February 27, 2025

Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
Attn: Adam Teitzman

Re: Facility Inspections and Vegetation Management Report

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, Florida Administrative Code, attached is the Facility Inspections and Vegetation Management Report for 2025 for Lakeland Electric via the Commission's electronic platform.

If you have questions, please contact me at 863-834-6595.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Clemmons
City of Lakeland
Manager of Legislative and Regulatory Relations
Lakeland Electric
863-834-6595 Work
Cindy.Clemmons@LakelandElectric.com
501 E. Lemon St.
Lakeland, Florida 33801

Enclosure

Lakeland Electric/City of Lakeland, Florida
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 Lakeland / Lakeland Electric

c) Address, street, city, zip
501 East Lemon Street
Lakeland, FL 33801

d) Contact information: Name, title, phone, fax, email
Cynthia Clemmons
Manager of Legislative & Regulatory Relations
Lakeland Electric
Office: (863) 834-6595
Cell: (863) 430-1368
Cindy.Clemmons@lakelandelectric.com

2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2025

Lakeland Electric (LE) served 140,433 meters in 2025.

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.

Lakeland Electric inspects all wood poles on its system every eight years. Lakeland Electric's pole inspection Contractor inspects all wood poles using visual and the sound and bore techniques with ground line excavation and strength assessment that include all pole attachments. Additionally, LE personnel inspects for Transmission and Distribution (T&D) facility damage throughout the service territory during normal travel, operations work, and in response to outages. LE also uses concrete and tubular steel poles which receive a visual inspection only.

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

Lakeland Electric has a plan to formally inspect approximately 12.5% of its system each year. However, to maintain an efficient remediation schedule and manage a multi-year backlog of identified pole replacements, Lakeland Electric deferred its 2025 inspection cycle. This strategic pause allowed internal resources to focus exclusively on engineering and replacing high-priority units, aligning our current field capacity with the immediate needs of system reliability.

Therefore, zero transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failed formal inspection. Lakeland Electric will augment our pole inspection program for the next few years to compensate for the interruption in 2025.

LE personnel continued to inspect for T&D facility damage throughout the service territory during normal travel, operations work, and in response to outages.

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

No formal pole inspections were performed in 2025. Therefore, zero transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failed formal inspection.

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.

No formal pole inspections were performed in 2025. However, remaining poles recommended for strengthening from previous year's inspections were assessed and appropriate actions were taken.

Distribution poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2025: 300

Transmission poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2025: 2

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.

Lakeland Electric's vegetation management program is organized by circuit and operates on a three-year maintenance cycle. Clearance requirements are established based on

individual tree species growth characteristics, and directional pruning techniques are applied to maximize separation between vegetation and energized conductors. These practices are designed to provide sufficient clearance to accommodate anticipated regrowth throughout the three-year cycle for both transmission and distribution circuits.

To further ensure system reliability, Lakeland Electric has implemented a mid-cycle vegetation inspection program. This proactive measure allows staff to identify and address potential vegetation conflicts that may arise between scheduled maintenance cycles. The mid-cycle inspections help capture fast-growing species, storm-damaged trees, or locations with prior vegetation-related issues before the circuit returns to its scheduled maintenance window.

If a vegetation conflict occurs on a three-phase feeder or transmission circuit prior to the scheduled maintenance cycle, it is prioritized and addressed promptly to maintain system reliability. Tree trimming and removal services are performed by qualified contractors.

Lakeland Electric's tree removal program focuses on trees that are likely to require ongoing maintenance or present future reliability concerns. Tree replacement certificates are offered to encourage proper tree selection and promote energy conservation. Additionally, tree planting information booklets, including recommended setback guidelines, are provided in alignment with the City of Lakeland and Polk County Land Development Codes.

Lakeland Electric considers these practices sufficient, as anticipated tree growth typically remains within the established three-year trimming cycle. Budgetary provisions are also in place to address priority situations and emergent reliability concerns as needed.

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

230 kV transmission lines: Lakeland Electric inspected 27 miles of BES to verify vegetation clearance meets or exceeds the FAC-003 compliance requirements. Since Fall of 2025, we've implemented a bi-annual inspection/mitigation program for all 230 kv corridors.
26.24 miles, 4 of the 7 corridors required maintenance and were planned and completed.
69 kV sub-transmission lines: 19 miles of were planned. 19 miles completed.
12 kV distribution lines: 425 miles were planned. 425 miles were completed.
Distribution maintenance includes the trimming required for secondary voltage spans not calculated in the stated mileage.

All maintenance trimming was inspected to verify that it meets the required Lakeland Electric clearance specifications.