

AUSLEY & McMULLEN

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

123 SOUTH CALHOUN STREET
P.O. BOX 391 (ZIP 32302)
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301
(850) 224-9115 FAX (850) 222-7560

November 10, 2021

VIA: ELECTRONIC FILING

Mr. Adam J. Teitzman
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Proposed Adoption of Rule 25-18.020, F.A.C., Pole Inspection and Maintenance
Dkt. 20210138-PU

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Enclosed for filing is Tampa Electric Company's Response to Staff's First Data Request (Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5).

Please note, Tampa Electric Company will provide Response No. 2 at a later date.

Thank you for your assistance in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,



Malcolm N. Means

MNM/ne

cc: Paula K. Brown

**TAMPA ELECTRIC COMPANY
DOCKET NO. 20210138-PU
STAFF'S FIRST DATA REQUEST
REQUEST NO. 1
BATES PAGE: 1
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1. Is your company obligated to conduct vegetation management, maintain, or inspect any poles that are owned by a communications services provider to which your company has overhead facilities attached? If so, please explain the nature of the obligation.

A. Tampa Electric is obligated to perform vegetation management on its overhead facilities as described in its Storm Protection Plan approved by the Commission in Order No. PSC-2020-0293-AS-EI, issued August 28, 2020, in Docket No. 20200067-EI, Review of 2020-2029 Storm Protection Plan pursuant to Rule 25-6.030, Florida Administrative Code ("F.A.C."), Tampa Electric Company. Pole ownership does not affect this obligation. Tampa Electric's obligation to perform vegetation management of its facilities attached to poles not owned by Tampa Electric is limited to Tampa Electric's facilities on the poles.

Tampa Electric is obligated to maintain its facilities attached to poles not owned by Tampa Electric in safe condition, thorough repair, and in accordance with National Electrical Safety Code ("NESC").

Tampa Electric is obligated to inspect all poles to which its facilities are attached, including overhead facilities attached to poles not owned by Tampa Electric, as described in Section 6.7, Infrastructure Inspections, of the company's Storm Protection Plan.

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- 2.** Please file at least two of your company's attachment agreements with a communications services provider that demonstrate the standard or general terms that are contained in these types of agreements.
 - A.** Tampa Electric will provide two of the company's attachment agreements with a communications services provider that demonstrate the standard or general terms that are contained in these types of agreements. Both attachment agreements are being filed with the Commission as confidential documents as this contains information about the contract terms and rates that are paid for attachments. This information is competitive contractual information, the disclosure of which would be harmful to the position of Tampa Electric in negotiating future attachment contracts with other attachers. The disclosure of this information would therefore be harmful to Tampa Electric's competitive interests and to the ability of Tampa Electric to contract for goods and services on favorable terms, and as such, the information is entitled to confidential treatment pursuant to Section 366.093(d) and (e), Florida Statutes. Tampa Electric will file these documents as soon as they become available with the Commission.

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- 3.** Do your company's attachment agreements with communications service providers reference any standards, codes, or requirements in regard to vegetation management, pole maintenance, or pole inspection. If yes, please provide an example of the standards, codes, or requirements included in the agreement.
 - A.** Yes, the company's joint use agreements reference all applicable standards, codes, or requirements in regard to vegetation management, pole maintenance, or pole inspection requirements, including compliance with applicable laws and ordinances. Specifically referenced requirements include the NESC, Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA"), and the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI"). In addition, Tampa Electric's own standards are also referenced in more current agreements.

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4. Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI, issued on April 25, 2006, in Docket No. 060198-EI, Page 4, states that each IOU's joint-use audit plan shall include pole strength assessments for both poles owned by the electric utility to which other utility attachments are made and poles not owned by the electric utility to which the electric utility has attached its electric equipment. Please confirm that your company's current joint-use audit procedures are consistent with Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI. Please identify and explain the basis for the standards for the strength assessment for your existing poles and explain whether or not the standards are consistent with Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI.
- A. Yes, Tampa Electric's Wood Pole Inspection Program and its Joint Use Attachment Audit Procedures are consistent with Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI. These programs are structured based on the requirements of both that Order and Order No. PSC-06-144-PAA-EI, as explained below.

On February 26, 2006, the Commission issued Order No. PSC-06-0144-PAA-EI, which, among other things, required Tampa Electric to implement an inspection program for its wooden transmission and distribution poles.

As reported in the company's Annual Wood Pole Inspection Program provided on March 1 of each year, Tampa Electric's Wood Pole Inspection Initiative is part of a comprehensive program initiated by the Commission for Florida investor-owned electric utilities to harden the electric system against severe weather. Tampa Electric utilizes three basic inspection procedures for determining the condition of wooden poles. These procedures include a visual inspection, sound and bore, and excavation when required. This inspection procedure assesses the strength on both company-owned poles and joint use poles. The wood pole inspections are conducted on a substation circuit basis to facilitate inspecting the entire wood pole population every eight years. An average of 36,000 wooden distribution poles will be inspected annually with each pole receiving a visual inspection, a sound and bore procedure, and a groundline/excavation inspection (except for chromated copper arsenate "CCA" poles less than 16 years of age.)

Tampa Electric is also in compliance with the requirement of Order No. PSC-06-0144-PA-EI to conduct pole loading assessments for all poles that had attachments affixed to them after the time of original pole installation. In the first two cycles of wood pole inspections following the entry of these Orders in 2006, the company performed a pole loading assessment on every company-owned pole to which third parties had attachments and on every non-company-owned pole to which the company had attached its equipment. This thorough analysis

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ensured that every joint-use pole was subjected to a pole loading assessment and all issues were addressed.

In addition, Tampa Electric is in compliance with Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI, issued on April 25, 2006. This Order added requirements to conduct a joint-use attachment audit, among other things. One of the purposes of this audit was to discover “undetected pole attachments that may occur between wood pole strength inspections.” Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI, at 4. This Order directed utilities to audit utility-owned poles to which other attachments were made and non-utility-owned poles to which the electric utility has attached its equipment. Order No. PSC-06-0351-PAA-EI, at 4. The Order also directed utilities to perform pole loading assessments “for instances not already addressed by Order No. PSC-06-0144-PAA-EI.”

Tampa Electric is in compliance with the requirement to audit joint use poles. Section 6.7.3 of the company’s 2020-2029 Storm Protection Plan describes the company’s Joint Use Pole Attachment Audit Program. Pursuant to this program, the company conducts “comprehensive loading analyses to ensure the company’s poles with joint use attachments are not overloaded and meet the NESC or Tampa Electric Standards, whichever is more stringent.” A pole loading assessment is performed any time an attaching entity applies for permission to attach to one of Tampa Electric’s poles, or when the company discovers a new, unauthorized attachment further ensuring that every joint-use pole is subjected to a pole loading assessment and all issues will be addressed.

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- 5.** Please provide a description of your company's emergency response and storm restoration procedures and protocols with respect to poles owned by a communications services provider to which your company has overhead facilities attached.

- A.** Tampa Electric utilizes wood poles owned by communications service providers throughout the company's service area primarily for service lines. Tampa Electric has internal procedures that, if a pole is identified for replacement during an emergency response or storm restoration, the company will replace the pole on-site and will notify the owner of the pole after the fact. The notification follow-up will also include an invoice for the cost to replace the pole.