

(City of Leesburg Electric Department)  
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 Leesburg Electric Department (Leesburg Electric)

c) Address, street, city, zip

2020 Griffin Road, Leesburg, FL 34748

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

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**2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2022**

Leesburg Electric served 27,939 meters in the year 2022.

### 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.**

Leesburg Electric has completed the eight (8) year inspection cycle that was begun in 2016. The next round of inspections will start in 2024. Leesburg Electric will continue to complete our pole inspections within the eight (8) year inspection cycle. To accomplish this level of inspection cycle, Leesburg Electric's pole inspection contractor is required to accomplish the number of inspections within each yearly contract. The contractor, per contract, is required to provide sufficient staffing to meet this requirement. The scope of work is agreed upon at the beginning of each.

- b) **Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2022.**

No inspections were scheduled for 2022. All poles in the 8-year cycle were inspected in previous years. Next inspection cycle starts in 2024.

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

Leesburg Electric saw an estimated 5% failure rate on the poles that were inspected. The #1 cause of pole failures were pole rot at the ground line. The next leading cause was damage to the pole tops, either by rot or woodpecker damage.

- 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.**

Leesburg Electric continued our efforts to address distribution pole hardening program through the replacement and or removal of 107 poles for calendar year 2021. Poles were replaced with the appropriate size and class of pole to meet the current NESC requirements. In some areas, poles were removed. These poles included inactive rental light poles, or inactive services. In some areas, underground distribution infrastructure was installed in place of the reject poles.

Leesburg has replaced the following poles:

- (2) 20' Aluminum with 20' Aluminum
- (15) 25-7 Wood poles with 35-4 Wood poles
- (18) 30-6 Wood poles with 35-4 Wood poles
- (13) 35-4 Wood poles with 40-2 Wood poles
- (8) 40-4 Wood poles with 40-2, 45-2 or 50-2 Wood poles
- (19) 45-4 Wood poles with 45-2, 50-2 Wood poles or 50-4 Concrete poles
- (20) 50-4 Wood poles with 50-2 Wood poles or Concrete 50-4

Leesburg Electric has no transmission poles.

#### 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.**

Leesburg Electric has instituted a 5-year Vegetation Management Plan to ensure that our 175 miles of overhead distribution lines are inspected for vegetation encroachment and trimmed to industry standards. To ensure that we meet our yearly plan objective, we verify the total miles of overhead distribution lines that were inspected, the total miles of priority ("Hot Spot") trimming completed as well as the total miles of trimming completed in support of capital projects. Leesburg has established procedures and processes for vegetation management that are based on sectioning our electric territory into trimming zones. The trimming zones are scheduled so that vegetation growth is managed in a systematic approach. Leesburg Electric uses the Shigo Method for vegetation management to guide our practices and procedures. Leesburg does have a program for educating our customer through the City of Leesburg Tree USA (Tree Give-a-Way Program). For every tree that Leesburg is required to remove on customer property, Leesburg will plant another tree on the customer's property. Leesburg Electric has established a process of reviewing all proposed residential developments, commercial projects and customer driven projects to address vegetation and landscaping that could have an adverse impact on our Vegetation Management Plan. As part of our ongoing training, Leesburg Electric attends the Florida Vegetation Management Association (FVMA) Annual meeting to obtain the latest policies, tools, and methods being utilized in the industry. The area supervisor for Leesburg Electric's tree contractor also attends this annual meeting. Leesburg Electric and its tree contractor also attend vegetation management workshops sponsored by the Public Utility Research Center. Leesburg Electric's tree contractor has a state certified Arborist on staff. Leesburg Electric believes that our approach to vegetation management is comprehensive because it addresses key components, such as, a systematic schedule to ensure our system is inspected and trimmed, we utilize an established industry standard methodology for vegetation management, we educate out customers through direct contact as well as program initiatives, we mitigate future vegetation issue by reviewing proposed development, and we take advantage of ongoing training.

**b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2022.**

Leesburg Electric has instituted a 5-year Vegetation Management Plan to ensure that our 175 miles of overhead distribution lines are inspected for vegetation encroachment and trimmed to industry standards as required. Our 2022 Trimming Plan required 20%, or 1/5 of our overhead lines, be inspected for vegetation encroachment and trimming to industry standards as required. This would be accomplished through our work in Trimming within Zone 1, Trimming within our Zone 2, “Hot Spot” trimming throughout our service territory and trimming in support of Capital Projects. Our 2022 Trimming Plan represented 35 miles of overhead lines. After reviewing all the components of our 2022 Trimming Plan, Leesburg Electric found that 41 miles of its electric territory was inspected for vegetation encroachment and trimmed to industry standards as required.