PO Box 301 | Sumterville, Florida 33585-0301 | 352.793.3801

February 26, 2026

Ms. Penelope Buys
Engineering Specialist
Division of Engineering
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oaks Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

VIA: Electronic Filing

RE: SECO Energy Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C. Calendar Year 2025

Dear Ms. Buys:

The attached report is being submitted by SECO Energy, pursuant to the Florida Public Service Commission Rule 25-6.0343, FAC for calendar year 2025.

The report details our storm hardening initiatives as they relate to construction standards, inspection cycles, and vegetation management for calendar year 2025.

SECO Energy places a high degree of emphasis on these programs and realizes the positive impact they have on the reliability of our electric system.

Sincerely,

Benjamin R. Dawson
Chief Operation Officer
352-569-9652

SECO Energy Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C. Calendar Year 2025

1. Introduction

SECO Energy
P.O. Box 301
330 South US Highway 301
Sumterville, FL 33585-0301

Benjamin R. Dawson, Chief Operating Officer
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2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2025

264,862 active meters were served by SECO Energy (SECO) in calendar year 2025 as of December 31, 2025.

3. Standards of Construction

SECO promotes the installation of underground distribution facilities when providing service to residential and commercial customers. In addition, in areas with a history of vegetation related outages and reliability issues due to significant storm activities, SECO evaluates its existing overhead facilities and performs underground facilities conversion on a case-by-case basis. In 2025, SECO added 464 miles to its distribution system, of which 99.8% was underground construction. SECO has joined with all of Florida's electric utilities in retaining the Public Utility Research Center (PURC) to coordinate research efforts on electric infrastructure hardening and will continue to participate with other state utilities in evaluating the hardening of electric facilities.

a. National Electric Safety Code Compliance

SECO's design, construction standards, policies, and procedures comply with Rural Utilities Service (RUS) guidelines and the National Electrical Safety Code® (NESC®) (ANSI C2). For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2023, the 2023 NESC® applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to February 1, 2023, are governed by the edition of the NESC in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction.

b. *Extreme Wind Loading Standards*

SECO's design, construction standards, policies, and procedures are guided by the extreme wind loading standards specified by Figure 250-2(d) of the 2023 NESC® for (1) new construction and (2) major planned work, including expansion, rebuild, or relocation of existing facilities, assigned on or after the effective date of this rule.

c. *Flooding and Storm Surges*

Although SECO serves a coastal county (Citrus), the closest facility to the coastline is 14 miles inland; therefore, storm surge is not a concern. SECO does experience sporadic localized flooding in some areas supporting underground and overhead facilities. These identified areas are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for viable solutions to mitigate the impact of future flooding.

d. *Safe and Efficient Access of New and Replacement Distribution Facilities*

Electrical construction standards and SECO policies dictate the placement of distribution facilities to allow for safe and efficient access during installation and maintenance. Wherever new facilities are placed (i.e., front, back or side of property), they are installed for accessibility by crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as safely and expeditiously as possible. If it is determined that facilities need to be relocated, they will be placed in the safest and most accessible area available at the time of relocation.

e. *Attachments by Others*

SECO has established processes to accommodate and manage pole attachment requests from companies who express an interest in attaching to SECO facilities. Following a formal application review and a thorough field investigation, SECO enters into a binding contractual agreement with the requestor. Submission of a permit application from an attachment company is required to attach to a SECO pole. This permit application is reviewed by SECO personnel and then a qualified SECO contractor performs the necessary field work to accommodate the request to ensure that code requirements are met prior to attachment. SECO has established time frames to expedite the transfer of attachments and the removal of old poles so that they are completed in a timely manner; all pole replacements and code violations are logged and tracked in a database, which is monitored each month.

