in this new revision will affect the choice of poles used in distribution installations by the company.

Sent from my iPhone

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