

CITY OF STARKE
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2020

1) Introduction

- a) City of Starke
- b) PO Drawer C, Starke, FL 32091
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2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2020

2848 meters

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Starke 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

The City of Starke participates in the Public Utility Research Centers (PURC) granular wind research study through the Florida Municipal Electric Association. Our baseline is always to operate within the currently active NESC standard.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

Flooding and storm surges are not applicable. The City of Starke is an inland community with the nearest coastline being 60 miles away.

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

Every new electrical construction and replacement distribution facility located in the City of Starke is constructed along highway/road right-of-way or on easily accessible easements. All residential subdivisions electrical construction is constructed on the front right-of-way. We do not allow rear lot construction.

e) Attachments by Others

The City of Starke allows pole attachments from CenturyLink, Comcast and Mobilitie.

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 Starke is still in the process of having our poles GIS mapped. To date we have had approximately 2/3 of our poles mapped and inspected which consisted of inspecting the poles at above ground surface. Poles are always replaced as needed on a visual basis.

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

Approximately 1/2 (1861) of our poles were inspected. Estimated total for poles = 3723

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

Class 2 30 Foot 4 Poles Rotten
 Class 2 30 Foot 3 Poles Support
 Class 2 35 Foot 3 Poles Rotten
 Class 2 35 Foot 1 Pole Support
 Class 2 40 Foot 1 Pole Rotten
 Class 2 40 Foot 8 Poles Support
 Class 2 45 Foot 3 Poles Rotten
 Class 2 45 Foot 4 Poles Support
 Class 2 50 Foot 1 Pole Support

- d) **Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles, 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 following 28 poles were replaced:	Percentage of Poles Replaced
Class 2 30 Foot 4 Poles Rotten	14.29
Class 2 30 Foot 3 Poles Support	10.71
Class 2 35 Foot 3 Poles Rotten	10.71
Class 2 35 Foot 1 Pole Support	3.57
Class 2 40 Foot 1 Pole Rotten	3.57
Class 2 40 Foot 8 Poles Support	28.57
Class 2 45 Foot 3 Poles Rotten	10.71
Class 2 45 Foot 4 Poles Support	14.29
Class 2 50 Foot 1 Pole Support	3.57

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-way or easements, and an explanation as to why the utility believes its vegetation management practices are sufficient.**

In 2020, The City of Starke utilized the idea of a “piggyback contract” to Asplundh Tree Experts, LLC and allowed them to complement the city’s tree trimming capacity. We also check and trim trees during the year as needed. Areas not trimmed by a tree trimming company are maintained by the electric crew and right-of-way staff. We trim roughly 1/3 of our trees yearly.

One definitive change in procedures for the Electric Dept is the development of a strategy to establish several actions that, taken as a whole, have made a visible and substantial impact in lessening the number and severity of outages citywide that have been, in the past, caused by such diverse causes as errant tree limbs and small animals who frequently use the electric lines as a highway, often with tragic results. The Electric Department has also adopted the standard of trimming 15 feet on both sides of the poles, thus removing any chance of limbs growing into the power lines. This is a newly adopted policy, so it will take another year or so to completely feel the effects of it. This new procedure, along with the installation of “squirrel guards” will also help reduce the frequency of animals losing their lives while moving around along power distribution lines.

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

The City of Starke trims trees affecting distribution lines throughout the year as needed and when applicable removes dead or decayed trees. Trees that are not on our right-of-way and present a concern or safety issue are addressed with the property owner. The Public Utility Research Center has held two vegetation management workshops in 2007 and 2009. Through FMEA, the City of Starke 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. Line Maintenance

Several actions have been taken in 2020 to eliminate or minimize the frequency and intensity of customer electric outages.

- A new circuit has been established that splits off several customers from another, preexisting circuit.
- The Electric Line Crew rerouted feeder lines with new Concrete Poles in 2020. These replaced older style concrete poles.
- In substation with City of Starke/FPL, all breakers have been replaced.
- Overall, the load has been split in order to reduce by one half the spread of possible outages. There are now 2 main breakers.

7. Storm Hardening Research

The City of Starke 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, extension 1 or azubaly@publicpower.com.