4. Facility Inspections

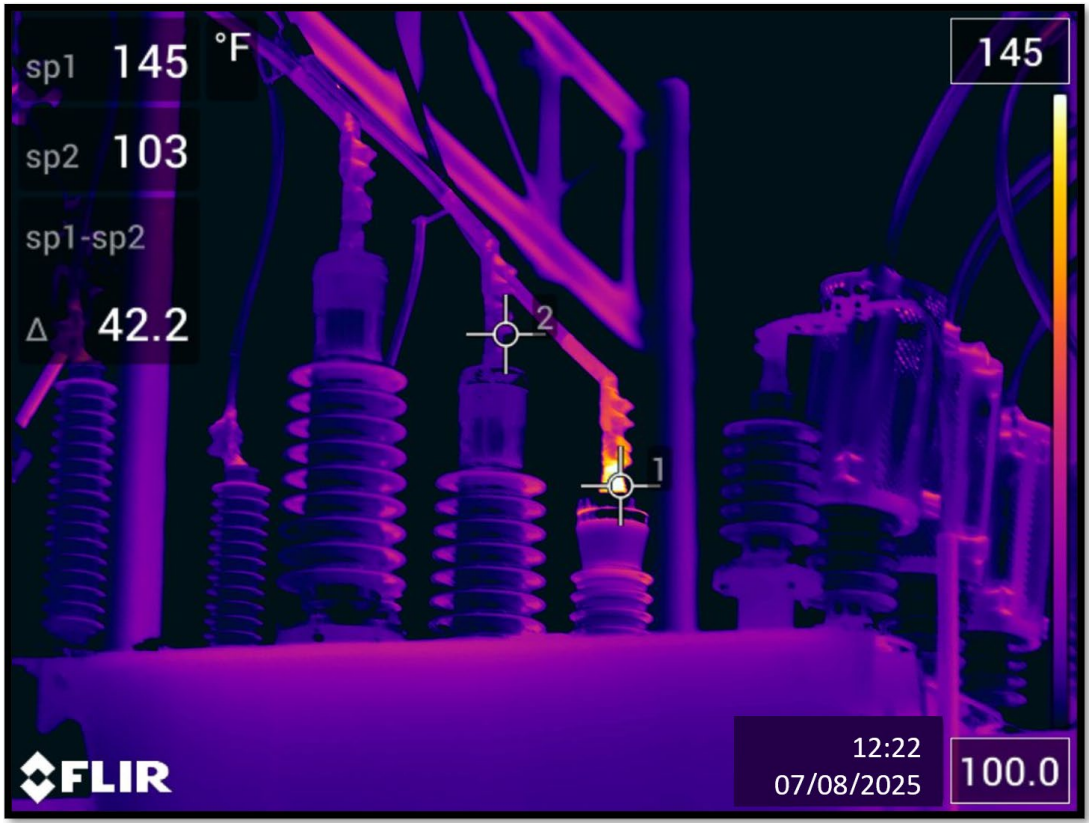
a. *Describe the utility's policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures for inspecting transmission and distribution lines, poles, and structures including, but not limited to, pole inspection cycles and the pole selection process.*

SECO has implemented an inspection program using drones for visual inspection and documentation of existing poles, conductor, and hardware. SECO inspects its transmission facilities, substation facilities, and distribution facilities on regular cycles to maintain a safe and reliable electrical system.

SECO conducts visual and thermographic inspections at every substation monthly to ensure safety and operational efficiency. The inspection includes assessment of fencing, grounding, equipment counters, and the direct current (DC) battery system. The oil and winding temperatures of power transformers are noted along with tap positions for load tap changers and/or regulators. General site review includes documenting equipment leaks, noting warning signs are in place, verifying control insulators and switches are in good working condition, and the control house is operational. This method helps to quickly diagnose and resolve issues, thereby preventing potential substation outages to thousands of members.

In 2010, SECO implemented a policy to complete ground-line inspections of all transmission facilities on a five-year cycle. In 2015, SECO completed the final year of the five-year ground-line inspection cycle and implemented a policy to replace all wood transmission poles with spun-concrete. The use of spun-concrete transmission poles supports system hardening of SECO's transmission facilities by providing structures designed for stronger wind loads and are more resistant to environmental forces.

In addition, SECO performs annual visual and infrared inspections for SECO and Seminole Electric Cooperative (SECI) owned transmission lines. As shown in the following infrared image of a primary bushing on a substation power transformer, this proactive approach enables SECO to detect even minor hot spots and identify potential equipment issues before failure occurs—helping to minimize service interruptions for its members. In the image, Spot 1 highlights a heat-related concern, while Spot 2 shows the expected operating temperature of comparable equipment for reference.



In 2007, SECO began performing ground-line and visual inspections of all distribution poles on an 8-year cycle. The ground-line inspection includes sounding and boring tests, as well as the excavation of all poles for treatment per RUS Bulletin 1730B-121. SECO inspects all Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) poles more than 20 years of age, as well as all as all non-CCA poles on an eight-year cycle. SECO selectively bores and excavates CCA-preserved poles under the age of 20 years. This is in accordance with PSC Docket 140082-EI and is similar to the CCA inspection process followed by Duke Energy Florida, Inc. (DEF) and Florida Power & Light, Inc. (FPL).

In accordance with the inspection criteria described above, Quanta Utility Engineering Services (QUES) inspected 18,929 distribution poles for the 2025 inspection cycle. This represented 13.8% of total distribution poles on the SECO electrical system. There were 115 poles identified during the inspection process that required remediation or replacement. This represented a failure rate of approximately 0.61%. In addition, the inspection process identified maintenance needed at 190 locations, including items such as the replacement of cross-arms and pole bonds.

