



March 1, 2023

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 2022 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
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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 2022**

1. Introduction

- b) Name of city/utility
City of Lakeland/Lakeland Electric

- c) Address, street, city, zip
501 East Lemon Street
Lakeland, FL 33801

- d) Contact information: Name, title, phone, fax, email

Cynthia Clemmons
Manager of Legislative & Regulatory Relations
Lakeland Electric
Phone: (863) 834-6595
Fax: (863) 834-6373
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2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2022

136,760.

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 2022.

<u>Documented pole inspection results</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Transmission</u>	<u>Total</u>
Poles planned for inspection	7233	53	7286
Percentage planned	12.5 %	12.5%	12.5%
Poles inspected	8146	110	8256
Percentage inspected	14.1%	25.8%	14.1%

The number and percentage of poles planned for inspection are the total in each category divided by the eight-year cycle. Because the inspections are done by geographical region, the actual number of poles inspected will vary by the percentage of distribution and transmission poles in the region by year with the end result of all poles being inspected on each eight-year cycle

c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2022 and the reason for the failure.

Three Transmission Poles or **2.7%** of those inspected failed to meet minimum strength requirements due to decay. There were **1084** distribution poles or **13.3%** of those inspected failed to meet minimum strength requirements due to decay.

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 2022, including a description of the remediation taken.

All poles recommended for strengthening from the inspections during the calendar year of 2022 were assessed for appropriate action.

Distribution poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2022: **515**

Transmission poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2022: **0**

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 trees 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 2022.

230 kV transmission lines: Lakeland Electric inspected 27 miles of BES to verify clearance meets or exceeds the FAC-003 compliance requirements. 3.83 miles were planned and completed.

69 kV transmission lines: 14 miles of were planned and 10.720 completed.

12 kV distribution lines: 380 miles were planned, and 276 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.