



Attorneys and Counselors at Law  
123 South Calhoun Street  
P.O. Box 391 32302  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
P: (850) 224-9115  
F: (850) 222-7560  
**ausley.com**

May 30, 2025

**VIA: ELECTRONIC FILING**

Mr. Adam J. Teitzman  
Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report  
Dkt. 20250000-OT

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached for filing is Tampa Electric Company's 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report.

Thank you for your assistance in connection with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Malcolm N. Means'.

Malcolm N. Means

MNM/bml  
Attachment

cc: Marissa Ramos – [mrmos@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:mrmos@psc.state.fl.us) (w/encl.)  
Penelope Buys – [pbuys@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:pbuys@psc.state.fl.us) (w/encl.)  
Paula Brown – [pbrown@tecoenergy.com](mailto:pbrown@tecoenergy.com) (w/encl.)



**2024**

**STORM PROTECTION PLAN**

**ANNUAL STATUS REPORT**

**FILED: May 30, 2025**



Table of Contents

2024 Storm Protection Plan Accomplishments.....1

Distribution Lateral Undergrounding.....1

Vegetation Management.....3

Transmission Asset Upgrades.....7

Substation Extreme Weather Hardening.....7

Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening.....8

Infrastructure Inspections.....12

Legacy Storm Hardening Initiatives.....23

Storm Protection Plan (“SPP”) Cost and Rate Impact Summary.....35

Table 5.1–Tampa Electric’s SPP Projects and Activities 2024-2025 (SPPCRC).....39

Table 5.2–Tampa Electric’s SPP Projects and Activities 2024-2025 (Base Rates).40

APPENDICES

- A - Tampa Electric’s Coordination with Government Agencies
- B - PURC Collaborative Research Report
- C - Storm Season Readiness

## **SUMMARY OF 2024**

### **STORM PROTECTION PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Tampa Electric's Storm Protection Plan ("Plan" or "SPP") sets out a systematic and comprehensive approach to storm protection focused on Programs and Projects that provide the highest level of reliability and resiliency benefits for the lowest relative cost. The company believes that these activities will achieve the Florida Legislature's goals of "reducing restoration costs and outage times associated with extreme weather events and enhancing reliability" in a cost-efficient manner.

Tampa Electric's 2024 Storm Protection Annual Status Report covers the third full year of the company's 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan, which provides a comprehensive approach to protect and strengthen its electric utility infrastructure to withstand extreme weather conditions as well as to reduce restoration costs and outage times in a practical, and cost-effective manner. Protecting and strengthening Tampa Electric's transmission and distribution electric utility infrastructure against extreme weather conditions can effectively reduce restoration costs and outage times and improve overall service reliability for customers. Tampa Electric received approval of its 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan in Docket No. 20220048-EI, Order No. PSC-2022-0386A-FOF-EI, issued December 1, 2022 .

### **Distribution Lateral Undergrounding**

Tampa Electric's Distribution Lateral Undergrounding Program strategically undergrounds existing overhead lateral primary, lateral secondary and service lines. The expected benefits from this Program are:

- Reducing the number and severity of customer outages during extreme weather events.
- Reducing the amount of system damage during extreme weather.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

- Reducing the material and labor resources needed to respond to extreme weather events.
- Reducing the number of customer complaints from the reduction in outages during extreme weather events.
- Reducing restoration costs following extreme weather events.

In addition to the many benefits that should be realized from distribution lateral undergrounding during extreme weather events, it will also provide additional blue-sky benefits such as:

- Reducing the number of momentary and prolonged unplanned outages.
- Reducing the number of customer complaints from outages.
- Improving customer reliability and power quality.

Table DLU.1 shows the number of distribution lateral undergrounding projects that were designed and constructed in 2024.

Table DLU.1 – 2024 Distribution Lateral Undergrounding

2024 Distribution Lateral Undergrounding		
	Projects Planned	Projects Completed
Engineering Design and Right of Way Obtainment	309	96
Construction	190	89

Table DLU.2 – 2024 Distribution Lateral Undergrounding Revenue Requirements

2024 Distribution Lateral Undergrounding Revenue Requirements Projected versus Actual		
	Projected	Actual
Distribution Lateral Undergrounding	\$42,848,064	\$40,591,501

### Vegetation Management

Tampa Electric's Vegetation Management Program ("VMP") combines a continuation of its existing filed and approved distribution and transmission VMP activities with three additional strategic vegetation management ("VM") initiatives.

In 2024, Tampa Electric utilized approximately 39 contracted tree trim personnel to manage the company's transmission tree trimming requirements. In addition, Tampa Electric's Transmission Vegetation Management Program ("TVMP") continues to comply with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") standard for Transmission Vegetation Management FAC-003-5.

For 2024, Tampa Electric had 308 dedicated distribution tree trim personnel throughout the company's seven service areas. These dedicated resources are broken out into two categories: proactive and reactive. The proactive resources are utilized for circuit VM activities and consist of 270 personnel. The reactive resources consist of 38 personnel and are employed for customer requested work and work orders associated with circuit improvement process.

Tampa Electric continued its efforts toward effective VM as part of a coordinated plan with local governments and communities. Tampa Electric's Line Clearance Department and Regional Affairs Department hold periodic meetings with local governments and communities related to VM activities, upcoming projects, and emergency recovery strategies. Tampa Electric's Regional Affairs Department is tasked with communicating with local and state government officials as well as residential and commercial customers on several topics, including vegetation management. The company's goal is to keep governmental officials aware and briefed on relevant issues regarding these topics while working with internal Tampa Electric departments to resolve vegetation management issues in and around the company's infrastructure in a timely and responsive manner.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

During the fourth quarter of 2024, Tampa Electric submitted its renewal application to the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Line USA Program and received endorsement in the first quarter of 2025. This will be the sixteenth consecutive year Tampa Electric has received the National Arbor Day Foundation's prestigious Tree Line USA Program designation which recognizes the company for their commitment to proper tree care and environmental stewardship.

### Distribution VM:

Distribution Four-Year Cycle: Tampa Electric manages the vegetation on the company's distribution system on a four-year cycle. This approach was approved by the Commission in Docket No. 20120038-EI, Order No. PSC 2012-0303-PAA-EI, issued June 12, 2012. The four-year cycle is flexible enough to allow the company to change circuit prioritization utilizing the company's reliability-based methodology. Table VM.1 below shows the number of Four-Year Cycle VM miles completed in 2024:

Table VM.1 – 2024 Distribution Four-Year Cycle

2024 Distribution Vegetation Management Four-Year Cycle (Miles Trimmed)								
3rd Cycle, Year 4								
	Company Service Area							
	CSA	DCA	ESA	PCA	SHA	WSA	WHA	Total
4-Year VM Miles Goal	253.5	92.4	210.4	306.2	178.7	265.4	227.7	1,534.3
4-Year VM Miles Actual	271.9	91.9	97.9	283.9	176.1	229.5	221.2	1,372.4

Supplemental Distribution Circuit VM: Tampa Electric initiated 700 miles of supplemental distribution circuit VM to enhance the current four-year distribution VM cycle to reduce the proximity between vegetation and electrical facilities. Circuit prioritization and selection was centered around storm resiliency and mitigating outage risk on those circuits most susceptible to storm damage. Table VM.2 below shows the number of miles of supplemental VM by Service Area that was conducted in 2024:

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Table VM.2 – 2024 Supplemental Distribution Circuit VM

2024 Supplemental Vegetation Management (Miles Trimmed)								
	Company Service Area							
	CSA	DCA	ESA	PCA	SHA	WSA	WHA	Total
Supplemental Miles Goal	134.9	7.8	126.9	99.3	120.8	78.9	135.1	703.7
Supplemental Miles Actual	102.6	7.7	47.7	136.2	62.0	56.0	48.4	460.6

Mid-Cycle Distribution VM: Tampa Electric initiated Mid-Cycle VM which is an inspection-based approach and is designed to identify and mitigate hazard trees and areas where vegetation cannot be controlled effectively following a four-year distribution VM cycle. In 2024, the company performed VM on 2,283 spans and removed 1,333 hazard trees as part of the Mid-Cycle Initiative. Table VM.3 shows the number of miles of Mid-Cycle VM by Service Area that was conducted in 2024.

Table VM.3 – 2024 Mid-Cycle Distribution VM

2024 Mid-Cycle Distribution Vegetation Management (Miles Inspected)								
	Company Service Area							
	CSA	DCA	ESA	PCA	SHA	WSA	WHA	Total
Mid-Cycle Inspection Miles Goal	158.5	0.0	104.2	354.4	37.8	101.7	251.5	1,008.1
Mid-Cycle Inspection Miles Actual	158.5	0.0	104.2	354.4	37.8	101.7	251.5	1,008.1

### Reactive VM:

Tampa Electric supports internal and external customer requests through its reactive initiative. Customer requested work and work orders associated with circuit improvement process are the primary categories of reactive work. Work is tracked through the company's work management software. Each work request ("WR") is reviewed by Tampa Electric or contract staff. Those requiring trimming are issued to



## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

contract reactive crew. Table VM.4 shows the Reactive work requests reviewed and completed in 2024.

