City of Ocala Electric Utility
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2025

1. Introduction

b) Name of city/utility
City of Ocala Electric Utility

c) Address, street, city, zip
1805 NE 30th Ave, Bldg. 400
Ocala, FL 34470

d) Contact information: Name, title, phone, fax, email
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2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2025

The City of Ocala Electric Utility has a total electric service territory of 162 sq. miles and serves a total of 58,380 active billing electric customer meters.

Customer Breakdown:

- Residential Customers: 48,640
- General Service Customers: 8,264
- General Service Demand Customers: 1,047
- Other: 429

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.

Our policy and primary purpose are to be consistent with the Florida Public Service Commission's rules for wood pole inspections and to provide pole restoration where it is economically feasible. Currently, we support an eight-year inspection cycle of our system.

Our guidelines are selected based on geographical areas and the age of our poles. Practices and procedures include above-ground inspection, excavation, sounding, boring, chipping, internal treatment, and evaluation of each pole to determine remaining strength and reject criteria, along with pole-loading estimates.

b) Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2025.

2025 represents the fourth year in Ocala's third 8-year inspection cycle. The following two tables show the distribution and transmission poles inspected by year for the current 8-year inspection cycle. 100% of the transmission poles have been inspected; they will not be inspected again until the start of our next 8-year inspection cycle (2030).

Distribution level poles include all poles that have only electric-purpose attachments of less than 35kV phase-to-ground voltage (i.e. distribution primary, secondary, service drops, lighting, and guying). Any pole with attachments above 35kV is classified as a transmission pole.

Ocala Electric Utility has distribution-level poles made of wood, concrete, steel, and composite materials. However, distribution inspections are conducted only for wood poles.

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF WOOD **DISTRIBUTION** POLES[1]	WOOD POLES INSPECTED	% OF TOTAL WOOD **DISTRIBUTION** POLES INSPECTED	TOTAL NUMBER OF *Non-WOOD* DISTRIBUTION POLES IN SYSTEM
2022[2]	31,461	0	0	6,223
2023	31,893	3,591	11.26%	7,445
2024	31,909	3.507	9.10%	7,503
2025	31,523	3,816	12.11%	7,389

[1] The total number of poles and inspection percentages change each year based on system growth and shrinkage.

[2] In 2022, OEU completed no inspections of wood poles due to a contractual issue between the City and the contractor performing the inspections. 2022 is the start of the next 8-year inspection cycle.

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF WOOD **TRANSMISSION** POLES	WOOD **TRANSMISSION** POLES INSPECTED	% OF TOTAL WOOD **TRANSMISSION** POLES INSPECTED	TOTAL NUMBER OF *Non-WOOD* **TRANSMISSION** POLES IN SYSTEM
2023	358	14	100%	923
2024	354	0	N/A (Complete)	931
2025	341	0	N/A (Complete)	947

All wood transmission poles have now been inspected in the first year of this cycle. Many of the transmission poles requiring replacement were replaced with other pole-type materials (concrete, composite, or steel).

c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2025 and the reason for the failure.

YEAR	NUMBER OF DISTRIBUTION WOOD POLES REJECTED3	REJECT[4] % (Reject ÷ Total Yr. Insp.)	REASON FOR FAILURE
2022	0	0	N/A
2023	21	0.58%	Shell Rot
2023	1	0.03%	Decayed Top
2024	5	0.14%	Decayed Top
2024	6	0.17%	Exposed Pocket
2024	26	0.75%	Shell Rot
2024	4	0.11%	Split Top
2024	1	0.03%	Termites
2024	16	0.46%	Woodpecker Holes
2025	51	1.34%	Shell Rot
2025	27	0.71%	Decayed Top
2025	22	0.58%	Previous Groundline Reject
2025	16	0.42%	Previous Above Groundline Reject
2025	9	0.24%	Woodpecker Holes
2025	2	0.05%	Exposed Pocket

[2] In 2022, OEU completed no inspections of wood poles due to a contractual issue between the City and the contractor performing the inspections. 2022 is the start of the next 8-year inspection cycle

[3] Rejected poles include poles identified for mitigation by bracing, pole replacement, or other field actions as necessary to assure pole integrity sufficient with storm hardening standards.

[4] Based on total Rejections to date in this 8-year cycle and total Inspections to date in this 8-year cycle. (TOTAL % REJECT = Total wood poles rejected ÷ Total wood poles inspected)

YEAR	NUMBER OF **TRANSMISSION** WOOD POLES REJECTED[3]	REJECT % (Reject ÷ Total Yr. Insp.)	REASON FOR FAILURE
2023	0	0%	N/A
2024	0	0%	N/A (Complete for this cycle)
2025	0	0%	N/A (Complete for this cycle)

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 2025, including a description of the remediation taken.

