City of Leesburg Electric
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 Leesburg Electric Department (Leesburg Electric)

b) Address, street, city, zip

2010 Griffin Rd., Leesburg, FL 34748

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

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2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2023

Leesburg Electric served 28,447 meters in the year 2023.

3) Standards of Construction

a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Leesburg Adheres to the NESC, latest edition in designs.

b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards

Leesburg adheres to the Extreme Wind Loading Standards per the latest edition of the NESC.

c) Flooding and Storm Surges

Leesburg designs facilities to avoid areas prone to flooding. Storm Surges are not an issue in Leesburg.

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

Rear lot line is avoided when possible. When possible, overhead lines are relocated from rear lot line, or converted to underground. Leesburg abides by the MUTCD for construction on roadways, including FDOT, Lake County, Leesburg and private roads. Clearances are adhered to for the safe installation and maintenance of facilities. Larger items like 3 phase transformers are only installed where easy access by large trucks can be accommodated.

e) Attachments by Others

Attachments are by permit only. There are two current contracts with Comcast and Lumen. The requesting attachee is responsible for any make ready work for installing on Leesburg Poles. Current codes are used in determining if poles can be attached to. Clearances, and pole loading are looked at for an attachment permit is approved.

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.

Leesburg is due to start a new cycle of inspection in the 2024-25 Budget year. The cycles will be broken into 5 zones with approximately 3,000 poles per zone. This work is contracted out and should take up to 8 weeks to complete, depending on the contractor. Priority Reject poles will be handled first and then the remaining reject poles. Poles requiring additional inspections or other maintenance work would be worked into the schedule.

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

0 planned, 0 inspected.

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

None, no Inspections completed

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.

Not all poles were replaced because of inspections.
10-50-4 wood poles replaced with 50-2 Wood
8 50-3 concrete poles replaced with 50-4
11-45-4 wood poles replaced with 50-4 concrete
7-45-4 wood poles replaced with 45-2 Wood
44-45' poles replaced with 50-2 wood poles
4-40' -4 replaced with 35-4 wood poles
12-40-4 wood poles replaced 2with 40-2
3-40-4 wood replaced with 45-2 Wood poles
7-35-6 replaced with 35-4
2-35-6 replaced with 40-2 Wood
1-35-6 replaced with 45-2 wood pole
15-35-6 replaced with 40-2 wood
1-35-4 replaced with a 50-2
2-12' aluminum poles replaced with 12' aluminum
6-20' aluminum poles replaced with 20' aluminum
5-25-7 replaced with 35-4 wood
13-30-6 replaced with 35-4 wood
4-30 6 poles replaced with 30-6 wood poles
1 30-6 replaced with 20'decorative

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.

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 if requested to do so. 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 our 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 2023.

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 2023 Vegetation Management 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 2, Trimming within our Zone 3, "Hot Spot" Trimming throughout our service territory and trimming in support of Capital Projects as well as areas were tree related outages area recognized and have become Reliability concerns. Our 2023 Vegetation Management Trimming Plan represented 35 miles of overhead lines. After reviewing all the components of our 2023 Vegetation Management Plan, Leesburg Electric found that 46 miles of its electric territory was inspected for vegetation encroachment and trimmed to industry standards as required.

In 2023, we finished Zone 2 and Zone 3 of our Vegetation Management Program. These areas are more heavily impacted with trimming than the other Zones in our system. Tree density is higher in the neighborhoods in these areas and more overhead primary lines are more prevalent. Hot Spot Trimming was needed from Hurricane Ian and there were many Hot Spot Trimming Tickets generated that had to be addressed, these Tickets were outside work on our Vegetation Management Program. These Tickets has to be address due to FEMA requirements. Capital Projects within the system required trimming which was outside our Vegetation Management Program. Based on Outage Data and Reliability Reporting, several sections of the system needed to be addressed that were outside the Vegetation Management Program. Trimming these areas posed problems due to customer complaints related to our trimming methodology, these problems slowed the trimming process. Leesburg Electric trimmed 54,420 feet of Maintenance Trimming and 20,044 feed of Hot Spot Ticket Trimming for a total of 74,464 feet (14.8 miles) trimmed as part of our Vegetation Management Program. The remaining 31.2 miles of the 46 miles was visually inspected with no trimming required.

6. Storm Hardening Research

Leesburg Electric 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.