Table VM.4 – 2024 Reactive VM

2024 Reactive Vegetation Management (Work Requests)								
	Company Service Area							
	CSA	DCA	ESA	PCA	SHA	WSA	WHA	Total
Reactive Work Requests Reviewed	946	139	716	443	263	1,004	314	3,825
Reactive Work Requests Trimmed	383	70	350	223	161	395	157	1,739

### Transmission VM:

Tampa Electric trims the company's transmission lines utilizing a comprehensive VM strategy. The company operates four categories of transmission including 230kV, 138kV, 69kV, and 34kV. For circuits with voltages above 200kV, the company complies with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") standard FAC-003-5. This standard imposes performance-based, risk-based, and competency-based requirements for VM on these circuits. Table VM.5 below shows the Transmission VM completed in 2024 compared to the annual goal:

Table VM.5 – 2024 Transmission VM

2024 Transmission Vegetation Management				
	Bulk Transmission (miles)	Non-Bulk Transmission (miles)	Right of Way Transmission (acres)	Total Transmission (miles)
Transmission VM Miles Goal	275.4	250.0	10,034	525.4
Transmission VM Miles Actual	275.4	250.0	8,000	525.4

## Transmission Asset Upgrades

The Transmission Asset Upgrades Program is the systematic and proactive replacement of all Tampa Electric's remaining transmission wood poles with non-wood material. The company intends to complete this conversion from wood transmission poles to non-wood material poles during the timeframe of the 2022-2031 SPP. Tampa Electric has over 25,000 transmission poles and structures with approximately 1,350 circuit miles of transmission facilities. Table TAU.1 shows the number of transmission assets that were hardened in 2024.

Table TAU.1 – 2024 Transmission Asset Upgrades

2024 Transmission Asset Upgrades Structures Hardened / System Update		
	Goal	Actual
Transmission Structures – Poles - Non SPP	N/A	34
Transmission Structures – Poles - SPP	472	428
Transmission System Hardened (Percentage)	91.3%	92.5%

Table TAU.2 – 2024 Transmission Asset Upgrades Revenue Requirements

2024 Transmission Asset Upgrades Revenue Requirements Projected versus Actual		
	Projected	Actual
Transmission Asset Upgrades	\$7,312,948	\$6,795,336

## Substation Extreme Weather Hardening

Tampa Electric's Substation Extreme Weather Hardening Program is designed to harden existing substations to minimize outages, reduce restoration times and

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

enhance emergency response during extreme weather events. Hardening Projects within this program involve raising substation control enclosures and equipment, and, in some instances, relocation of substation equipment and modification to the designs of the company's substations.

Tampa Electric projected to complete two projects in 2024. One project was completed in 2024, and the second project will be completed in 2025.

Table SUB.2 – 2024 Substation Extreme Weather Hardening Revenue Requirements

2024 Substation Extreme Weather Hardening Revenue Requirements Projected versus Actual		
	Projected	Actual
Substation Extreme Weather Hardening	\$171,970	\$82,336

### Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening

Tampa Electric's Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Program will strengthen the company's distribution system to withstand increased wind-loading and harsh environmental conditions associated with extreme weather events. The Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Program will focus on increasing the resiliency and sectionalizing capabilities of the distribution electrical system to better withstand extreme weather and minimize outages, outage durations and affected customer counts through two primary enhancements: Distribution Feeder Strengthening and Distribution Feeder Sectionalizing and Automation. Table OVHF.1 below provides the designed equipment for engineering and Table OVHF.2 provides the equipment that was installed.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Table OVHF.1 – 2024 Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Designed

2024 Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Designed Equipment			
Circuit Number	Pole Replacement / Upgrades	Three-Phase Recloser Installations	Single-Phase Recloser Installations
13397	27	0	0
13117	50	5	0
13151	42	3	0
13153	24	3	0
13024	69	0	0
13610	49	3	4
13786	198	2	0
13948	116	3	0
13099	128	5	3
13236	56	0	0
13293	75	3	0
13370	70	3	2
13630	77	2	3
13853	72	0	0
13916	37	6	0
13918	36	0	0
13962	83	0	0
13826	64	1	0
13191	67	1	0
13094	75	1	0
13008	126	1	0
13024	94	5	0
13028	69	2	0
13039	91	4	0
13072	66	3	0
13077	85	5	0
13187	91	3	0
13226	50	4	0
13230	67	3	0
13292	72	2	0
13296	35	0	0
13299	42	5	0

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Circuit Number	Pole Replacement / Upgrades	Three-Phase Recloser Installations	Single-Phase Recloser Installations
13311	92	2	0
13343	25	1	0
13364	9	1	0
13414	195	0	0
13417	65	3	0
13457	76	3	0
13685	70	7	0
13687	156	4	0
13737	56	4	0
13753	74	3	0
13754	45	2	0
13772	34	0	0
13892	47	6	0
13989	2	0	0
14014	20	1	0
14040	75	3	0
14042	69	4	0
14083	14	0	0
Total	3,427	122	12

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Table OVHF.2 – 2024 Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Installed

2024 Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Installed Equipment			
Circuit Number	Pole Replacement / Upgrades	Three-Phase Recloser Installations	Single-Phase Recloser Installations
13364	9	1	0
13691	35	0	0
13312	40	0	0
13772	34	0	20
13343	25	0	3
13226	46	0	0
13299	42	0	0
13892	47	7	0
13695	15	0	0
13737	27	0	0
13754	17	0	0
13187	11	0	0
13028	38	0	0
13008	38	0	0
14040	37	0	0
13230	50	0	0
14042	51	0	0
13077	28	0	0
14014	20	1	4
14083	14	0	0
13473	35	0	0
13417	28	0	0
13039	36	0	24
Total	723	9	51

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Table OVHF.3 – 2024 Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Revenue Requirements

2024 Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening Revenue Requirements Projected versus Actual		
	Projected	Actual
Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening	\$10,194,029	\$8,161,333

### Infrastructure Inspections

Tampa Electric's Infrastructure Inspection Program is a comprehensive inspection Program that combines the existing Commission approved Storm Hardening Plan Initiatives of: Wood Pole Inspections, Transmission Structure Inspections, and the Joint Use Pole Attachment Audit.

**Wood Pole Inspection Program:** Tampa Electric's Wood Pole Inspection Initiative is part of a comprehensive program initiated by the Florida Public Service Commission ("FPSC") for Florida investor-owned electric utilities to harden the electric system against severe weather.

This inspection program complies with Order No. PSC-2006-0144-PAA-EI, issued February 27, 2006, in Docket No. 20060078-EI which requires each investor-owned electric utility to implement an inspection program of its wooden transmission and distribution poles on an eight-year cycle based on the requirements of the NESC. Tampa Electric has approximately 285,000 distribution and lighting wood poles and 25,000 wood and non-wood transmission poles available for inspection for a total pole inspection population of approximately 310,000. Approximately 12.5 percent of the known system will be targeted for inspections annually although the actual number of poles may vary from year to year due to recently constructed circuits, de-energized circuits, reconfigured circuits, etc. This program provides a systematic identification of poles that require repair, reinforcement, or replacement to meet strength requirements of the NESC.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

The wood pole inspections will be conducted on a substation circuit basis with a goal of inspecting the entire wood pole population every eight years. An average of 35,625 wooden distribution poles will be inspected annually with each pole receiving a visual inspection, a sound & bore procedure, and a groundline/excavation inspection (except for chromated copper arsenate “CCA” poles less than 16 years of age.)

Inspection Method and Procedure: Tampa Electric will utilize three basic inspection procedures for determining the condition of wooden poles. These procedures include a visual inspection, sound, and bore, and excavation when required.

Visual Inspection: An initial visual inspection shall be made on all poles from the ground line to the pole top to determine the condition of the pole before any additional inspection work is completed. The visual inspection shall include a review of the pole condition itself and any attachments to the pole for conditions that jeopardize reliability and are in need of replacement, repair, or minor follow-up. After a pole passes the initial visual inspection, the balance of the required inspection methods will be performed.

Sound and Bore: After passing the visual inspection, the pole shall be sounded to a minimum height of seven feet above the ground line to locate any rotten conditions or pockets of decay inside the pole. Borings shall be made to determine the location and extent of internal decay or voids. All borings shall be plugged with preservative treated wooden dowels. After the pole has passed the sound and bore inspection, an excavation inspection will be performed, if required.

Excavation: For poles requiring excavation, the pole shall be excavated to a minimum depth of 18 inches below the ground line. Any external decay shall be removed to expose the remaining sound wood. The remaining pole strength shall be calculated.



## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

For a pole in concrete or pavement where excavation is not possible, Tampa Electric will utilize a shell boring technique. This will consist of boring two 3/8-inch holes at a 60-degree angle to a depth of 16 to 18 inches below ground level. Upon withdrawing the drill bit, the technician will examine the condition of the wood shavings to determine whether decay is present. A “Shell Gauge” is used to determine the thickness of the shell, which is then used to calculate the pole strength. All borings shall be plugged as previously described.

**Hardware Inspection:** The inspector shall inspect all of Tampa Electric’s guying, grounding provisions and hardware that is visible from the ground. Any deficiencies or problems will be corrected as directed or reported to Tampa Electric to correct.

**Inspection and Treatment Labeling:** After completion of the ground line inspection, an aluminum tag identifying the contractor and date of inspection shall be attached to the pole above the birthmark. Additionally, a tag shall be attached identifying any preservative treatments applied and the date of application.

**Data Collection:** The collected data shall be managed in a database and include information related to pole class, material, vintage, location, pole strength and any pole deficiencies that required follow-up actions, if any.

**Inspection in Conjunction with Other Field Work:** As part of day-to-day operations, operation personnel are at times required to climb poles to perform different types of field work. Prior to climbing any pole, personnel will assess the condition of the pole. This will include a visual check and may include sounding to determine pole integrity. This type of inspection will supplement the systematic inspection approach outlined in this pole inspection program.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

**Disposition of Poles:** Poles with early-stage decay that do not require remediation to meet the NESC strength requirements shall be treated with an appropriate preservative treatment. Poles with moderate decay that have substantial sound wood shall be considered for reinforcement. Analysis shall be performed to determine if reinforcement will bring the deficient pole into compliance with the requirements of the NESC. If it is determined that the pole can be reinforced, the pole shall be treated with appropriate preservative treatment and may be reinforced or replaced if needed. Poles with advanced decay shall fail the inspection and be replaced.

