



City of Alachua

TRACI L. CAIN
CITY MANAGER

PUBLIC SERVICES
DIRECTOR MIKE NEW, P.E.

Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C. Calendar Year 2014

1) Introduction

CITY OF ALACHUA
PO BOX 9

ALACHUA, FLORIDA 32616

Mr. Marcus Collins, Director of Public Services (mcollins@cityofalachua.org)

Phone: (386)-418-6140, Fax: (386)-418-6164

2) Number of customers served in calendar year 2014: 4183

3) Standards of Construction

The City's construction standards, policies, practices and procedures are designed in accordance with industry standards in an effort to mitigate damages from extreme weather conditions. The City of Alachua works with Professional Consultants from the Florida Municipal Power Agency to review and evaluate the City's Electrical Standards.

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction Standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Alachua comply with the National Electric Safety Code (ANSI C-2 [NESC]). For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2007, the 2007 NESC, or latest revision shall apply. Electrical facilities constructed prior to February 1, 2007, are governed by the edition of the NESC in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction.

b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards

The City of Alachua follows the guidelines for extreme wind loading in accordance the NESC standards. The City of Alachua constructions standards are in compliance with 250-2(d) of the NESC, latest revision, for new construction, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities. The City design is based on 100 mph wind load for our area with a 1.25(minimum) safety factory for wind gust.

c) **Flooding and Storm Surges**

The City of Alachua is not located in a coastal area subject to storm surges; therefore, storm surge has not been an issue.

d) **Safe and Efficient Access of New and Replacement Distribution Facilities**

New developments within the corporate limits are reviewed to ensure compliance to the City of Alachua's Electrical Construction Standards, approved materials, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures so as to facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance. All new facilities have complete access for maintenance by PUE (Public Utilities Easements) to insure compliance. The City decides on a case by case basis of existing facilities that need to be relocated; they will be placed in the safest and most accessible area as required.

e) **Attachments by Others**

The pole attachment agreement between the City of Alachua and other utilities includes language which specifies that the responsibility for poles strength evaluation and safety. The Pole Attachment Agreement includes language which specifies that the utility, not the City of Alachua, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before attachment to the pole. The City performs attachment audits as required to ensure conformance.

4. **Facility Inspections**

- (a) **Describe the utility's policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures for inspecting transmission and distribution lines, poles, and structures including, but not limited to, pole inspection cycles and pole selection process.**

The City of Alachua performed inspection of the electric poles in service for FY 2014 in February 2015; the annual goal is 12.5% for an 8-year inspection cycle period. On 10/15/15 the City will complete the first (8) year cycle program; new program to begin in FY 2016.

- b) **Number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2015.**

Number of Poles: 2285 Inspected: 350 poles/year. (15.2%)

Note: The City of Alachua owns only distribution poles, no transmission.

- c) **Number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection and the reason for the failure.**

Distribution System Report for FY 2014- (350) poles currently under inspection: Rejected poles (18)-5.1% of the total surveyed. Non Restorable (1) due to Shell Rot, immediate change-out; Non-Priority Non-Restorable (0): any C-Truss or replacement to be scheduled upon review by staff.

Average wood pole age: 18.0 years.

- d) Number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles, by pole type and class of structure, replaced or for which remediation was taken after inspection, including a description of the remediation taken.

The City of Alachua has no transmission poles. The wood poles failing annual inspection where 45' or 50' – Class 3; these poles were evaluated by staff replaced accordingly or C-Trussed in accordance with the annual report. All other poles inspected were treated and wrapped.

5. Vegetation Management

- a) Describe the utility's policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures for vegetation management, including programs addressing appropriate planting, landscaping, and problem tree removal practices for vegetation management outside of road right-of-ways or easements, and an explanation as to why the utility believes its vegetation management practices are sufficient.

The Public Utility Research Center held a vegetation management workshops in 2007 and 2009. Through FMEA, the City of Alachua has a copy of the report and will use the information to continually improve vegetation management practices. We will participate in future best-practice workshops if there interest.

- b) Quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities.

The City of Alachua has no transmission system to maintain. The City trims approximately 62 miles of overhead primary distribution system on a three year cycle. The City trims approximately 20% each year. GIS mapping system is utilized to track trimming annually and to budget annual trimming projects.

6. Storm Hardening Research:

The City of Alachua is a member of the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA), which is participating with all of Florida's electric utilities in storm hardening research through the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida. Under separate cover, FMEA is providing the FPSC with a report of research activities. For further information, contact Barry Moline, Executive Director, FMEA, 850-224-3314, ext. 1, or bmoline@publicpower.com.

E-Mail To: tballing@psc.state.fl.us (3/2/2015 Deadline)

**Mr. Tom Ballinger
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850**