

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

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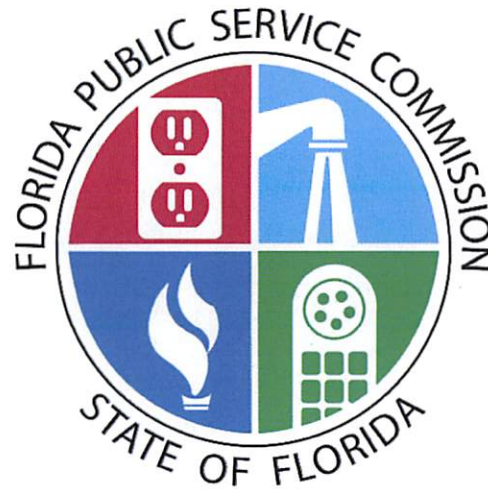
DATE: May 2, 2018
TO: Carlotta S. Stauffer, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk
FROM: Thomas Ballinger, Director, Division of Engineering *TB*
RE: Docket No. 20170215-EU- Review of electric utility hurricane preparedness and restoration actions.

Please file the attached presentation in the above mentioned docket file.

Thank you

Review of Electric Utility Hurricane Preparedness and Restoration Actions

Docket No. 20170215-EU



Tom Ballinger
Director, Division of Engineering
Florida Public Service Commission
May 2, 2018

Overview

- Storm Hardening – Meaning and Goals
- Overview of Review Process
- Summary of Findings
- Workshop Structure



Storm Hardening

- Section 366.03, F.S. requires an electric utility to provide “reasonably sufficient, adequate, and efficient service” at rates that “shall be fair and reasonable”.
- Utilities required to balance reliability with cost-effectiveness based on sound engineering principles.
- Goal of storm hardening is to balance the desire to minimize storm damage, reduce outages and restoration time while mitigating excessive rate increases to customers.



Storm Hardening

- Despite the goal of reducing outages, even storm hardened facilities can suffer damage due to events beyond a utility's control.



Overview of Review Process

- Through Docket No. 20170215-EI, the Commission has collected data from 57 utilities, customers, and other stakeholders relating to storm preparation and restoration for Hurricane Irma and other storms.
- The objective is to identify potential damage mitigation options and restoration improvements. Staff is also critically evaluating Commission's rules and processes for potential improvements.
- Staff issued three sets of data requests, totaling approximately 60 questions, to each utility in Florida. The Office of Public Counsel issued 48 interrogatories to the investor-owned utilities.
- Customer comment portal on Commission's website was established on October 9, 2017. Staff solicited input from other stakeholders (i.e. local governments, businesses, advocacy groups) on December 19, 2017.



Summary of Findings

- No anomalies observed between utilities regarding outage cause and restoration times. All utilities have similar staging, damage assessment, and workload management processes.
- Primary outage causes continue to be wind, wind blown debris (i.e. trees outside of rights of way), and flooding.
- Transmission structures generally performed well. In addition to affecting native retail customers, some transmission structure failures may have also impacted wholesale customers (Munis and Coops).
- During recovery efforts, utilities reported 98 injuries (approx. 2/3 were mutual aid staff) and 0 fatalities for both mutual aid and utility crews.
- On a macro level hardened structures outperformed non-hardened structures (i.e. fewer poles replaced than during Wilma restoration), but granular quantitative data is somewhat lacking.



Summary of Findings

- Under current pricing policies, installation of underground facilities have been growing steadily over last five years. Most of the growth reported in new construction.
- Most common impediments to restoration times were debris removal and local traffic issues. The data supports no impediments due to material or man power shortages.
- Over 700 customer comments. 88% of comments regarding IOUs and 12% of comments referred to Munis/Coops. 10.6% of all comments were positive, 49% were negative, and 40% were informational only. Common themes are frustration with timely communication, cost responsibility for restoration, and support of solar distributed generation.



Workshop Structure

- Day 1 - Utilities to provide summary information on the following topics:
 - Overview of preparation and restoration processes
 - Hardened vs. non-hardened facility performance
 - Underground vs. overhead facility performance
 - Impediments to restoration efforts
 - Customer/stakeholder communication issues
 - Suggested improvements

- Day 2 - Non-utility organizations to provide summary information on the following topics:
 - Suggested policies or practices regarding vegetation management
 - Suggested policies or practices regarding undergrounding facilities
 - Suggested improvements for communication with utilities

- Staff will consider all information provided and provide a more detailed report including recommended future actions. Currently scheduled for discussion at the June 19, 2018 Internal Affairs Conference.



Questions?

Tom Ballinger

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