



CLEWISTON UTILITIES

141 CENTRAL AVENUE
CLEWISTON, FLORIDA 33440

Via Electronic Filing

March 1, 2024

Florida Public Service Commission

RE: Storm Hardening Report for the City of Clewiston pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, FAC

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, Florida Administrative Code, attached is the Storm Hardening Report for 2023 for the City of Clewiston. The attachment contains three pages.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Mila". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lynne Mila
Assistant Utilities Director
Clewiston Utilities
151 Central Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440
863-983-1454

(Name of City/Utility)
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 Clewiston

b) Address, street, city, zip

115 W. Ventura, Clewiston 33440

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

Lynne Mila
Assistant Utilities Director
863-983-1454
Fax 863-983-3406
Lynne.mila@clewiston-fl.gov

2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2023

4194

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

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

At this time, the City of Clewiston facilities are not designed to be guided by the extreme loading standards on a system wide basis. The City of Clewiston 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 Clewiston 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 Clewiston 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 Clewiston'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 Clewiston 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 Clewiston and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the City of Clewiston, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before they attach to the pole. The City of Clewiston 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.

In 2020 we contracted with Power Pole Maintenance Company to perform our pole inspections, which were sound and bore with strength calculations. Due to our small system size PPMC completed inspections of our entire system in three months. We also conduct infrared inspections of our entire distribution system and perform spot checks for problem areas with our in house Level II certified inspector. Poles that have significant rot below ground line, or internal decay are rejected.

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

In 2020, 2300 poles or 100% of the distribution poles were inspected, selectively treated, and received asset tags. 180 poles failed inspection and are being replaced. The pesticide application for the preservative treatment guarantees that the treated distribution pole is sound for 10 years. We will resume inspections in 2030.

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

In 2021, we began replacing the 180 poles that did not pass inspection, or 7.8% of our system. Pole rot below the ground or excessive split top were the major reasons for rejection

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.

In 2023, we replaced 22 class C distribution poles, or 1% of our distribution system poles.

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.

We have a city ordinance that prevents any hedges or trees from being planted in the easements, any tree that is in the easement that has grown to reach the power lines is completely removed. 100% of our distribution system is inspected annually for excessive tree growth. Using this inspection method, we trim the entire distribution system continuously, as-needed. Furthermore, we accept requests from customers for tree trimming that impacts our distribution system.

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

This year, the city contracted with Davey Tree Expert Company for Vegetation Removal Services in the amount of \$200,000.00. Davey Tree is removing vegetation in the easement and right of way in areas where growth is the most problematic. The billing terms are for time and material, and the project area extends as far as funds will allow.

6. Storm Hardening Research

The City of Clewiston 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.1, or azubaly@flpublicpower.com.