OEU completed no inspections on wood poles for 2022, as stated above, due to a contract issue between the City and Osmose. The following tables show distribution poles braced and replaced, and transmission poles braced and replaced. Poles remediated by bracing are not counted in the rejection numbers, since they still meet the standards with the immediate bracing applied.

DISTRIBUTION WOOD POLES				
YEAR	# BRACED[6]	% BRACED[6] (% = Braced ÷ Wood pole Insp that Year)	# REPLACED[7] # Wood Rejected that Yr.	% REPLACED[7] (% = # Wood Rejected that Yr. ÷ Wood pole Insp that Yr.)
2022[2]	0	0	0	0%
2023	16	0.45%	0	0%
2024	23	0.66%	21	0.60%
2025	0	0	0	0%
TOTALS	39	0.55%	21	0.30%

[2] In 2022, OEU completed no inspections of wood poles due to a contractual issue between the City and the contractor performing the inspections. 2022 is the start of the next 8-year inspection cycle

[6] Bracing occurs at the time of inspection if required. (TOTAL % = Total # Braced ÷ Total Wood pole inspected)

[7] The replacement data represents poles identified for replacement in that inspection year, actual engineering and construction work may be completed in the following year.

	TRANSMISSION WOOD POLES	
YEAR	# / % BRACED[6] (% = Braced ÷ Total Yr. Insp.)	# / % REPLACED[7] (% = Total Yr. Repl. ÷ Total Yr. Insp.)
2022	0	0
2023	0	0
2024	0	0
2025	0	0
TOTALS	**0 / 0.0 %**	**0 / 0.0 %**

The rejection data represent poles identified in a given inspection year. To complete inspection work ahead of the 8-year cycle end date and allow time for necessary remediation, Ocala Electric Utility may complete inspections before the 8-year cycle end date.

Poles identified for replacement are then engineered into work orders. Work order engineering may span calendar years and may not occur in the same year as the inspection. Ocala Electric Utility reports the total number of engineered pole replacement work orders released for construction within the calendar year. NOTE – Some work orders may include multiple pole replacements if the poles are adjacent. So, total work order numbers likely will not equal the actual total number of poles identified for replacement. Additionally, poles may be identified by field crews outside of the contractor inspection program (other geographic areas), and those poles may be engineered and replaced over and above the replacements/rejects identified in the inspection program.

YEAR	OVERALL POLE REPLACEMENT WORK ORDERS ENGINEERING COMPLETED
2022	0
2023	0
2024	0
2025	144
TOTALS	0

Work order construction for a given replacement pole(s) may occur in the following year, after inspection, and may depend on other operational factors. Transmission pole replacements are given the highest priority.

YEAR	OVERALL POLE REPLACEMENT WORK ORDERS CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED[7]
2022	0
2023	0
2024	0
2025	97
TOTALS	0

Construction completion may represent work engineered and started in a previous calendar year. This may be due to material acquisition time, access limitations, coordination with other communication attachees or utilities, customer needs, or, in some cases, line outage scheduling.

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.

The City of Ocala Electric Utility (OEU) maintains an annual Transmission Vegetation Management Plan (TMVP) that specifies allowable distances, work methods, practices, and an annual work schedule for vegetation adjacent to transmission conductors operating at 100kV phase-to-phase or higher.

A certified Utility Arborist plans and coordinates the work schedule and makes contact with adjacent property owners when problem and hazard trees are identified along the 13-mile 230kV Transmission easement corridor, the 69kV Transmission System, and across the Distribution System. By the end of 2025, OEU transferred ownership of the 13-mile 230kV transmission line and the corresponding easement to Duke Energy Florida, so OEU has no further responsibility for vegetation management adjacent to that transmission line.

The work outlined in the work schedule is completed using a combination of manual, machinery, and chemical control methods performed by professional contractors and/or the City of Ocala's three (3) man in-house Tree crew.

The Utility's in-house Tree Crew performs most of the vegetation clearing work for new infrastructure construction, and tree-related emergency response work required by the Utility. Additionally, they perform demand work, including pruning or removing problem and hazard trees, handling customer requests, performing hotspot work, and routine vegetation maintenance, including emergency call-outs.

A professional tree company is contracted primarily to perform routine vegetation maintenance over approximately one-fourth of the entire distribution system annually. The contract includes specifications to ensure quality tree work and designated clearances, as discussed during FMEA Storm Hardening research meetings.