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

System	# of Planned Inspections	% of Planned Inspections vs Total Poles	# of Completed Inspections	% Completed vs. Planned
Transmission	67	6.1%	67	100%
Distribution	18,815	13.8%	18,929	100.1%

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

System	# Failed	% of Total Poles Inspected	Reason for Failure
Transmission	0	0	--
Distribution	5	0.03%	Ground Rot
Distribution	5	0.03%	Groundline Strength Reduced to less than 67%
Distribution	105	0.56%	Top Deterioration

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 for the 2025 cycle year, including a description of the remediation taken.

Transmission

As of December 31, 2025, all transmission line structures have been replaced with spun-concrete poles except for the Big Creek transmission line which comprises of 67 wood poles. The transition to spun-concrete poles for Big Creek is scheduled to begin in 2026 and expected to take two (2) years to complete. This upgrade will allow for longer span lengths and require fewer poles.

Distribution

In 2021, SECO replaced 98.8% of identified failed distribution poles and 99.4% as of December 31, 2022. As of December 31, 2025, SECO completed 99.7% of the distribution pole replacements and remediations as shown in the following categorical data table. The mitigation of the remaining four (4) distribution poles has been delayed due to site related field conditions. Alternative solutions are under evaluation.

Distribution Poles – 2021			
Pole Type and Class	**# Failed**	**# Replaced**	**% Remediation Complete (As of 12/31/2025)**
25-6	1	1	100%
25-7	1	1	100%
30-4	1	1	100%
30-5	2	2	100%
30-6	248	247	99.6%
35-4	2	2	100%
35-5	36	36	100%
35-6	396	395	99.6%
40-1	2	2	100%
40-3	4	4	100%
40-4	4	4	100%
40-5	310	310	100%
45-1	4	4	100%
45-3	105	105	100%
45-4	12	12	100%
45-5	14	14	100%
50-2	23	23	100%
50-3	5	5	100%
50-4	10	10	100%
55-1	3	3	100%
55-3	2	2	100%
55-4	3	2	66.7%
65-3	1	0	0.0%
Total	**1,189**	**1,185**	**99.7%**

In 2022, SECO replaced 98.8% of identified failed distribution poles and 99.7% as of December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2025, SECO completed 99.9% of the distribution pole replacements and remediations as shown on the following categorical data table. The remaining one (1) distribution pole is being addressed on a reconductor replacement project.

Distribution Poles - 2022			
Pole Type and Class	**# Failed**	**# Replaced**	**% Remediation Complete (As of 12/31/2025)**
30-5	2	2	100%
30-6	171	171	100%
35-4	1	1	100%
35-5	43	43	100%
35-6	209	209	100%
40-3	1	1	100%
40-4	2	2	100%
40-5	242	241	99.6%

Distribution Poles – 2022 (cont.)			
Pole Type and Class	**# Failed**	**# Replaced**	**% Remediation Complete (As of 12/31/2025)**
45-3	8	8	100%
45-4	11	11	100%
45-5	12	12	100%
50-1	1	1	100%
50-2	2	2	100%
50-3	10	10	100%
50-4	5	5	100%
60-3	2	2	100%
Total	**722**	**721**	**99.9%**

As of December 31, 2025, SECO completed 100% of identified 2025 cycle year distribution pole replacements and remediations, as shown in categorical data table below.

Distribution Poles - 2025			
Pole Type and Class	**# Failed**	**# Replaced**	**% Remediation Complete (As of 12/31/2025)**
30-6	32	32	100%
35-5	11	11	100%
35-6	28	28	100%
40-5	36	36	100%
45-3	3	3	100%
45-4	3	3	100%
50-3	1	1	100%
55-3	1	1	100%
Total	**115**	**115**	**100%**

5. Vegetation Management

Program Summary

SECO's Vegetation Management Program employs a two-pronged approach to tree trimming and removal: cycle maintenance and non-cycle maintenance. The program is designed to maintain safe conductor clearances, enhance system reliability, and balance operational needs with environmental stewardship, in accordance with industry standards and regulatory requirements. For primary distribution pole structures, the minimum clearance specification is 10 feet, with a desired clearance of 15 feet. For transmission pole structures, the minimum clearance specification is 30 feet.

Cycle Maintenance

Although the goal is to be on a three-year cycle, SECO is transitioning toward a five-year trimming and tree removal cycle and cleared approximately 630 miles of overhead line in 2025. This work included pruning or removing all incompatible (tall-growing) tree species within the utility right-of-way.