**Shared Poles:** Tampa Electric supports the Commission's effort to establish pole inspection requirements on the owners of all utility poles. Tampa Electric will coordinate with third-party owners of utility poles that carry the company's facilities. With regard to the third-party's inspection process, the company will rely upon the third-party's inspection requirements and share data requested by the third-party to be utilized in their inspection procedure. Tampa Electric will cooperate, as requested, in the work associated with pole replacement where joint use exists. Third-party poles are visually inspected and sounded for internal decay. Issues found are provided to the third-party owner for resolution.

**Chromated Copper Arsenate Pole Inspections:** In Docket No. 20080219-EI, Order No. PSC-2008-0615-PAA-EI, issued September 23, 2008, the FPSC approved a modification to Tampa Electric's Wood Pole Inspection Program involving chromated copper arsenate ("CCA") poles. Specifically, the modification requires CCA treated poles less than 16 years of age to be sound and selectively bored. Selective boring shall be performed on poles suspected of internal decay. Additionally, one percent of the annual number of CCA treated poles inspected less than 16 years of age shall be excavated to validate this inspection method. Finally, all CCA treated poles over 16 years of age shall be excavated.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Reporting: Tampa Electric includes the Annual Wood Pole Inspection Report with the company's Annual Reliability Performance Reports, by March 1st of each year in full accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in Docket No. 20070634-EI, Order No. PSC-2007-0918-PAA-PU, issued November 14, 2007.

**Transmission Inspections:** Tampa Electric's multi-pronged inspection approach for its transmission system supports a history of strong reliability performance. This approach includes the eight-year above ground structure inspection cycle, eight-year ground line wood inspection cycle, annual ground patrols, annual aerial infrared patrols, annual substation inspection cycle and the pre-climb inspection requirement. Tampa Electric also continually evaluates the appropriateness of its transmission structure inspection program to ensure that Tampa Electric can take advantage of any cost-effective storm hardening or reliability opportunities it finds.

Standardized reports are produced for each of the formal inspections. Deficiencies identified during the inspections are entered into a maintenance database. This maintenance database is used to prioritize and manage required remediation. Deficiencies identified during the pre-climb inspections are assessed by the on-site crew and reported to supervisory personnel for determination of corrective action.

Table TRA.1 below shows the number of transmission inspections that were completed in 2024.

2024 Transmission Inspections		
Transmission Inspection Type	Number of Inspections (Circuits)	Number of Poles
Groundline	17	125
Ground Patrol	216	
Infrared Patrol	216	

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

**Pre-climb Inspections:** Tampa Electric crews are required to inspect wooden transmission & distribution poles prior to climbing. As part of these inspections, the employee is required to visually inspect each pole prior to climbing and sound each pole with a hammer if deemed necessary. These pre-climbing inspections serve to provide an additional safety-oriented integrity check of poles prior to the employee ascending the pole and may also result in the identification of any structural deterioration issues.

**Substation Inspections:** Tampa Electric performs inspections of all distribution and transmission substations multiple times throughout the year. The substation inspections include visual inspection of the substation fence, equipment, structures, control buildings and the integrity of grounding system for all equipment and structures. Table Sub.1 below shows the number of distribution and transmission substation inspections that were completed in 2024:

2024 Substation Inspections		
	Distribution Substations	Transmission Substations
Number of Inspections	524	414

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

### Transmission, Substation and Other Equipment Inspections Summary

#### Transmission Circuit, Substation and Other Equipment Inspections

	2024 Activity		2024 Current Budget		2025 Next Year	
	Goal	Actual	Budget	Actual	Goal	Budget
(A) Total transmission circuits.		216				
(B) Planned transmission circuit inspections – Groundline (Poles)	16 (355)		\$33,524		19 (161)	\$29,076
(C) Completed transmission circuit inspections – Groundline (Poles)		17 (125)		\$13,513		
(D) Percent of transmission circuit inspections completed – Groundline		100%				
(E) Planned transmission substation inspections.	85				109	
(F) Completed transmission substation inspections		414				
(G) Percent transmission substation inspections completed.		100%				
(H) Planned transmission equipment inspections (other equipment). – Ground Patrol/ IR Patrol	216/ 216		\$201,016/ \$118,563		218/ 218	\$205,944/ \$122,208
(I) Completed transmission equipment inspections (other equipment) – Ground Patrol/ IR Patrol		216/216		\$243,712/ \$121,449		
(J) Percent of transmission equipment inspections completed (other equipment) – Ground Patrol/ IR Patrol		100%/ 100%				

Note 1: The Above Ground inspections for 2024 were absorbed into the Ground Patrol Inspections.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

### Transmission Pole Inspections

	Activity		Current Budget		Next Year	
	Goal	Actual	Budget	Actual	Goal	Budget
(A) Total number of transmission poles		24,544 <sup>(1)</sup>				
(B) Number of transmission poles strength tested		0 <sup>(2)</sup>				
(C) Number of transmission poles passing strength test		N/A				
(D) Number of transmission poles failing strength test (overloaded)		N/A				
(E) Number of transmission poles failing strength test (other reasons)		N/A				
(F) Number of transmission poles corrected (strength failure)		0				
(G) Number of transmission poles corrected (other reasons)		0				
(H) Total transmission poles replaced (Structures)		428	*		471 <sup>(3)</sup>	

Note 1: The transmission pole count on the entire system is currently 24,544. This is a fluid number that will change as a function of time. Standards have been set to calculate this number based off the Geographical Information System and provide an annual update prior to the submission of this report.

Note 2: The transmission pole strength test is budgeted as part of the ground line inspection. This information is included in the Transmission Circuit, Substation and Other Equipment Inspections section.

Note 3: The budget information for this table is included in the information supplied in the Hardening of Existing Transmission Structures section.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

**Joint-Use Pole Attachments Audit:** Tampa Electric conducts comprehensive loading analyses to ensure the company's poles with joint use attachments are not overloaded and meet the NESC or Tampa Electric Standards, whichever is more stringent. These loading analyses are a direct effort to lessen storm related issues on poles with joint use attachments.

Due to the size of Tampa Electric's service area and the number of poles the company has, there will always be the potential for unknown foreign attachments to exist on facilities which may create an overload situation. To help mitigate these potential overload situations, all Tampa Electric joint use agreements have provisions that allow for periodic inspections and/or audits of all joint use attachments to the company's facilities. In addition, all agreements have provisions that require the attaching party to build and maintain attachments within NESC guidelines or Tampa Electric specifications, whichever are more stringent. All of Tampa Electric's existing joint use agreements require attaching parties to receive authorization from the company prior to making attachments to its facilities.

In 2024, the company reviewed all known attachment records and verified that the company has joint use agreements with all attaching entities. Tampa Electric has a total of 40 attachment agreements with attaching entities and continues negotiations with others requesting permission to attach to Tampa Electric poles.

Tampa Electric had steady requests for permit applications in 2024. This increase was impacted by various government funding programs available to the broadband companies. The company's Joint Use Department processed 127 pole attachment applications that encompassed 4,700 poles. As a result, 279 distribution poles were identified to be overloaded due to joint use attachments and 140 poles were overloaded due to Tampa Electric's attachments. Out of the 4,700 poles that were assessed through the pole attachment application process, there were 957 poles found to have NESC violations due to joint use attachments. Tampa Electric did not have any NESC violations for poles with Tampa Electric attachments. All poles with NESC violations

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

were either corrected by adjustments to attachments, pole replacements or joint use entities' removal of the attachments in violation.

### **Joint Use Pole Attachments Audit Summary:**

- a) Percent of system audited: 100 percent
- b) Date Joint Use Pole Attachments audit conducted: Quarter four of 2018 through quarter one of 2020
- c) Date of previous Joint Use Pole Attachments audit: Total system-wide audit completed in 2020
- d) Date of next Joint Use Pole Attachments audit: January 2025
- e) List of attachment audits conducted annually: Through Tampa Electric's Pole Attachment Permit Application process, the company performed the following audits: attachment verification, NESC violation analysis and pole loading assessment.
- f) State whether pole rents are jurisdictional or non-jurisdictional. If pole rents are jurisdictional, then provide an estimate of lost revenue and describe the company's efforts to minimize the lost revenue.
  - Tampa Electric does not have any non-jurisdictional distribution poles.



## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

### Joint-Use Attachment Data Table

(A) Number of company owned distribution poles	266,773
(B) Number of company distribution poles leased	13,379 <sup>(1)</sup>
(C) Number of owned distribution pole attachments	8,536
(D) Number of leased distribution pole attachments	13,379 <sup>(2)</sup>
(E) Number of authorized attachments	318,975
(F) Number of unauthorized attachments	0 <sup>(3)</sup>
(G) Number of distribution poles strength tested	4,700
(H) Number of distribution poles passing strength test	4,281
(I) Number of distribution poles failing strength test (overloaded)	419
(J) Number of distribution poles failing strength test (other reasons)	0 <sup>(4)</sup>
(K) Number of distribution poles corrected (strength failure)	419 <sup>(5)</sup>
(L) Number of distribution poles corrected (other reasons)	0 <sup>(6)</sup>
(M) Number of distribution poles replaced	1
(N) Number of apparent NESC violations involving electric infrastructure	0
(O) Number of apparent NESC violations involving 3rd party facilities	957

- Note 1: Number of poles where Tampa Electric leases space on foreign owned poles.  
 Note 2: Each attachment is counted as one per pole on leased poles.  
 Note 3: Tampa Electric identified any unauthorized attachments upon the completion of the audit in 2020.  
 Note 4: These poles were identified for replacement during Tampa Electric's Pole Inspection Program and failed the strength test due to wood damage at ground line or other locations on the pole.  
 Note 5: These poles were re-guyed or re-configured to pass strength loading.  
 Note 6: The company reinforced these poles with trusses.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

### Infrastructure Inspections Summary

The table below summarizes all of the 2024 Infrastructure Inspections.