All pruning is required to conform to the guidelines outlined in the ISA's Best Management Practices "Utility Pruning of Trees" and the ANSI A300 Standards and is overseen by an ISA Certified Arborist/ Utility Specialist on staff who provides information and guidance to Utility personnel, plans and participates in the Arbor Day Festival, and oversees line clearance operations as well as providing education and training to utility tree crews.

The City's Tree Ordinance (included in the City of Ocala Land Development Regulations) contains wording requiring specific planting distances from utility lines that depend on the species' natural growth habits. The City Planning Department uses these as a guide when approving site development plans.

In 2006, the Utility renewed its affiliation with the American Public Power Association and committed to budget for a "Remove and Replace" tree voucher program. The program addresses problem and hazard trees on property adjacent to utility easements by providing removal services and rewarding customers who cooperate with replacement vouchers and educational materials as an incentive.

In 2011, it was noted that many tree-related outages were caused by overhanging limbs, which had clearance but broke off onto the lines. In response, contract tree crews were instructed to reduce or remove all accessible overhanging limbs, and wording to that end was added to the Tree Trimming Contract. That contract was most recently rebid in April 2023.

As overhang is reduced and problem and hazard trees are mitigated, tree-related outages will inevitably become less problematic during afternoon storms and high wind events; as new plantings are thoughtfully planned, and proper pruning practices applied, the overall health of the tree canopy near the lines will gradually improve so that damage during future major storms should be greatly reduced.

In 2013, Ocala Electric Utility launched a plan to reclaim its easements in areas that had become problematic for various reasons, including access issues and canopy road designations. The new plan continues to be implemented in cooperation with local authorities to improve the reliability of the electrical service system-wide.

In 2024, Hurricanes Helene and Milton again tested the effectiveness of OEU's enhanced efforts. The overwhelming percentage of damage and outages was directly related to vegetation issues. Specifically, trees falling on conductors from outside of the right-of-way or the utility's trimming easement, or from falling limbs located within "Shady Road" designations, or tree-friendly neighborhoods, where trimming is heavily restricted. Where

comprehensive vegetation management was fully implemented, wind- and tree-related outages were much less severe. For that reason, the City of Ocala Electric Utility will continue to encourage private property owners to allow increased levels of responsible vegetation management within proximity to the 69kV and 12.5kV distribution lines.

In 2025, approximately one-fourth (1/4) of Ocala's system was trimmed. Ocala's vegetation management cycle is four years for distribution and three years for transmission. In 2024, 100% of the vegetation along the 230 kV transmission line was controlled by herbicide. In addition, maintenance trimming was completed on dead, dying, diseased, and otherwise needing-trimmed trees. The 2025 annual work plan included continued clearing of the distribution and transmission system. Ocala Electric Utility's vegetation maintenance was performed by certified tree-trimming contractors. In addition, Ocala Electric staffs a 3-person in-house tree crew with access to a range of specialized equipment to perform vegetation line clearing in accordance with best management practices. We have a team of contractors that are dedicated to maintenance trimming cycles, as well as three crews dedicated to reactive work. We also have a tree-replacement program that provides tree vouchers to residents whose trees were removed from their property. We also give away three hundred (300) trees through our annual Earth Day event in April and online options, giving energy-saving trees to our residents. In addition, we have a hazard tree removal program that removes dead, dying, or diseased trees on private property that pose a threat to our power lines.

b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2025.

The Utility consists of approximately 1,000 miles of lines; 766 miles of which are overhead primary. The 84 miles of transmission lines include 69kV lines that are mostly contiguous with underbuilt primary distribution lines and 13 miles of designated 230kV easement. The 230kV transmission lines and associated easements will no longer be within OEU's scope for future years.

In the past, the standard annual vegetation management plan covered 1/3 of the 230kV transmission system each year. However, in 2023, 100% (all 13 miles) of the 230kV transmission easement was cleared to the full extent of easement/right-of-way limits. This included removal of all floor-level vegetation regardless of expected mature growth height, as well as ground-to-sky side trimming. In 2025, the Utility again fully inspected 100% of the 230kV transmission easement.

In 2026, we will continue to allocate resources towards a well-defined preventive maintenance program. We hold in reserve three contract crews along with our in-house tree crew for reactive projects such as new construction, reconductoring, pole change-outs, and trouble tickets. We also have a team dedicated to our preventative maintenance program. Our in-house tree crew and tree contractors will continue to perform preventive maintenance on transmission and distribution facilities and ensure all work is completed in accordance with our specifications.