GRU
More than Energy™

GAINESVILLE REGIONAL UTILITIES

Energy Delivery

January 20, 2026

Penelope Buys
Engineering Specialist
Division of Engineering
Florida Public Service Commission

pbuys@psc.state.fl.us

Dear Ms. Buys,

Attached is the Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) 2025 Storm Hardening Report. We believe all reporting requirements of Rule 25-6.0343 have been addressed and satisfied. However, should there be any unanswered questions, or need for further expansion or clarification, we will address such needs in a timely manner upon notice. GRU has been proactive historically in nearly all facets of the Storm Hardening initiative; we are pleased to report our programs and successes to the Commission.

Sincerely,

Chad D. Parker
Energy Delivery Officer

/enclosure

GRU Storm Hardening Report
To the Florida Public Service Commission
Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU)

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) is a municipal electric utility serving the City of Gainesville and surrounding urban fringe areas in Alachua County, Florida. GRU does not serve the University of Florida main campus.

1.2 Utility Address Information

Physical Address:
4747 N. Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32609
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 147117, Station E2A
Gainesville, FL 32614-7117

1.3 Utility Contact Information

Chad D. Parker
Energy Delivery Officer
Phone: (352) 393-6452
Email: parkercd@gru.com

2. Number of Customers Served in Calendar Year 2025

GRU served a total of 104,679 electric customers during calendar year 2025, broken down by class as follows:

- **Residential Customers:** 93,170
- **Non-Residential Customers:** 11,509
- **Total Customers:** 104,679

3. Standards of Construction

3.1 National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Compliance

GRU's Material and Construction Standards are continuously maintained and updated to ensure compliance with the applicable version of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). Current facilities are installed in accordance with the **2023 NESC**. Facilities installed prior to February 2023 were constructed in accordance with the version of the NESC in effect at the time of construction.

3.2 Extreme Wind Load Standards

GRU's Material and Construction Standards are guided by the extreme wind loading requirements specified by the American Transmission Council wind speed map as recommended by the 2023 NESC.

These standards apply to new construction and major planned work initiated on or after February 2023. Facilities installed prior to that date were constructed in compliance with the applicable NESC at the time.

3.3 Flooding and Storm Surge Considerations

GRU is located in North Central Florida and is not subject to storm surge impacts. Flooding exposure is limited. In areas where flooding has historically occurred, GRU evaluates whether electrical facilities should be relocated or converted from overhead to underground construction to mitigate future impacts.

3.4 Safe and Efficient Access of New and Replacement Distribution Facilities

GRU's construction standards, policies, and procedures ensure safe and efficient access for the installation and maintenance of distribution facilities. GRU operates a Continuous Improvement Program under which the reliability of each distribution circuit is analyzed monthly. Poorly performing circuits are evaluated, root causes are identified, and corrective plans are developed and prioritized based on reliability improvement and cost-effectiveness.

This program also identifies poorly performing devices and compromised underground cables. Problem facilities are prioritized for renewal or replacement based on customer service improvement and best value. Where access to existing facilities is limited, GRU evaluates relocation options and deploys specialized rear-lot construction and maintenance equipment where relocation is not feasible. Distribution laterals are reconfigured and segmented where possible to improve reliability.

GRU has removed subsurface switchgear, completed a URD cable injection program, modified construction standards to limit new radial underground residential distribution (URD) feeds and continues to expand its Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) recloser program, which includes 103 devices. GRU is also implementing an Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS) to improve system visibility, fault identification, and restoration times.

GRU's transmission hardening program includes replacing wood poles with ductile iron poles, improving access roads and culverts, and limiting public access to transmission rights-of-way. Over 150 wood transmission poles have been replaced, leaving two remaining wood poles scheduled for replacement in 2026.

3.5 Attachment by Others

Pole attachment agreements between GRU and third parties require the attaching entity to assess pole strength and safety prior to attachment. GRU conducts follow-up audits to ensure attachments are properly installed and maintained.

4. Facility Inspections

4.1 Inspection Policies, Guidelines, Practices, and Procedures

GRU has maintained a comprehensive pole inspection and treatment program since 1992. The inspection cycle is eight years and includes sounding and boring all wood poles, visual inspections, and ground-line inspections to a depth of eighteen inches where possible.

4.1.1 Transmission Facilities

GRU has eliminated all but two wooden transmission poles. These remaining poles will be replaced with ductile iron poles in 2026, prior to the next inspection cycle.

4.1.2 Distribution Facilities

All wood distribution poles are inspected and treated on an eight-year cycle. Decay is remediated with preservative paste, and poles that cannot be fully inspected are treated with internal preservatives. Rejected poles are replaced within one year, with priority poles replaced immediately.

4.2 Planned and Completed Inspections for 2025

- **Transmission Poles:** No inspections required in 2025
- **Distribution Poles Inspected:** 4,321
- **Planned Work Completed:** 100%

4.3 Facilities Failing Inspection and Causes of Failure

Of the 4,321 distribution poles inspected, five were rejected (reject rate <1%). Causes included shell rot, mechanical damage, exposed or enclosed decay pockets, split tops, woodpecker damage, and decayed tops.

4.4 Pole and Structure Replacement and Remediation

Distribution Poles Replaced:

Height / Class	Number	Percent of Total	Remediation
30 / Class 6	2	40%	Replaced
40 / Class 2	2	40%	Replaced
40 / Class 4	1	20%	Replaced
Total	**5**	**100%**	

5. Vegetation Management

5.1 Vegetation Management Policies, Guidelines, and Practices

GRU maintains approximately 560 miles of overhead distribution lines on a three-year vegetation management cycle. Work is prioritized based on reliability performance and inspections. The program includes pruning, removals, herbicide use, growth regulators, and right-of-way maintenance.

GRU's vegetation management practices are based on nationally recognized standards, including the National Electrical Safety Code, ANSI A300, ANSI Z133.1, and industry best practices.

5.1.1 Appropriate Planting Practices

GRU promotes the principle of "Planting the Right Tree in the Right Place." Clearances are required around pad-mounted transformers and switchgear, and guidance is provided to developers and property owners to prevent future conflicts.

5.1.2 Transmission Vegetation Management Program

GRU applies NERC FAC-003-1 standards across its entire transmission system. The system includes 76.2 corridor miles at 138 kV and 2.5 corridor miles at 230 kV. Semi-annual inspections are conducted, along with post-storm inspections.

5.2 Vegetation Management Planned and Completed in 2025

5.2.1 Transmission System

- 100% of the transmission system inspected semi-annually
- Trees identified and mitigated through trimming and removal
- Transmission rights-of-way mowed twice
- Targeted herbicide applications applied

5.2.2 Distribution System

Approximately 180 miles of distribution circuits were trimmed in accordance with GRU's cyclic program. Additional inspections, unrelated to cyclic trimming activities due to pine beetle infestations and drought conditions, resulted in the removal of 154 hazard trees in 2025.

5.3 Vegetation Management Summary

GRU's vegetation management program supports storm hardening by prioritizing critical feeders, backbone circuits, and hazard trees. The program includes routine and out-of-cycle activities, continuous monitoring, and ongoing improvement to enhance system reliability and resiliency.