

**City of Blountstown**  
**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to**  
**Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.**  
**Calendar Year 2020**

**1) Introduction**

- a) City of Blountstown
  
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**2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2020**

The City of Blountstown had a total number of 1312 active metered accounts for year 2020; up slightly from what we had in 2019.

**3) Standards of Construction**

**a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Blountstown comply with the National Electric Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after January 1, 2017, the 2017 NESC applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to January 1, 2017, 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 Blountstown are currently guided by the extreme wind loading standards as specified by <http://windspeed.atcouncil.org/> as recommended by the 2017 NESC for major planned work, including expansion, rebuild or relocation of existing facilities and major thoroughfares assigned on or after December 10, 2006. For work done by City crews we use a larger minimum pole standard of a class 3 pole, effective November 2007, in an effort to harden our system. We will also look to implement the stronger wind load standards for new construction.

**c) Flooding and Storm Surges**

The City of Blountstown has no underground facilities. As a part of the process of evaluating the City's current electrical system, the City of Blountstown is looking at measures to flood proof our substation. Our construction project has raised our substation facilities above historical flooding. Access may have to be made by boat; but components at the facility will not suffer from flooding directly. We have begun talks with our power supplier to have them take action to assure the power substation is flood proofed as well. We are continuing to discuss with Gulf Power/NextEra about efforts they might take to flood proof the transmission substation for the City of Blountstown and Florida Public Utilities.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Blountstown 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 Blountstown'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 Blountstown 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**

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures at the City of Blountstown do not include written safety, pole reliability, pole loading, capacity and engineering standards and procedures for attachments by others to the utility's electric transmission and distribution poles. When we make replacements, we are requiring compliance on the new connections. When we find safety issues we are requiring compliance in the connections be made. We inspect these attachments annually.

#### **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 Blountstown has a total of 2,084 utility poles and does visual inspections of all poles once a year. The City of Blountstown took a direct hit from Hurricane Michael that completely destroyed the City's distribution system which resulted in a rebuild of the system. The City is tasked with retagging all poles due to this event.

- b) Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2020.**

The City of Blountstown visually inspects 100% of our poles every year.

- c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2020 and the reason for the failure.**

As a result of our visual inspection, we found 53 poles (2.5%) that required replacement and we have reconductored about 3,500 linear feet of distribution line. Reason for the replacement was ground rot, extreme cracking and warping and upgrading the lines.

- d) 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 2020, including a description of the remediation taken.**

The 53 poles that were replaced were class 5 poles and were all replaced with stronger class 3 poles.

## **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 Blountstown has established a four year cycle for tree trimming with a ten (10) ft clearance of our lines and facilities. After success at trimming, we have seen a remarkable difference in vegetative issues along our electric system. Policies adopted to allow for dead, dying, or potentially problematic trees to be removed before damage occurs has saved the City thousands of dollars in revenue not lost or manpower not called out to make repairs.

- b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2020.**

The City of Blountstown will trim twenty-five (25) percent of our system with a ten (10) ft. clearance in 2021.

## **6. Storm Hardening Research**

The City of Blountstown 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.1001, or [azubaly@publicpower.com](mailto:azubaly@publicpower.com).