

(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. Homestead Public Services/Energy

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2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2022

26,426

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.**

All transmission poles are concrete. A drone thermographic inspection of Line 1 will be completed in 2023. With the advent of drone technology, Homestead Energy Services will be performing transmission line inspections on a three year cycle.

Wooden distribution poles are inspected in accordance with standard industry guidelines including sound and bore and loading evaluations. HES employs a contractor to perform pole inspections on an eight-year cycle. All new wooden poles are CCA as are the majority of the poles currently installed in the system. Class II, Class I or concrete poles are used for new construction or for any Class IV or Class V poles that are found to be in need of replacement. Homestead Energy Services makes the determination regarding which class of pole to be used on a case-by-case basis.

Annually, a thermographic inspection is performed on all of the feeder circuits and any problems noted are repaired. In April of 2022 an inspection was completed on all substation and circuits. In September of 2022 another inspection was completed at the Homestead/Miami Speedway along with it’s adjacent circuits.

Distribution pole inspections are on an 8 year cycle, with approximately 12.5% of the population scheduled to be inspected each year or as the budget allows. Actual inspections typically yield about a 15% inspection rate.

Pole Inspection Contractor election has been done through a multi-city agreement coordinated by the Florida Municipal Power Association.

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

No transmission inspections were complete in 2022 but currently scheduling to inspect approximately 35% of the Transmission in 2023. In 2022, 7% of the distribution poles were inspected due to budget constraints.

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

During the pole inspection, 50 poles were identified as rejects for multiple different reasons. We had 12.8% reject rate of the poles inspected.

Decayed Top	13
Decayed Top & leaning	6
Lightning Damage	1
Shell Rot	4
Split Top	8
Woodpecker Damage	18
	50

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.

The City of Homestead was awarded a Storm Hardening Mitigation Grant from FEMA in 2021. The Mitigation Assessment identified 1560 poles to be hardened by Homestead, which replaced the need for pole inspections through 2021. The City of Homestead for 2022 has replaced 36 (Thirty-Six) 40’ class 4 wooden Lateral poles with 40’ Class “III A” Concrete poles and 57 (fifty-seven) 45’ Class 2 Feeder poles with 45’ Class “III H” concrete poles as part of the grant. This accounted for approximately 2% of all poles that were replaced with a stronger option. No poles were remediated during the 2022 calendar year.

Six additional 45’ Class 2 wooden poles were replaced with 45’ Class III H Concrete 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.**

Homestead Energy Services employs a contractor for tree trimming services, and added an additional tree trimming crew at the end of 2016. Customers are provided literature regarding trees recommended for planting near power lines as requested. Homestead's geographic area is small and it is estimated that the entire system is trimmed on a two-year cycle. The City of Homestead recently enacted Code changes that require property owners to keep vegetation on private property trimmed to maintain six feet of clearance from HES facilities. There are no issues with vegetation management for transmission facilities. As a City department, Homestead Energy Services works with Public Works and Building and Zoning to ensure that appropriate landscaping is planned in the vicinity of electrical facilities.

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

The City of Homestead currently trims and maintains vegetation on a two-year cycle. The utility's tree trimming contractor, Asplundh, is tasked with Homestead Energy's vegetation management process. Asplundh has a certified arborist and a state certified Commercial Applicator with experience in right of ways and vegetation management around transmission and distribution facilities on staff.