

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

1) Introduction

Escambia River Electric Cooperative is located in Santa Rosa County and serves the Northern parts of Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. EREC serves approximately 11,570 meters with approximately 1,596 miles of distribution line and no transmission lines or structures. EREC owns all of the distribution, which operates at 12,470 V, and our generation and transmission partner owns all of the transmission and substations that are used to serve our customers.

Contact Information

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2) Number of meters served in the calendar year 2014

Escambia River Electric Cooperative served 11,570 meters in 2014.

3) Standards of Construction

a. National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at Escambia River Electric Cooperative comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2012, the 2012 NESC applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to February 1, 2012, are governed by the edition of NESC in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction.

b. Extreme Wind Loading Standards

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at Escambia River Electric Cooperative are guided by the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2012 edition of the

NESC for major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after December 10, 2006.

c. Flooding and Storm Surges

Escambia River Electric Cooperative is a non-coastal utility; therefore, storm surge is not an issue.

d. Safe and Efficient Access of New and Replacement Distribution Facilities

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at Escambia River Electric Cooperative provide for placement of new and replacement distribution facilities so as to facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance. Wherever new facilities are placed (i.e. front, back or side of property), all facilities are installed so that Escambia River Electric Cooperative's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. Escambia River Electric Cooperative decides on a case-by-case basis whether existing facilities need to be relocated. If it is determined that facilities need to be relocated, they will be placed in the safest, most accessible area available.

e. Attachments by Others

The pole attachment agreements between Escambia River Electric Cooperative and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the cooperative, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety, as set forth in the NESC, before they attach to the pole. Escambia River Electric Cooperative performs follow-up audits of attachments to ensure the attachment is properly installed, maintained, and meet NESC requirements for pole attachments.

4) Facility Inspections

- a. Escambia River Electric Cooperative inspects each distribution pole on an 8 year cycle using visual, sound and boring techniques in accordance with RUS standards. Additionally, Escambia River Electric Cooperative uses data gathered during outages to proactively identify troubled lines, poles, equipment, and right-of-way. All of the data feeds back to our pole selection process, which provides a method to determine which poles not to purchase.
- b. We planned for 4,191 (12.5%) of distribution poles to be inspected but 0 (0%) were inspected for the 2014 year. The lack of inspections done in the 2014 year was due to improving the way inspections and ROW

maintenance are done and recorded, because of this 8382 (26%) of distribution poles will be inspected in 2015.

Escambia River Electric Cooperative does not own any transmission poles.

c. Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2014 and the reason for the failure.

Due to the lack of pole inspections there were no poles that failed inspection.

d. Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles, by type and class of structure, replaced or for which remediation was taken after inspection in 2014, including a description of the remediation taken.

Please see the note in item 4c.

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.

Escambia River Electric Cooperative uses a 5-year vegetation management cycle for all distribution lines. The primary reason for this is that the right-of-way is cleared 10 feet on both sides of the lines making a total clearance of 20 feet. While the crews are managing vegetation on a line they look for foreseeable future problems and take care of them at that time. If at anytime there is a problem tree or landscaping, Escambia River

Electric Cooperative works with the home owner toward trimming, if possible, or removal, if necessary, while providing restitution if necessary for trees or landscaping that is outside the easement or right-of-ways. In all cases our current policy is providing the necessary vegetation management needed to reduce outages due to vegetation.

b. Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2014.

As described in question 5(a), Escambia River Electric Cooperative planned to cut the vegetation on 20% or 320 miles of the distribution power lines. In 2014, we cut the vegetation of approximately 250 miles of distribution power lines, or 16 %.