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02/22/2018

Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Commission Clerk  
Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-0805

**RE: City of Vero Beach Electric Utility for Docket No. 20170215-EU-Review of Electric utility hurricane preparedness and restoration actions.**

COVB has prepared a submittal for the above referenced subject. Our responses are incorporated into the FPSC staff's attached letter as requested.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (772) 978-5460 or email: tfletcher@covb.org.

Sincerely,

Ted Fletcher  
Electric Utility Director

COMMISSIONERS:  
JULIE I. BROWN, CHAIRMAN  
ART GRAHAM  
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STATE OF FLORIDA



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
KEITH C. HETRICK  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
(850) 413-6199

# Public Service Commission

December 18, 2017

## STAFF'S SECOND DATA REQUEST

*via email*

To:

James O'Conner  
City Manager  
1053 20th Place  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
[citymgr@covb.org](mailto:citymgr@covb.org)

**Re: Docket No. 20170215-EU - Review of electric utility hurricane preparedness and restoration actions.**

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

### Underground Facilities

- For each year, please complete the following tables summarizing the number of miles of transmission and distribution underground facilities by county from 2006 through 2017.

Transmission			
Indian River County			
Year	Overhead to Underground	New Construction	Total Miles
2006	0	1.02	1.02
2009	0	1.26	1.26
2015	0	0.6	0.6

Distribution			
Indian River County			
Year	Overhead to Underground	New Construction	Total Miles
2007	6.96	2.94	9.90
2008	34.11	2.85	36.96
2009	13.5	0.95	14.45

## Forensic Data

2. For Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, Maria, and Nate, please provide a complete copy of the utility's post-storm forensic review of damaged infrastructure. If a forensic review was not performed or not documented, please explain why.

COVB performs forensic review after every major storm. This analysis looks at improvements in restoration procedures, infrastructure improvements, communication deficiencies, staffing requirements, and mutual aid.

## Coordination

3. For Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, Maria, and Nate, please provide the name, frequency, and description of non-Emergency Operations Centers related coordination efforts with local governments before, during, and after restoration, including the following.
- Storm preparation
  - Critical infrastructure
  - Tree trimming, planting or relocation of trees
  - Hardening and underground projects
  - Shared facilities
  - Other

COVB Electric T&D works with the City of Vero Beach, the Vero Beach Police Department, and the Indian River County Fire Department to coordinate efforts before, during and after a storm. Prior to storms, we will meet to discuss the needs for each entity and do pre-planning for critical facilities. Some of these conversations are held at the Indian River County EOC. During the storm, we maintain communication so that we can immediately begin work when it is safe to travel. After a storm, we begin work to restore services to critical facilities and customers to return life to normal. We maintain communication with the Public Works Director as to debris removal and street clearing needs. We work closely with the police and fire departments to ensure public safety. Our Director is in constant contact with the City Manager and City of Vero Beach City Council to maintain accurate and up to date information on restoration efforts. When the restoration is complete, we do a storm debrief to see where improvements can be made.

4. Please complete the following tables on county and state Emergency Operations Centers staffing for Hurricanes Hermine, Matthew, Irma, Maria, and Nate.

Staffing for County Emergency Operations Centers		
Number of Utility Personnel	Function	Total Man-Hours
1	ESF – 12 Power	70

Staffing for State Emergency Operations Center		
Number of Utility Personnel	Function	Total Man-Hours
1	ESF – 12 Power	46

## Solar

5. Please provide the following information for utility interconnections with customer-owned solar generation that did not operate as designed and consistent with the tariff during the extreme weather events that occurred in 2015 through 2017.
  - a. The number of failures. 0
  - b. A description of the cause or causes of such failures. N/A
  - c. Possible failure remediation and associated cost. N/A
  - d. Discuss whether the failures contributed to an increase or decrease in the utility's service restoration time and, if possible, provide an estimate of the duration impact. N/A
  - e. Discuss whether the failures contributed to an increase or decrease in the utility's service restoration costs and, if possible, provide an estimate of the restoration cost impact. N/A
  
6. Please provide the following information for utility interconnections with customer-owned solar generation that operated as designed and consistent with the tariff during the extreme weather events that occurred in 2015 through 2017.
  - a. Discuss whether these interconnections contributed to an increase or decrease in the utility's service restoration time and, if possible, provide an estimate of the duration impact. No increase in restoration time.
  - b. Discuss whether these interconnections increased or decreased the utility's service restoration costs and, if possible, provide an estimate of the restoration cost impact. No increase in restoration time.
  
7. Without compromising safety, are there changes to the utility's interconnection with customer-owned solar generation that would enable the customer's facilities to be energized by its solar generation should the utility be unable to provide electric service due to a future storm damaging utility infrastructure?
  - a. If yes, please provide the following information:
    - Please describe the suggested changes to the utility's interconnection. COVB could install meters that automatically disconnect from the customer on detection of utility power loss.
    - If the utility is not pursuing the interconnection changes please explain why. We are not aware of this metering capability existing.
  
8. Without compromising safety, please describe potential changes to a customer's facilities that the customer can implement to enable the customer's facilities to be energized by its solar generation should the utility be unable to provide electric service due to a future storm event that damages utility infrastructure. Include in your response whether the utility makes it a practice to inform the customer of such options. Currently, COVB requires customer-owned generation systems to have an inverter that disables if utility side power is not detected, and a manual disconnect installed. If another piece of equipment was installed between the meter and the panel that could detect utility side power and disconnect the customer from the utility automatically if utility side power was not detected, then

the customer would be able to consume its own onsite generation without any risk to utility personnel.

9. Without compromising safety, please describe any potential changes to rules or tariffs pertaining to utility interconnections with customer-owned solar generation that would enable the customer's facilities to be energized by its solar generation should the utility be unable to provide electric service due to a future storm event that damages utility infrastructure.

COVB personnel could be required to disconnect and lock off every solar customer, before working on any damaged line. This would require more time for restoration.

10. Please provide the following information for utility interconnections with utility-scale solar generation that did not operate as designed during the extreme weather events that occurred in 2015 through 2017.

COVB does not have any utility-scale solar on its system.

- a. The number of failures. 0
- b. A description of the cause or causes of such failures. N/A
- c. Possible failure remediation and associated cost. N/A
- d. Discuss whether the failures contributed to an increase or decrease in the utility's service restoration time and, if possible, provide an estimate of the duration impact. N/A
- e. Discuss whether the failures contributed to an increase or decrease in the utility's service restoration costs and, if possible, provide an estimate of the restoration cost impact.

11. Please provide the following information for utility interconnections with utility-scale solar generation that operated as designed during the extreme weather events that occurred in 2015 through 2017.

COVB does not have any utility-scale solar on its system.

- a. Discuss whether these interconnections contributed to an increase or decrease in the utility's service restoration time and, if possible, provide an estimate of the duration impact. N/A
- b. Discuss whether these interconnections increased or decreased the utility's service restoration costs and, if possible, provide an estimate of the restoration cost impact. N/A

Please file all responses electronically no later than January 22, 2018 from the Commission's website at [www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com), by selecting the **Clerk's Office** tab and **Electronic Filing Web Form**. Please contact me at [wtaylor@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:wtaylor@psc.state.fl.us) or at 850.413.6175 if you have any legal questions, or contact Emily Knoblauch for technical questions at [eknoblau@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:eknoblau@psc.state.fl.us) or at 850.413.6632.

Sincerely,

/s/Wesley Taylor

Wesley Taylor  
Attorney

WDT/as

cc: Office of Commission Clerk