2024 Infrastructure Inspections Summary		
	Projected	Actual
Joint Use Audit - Note 1		
Joint Use Inspections	As needed	4,700
Distribution		
Wood Pole Inspections	35,625	36,789
Substation Inspections	All	524
Transmission		
Wood Pole/Groundline Inspections	124	125
Ground Patrols (circuits)	All	216
Aerial Infrared Patrols (circuits)	All	216
Substation Inspections	All	414

Note 1: The Joint Use audit was completed in the first quarter of 2020

### Legacy Storm Hardening Initiatives

The final category of storm protection activities consists of legacy Storm Hardening Plan Initiatives that are well-established and for which the company did not propose any specific Storm Protection projects for inclusion in the company's 2022-2031 SPP. Tampa Electric continues these activities because the company believes they continue to offer the storm resiliency benefits identified by the Commission in Order No. PSC-2006-0351-PAA-EI, which required the company to perform these activities. In addition, these initiatives are all integrated into the company's ongoing operations.

**Geographic Information System:** Tampa Electric's Geographic Information System ("GIS") will continue to serve as the foundational database for all transmission, substation, and distribution facilities.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

In 2024, Tampa Electric continued to implement changes and enhancements to the company's GIS system. These changes included data updates, plus metadata and functionality changes, to closer align with business processes and improve user performance.

**Post-Storm Data Collection and Forensic Analysis:** Tampa Electric has an established process in place to gather the necessary data for forensic analysis following a Category One or greater storm that significantly impacts the company's service area. This data will be used to determine the root cause of equipment failure after a storm event.

From these reports, recommendations and possible changes will be made regarding engineering, equipment and construction standards and specifications. A hired third party data collection specialists will patrol a representative sample of the damaged areas of the electric system following a major storm event and perform the data collection process. At a minimum, the following types of information will be collected:

- Pole/Structure – type of damage, size and type of pole, likely cause of damage.
- Conductor – type of damage, conductor type and size, likely cause of damage.
- Equipment – type of damage, overhead or underground, size, likely cause of damage.
- Hardware – type of damage, size, and likely cause of damage.

Third party engineering personnel will perform the forensic analysis the data obtained to evaluate the root cause of failure and assess future preventive measures where possible and practical. This may include evaluating the type of material used, the type of construction and the environment where the damage occurred including existing vegetation and elevations. Changes may be recommended and implemented if more effective solutions are identified by the analysis team.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

In 2024, Tampa Electric's service areas were impacted by several Hurricanes. Hurricane Milton was a Category One by the time it impacted the company's service area. A forensic analysis of 17 one-mile by one-mile grids, scattered throughout Tampa Electric's service territory, were assessed by a third party.

### **Outage Data Differentiating Between Overhead and Underground Systems:**

Tampa Electric tracks and stores the company's outage data for overhead and underground systems in a single database called the Distribution Outage Database ("DOD"). The DOD is linked to and receives outage data from the company's EMS and OMS. The DOD tracks outage records according to cause and equipment type and can support the following functionality:

- Centralized capture of outage related data.
- Analysis and clean-up of outage-related data.
- Maintenance and adjustment to distribution outage database data.
- Automatic Generation and distribution of canned reliability reports.
- Generating ad hoc operational and managerial reports.

The DOD is further programmed to distinguish between overhead and underground systems and is specifically designed to generate distribution service reliability reports that comply with Rule 25-6.0455, F.A.C.

In addition to the DOD and supporting processes, the company's overhead and underground systems are analyzed for accurate performance. The company also has established processes in place for collecting post-storm data and performing forensic analysis to ensure the performance of Tampa Electric's overhead and underground systems are correctly assessed.

**Increase Coordination with Local Governments:** Tampa Electric representatives continue to focus on maintaining existing vital governmental contacts and participating on disaster recovery committees to collaborate on planning, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts. In addition, Tampa Electric representatives continue

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

to communicate and coordinate with local governments on vegetation management, search and rescue operations, debris clearing, and identification of critical community facilities. Tampa Electric participates with local and municipal government agencies within its service area, as well as the Florida Division of Emergency Management (“FDEM”) and the FPSC, in planning and facilitating joint storm exercises. In addition, Tampa Electric continues to work with counties to educate vulnerable populations on preparedness activities.

In 2024, Tampa Electric’s Emergency Management Department (“EM”) communication efforts continued to focus on local and state governments and agencies for all emergency management missions. Tampa Electric participated in training and/or mock storm exercises with Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk counties, as well as the City of Tampa. In addition, Tampa Electric conducted its own series of internal exercises focused on storm surge modeling, refining emergency response plans and the implementation of technology to enhance communication during storm restoration.

In 2024, community focused communications included pre-hurricane season news releases to all major media outlets that serve Tampa Electric customers. All releases were posted on Tampa Electric’s website. Hurricane guides were published in several major newspapers including the Tampa Bay Times, Centro (Spanish), and the Florida Sentinel Bulletin. In partnership with community stakeholders, Tampa Electric continued to promote its storm restoration video, Florida’s Special Needs Registration, as well as promoting where customers can find flood zones and evacuation zones through a bill insert and on the Storm Center section on the company’s website. Yearly, Tampa Electric promotes information via customer bills on how to register with the state for special needs assistance and where to find information on flood and evacuation zones.

**Emergency Operations Centers (“EOC”) – Key Personnel Contact:** In 2024, three named tropical weather events (Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton) triggered various county and municipal agencies to activate their EOC at either full or partial

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

activation levels to support emergency response activities. During Hurricane Debby, Tampa Electric representatives were partially or fully activated by some counties and municipalities in its service territory. For Hurricanes Helene and Milton, all County and municipal EOCs were fully activated. In addition, the State of Florida fully activated its EOC for these weather events.

The table below shows the activation levels for the tropical weather events by county or municipal EOC which covers Tampa Electric's service area:

<b>EOC</b>	<b>Hurricane Debby</b>	<b>Hurricane Helene</b>	<b>Hurricane Milton</b>
City of Oldsmar	Full	Full	Full
City of Plant City	---	Full	Full
City of Tampa	Partial	Full	Full
City of Temple Terrace	---	Full	Full
Hillsborough County	Full	Full	Full
Pasco County	---	Full	Full
Pinellas County	Full	Full	Full
Polk County	---	Full	Full
State of Florida	Full	Full	Full

Tampa Electric continues to work with local, state, and federal governments to streamline the flow of information and incorporate lessons learned to restore electric service as quickly and as safely as possible. Prior to June 1st of each year, the company reviews and updates its Emergency Response Plan to ensure Tampa Electric representatives are fully trained to support EOC activation.

Staffing Practices at Local EOCs: Tampa Electric provides representatives to each of the four County EOCs within the company's service territory, including Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk counties. In addition, depending upon the magnitude of the event, representatives are provided to the four municipalities (Cities of Oldsmar, Plant City, Temple Terrace, and Tampa), when requested. The number of liaisons provided

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

is dependent upon various factors (e.g., seating capacity at the EOC, amount of damage, EOC operating hours, available personnel, etc.). Lastly, representatives are also provided to support the State of Florida EOC to support the State and the FPSC for power restoration issues.

The company's representatives who staff the EOCs have business acumen and experience in customer service and/or electric distribution. Since the EOC representative role is not a day-to-day job function, the company strives to maintain a balance of seasoned and less experienced representatives during both day and night operations in the EOC when possible. EOC representatives are trained to deal with both electric and gas issues.

Staffing hours at the EOC are dictated by each EOC's operational periods and are dependent upon the magnitude of the event. EOCs have and may require company representatives to report for duty before the onset of tropical storm force winds and ride-out the storm at the EOC with other Emergency Support Function ("ESF") personnel. Initially, EOCs may, at their discretion, operate 24 hours/day until the event is stabilized. To support the 24-hour cycle, company staffing hours at EOCs are generally two, 12-hour shifts based on the EOCs operational cycle and vary by County; however, the hours of operation may be adjusted based on EOC needs and resource availability to support emergency response.

This table shows the number of company representatives available to support EOC activation. The table does not represent the number of representatives on-site at the same time.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Utility staffing practices at local EOCs	
EOC in Service Territory	Number of Utility Staff
Hillsborough County	6
Polk County	4
City of Plant City	3
City of Tampa	3
City of Temple Terrace	3
Pasco County	3
City of Oldsmar	2
Pinellas County	2

The role of the company's EOC representative is to facilitate and respond to critical community issues in support of life safety and power restoration efforts. The representatives are responsible for maintaining situational awareness and communicating any public safety issues or concerns to the company. In addition, the representatives work closely with other ESF liaisons to facilitate or coordinate any requests made by the company or in support of community citizens. The representatives will utilize all available "lifelines" to respond to requests which originate from the EOC or company personnel. Lastly, the EOC representative communicates outage updates and provides restoration status, as requested.

The company has representatives dedicated to each of the county and municipal EOCs within its service territory, therefore it is unlikely for an EOC to not be staffed. In the remote situation where an EOC representative is unavailable, the local EOCs have contact information for their assigned EOC representatives, as well as the company's EM personnel, which can be called upon for assistance. In addition, the company's Regional Affairs Department personnel have established relationships throughout the communities served and are also available to provide support, as needed.



## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Assistance to Local Government: In 2024, Tampa Electric received requests from and deployed resources as follows: Hurricane Helene (Hillsborough County and Cities of Oldsmar and Temple Terrace) and Hurricane Milton (Hillsborough County and Cities of Oldsmar, Tampa, and Temple Terrace) for Search and Rescue Team assistance. In addition, resources were requested and provided to the City of Tampa to assist with debris clearing activities.

**Tree Ordinances, Planting Guides and Trip Procedures:** For 2025, the company's Manager of Line Clearance will continue to work with Tampa Electric's Regional Affairs staff to offer meetings with local government's staff on how Tampa Electric can best work with city staff in pre-storm and post-storm events and to better coordinate the company's tree trimming procedures with governmental ordinances.

**Utility's Coordination of Critical Facilities with local governments:** Tampa Electric works closely with County EM officials and other stakeholders throughout the year to identify and prioritize facilities deemed most critical to the overall health of the whole community (e.g., public health, safety, security, or national/global economy). Tampa Electric has discussions with EM officials through email and phone communications. The identification of public and private critical facilities during preparedness planning supports the goal of a coordinated and flexible restoration process for all critical infrastructure and is directly related to business continuity and continuity of the government. Critical facilities for municipalities are identified and incorporated into the respective County data.

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

The table below provides the dates that Tampa Electric had discussion with local governments during 2024 that involved critical facilities. A table detailing coordination with other government agencies has been provided in Appendix A.

<b>Meetings with Local Government</b>				
<b>Entity</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Pending Issues/ Follow-up items</b>	<b>Contact Information Provided to Local Authorities</b>
Hillsborough County	1/17/2024 1/24/2024 2/19/2024 2/23/2024 3/01/2024 3/15/2024 3/25/2024	Critical Facility Discussion	N/A	Yes
Pasco County	3/06/2024 3/27/2024	Critical Facility Discussion	N/A	Yes
Pinellas County	3/06/2024 3/08/2024 3/11/2024	Critical Facility Discussion	N/A	Yes
Polk County	3/06/2024 3/13/2024 3/22/2024 3/27/2024	Critical Facility Discussion	N/A	Yes

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

**Collaborative Research:** Tampa Electric continues to participate in collaborative research efforts with Florida's other investor-owned electric utilities, several municipal utilities, and cooperatives to further the development of storm resilient electric utility infrastructure and technologies that reduce storm restoration costs and outages to customers.

This collaborative research is facilitated by the Public Utility Research Center ("PURC") at the University of Florida. A steering committee comprised of one member from each of the participating utilities provides the direction for research initiatives. Tampa Electric signed an extension of the memorandum of understanding with PURC in December 2018, effective January 1, 2019, for two years. The memorandum of understanding will automatically be extended for successive two-year terms on an evergreen basis until the utilities and PURC agree to terminate the agreement. The PURC Collaborative Research Report has been provided in Appendix B.

**Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan:** A key element in minimizing storm-caused outages is having a natural disaster preparedness and recovery plan. A formal disaster plan provides an effective means to document lessons learned, improve disaster recovery training, pre-storm staging activities, and post-storm recovery. The Commission's Order No. PSC-2006-0351-PAA-E1, issued on April 25, 2006, within Docket No. 20060198-E1 required each investor-owned electric utility to develop a formal disaster preparedness and recovery plan that outlines its disaster recovery procedures and maintain a current copy of its utility disaster plan with the Commission.

Tampa Electric will continue to be active in many ongoing activities to support the restoration of the system before, during and after storm activation. The company will continue to lead or support disaster preparedness and recovery plan activities such as planning, training, and working with other electric utilities and local government to continually refine and improve the company's ability to respond quickly and efficiently in any restoration situation.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

Tampa Electric's EM plans are reviewed annually and address all hazards, including extreme weather events. Tampa Electric follows the policy set by TECO Energy for EM and Business Continuity which delineates responsibilities at the employee, company, and community levels. Additional details of Tampa Electric's Storm Season Readiness has been provided in Appendix C.

Tampa Electric will continue to plan, participate in, and conduct internal and external preparedness exercises, collaborating with government emergency management agencies, at the local, state, and federal levels. Internal company exercises focus on testing lessons learned from prior exercises/activations, new procedures, and educating new team members on roles and responsibilities in the areas of incident command, operations, logistics, planning, and finance. The scope and type of internal exercises varies from year to year based on exercise objectives defined by a cross-functional exercise design team, following the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program ("HSEEP"). External preparedness exercises are coordinated by local, state, and federal governmental emergency management agencies and partners. Tampa Electric personnel participate in these exercises to test the company's internal emergency response plans, including coordination with Emergency Support Functions ("ESF") to maintain key business relationships at local Emergency Operation Centers ("EOC"). Like Tampa Electric, the exercise type (tabletop, functional or full-scale) and scope varies from year to year, and depending upon the emergency management agencies' exercise objectives, Tampa Electric participants may or may not be included.

When requested, Tampa Electric participates in the State of Florida's mock storm exercise with the FPSC, which may coincide with exercises conducted by Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk counties. In addition, municipalities within Tampa Electric's service area (Oldsmar, Plant City, Tampa, and Temple Terrace) may also host exercises and/or pre-storm season briefings. In 2024, Tampa Electric participated in training and/or mock storm exercises with Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk counties, as well as the City of Tampa.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

Additionally, Tampa Electric participated in the following disaster preparedness and recovery plan committees which included in-depth coordination with local, state, and federal emergency management agencies and partners:

- Principal member of the National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”) 1660 – Committee on Emergency, Continuity, and Crisis Management
- Member of NFPA Technical Committee
- Member of the Edison Electric Institute (“EEI”) Business Continuity Leadership Team
- Member of the EEI Mutual Assistance Committee
- Member of the Electric Subsector Coordinating Council (“ESCC”) Leadership Working Group
- Member of the Local Mitigation Strategy (“LMS”)
- Member of Critical Facility Working Group to review restoration priorities
- Member of the Florida Statewide Mutual Aid Assistance (“MAA”) Working Group
- Member of the Southeastern Electric Exchange (“SEE”) Mutual Assistance Committee
- Member of the SEE Logistics Subcommittee
- Member of the SEE Vegetation Management Working Group
- Member of the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (“FEPA”)
- Member of the FEPA WebEOC Working Group
- Member of the Association of Contingency Planners (“ACP”)
- Member of the International Association of Emergency Managers (“IAEM”)
- Member of the Disaster Recovery Institute (“DRI”) International
- Principal members of the “ASIS” International Society of Industrial Security

Tampa Electric continues to participate in internal and external preparedness exercises, collaborating with government emergency management agencies, at local, state, and federal levels.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

For 2025, Tampa Electric will continue in leadership roles in county and national preparedness groups: Hillsborough County and the COT PDRP, EEI, FEPA Working Groups, ESCC, the NFPA 1660 Committee on Emergency, Continuity, and Crisis Management, and the NFPA Technical Committee. In addition, Tampa Electric will continue to be active participants in LMS, SEE's Mutual Assistance Committee, Logistics Subcommittee, and Vegetation Management Working Group, EEI Mutual Assistance Committee, Florida Statewide MAA Working Group, as well as the Critical Facility Working Groups. Tampa Electric will also continue to promote growth of its website, Twitter, and Facebook followers.

### **Storm Protection Plan Accomplishments Summary**

Tampa Electric's 2024 Storm Protection Annual Status Report illustrates the company's ongoing commitment to enhancing the resilience and reliability of its electric utility infrastructure. Through the strategic implementation of the 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan, Tampa Electric aims to minimize restoration costs and outage times associated with extreme weather events, delivering improved service reliability to customers. By focusing on practical and cost-effective measures, the company continues to meet the Florida Legislature's objectives, ensuring that the electric grid remains robust and capable of withstanding future challenges.

### **Storm Protection Plan ("SPP") Cost and Rate Impact Summary**

Tampa Electric received FPSC approval of its second SPP which covers the 2022-2031 period on December 1, 2022 in Order No. PSC-2022-0386A-FOF-EI. The following chart contains the company's estimated costs to be incurred during the 2024-2025 period for all related storm protection plan activities, as reported in Tampa Electric's 2022-2031 SPP. The chart contains the costs for all storm protection plan activities, including prior existing storm hardening activities and other costs that are not recovered through the Storm Protection Plan Cost Recovery Clause ("SPPCRC"). The following Storm Protection Plan activities are recovered through base rates:

- Distribution Pole Replacements (Capital and O&M)
- Distribution Vegetation Management – Unplanned (O&M)

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

- Transmission Vegetation Management – Unplanned (O&M)
- Other Legacy Storm Hardening Plan Items (O&M)

Tampa Electric's 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan Total Costs by Program (in Millions) 2024-2025		
Capital	2024	2025
Distribution Lateral Undergrounding	\$105.00	\$105.00
Transmission Asset Upgrades	\$17.54	\$17.92
Distribution - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$2.22	\$1.38
Transmission - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$2.05	\$1.28
Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening	\$30.00	\$29.99
Distribution Pole Replacements	\$13.28	\$13.68
O&M	2024	2025
Distribution Lateral Undergrounding	\$0.18	\$0.15
Distribution Vegetation Management - planned	\$24.22	\$25.65
Distribution Vegetation Management - unplanned	\$1.40	\$1.30
Transmission Vegetation Management - planned	\$3.04	\$3.13
Transmission Vegetation Management - unplanned	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transmission Asset Upgrades	\$0.53	\$0.55
Distribution - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transmission - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$0.00	\$0.00
Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening	\$0.67	\$0.72
Distribution Infrastructure Inspections	\$1.06	\$1.08
Transmission Infrastructure Inspections	\$0.55	\$0.57
SPP Planning & Common	\$0.88	\$0.90
Other Legacy Storm Hardening Plan Items	\$0.30	\$0.30
Distribution Pole Replacements	\$0.86	\$0.88
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$203.78</b>	<b>\$204.48</b>

