

**City of Wauchula**  
**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to**  
**Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.**  
**Calendar Year 2017**

**1) Introduction**

- a) City of Wauchula
- b) 126 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Wauchula, FL 33873
- c) Contact information: Chris Collier, Electrical Distribution Supervisor, 863-781-5584, ccollier@cityofwauchula.com

**2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2017**

In 2017, the City of Wauchula served 2,230 residential meters and 572 commercial meters.

**3) Standards of Construction**

**a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Wauchula comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2007, the 2007 NESC applies. 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**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Wauchula are guided by the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2002 edition of the NESC for:

- a) New construction.
- b) Major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after December 10, 2006.
- c) Targeted critical infrastructure facilities and major thoroughfares.

**c) Flooding and Storm Surges**

The City of Wauchula is a non-coastal utility; therefore, storm surge/flooding is not an issue.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Wauchula 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 The City of Wauchula's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. The City of Wauchula 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 The City of Wauchula and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the City of Wauchula, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before they attach to the pole. The City of Wauchula performs follow-up audits of attachments to ensure the attachment is properly installed and maintained.

**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 Wauchula has a third-party contractor inspect the substation yearly. The City of Wauchula has had a third-party contractor inspect approximately 40% of our poles in 2017-2018. We have scheduled to inspect 30% each year for the next two years. This will complete our pole inspections in 2019-2020.

**Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2017.**

The City of Wauchula has had an outside third-party contractor inspect the substation in 2017. The City of Wauchula has had a third-party contractor inspect approximately 40% of our poles in 2017-2018 and will be budgeting for a third-party contractor to inspect 30% of the distribution poles in 2018-19 and 2019-20.

**b) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2017 and the reason for the failure.**

The City of Wauchula has an approx. 8% failure rate for 2017-2018 due to rot.

- c) **Describe the 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 in 2017, including a description of the remediation taken.**

98 distribution poles were replaced in 2017 due to the poles rotting.

29ea - 35' class 4 replaced with class 3 cca

54ea - 40' class 4 replaced with class 3 cca

9ea - 45' class 4 replaced with class 3 cca

6ea - 55' class 4 replaced with class 3 cca

## **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 City of Wauchula policy on vegetation management consists of tree trimming and herbicide spraying for vines on a schedule of one-third of the distribution per year.

- b) **Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2017.**

The City of Wauchula's policy on vegetation management consists of tree trimming and herbicide spraying for vines on a schedule of one-third per year. The Public Utility Research Center has held two vegetation management workshops in 2007 and 2009.

Through FMEA, the City of Wauchula has a copy of their reports and will use the information to continually improve vegetation management practices. We will participate in future best-practice workshops if there is interest.

## **6. Storm Hardening Research**

The City of Wauchula 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 Amy Zubaly, Executive Director, FMEA, 850-224-3314, ext. 7, or [azubaly@publicpower.com](mailto:azubaly@publicpower.com).