



March 1, 2022

Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850  
Attn: Adam Teitzman

Re: Facility Inspections and Vegetation Management Report

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, Florida Administrative Code, attached is the Facility Inspections and Vegetation Management for 2021 for Lakeland Electric via the Commissions electronic platform.

If you have questions please contact me at 863-834-6595.

Sincerely,

/s/Cynthia Clemmons

Cynthia Clemmons  
City of Lakeland  
Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Relations  
Lakeland Electric  
863-834-6595 Work  
[Cindy.Clemmons@LakelandElectric.com](mailto:Cindy.Clemmons@LakelandElectric.com)  
501 E. Lemon St.  
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Enclosure

**(City of Lakeland / Lakeland Electric)**  
**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to**  
**Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.**  
**Calendar Year 2021**

**1. Introduction**

- a) Name of city/utility  
City of Lakeland / Lakeland Electric
- b) Address, street, city, zip  
501 East Lemon Street  
Lakeland, FL 33801
- c) Contact information: Name, title, phone, fax, email  
Cynthia Clemmons  
Manager of Legislative & Regulatory Relations  
Lakeland Electric  
Phone: (863) 834-6595  
Fax: (863) 834-6373  
Cindy.Clemmons@lakelandelectric.com

**2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2021**

Lakeland Electric (LE) served 133,830 meters in 2021.

**3. 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.**

Lakeland Electric initiated a contract for its second eight-year-cycle in 2017 to inspect all wood poles using visual and the sound and bore techniques with ground line excavation and strength calculations that include all pole attachments. Additionally, LE personnel inspect for T&D facility damage throughout the service territory during the course of normal travel, operations work, and in response to outages. LE also uses concrete and tubular steel poles which receive a visual inspection only.

- b) **Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2021.**

Lakeland Electric has a plan to formally inspect approximately 12.5% of its system each year. However, LE temporarily postponed its pole inspection program and did not perform any formal pole inspections in 2021. Therefore, zero transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failed formal inspection. Lakeland Electric will augment our pole inspection program for 2022 and the next few years to compensate for the interruption in 2021.

LE personnel continued to inspect for T&D facility damage throughout the service territory during the course of normal travel, operations work, and in response to outages.

**c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2021 and the reason for the failure.**

No formal pole inspections were performed in 2021. Therefore, zero transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failed formal inspection.

**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 2021, including a description of the remediation taken.**

All poles recommended for strengthening from the inspections during the calendar year of 2021 were assessed for appropriate action.

Distribution poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2021: 434

Transmission poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2021: 2

**4. 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.**

Lakeland Electric's vegetation management programs entails circuit-based maintenance provided by contractual services. Species specific distance trimming and directional pruning techniques are incorporated to maximize tree/conductor separation and to establish a three-year trim cycle on the transmission and distribution circuits. Vegetation interference that exceeds the anticipated maintenance cycle on feeder circuits is trimmed in between cycles to enhance reliability.

Lakeland Electric's tree removal program includes tree less than twelve inches in diameter that will require future maintenance. Tree replacement certificates are used as an incentive to promote proper tree selection and energy conservation. Tree planting information booklets include setback recommendations that correspond with the City of Lakeland and Polk County Land Development Codes.

Lakeland Electric finds these practices sufficient because the anticipated tree growth will generally not exceed the established three-year tree trim cycle and there are budgetary allowances for priority situations.

**b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2021.**

230 kV transmission lines: Lakeland Electric inspected 27 miles of BES to verify clearance meets or exceeds the FAC-003 compliance requirements. 13.81 miles were planned and completed.

69 kV transmission lines: 22.292 miles of were planned and completed.

12 kV distribution lines: 380 miles were planned, and 320.595 miles were completed.

Distribution maintenance includes secondary voltage lines not included in the stated mileage.

All maintenance trimming was inspected to verify that it meets the required clearance specifications.

The Public Utility Research Center has held two vegetation management workshops in 2007 and 2009. Through FMEA, Lakeland Electric 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 as they occur.