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

The following chart contains the company's estimated costs to be incurred during the 2024-2025 period that would be sought for cost recovery through the SPPCRC:

Tampa Electric's 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan Total Costs by Program (in Millions) 2024-2025		
Capital	2024	2025
Distribution Lateral Undergrounding	\$105.00	\$105.00
Transmission Asset Upgrades	\$17.54	\$17.92
Distribution - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$2.22	\$1.38
Transmission - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$2.05	\$1.28
Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening	\$30.00	\$29.99
O&M	2024	2025
Distribution Lateral Undergrounding	\$0.18	\$0.15
Distribution Vegetation Management - planned	\$24.22	\$25.65
Transmission Vegetation Management - planned	\$3.04	\$3.13
Transmission Asset Upgrades	\$0.53	\$0.55
Distribution - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transmission - Substation Extreme Weather Protection	\$0.00	\$0.00
Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening	\$0.67	\$0.72
Distribution Infrastructure Inspections	\$1.06	\$1.08
Transmission Infrastructure Inspections	\$0.55	\$0.57
SPP Planning & Common	\$0.88	\$0.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$187.94</b>	<b>\$188.32</b>



## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

The following chart contains the comparison of the actual SPPCRC costs incurred in 2024 and the actual/estimated SPPCRC costs for 2025 to the filed SPPCRC costs estimated to be incurred in the company's 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan:

<b>Tampa Electric's 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan Total Costs by Program Comparison (in Millions) 2024-2025</b>				
<b>Capital</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025 Act/Est</b>
Distribution Lateral Undergrounding	\$105.00	\$129.26	\$105.00	\$122.90
Transmission Asset Upgrades	\$17.54	\$15.82	\$17.92	\$24.92
Substation Extreme Weather Protection (Distribution)	\$2.22	\$2.61	\$1.38	\$4.83
Substation Extreme Weather Protection (Transmission)	\$2.05	\$0.00	\$1.28	\$1.52
Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening	\$30.00	\$24.38	\$29.99	\$30.26
Distribution Storm Surge Hardening	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>O&amp;M</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025 Act/Est</b>
Distribution Lateral Undergrounding	\$0.18	\$1.23	\$0.15	\$1.35
Distribution Vegetation Management - planned	\$24.22	\$21.12	\$25.65	\$23.95
Transmission Vegetation Management - planned	\$3.04	\$3.51	\$3.13	\$4.07
Transmission Asset Upgrades	\$0.53	\$0.95	\$0.55	\$0.64
Substation Extreme Weather Protection (Distribution)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Substation Extreme Weather Protection (Transmission)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Distribution Overhead Feeder Hardening	\$0.67	\$1.05	\$0.72	\$1.02
Distribution Infrastructure Inspections	\$1.06	\$1.17	\$1.08	\$1.40
Transmission Infrastructure Inspections	\$0.55	\$0.57	\$0.57	\$0.56
SPP Planning & Common	\$0.88	\$1.56	\$0.90	\$1.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$187.94</b>	<b>\$203.23</b>	<b>\$188.32</b>	<b>\$218.75</b>

The following chart contains the comparison of customer bill impacts in dollars for 2024-2025 of the company's 2022-2031 Storm Protection Plan, including both programs that are recovered through the SPPCRC and through base rates.

<b>Tampa Electric's Storm Protection Plan Customer Bill Impacts (in dollars)</b>			
<b>Customer Class</b>			
	Residential 1,000 kWh	Commercial 1 MW 60 percent Load Factor	Industrial 10 MW 60 percent Load Factor
2024 Estimated	\$6.36	\$670.00	\$1,100.00
2024 Actual	\$6.51	\$680.00	\$1,200.00
2025 Estimated	\$7.94	\$730.00	\$1,400.00

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

**Table 5.1 – Tampa Electric’s SPP Projects and Activities 2024-2025 (SPPCRC)**

<b>Table 5-1</b> <b>Tampa Electric’s SPP Projects and Activities Planned and Completed for 2024 – 2025</b> <b>(SPPCRC Only)</b>							
Program name	Projects/ Activities Planned for 2024	Estimated Cost for 2024 (Millions)	Projects/ Activities Completed in 2024	Actual Cost for 2024 (Millions)	Projects/ Activities Planned for 2025	Estimated Cost for 2025 (Millions)	
Dist. Lateral Undergrounding	305	\$134.4	89	\$130.5	202	\$134.9	
Dist. Vegetation Management (miles)	3,250	\$24.2	2,841	\$21.1	3,234	\$29.2	
Trans. Vegetation Management (miles)	540	\$3.0	525	\$3.5	530	\$4.1	
Trans. Asset Upgrades (poles)	472	\$17.9	428	\$16.8	471	\$15.7	
Substation Extreme Weather Hardening	1	\$4.5	1	\$2.6	2	\$3.0	
Dist. Overhead Feeder Hardening	37	\$25.4	9	\$25.4	31	\$20.9	
Dist. Infrastructure Inspections (pole and structures)	35,625	\$1.4	36,789	\$1.1	35,625	\$1.4	
Trans. Infrastructure Inspections (poles and structures)	3,052	\$0.6	125	\$0.6	161	\$0.6	
SPP Planning & Common	n/a	\$1.1	n/a	\$1.6	n/a	\$1.3	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$212.5</b>		<b>\$203.2</b>		<b>\$211.1</b>	

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

**Table 5.2 – Tampa Electric’s SPP Projects and Activities 2024-2025  
(Base Rates)**

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 5-2 Tampa Electric’s SPP Projects and Activities Planned and Completed for 2024 – 2025 (Base Rates Only)</p>							
Program name	Projects/ Activities Planned for 2024	Estimated Cost for 2024 (Millions)	Projects/ Activities Completed in 2024	Actual Cost for 2024 (Millions)	Projects/ Activities Planned for 2025	Estimated Cost for 2025 (Millions)	
Dist. Lateral Undergrounding	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Dist. Vegetation Management (miles)	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Trans. Vegetation Management (miles)	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Dist. Vegetation Management (Work Requests) - unplanned	3,700	\$1.4	3,825	\$1.5	3,700	\$1.3	
Trans. Asset Upgrades (poles)	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Substation Extreme Weather Hardening	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Dist. Overhead Feeder Hardening	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Dist. Infrastructure Inspections (pole and structures)	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Trans. Infrastructure Inspections (poles and structures)	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
SPP Planning & Common	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	0	\$0.0	
Distribution Pole Replacements	550	\$14.1	304	\$5.4	362	\$4.3	
Legacy Storm Hardening	0	\$0.3	1 (Note 1)	\$0.2	0	\$0.3	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$15.8</b>		<b>\$7.1</b>		<b>\$5.9</b>	
<p>Note 1: Tampa Electric initiated a forensic analysis of the company’s electrical (T&amp;D) system following Hurricane Milton. Tampa Electric’s initiates a forensic analysis following any storm that impacts the company’s electrical system by a storm that is a Category 1 level or higher. The cost of this forensic analysis was \$174k</p>							

