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

1) Introduction

a) City of Fort Meade

b) 8 West Broadway Ave., Fort Meade, Florida, 33841

c) Jan Bagnall - Electric Department Director
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2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2020

2,788

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Fort Meade comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after January 1, 2017, the 2017 NESC applies. The edition of the NESC in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction governs electrical facilities constructed prior to January 1, 2017.

b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Fort Meade are currently guided by the extreme wind loading standards as specified in the 2017 edition of the NESC for new construction. The City of Fort Meade lies within the 100-110 mph region. Wind loading standards for this region are included in construction standards for all new build.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

The City of Fort Meade is not a coastal utility and is not located in a flood zone. Flooding and storm surge do not impact construction standards for the City of Fort Meade.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Fort Meade provide for placement of new and replacement distribution facilities 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 City of Fort Meade's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. We decide 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 City of Fort Meade has an attachment agreement that details the requirements for new attachments or changes to existing attachments consistent with NESC Code in force at the time the attachment is made. The City of Fort Meade conducts quarterly inspections of attachments as required by the PSC and any deficiencies are addressed.

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.

Currently the City of Fort Meade uses an eight-year cycle to self-test and inspect using a visual and sound and probe process for the electrical infrastructure to include poles and distribution equipment. The City of Fort Meade does not own/operate any transmission equipment. In 2020 the City of Fort Meade contracted with a nationally known engineering firm to conduct a system wide assessment of the poles and distribution equipment. The results of this assessment will determine the overall system condition and will prioritize specific areas in need of immediate attention. The results of the system assessment will be used as a guide to implement a multi-year plan to address the system condition as a whole. The system assessment is expected to be completed mid-April 2021.

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

The City of Fort Meade conducted inspections and self-tests of 350 poles during 2020. These inspections consisted of 12.5% of the distribution system. The City of Fort Meade also contracted with a nationally known engineering firm to conduct a system wide assessment of the poles and distribution equipment. The results of this assessment will determine the overall system condition and will prioritize specific areas in need of immediate attention. The results of the system assessment will be used as a guide to implement a multi-year plan to address the system condition as a whole. The system assessment is expected to be completed mid-April 2021.

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

A total of 350 distribution poles were inspected in 2020 and 70 did not satisfactorily pass the inspection. This is equivalent to a 20% failure rate. The failure rate in 2020 was a driving factor to contract for a full system assessment from a nationally known engineering contractor to be completed in 2021. Various reasons for failure included, ground decay, pole rot, top decay, and damage caused by wildlife (birds, insects, etc.).

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 City of Fort Meade replaced poles that failed the visual, sound, and probe inspection as shown below.
45-foot class 5 – replaced 12 poles
45-foot class 4 – replaced 9 poles
40-foot class 5 – replaced 13 poles
40-foot class 4 – replaced 8 poles
35-foot class 5 – replaced 15 poles
30-foot class 5 – replaced 13 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 Fort Meade operates on a three-year cycle for trimming vegetation where approximately 33% of the system is actively managed and trimmed to minimize outages caused by vegetation. All vegetation within a 6-foot clearance of the distribution lines are cleared to 6 feet or greater clearance. Clearance is completed by trimming or eliminating problem vegetation. The city uses a local tree trimming company on an as needed basis to address scheduled areas, problem areas, and emergencies. The active vegetation management program has shown to reduce outages on the system as problem areas are addressed. The city expects that a continued focus on addressing vegetation management will continue to reduce outages in the future.

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

The City of Fort Meade completed the planned 33% of the system inspections for vegetation management and addressed all vegetation clearance issues for the areas inspected in 2020. The city also has planned inspections of 33% of the distribution system for 2021. All

vegetation within 6 feet of the distribution lines from the inspection will be trimmed or eliminated.

6. Storm Hardening Research

The City of Fort Meade 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 will provide 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.