

Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2020

1) Introduction

- a) Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach (UCNSB)
- b) 200 Canal Street, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
- c) Contact information:

Julie A. Couillard, PE
Office: 386-424-3019
Cell: 386-566-3231
jcouillard@ucnsb.org

2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2020

The Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach (UCNSB) served an average of 29,417 customers during 2020 calendar year.

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2). 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 UCNSB are guided by the extreme wind loading standards as specified by <http://windspeed.atcouncil.org/> as recommended by the 2017 NESC for:

- New construction and;
- Major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after December 10, 2006.

In 2021, the UCNSB is reviewing and updating its electric construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures to ensure they are guided by the extreme wind loading standards as specified by <http://windspeed.atcouncil.org/> as recommended by the 2017 NESC.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

The Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach is in the process of evaluating our standards, policies, guidelines, practices and procedures that address the effects of flooding and storm surges on underground facilities and supporting overhead facilities. Through the Florida Municipal Electric Association, the UCNSB participates in the Public Utility Research Center's (PURC) study on the conversion of overhead electric facilities to underground and the effectiveness of undergrounding facilities in preventing storm damage and outages. We continue to evaluate and address the effects of flooding and storm surge, but we feel that it is important to wait for the results of this research to justify the effort and cost of converting overhead to underground.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the UCNSB 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 UCNSB's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. The UCNSB 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

Pole attachment agreements between the UCNSB and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the UCNSB, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before they attach to the pole. The attachment requests including the pole strength and safety calculations must be submitted for review and approval by the UCNSB staff. Provisions in the agreements also identifies the attacher has responsibility for paying relocation or replacement costs that the attacher must pay if the proposed attachment negatively impacts the strength or safety of the pole(s) proposed in the attachment request. The UCNSB staff 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 UCNSB contracts with Osmose Utilities Services to inspect all transmission and distribution poles and structures as part of an eight-year inspection program. The UCNSB has approximately 12,000 electric distribution poles and 420 transmission poles.

In addition, transmission and distribution substation facilities are inspected as part of our regular inspection and maintenance programs. Deficiencies are recorded and corrective maintenance plans are scheduled for repair or replacement of defective items.

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

Transmission Poles

Osmose Utility Services Inspections of all UCNSB transmission poles were completed in 2012 & 2017. No inspections of transmission poles were planned for 2020. The next inspection cycle starts in 2021.

Distribution Poles

In 2020, the annual Osmose Utility Services inspection planned and completed was 1,502 distribution poles or approximately 12.5 % of the UCNSB electric distribution poles.

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

Transmission Poles

None

Distribution Poles

The total number of distribution poles Osmose inspected in 2020 was 1502. This constitutes 12.5% of all UCNSB electric distribution poles. Inspection results for 1502 poles in 2020 were as follows:

- 970 poles had no decay (64.6% of poles inspected)
- 498 poles had decay but were serviceable (33.2% of poles inspected)
- 34 poles were reject poles with groundline & above ground decay (2.3% of poles inspected)

- 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.

Transmission Poles

None

Distribution Poles (including backlog)

Number of Poles	Pole Size (ft)	Pole Class	Remediation Action
108	30	3	Replacement
28	35	3	Replacement
101	40	3	Replacement
15	45	3	Replacement
6	50	2	Replacement
2	55	2	Replacement

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.

In 2020, as part of our ongoing effort to improve electric reliability, the UCNSB transitioned its tree trimming program from a localized trimming approach in areas experiencing reliability issues, to a three-year programmatic power line clearing plan for all of our distribution overhead facilities (mains and laterals). The program includes professional trimming, clear cutting of Right of Way (ROW)/Easements and removing trees and other vegetation which is near energized distribution power lines.

In 2021, the UCNSB transmission lines, right of ways and easements will also be put on a three-year, programmatic schedule similar to the distribution line program.

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

In 2020, the UCNSB tree trimming crews completed trimming and clearing for 104 line miles of UCNSB distribution lines. In addition, 110 trees were physically removed as they impacted the reliability of the lines being trimmed. Clearing and trimming of 104 line miles constitutes approximately 45% of the UCNSB overhead distribution lines.

In 2020, Transmission lines were patrolled and “hot spot” trimmed, as needed.

6. Storm Hardening Research

The Utilities Commission, City of New Smyrna Beach 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.