## **Appendix A**

### **Tampa Electric's Coordination with Government agencies**

# 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

Tampa Electric Storm Protection Plan (SPP) Activities for 2024

Government Entity	Municipal	Communication Efforts Presentations, Materials, Etc.	Storm Workshops, Planning and Training With Local Gov't Officials and Fire and Police Personnel	Emergency Operation Centers Key Personnel Contact	Search and Rescue Teams Available to Local Gov't	Vegetation Management Tree Ordinances, Pruning Guides, and Tree Procedures	Undergrounding Status Information, Activities, and Materials
INDIVIDUAL	---						
STATE	---	EM Day at the Capitol - 50 hrs	State Tornado Drill - 5 hrs				
	---		RCOF Hurricane Seminar - 14 hrs				
	---		Governor's press conference held at Eastern Seminole State - 24 hrs				
HILSDONOUGH COUNTY	---	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 4 hrs	RCO Sea Breeze Training - 30 hrs	Hurricane Debby ROC Activation 80 hrs	Search and Rescue (SAR) support Hurricane Debby	San City Center Tree Management coordination/ update around Chapman's Oakley - 14 hrs	
	---	Communications in advance of storm - 5 hrs	Severe Flood Based meetings - 2 hrs	Hurricane Helene ROC Activation 140 hrs	Search and Rescue (SAR) support Hurricane Helene		
	---		Hillsborough County Local Mitigation Strategy meetings - 8 hrs	Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 700 hrs			
	---		Prep for participation in RCO Team/PRCO 101 with elected officials and staff - 80 hrs	Hillsborough County Forward Planning Task Force - 25 hrs			
	---			Hillsborough County Vulnerability Assessment Steering Committee - 6 hrs			
	---			Hillsborough County 980 Infrastructure Branch meetings - 8 hrs			
	---			Hillsborough County Program for Public Information (PI) Working Group - 6 hrs			
	---			Hillsborough Co Recovery Support Function meetings - 10 hrs			
	City of Tampa	Get Ready! Hurricane Prep Talk with South Tampa Division of Commerce - 8 hrs	RCO Sea Breeze Training - 8 hrs	Hurricane Helene ROC Activation 80 hrs	Search and Rescue (SAR) support Hurricane Helene		Weekly/fort two 24/7 SPP update with city departments - 80 hrs
	City of Tampa	Disaster Planning Symposium - 10 hrs	SeaBreeze Training - 2 hrs	Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 247 hrs			
	City of Tampa	Tampa Bay Chamber - Post-Resilient Business Preparation for Hurricane Season - 2 hrs	Storm preparations and SPP update - 8 hrs				
	City of Tampa	Tampa Chamber Partnership - Hurricane Season Preparations - 8 hrs					
	City of Tampa	Pre, during and post-storm communications to elected officials and city leadership - 6 hrs					
	City of Tampa	Post-storm SPP coordination - 20 hrs					
	City of Tampa	SPP update to city and real estate interests - 4 hrs					
	City of Tampa	SPP program overview through city community education program - 5 hrs					
	City of Plant City	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 4 hrs		Hurricane Helene ROC Activation 57 hrs			
	City of Plant City			Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 120 hrs			
	City of Plant City			Rechar base camp site visit - 5 hrs			
	City of Plant City			Regular communication by phone and email with Asst and City Manager Jack Holland - 6 hrs			
	City of Tampa Tampa	Tampa/Tampani/Union Chamber Lunch on Hurricane Preparations - 12 hrs		Hurricane Helene ROC Activation 75 hrs	Search and Rescue (SAR) support Hurricane Helene		
	City of Tampa Tampa	Pre, during and post-storm communications to elected officials and city leadership - 6 hrs		Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 60 hrs	Search and Rescue (SAR) support Hurricane Milton		SPP project coordination - 20 hrs
PASCO COUNTY	---	Storm press releases before, during and after the 2024 hurricane - 4 hrs	SeaBreeze Training - 5 hrs	Call to Pasco ROC in New York Building - 6 hrs			Meetings on Storm Protection Plan to Pasco County officials - 2 hrs
	Dade City	Storm press releases before, during and after the 2024 hurricane - 4 hrs		Hurricane Helene ROC Activation 40 hrs			Pressroom briefings on Storm Protection Plan - 5 hrs
	Dade City	SPP outlook/ coordination with city officials/ police department - 10 hrs		Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 568 hrs			
	Dade City			Multiple calls to Dade City ROC, approximately 8 hours in person. Regular phone calls and emails to staff inside - 10 hrs			
	San Antonio	Storm press releases before, during and after the 2024 hurricane - 4 hrs		Phone calls with Mayor and City Commissioners, Deputy Clerk before, during and after storm to answer questions - 4 hrs			SPP project updates - 5 hrs
	St. Leo	Storm press releases before, during and after the 2024 hurricane - 4 hrs		Multiple phone calls with Town Administration, Mayor, and Town Commissioner Apollo Rodriguez in particular during Milton - 4 hrs		Discussion with Town Administration on barrier reef/planting guidelines - 5 hrs	
PINELLAS COUNTY	Largo		SeaBreeze Training - 5 hrs	Hurricane Debby ROC Activation - 12 hrs			
	Largo			Hurricane Helene ROC Activation 80 hrs			
	Largo			Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 240 hrs			
	Largo			Pinellas County Recovery Support Function meetings - 10 hrs			
	Largo			Pinellas County Infrastructure Branch meetings - 8 hrs			
	Oldsmar	City of Oldsmar Hurricane Prep - 10 hrs		Hurricane Helene ROC Activation 28 hrs	Search and Rescue (SAR) support Hurricane Helene		
POLK COUNTY	Oldsmar	Pre, during, and post-storm communications to elected officials and city leadership - 6 hrs		Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 40 hrs	Search and Rescue (SAR) support Hurricane Milton		
	---	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 4 hrs	RCO 101 Training - 10 hrs	Hurricane Milton ROC Activation 180 hrs			
	---			Polk ROC contacts - 10 hrs; Polk ROC post-Milton debrief - 5 hrs			
	Mulberry	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 2 hrs					
	Winter Haven	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 4 hrs	Storm preparations presentation to Winter Haven Chamber audience - 2 hrs			Coordinated operational links between Winter Haven and TRC Log Mgmt Team - 4 hrs	SPP coordination/updates - 10 hrs
	Winter Haven	SPP coordination - 10 hrs					
	Autumstate	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 2 hrs				Coordinated operational links between Autumstate and TRC Log Mgmt Team - 4 hrs	
	Autumstate	SPP outlook/coordination - 10 hrs					
POLK COUNTY	Bayle Lake	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 1 hr					
	Bayle Lake	Bayle Lake/Polk update/coordination - 10 hrs					
POLK COUNTY	Lake Alfred	Storm communications to elected officials and staff - 1 hr					

## **Appendix B**

### **PURC Collaborative Research Report**

# **Report on Collaborative Research for Hurricane Hardening**

Provided by

The Public Utility Research Center  
University of Florida

To the

Utility Sponsor Steering Committee

Final Report dated April 2025

### I. Introduction

The Florida Public Service Commission (FPSC) issued Order No. PSC-06-00351-PAA-EI on April 25, 2006 (Order 06-0351) directing each investor-owned electric utility (IOU) to establish a plan that increases collaborative research to further the development of storm resilient electric utility infrastructure and technologies that reduce storm restoration costs and outages to customers. This order directed IOUs to solicit participation from municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives in addition to available educational and research organizations. As a means of accomplishing this task, the IOUs joined with the municipal electric utilities and rural electric cooperatives in the state (collectively referred to as the Research Collaboration Partners) to form a Steering Committee of representatives from each utility and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Florida's Public Utility Research Center (PURC). In 2018 the Research Collaboration MOU was renewed for an initial term of two years, effective January 1, 2019, and will be automatically extended for successive two-year terms.

PURC performs the administration function for research collaboration, including financial management, logistics, production and distribution of documents, and preparation of reports. PURC also coordinates and performs research as agreed upon with the Steering Committee by facilitating the exchange of information from the Research Collaboration Partners with individuals conducting research projects and facilitating the progress of each research project. The collaborative research has focused on undergrounding, vegetation management, hurricane-wind speeds at granular levels, and improved materials for distribution facilities.

This report provides an update on the activities of the Steering Committee since the previous report dated April 2024.

### II. Undergrounding

The collaborative research on undergrounding has been focused on understanding the existing research on the economics and effects of hardening strategies, including undergrounding, so that informed decisions can be made about undergrounding policies and specific undergrounding projects.

PURC has worked with doctoral and master's candidates in the University of Florida Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering to assess some of the inter-relationships between wind speed and other environmental factors on utility equipment damage. PURC has also been contacted by engineering and energy policy researchers at the Louisiana State University with an interest in the model, though no additional relationships have been established. In addition to universities, PURC has been in contact with stakeholders in Puerto Rico due to PURC Director Mark Jamison's service on the Southern States Energy Board Blue Ribbon Task Force on the future of Puerto Rico's energy system. PURC has also introduced the model to stakeholders in the Philippines as a component of USAID's Energy Secure Philippines Initiative, although no additional funding for model development was secured. PURC has been contacted by California stakeholders interested in applying the



## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

principles of the model to the mitigation of the interactions between the electricity grid and the surrounding vegetation, potentially reducing the risk of wildfires. Finally, PURC has been contacted by stakeholders in Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey with interest to model the impact of storm hardening to winter storms. Despite the outside interest, there are no concrete plans to expand the scope of the model at this time. Every researcher that contacts PURC cites the model as the only non-proprietary model of its kind.

### **III. Wind Data Collection**

The Project Sponsors entered into a wind monitoring agreement with WeatherFlow, Inc., in 2007. Under the agreement, Florida Sponsors agreed to provide WeatherFlow with access to their properties and to allow WeatherFlow to install, maintain and operate portions of their wind monitoring network facilities on utility-owned properties under certain conditions in exchange for access to wind monitoring data generated by WeatherFlow's wind monitoring network in Florida. WeatherFlow's Florida wind monitoring network includes 50 permanent wind monitoring stations around the coast of Florida, including one or more stations located on utility-owned property. The wind monitoring agreement expired in early 2012; however, it was renewed in April 2017 and will renew automatically annually on the effective date for an additional one year period, unless terminated by the parties to the agreement.

### **IV. Public Outreach**

We have previously discussed the impact of increasingly severe storms and the increased population and utility infrastructure along the coast on greater interest in storm preparedness. PURC researchers continue to discuss the collaborative effort in Florida with the engineering departments of the state regulators in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and regulators in Jamaica, Grenada, Curacao, St. Lucia, the Bahamas, Samoa, and the Philippines. In 2019, stakeholders in Puerto Rico and California also showed interest in the collaborative's efforts. While all of the regulators and policymakers showed great interest in the genesis of the collaborative effort, and the results of that effort, they have not, at this point, shown further interest in participating in the research effort. In 2024, PURC continued to work with Philippine participants in the Energy Secure Philippines project on the prospect of refining the model and crafting a version for the Philippines. The project is still under consideration from USAID. PURC continues to be active in the popular media on matters of storm preparation and public policy, most notably in Texas and California. In the wake of Hurricane Beryl's impact on Texas, the Texas PUC discussed the applicability of Florida's hardening processes to Texas in a July meeting. The Eaton fire in California also renewed the state's interest in Florida's infrastructure hardening processes.

### **VI. Conclusion**

In response to the FPSC's Order 06-0351, IOUs, municipal electric utilities, and rural electric cooperatives joined together and retained PURC to coordinate research on electric infrastructure hardening. The steering committee has taken steps to extend the research collaboration MOU so that the industry will be in a position to focus its research efforts on undergrounding research, granular wind research and vegetation management when significant storm activity affects the state.

## **Appendix C**

### **Storm Season Readiness**

### **Storm Season Readiness Summary**

Tampa Electric's Storm Season Readiness preparation focuses on a number of areas including pre-storm transmission inspections and maintenance, wood pole inspections and replacements, local government communication, increased equipment inventory, circuit priority reviews, and hurricane preparation exercises.

