

# Memorandum

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**To:** Florida Public Service Commission

**CC:** Mike Eastburn [City Manager] and Ronald Strickland [Electric Director]

**From:** Christina Simmons, Director of Customer Affairs

**Date:** 02-28-2024

**Re:** Storm Hardening Report for the City of Bushnell pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, FAC

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Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, Florida Administrative Code, attached is the Storm Hardening Report for 2023 for the City of Bushnell.

Christina Simmons  
117 E. Joe P. Strickland Jr. Ave  
Bushnell, FL 33513  
352-793-2591  
csimmons@cityofbushnellfl.com

**City of Bushnell**  
**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to**  
**Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.**  
**Calendar Year 2023**

**1) Introduction**

- a) Name of city/utility  
City of Bushnell
  
- b) Address, street, city, zip  
117 E. Joe P. Strickland Jr Ave  
P.O. Box 115  
Bushnell, FL 33513
  
- c) Contact information: Name, title, phone, fax, email  
Christina Simmons  
Director of IS/Customer Affairs  
Phone: 352-793-2591  
Fax: 352-793-2711  
Email: csimmons@cityofbushnellfl.com

**2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2023**

Approximately 1,856 electric meters

**3) Standards of Construction**

**a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Bushnell 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**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Bushnell are guided by the extreme wind loading standards as specified by <http://windspeed.atcouncil.org/> as recommended by the NESC for major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after December 10, 2006. The majority of our poles are class 3.

**c) Flooding and Storm Surges**

The City of Bushnell is a non-coastal utility, therefore, storm surge/flooding is not an issue.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the City of Bushnell 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 the City of Bushnell's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. The City of Bushnell 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.

**e) Attachments by Others**

The pole attachment agreements between the City of Bushnell and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the City of Bushnell, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before they attach to the pole. The City of Bushnell 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 Bushnell aims to have pole inspections completed annually by a pole inspection company. After the completion of the inspection, the City of Bushnell changes out any poles that have failed.

**b) Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2023.**

The City of Bushnell did not complete an inspection in 2023 due to various reasons. The Electric Utility lost its Director in late 2022 and hired a new Director in February 2023. Because of this turnover, the annual inspection plan and inspection requirement was not conveyed to new leadership. The new Electric Director, Ronald Strickland, contacted Osmose in July 2023 to schedule a meeting and establish an inspection plan. A meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2023, but was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. In August 2023, an additional attempt was made to schedule a meeting with Osmose, as well as in October 2023 and December 2023. Finally, a meeting was scheduled and took place

on February 1, 2024. The City is currently working with Osmose to share maps and/or shapefiles in order to schedule an inspection for 2024.

**c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2023 and the reason for the failure.**

See our response to item b below:

The City of Bushnell did not complete an inspection in 2023 due to various reasons. The Electric Utility lost its Director in late 2022 and hired a new Director in February 2023. Because of this turnover, the annual inspection plan and inspection requirement was not conveyed to new leadership. The new Electric Director, Ronald Strickland, contacted Osmose in July 2023 to schedule a meeting and establish an inspection plan. A meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2023, but was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. In August 2023, an additional attempt was made to schedule a meeting with Osmose, as well as in October 2023 and December 2023. Finally, a meeting was scheduled and took place on February 1, 2024. The City is currently working with Osmose to share maps and/or shapefiles in order to schedule an inspection for 2024.

**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 2023, including a description of the remediation taken.**

See our response to item b below:

The City of Bushnell did not complete an inspection in 2023 due to various reasons. The Electric Utility lost its Director in late 2022 and hired a new Director in February 2023. Because of this turnover, the annual inspection plan and inspection requirement was not conveyed to new leadership. The new Electric Director, Ronald Strickland, contacted Osmose in July 2023 to schedule a meeting and establish an inspection plan. A meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2023, but was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. In August 2023, an additional attempt was made to schedule a meeting with Osmose, as well as in October 2023 and December 2023. Finally, a meeting was scheduled and took place on February 1, 2024. The City is currently working with Osmose to share maps and/or shapefiles in order to schedule an inspection for 2024.

## **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.**

Being a small city allows us to check vegetation all throughout the year and trim on a case by case basis. Outside of easement is done on an as needed basis. To date we are staying up with all right of way trimming.

**b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2023.**

The City of Bushnell has contracted with Lewis Services and we have a cycle of cutting areas. At least 25 percent of the electric system is trimmed every year on a 4 year rotation for everything.

**6. Storm Hardening Research**

The City of Bushnell 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@flpublicpower.com](mailto:azubaly@flpublicpower.com).