

**(Name of City/Utility)**  
**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to**  
**Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.**  
**Calendar Year 2022**

**1) Introduction**

- a) City of Winter Park
  
- b) 401 Park Avenue South, Winter Park, FL. 32789
  
- c) Contact information:  
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**2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2022**

The City of Winter Park served a monthly average of 14729 electric meters.

**3) Standards of Construction**

**a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Winter Park Electric Utility comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. 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**

In January 2008, The City of Winter Park began an ambitious initiative to put its entire distribution system underground. Phase 1 was funded by \$14 million in bonds to fund the undergrounding of 9.3 miles of mainline feeder underground and provide \$2.5 million in matching funds for neighborhoods that want to participate in the funding to accelerate the undergrounding of the distribution system within their neighborhood. Since 2012, a budget line item for undergrounding the distribution system has been included in the department

budget. As of the end of 2022, approximately 73% of the overhead system has been converted. The City of Winter Park requires that new residential electric services be installed underground.

The Winter Park electric distribution system was originally designed by Progress Energy Florida (PEF). When the system equipment requires replacement, the defective equipment is replaced with equivalent equipment. In some cases, the City will replace a deteriorated segment with an underground system as engineering requirements indicate. In 2018 the City began a program of targeted underground projects to correct outage-prone, deteriorated, and inaccessible line segments. This effort has been successful in limiting outages caused by animal contact, weather, and tree contact. These smaller reliability projects are consistent with the City's overall plans for undergrounding.

At this time, the City of Winter Park facilities are not designed to meet the extreme loading standards on a system wide basis. The City of Winter Park is participating in the Public Utility Research Center's (PURC) granular wind research study through the Florida Municipal Electric Association. We continue to self-audit and evaluate our system to determine any immediate needs for system upgrades and hardening in specific areas. We will monitor the results of this research to determine the most appropriate response for system upgrades and hardening.

**c) Flooding and Storm Surges**

The City of Winter Park is not a coastal community and storm surges are not a major concern. Flooding is not a significant problem during the hurricane seasons, including the nearby track of Irma in 2017, and subsequent tropical storms. The City of Winter Park is also participating 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 through the Florida Municipal Electric Association.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Winter Park 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 City facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. The City of Winter Park 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. One of the goals of the undergrounding projects is to improve accessibility by moving all back-lot medium voltage lines and equipment out to the front or side of the property (as applicable) so that facilities are accessible from the street or public right-of-way.

**e) Attachments by Others**

The pole attachment agreements between City of Winter Park Electric Utility and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the City of Winter Park Electric Utility, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before they attach to the pole. The City of Winter Park 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 City of Winter Park does not own transmission poles or lines. The City employed an outside contractor (Osrose Utility Services Inc.) to complete an inventory of distribution poles owned by the City. The initial inspection was completed in 2007. Wood pole inspections vary, three basic methods are used, and usually in combination, in order to assess the condition of a wood pole. Employees use a visual inspection and an assessment prior to climbing poles in conjunction with field work, and sounding a pole with a hammer to determine the soundness of a pole. The length of the inspection cycle is being evaluated to determine what is appropriate but it is presently planned not to exceed eight years or 12.5% per year. Replacement poles are pressure treated southern pine, and are class 1, 2, or 3.

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

The City of Winter Park does not own transmission poles or lines. The City of Winter Park would contract for sound and bore with excavation testing remaining distribution poles. WPE employees use a visual inspection and sounding with a hammer to assess the soundness of a pole prior to climbing in conjunction with field work. The City did not contract pole inspections in 2022.

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

The City of Winter Park did not contract pole inspections in 2022, however WPE Utility workers routinely inspect the poles that are involved with daily jobs and work orders. The number of poles replaced is less than 1/2 of 1% of the number of poles in our system. The City's undergrounding program is eliminating many poles from our system and current practice is to replace poles that are no longer safe or serviceable or to underground that section of overhead conductor if practicable.

- 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.**

Based on the 2007 full system inspection, all repairs and replacements have been made. The City of Winter Park routinely inspects the poles that are involved with daily jobs and work orders. Poles requiring remediation or replacement were class 1, 2, or 3 wood. Pole damage from decay or insects would be treated with chemicals to inhibit decay and discourage insects. On some restorable poles, a metal truss is recommended to reinforce the base of the pole; Winter Park Electric prefers to schedule the pole in question for replacement. Replacement poles are pressure treated southern pine, and are class 1, 2, or 3. As undergrounding projects are completed, unnecessary poles are removed. During 2022, approximately 150 vacated wood and concrete poles were removed from the system.

## **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.**

The City of Winter Park maintains an Urban Forestry group with ISA Certified Arborists to oversee its Utility Vegetation Management (UVM) program. The program is based on a three-year trim cycle, which is augmented as needed to maintain clearance between cycles. Dead and hazard trees located outside of rights-of-way on private property which present an imminent threat to power lines or equipment are reported to an arborist, who has the authority to order pruning or removal. Winter Park Electric Utility's UVM program adheres to the International Society of Arboriculture's Best Management Practices, the National Arbor Day Foundation's Standards for Line Clearance and ANSI A300 Standards for Tree Trimming. The program consists of directional pruning, hazard tree removals, vine removals and herbicide spraying. The program's effectiveness is evidenced by steady improvements in the SAIDI and MAIFI reliability indices. This allows Winter Park Electric Utility to provide safe, reliable electrical service and reduces the potential for damage during storms.

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

Winter Park Electric Utility is in the midst of a multi-year project to underground electrical conductors throughout the city. The progress made towards eventual 100% undergrounding has resulted in the reduction of our routine maintenance pruning cycle from three years to

two. Routine maintenance pruning work occurred along approximately 22.91 miles of overhead distribution lines in 2022. We anticipate working approximately 48.24 miles of overhead distribution lines in 2023. Ease of access to electrical facilities as well as variations in types and density of vegetation also affect miles covered annually. Each year the uncertainty associated with hurricane season poses a challenge in terms of planning and completion of routine maintenance. In 2022, two named storms and one unnamed severe weather event required additional time and resources to prepare for and respond to impacts from high winds and heavy ground saturation. Regardless of these fluctuations, all overhead circuits are worked within the prescribed two-year trim cycle.

#### **6) Storm Hardening Research**

The City of Winter Park 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](mailto:azubaly@publicpower.com).