#### Transmission Inspections and Maintenance

Prior to hurricane season, all 230 kV, 138 kV and all priority 69 kV circuits will be patrolled with the remaining transmission circuits being completed by the end of 2025.

For 2025, Tampa Electric plans to change out approximately 471 wood transmission poles throughout the year with steel or concrete structures.

#### Pole Inspections

In 2024, Tampa Electric continued the ground line inspections by completing 36,789 inspections to ensure the company remains on pace for completing the eight-year inspection cycle.

For 2025, future inspections coupled with the company's pole replacement program will enhance the storm resiliency of Tampa Electric's transmission and distribution system.

#### Communication with Local Governments

For 2025, Tampa Electric will continue its communication efforts focusing on maintaining vital governmental contacts and participation on standing disaster recovery planning committees. Tampa Electric is planning to participate in joint storm exercises with agencies as requested, including the State EOC, FPSC, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk Counties, as well as various cities within the company's service area.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

### **Increase Equipment Inventory**

The company will review and increase storm stock in 2025 to ensure a four-day supply of overhead distribution materials such as splices, fuses, connectors, service clamps, brackets, wire, poles, transformers, etc., as well as transmission and substation materials. The company will also ensure that procurement contracts are in place to support additional supplies being delivered within four days after landfall and it will replenish required stock for the duration of a major restoration event.

### **Circuit Priority Review**

Tampa Electric will continue working with county and municipal agencies in 2025, reviewing and updating the restoration priorities for the critical facilities served by the company.

### **Hurricane Preparedness Exercises**

Prior to hurricane season, Tampa Electric's EM department reviews all employees' storm assignments and communicate roles and expectations. Meetings, training, and exercises will be scheduled at various locations. Additionally, employee preparedness will be emphasized prior to storm season via Tampa Electric's GetReady! training program, materials, and presentations.

Tampa Electric's EM Department is currently planning the next mock storm exercise. The tentative scope of the exercise includes a moderate hurricane scenario with significant storm surge focused on response and recovery activities and validating improvements made from Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton lessons learned. Follow-up items and lessons learned will be recorded.

Additional hurricane preparedness exercises will be conducted by corporate Emergency Management for other key functions, including Leadership, Logistics, Planning, and EOC representatives.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

### **Hurricane Restoration Preparedness**

Tampa Electric annually reviews sites for incident bases, base camps and staging sites which ensure primary and backup locations for restoration activities. Additionally, logistical needs and equipment requirements are reviewed for each incident base site. Throughout Tampa Electric's service territory, the company is constantly developing and maintaining relationships with property owners for potential incident bases, base camps, and staging sites. Tampa Electric also annually reviews existing purchase orders and contacts vendors who assist the company with restoration efforts. Corporate Emergency Management annually reviews purchase orders and vendor contact information on those who would provide logistics support (i.e., meals, transportation, laundry services, etc.) to Tampa Electric during restoration.

### **Contingency Planning and Response**

Roadway Congestion: In the event of roadway congestion that is impacting travel by foreign crews into Tampa Electric's service area, the company will seek to resolve the situation by obtaining information through various sources to find an alternative route. If traffic congestion is so pervasive that there are no available alternative routes, Tampa Electric will work through company representatives at local EOCs or the State of Florida EOC depending on the location, nature, and severity of the congestion. The company's representatives will communicate the situation to the law enforcement or appropriate Emergency Support Function ("ESF") personnel to obtain assistance.

Fuel: Tampa Electric has an agreement in place with a bulk fuel vendor to supply diesel and gasoline fuel on a daily/as needed basis in response to a storm event. The company also performs mobile fueling of equipment that is deployed.

Prior to the storm: Upon notification the bulk fuel vendor will top off Tampa Electric's on-site fuel storage tanks which consist of 50,000 gallons of diesel and 50,000 gallons of gasoline.

During the storm: The bulk fuel vendor will top off the on-site fuel storage tanks as needed. Tampa Electric's bulk fuel vendor typically obtains their fuel supply from Port Tampa Bay. If

## 2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report

the Port Tampa Bay is unable to supply fuel, the vendor has access to multiple fuel storage depots across the continental United States.

The mobile fuel vendor can provide 500-gallon bulk fuel tanks to incident bases as needed. The mobile fuel vendor will also supplement Tampa Electric in ensuring that all of Tampa Electric's native crews and any foreign crew resource vehicles that are being used to assist the company in restoration of the system during a storm event on a daily basis after hours at each incident base.

Lodging Accommodations: Lodging accommodations are acquired, when the leadership of Tampa Electric's Electric Delivery department deems it is necessary to bring "foreign crew" resources into Tampa Electric's service area to support power restoration. The amount of lodging accommodations is based on the forecasted severity of the storm, strength, storm surge and the path of the storm. Tampa Electric's Electric Delivery department will estimate the damage to the area, and the number of power outages that will affect the company's customers, to determine the number of resources needed to help with power restoration. Once the decision to request outside resources is made, Tampa Electric's Logistics Section Chief will activate those company employees that make up the lodging unit to start acquiring hotel rooms and/or alternative housing.

Tampa Electric's Real Estate Department and Logistics Section keep a list of hotels to utilize for mutual assistance crew lodging if they are available. Additionally, the lodging unit has an agreement with a third-party hotel booking service to help facilitate lodging arrangements for requested resources. It is customary to assign two people to a room. The rooms are secured for pre-storm or post-storm occupancy.

Tampa Electric also has contracts in place with Base Camp vendors to provide turnkey support for lodging, meals and laundry in the event hotel accommodations are limited or mutual assistance requirements are significant.

Communications: Tampa Electric continues to explore alternative communications means in the event public communications systems such as cellular, satellite and hard lines are

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

rendered unavailable due to an extreme weather event. Currently, Tampa Electric has fixed and portable Satellite phone capabilities, and key personnel have Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (“GETS”) and Wireless Priority Service (“WPS”). In addition to carrier-based solutions, a third-party portable cellular long-range product was purchased and will be utilized to improve communications by accessing multiple cellular carriers. Additionally, Tampa Electric uses Starlink terminals to provide satellite-based WiFi connectivity. Lastly, Tampa Electric has amateur radio (“HAM”) capabilities. Communication drills are conducted periodically with EOCs located in Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas, and Polk counties, as well as the City of Tampa.

### **2024 Storm Season Mutual Assistance**

Tampa Electric’s EM Department continued to serve as a member of the state-wide Mutual Assistance Working Group. Efforts continue to focus on initiatives to improve the state’s utilities abilities to obtain crews quickly and efficiently to speed restoration efforts. In 2024, Tampa Electric was recognized by the National Weather Service (“NWS”) as the first Florida Utility to meet the criteria of its StormReady® program in support of severe weather preparedness.

In 2024, Tampa Electric participated in numerous conference calls with other SEE utilities regarding hurricanes, tropical storms, and winter storm or ice events. The company’s participation in these calls was to both offer and request mutual assistance to assist in restoration activities.

In 2024, Tampa Electric offered mutual assistance to other utilities impacted by storm events. Our resources were not selected to deploy for mutual assistance in support of Hurricane Helene recovery efforts. However, Tampa Electric identified lessons learned that will help improve the company’s existing Emergency Management plan and reinforce several existing provisions already contained within the plan. Some of the common lessons learned themes from Mutual Assistance activities in 2024 include:

- Additional training on SEE Ramp-Up procedures to help support volunteers in the absence of EM.

## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

- To help provide resilience to the process, identify three team members (EM, Resource Management, and service managers) to be trained in relevant SEE processes.

### **2025 Storm Season Readiness**

For 2025, the company's Emergency Response Plan will be reviewed prior to hurricane season to ensure it is up to date and ready for the upcoming storm season. In addition, emergency assignments will be reviewed to ensure all Tampa Electric employees have at least one assignment to support storm restoration efforts. Tampa Electric will use preparedness resources such as an emergency notification system, third-party weather tools and services, and resilience. management products, internal and external training, and exercises to assess readiness. In addition, Tampa Electric expects to participate in the following initiatives to enhance the company's emergency response capabilities:

- Retain and train additional Tampa Electric certified Business Emergency Response Team ("BERT") members
- Continue to participate in the NFPA 1600 Standard and Technical Committees
- Continue to participate in EEI Business Continuity committee
- Participate in local, state, and federal emergency management and business continuity forums
- Participate in the Florida Statewide MAA Working Group
- Participate in the SEE Mutual Assistance Committee
- Participate in the SEE Logistics Subcommittee
- Participate in the SEE Vegetation Management Working Group
- Participate in the EEI Mutual Assistance Committee
- Participate in Integrated Preparedness Planning for training and exercises
- Participate in Hillsborough County Forward Planning Task Force
- Participate in County Recovery team planning
- Support of Hillsborough County in communicating the national flood insurance program to county residents
- Support the ESCC strategy



## **2024 Storm Protection Plan Annual Status Report**

- Support Hillsborough County and the COT PDRP planning, State of Florida Division of Emergency Management and Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”)
- Participate in the Critical Facilities Working Groups to support the review of restoration priorities for critical facilities
- Participate with the COT in their “Push Team” (debris clearing) exercise
- Support community preparedness through participation in various government committees (e.g., Maritime Security, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Regional Domestic Security Task Force), and activate as necessary during major community events
- Support the local county LMS Working Groups
- Participate in public/private storm related briefings and exercises
- Attend annual FEPA meeting or hurricane conferences
- Conduct all-hazards internal preparedness exercises and training sessions using the company ICS model to test plans