SECO utilizes ISA Certified Utility Arborists to perform work planning, auditing, and member notification. All vegetation management contractors are required to follow International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Best Management Practices and ANSI A300 Pruning Standards. Directional pruning and proper pruning cuts are used to promote regrowth away from conductors. Adherence to these standards supports tree health and reduces crown failures, which can contribute to storm-related outages. Work plans are issued to qualified line-clearing contractors whose procedures and training certifications comply with federal OSHA regulations, ANSI Z133 safety standards (2015 or later), and State of Florida safety requirements.

In 2025, SECO cycle trimmed 601 total circuit miles and removed 47,595 trees from circuit easements, representing 61 percent of the total 78,362 trees addressed for line-clearance issues. The following table summarizes the vegetation management work completed in 2025:

Description	Measurement
Distribution & Transmission line miles "Cycle Trimmed"	601 miles
Distribution & Transmission line miles "Non-Cycle Trimmed" for system improvement projects	28 miles
Total miles trimmed in 2025 (Distribution & Transmission)	629 miles
Total trees removed in "Cycle Trimming" process	47,595 trees

In 2025, cycle maintenance trimming contractors were primarily compensated on a per-unit basis, with each unit defined as a single trimming or removal operation (e.g., a side trim or tree removal). Unit-based compensation enabled SECO to track work types and costs accurately. SECO also implemented lump-sum mileage contracts with not-to-exceed pricing and hourly-based contracts with defined production targets.

Historically, SECO prioritized its annual order of cut based on three weighted factors: total tree-related outages per circuit, date last trimmed, and number of members served per circuit. Moving forward, SECO's order of cut follows a time-based rolling schedule that includes all substations and evenly distributes trimming mileage throughout the five-year cycle.

Non-Cycle Maintenance

Non-cycle vegetation maintenance is performed on an as-needed basis to support and augment the cycle maintenance program. Work is driven by system improvement projects, electrical system expansions, new line construction, member requests, and emergent tree hazards.

A key component of non-cycle maintenance is danger tree removal. Danger or problem trees are defined as trees inside or outside the normal trim zone that may cause outages if not addressed before the next scheduled cycle. In 2025, SECO partnered with a satellite imagery provider to identify hazard trees requiring immediate attention, resulting in the removal of 131 hazard trees. From January 1 through June 30, 2025, qualified line personnel patrolled every three-phase circuit to identify diseased, dying, or dead trees that could potentially fall into energized conductors. These trees were removed on a priority basis, with all danger trees addressed by December 31, 2025. Line personnel also submitted requests for "spot" trimming, which was performed within 90 days of identification.

The non-cycle program also responds to member tree trimming and removal requests. A SECO reliability specialist assesses potential vegetation encroachments, and necessary work is scheduled and targeted for completion within 90 days.

Enforcement of Easement Rights

SECO enforces its easement rights by trimming and removing trees located within utility easements. Coordination with city, county, and state authorities ensures a 15-foot clearance for utility lines located within road right-of-way.

Tree Replacement

SECO's tree replacement program provides utility-friendly trees to members in exchange for vegetation removal near conductors. In 2025, SECO supplied 405 trees to members as part of this program.

Environmental Focus

SECO encourages healthy growth of trees, shrubs, and ground cover to maintain a balance between urban forest conservation and the safety and reliability of the electrical system. Proper tree selection and planting guidelines are provided to members and the public through the website, newsletters, and public events.

In keeping with SECO's commitment to environmental sensitivity, herbicides were applied only in controlled areas for brush and stump treatment. Herbicide was applied to brush stems after mowing and to tree stumps within 30 minutes of removal, with all stump spray containing dye for easy identification. Applications were performed in accordance with local, state, and federal laws, statutes, and regulations. SECO maintains an active list

of members who do not wish herbicide to be used on their property due to livestock or personal considerations, and all requests were fully accommodated.

In 2025, SECO received the Tree Line USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for the nineteenth consecutive year, reflecting its continued commitment to environmental responsibility.

Program Sufficiency

SECO's long-term objective is to achieve a three-year trimming and tree removal cycle, which would require clearing approximately 1,400 miles of overhead lines annually. Currently, SECO is transitioning from a six-year cycle to a five-year cycle. In 2025, SECO explored satellite imagery and AI technologies to optimize the vegetation management program and support its transition back to a three-year cycle.

Through certified utility arborist oversight, adherence to cycle and non-cycle maintenance strategies, continued danger tree patrols, and environmentally sensitive practices, SECO's Vegetation Management Program continues to reduce tree-related outages while providing safe and reliable electric service to its members.