

**FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
RESPONSE OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA COMMUNICATIONS (NEFCOM)
DOCKET NO. 20210138-PU**

via the Commission's website at www.floridapsc.com
Clerk's Office tab and Electronic Filing Web Form

**RE: Docket No. 20210138-PU – Response of Northeast Florida Communications (NEFCOM)
in Proposed adoption of Rule 25-18.020, F.A.C, Pole Inspection and Maintenance.**

Pursuant to 366.04(9)(c), Northeast Florida Communications provides responses to the Commission staff's data request in Docket No. 20210138-PU dated October 21, 2021.

1. Please provide the total number of poles owned by your company that have public utility attachments. **64**
2. Please provide the current maintenance inspection cycle or schedule for poles with public utility attachments.

NEFCOM has an 8-year Maintenance Inspection Cycle.

3. Please provide the current maintenance techniques used for poles with public utility attachments.

Maintenance Inspections undertaken on an 8-year cycle include techniques used by the company were adopted from RUS Bulletin 1730B-121, which includes Visual Inspection, Sound and Bore and Excavation Inspection.

Annual General Visual Inspections include checking for buckling, Horizontal cracks, Holes, Depth settings, shell rot and decay (above ground), and soil conditions.

4. For your most recent maintenance inspection cycle/schedule for poles identified in question 1, please provide the following information:
 - a. The number of poles that were scheduled for inspection; **64**
 - b. The number of poles actually inspected; **64**
 - c. The number of poles that failed inspection; **0**
 - d. The number of poles strength tested; **0**
 - e. The number of poles that failed strength testing; **0**
 - f. The number of poles repaired and a summary of the repairs; **0**
 - g. The number of poles replaced and reason for replacement; **0**

- h. The number of poles relocated and reason for relocation; 0
- i. The total miles of vegetation management conducted; and 0
- j. The total miles of vegetation management conducted for each technique used. 0

5. Please provide the criteria/standards used for replacement of existing poles with public utility attachments.

Poles face replacement if deterioration has reduced structural strength to the extent of failing to meet limits set forth in NESC Table 261-1 footnotes. Such poles will be replaced in accordance NESC standards. Public utility attachment owners are notified, and replacements will be coordinated with them.

6. Please provide the criteria/standards used for construction of new poles with public utility attachments.

The company has no current plans for construction of new utility poles.

7. Please provide the criteria/standards used for repair of existing poles with public utility attachments.

Poles will be restored if rehabilitation methods can lead to restoration of strength meeting requirements set forth in NESC Table 261-1 footnotes, if deterioration has reduced the structural strength according to that code.

8. Please explain how the company ensures its poles with public utility attachments meet National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) strength and clearance requirements.

For strength requirements the company follows standards as set forth in NESC Section 26. For Clearances, the company follows standards set forth in NESC Section 23.

9. Please provide the vegetation management schedules for poles with public utility attachments. As part of your response, please also identify and explain the type of vegetation management techniques utilized.

The company conducts Vegetation Management subject to standards set forth in NESC 218, 'as experience has shown to be necessary', and have been successful in the past. Management techniques include manual, mechanical and chemical means.

10. Please provide a description of your company's emergency response and storm restoration procedures and protocols with respect to poles with public utility attachments.

Public utility attachment owners are contacted if emergency or storm restoration are required. The company will obtain clearance from the public utility before company work commences to perform restoration, or that work is performed by the public utility owner. Restoration work is completed per NESC standards.

11. Please file at least two of your company's attachment agreements that demonstrate the standard or general terms that are contained in these types of agreements.

The company does not have copies of attachment agreements, if they exist.

12. Do your company's attachment agreements with public utilities reference any standards, codes, or requirements in regard to pole maintenance or inspection? If yes, please provide an example of the standards, codes, or requirements included in the agreement.

The company does not have copies of attachment agreements, if they exist.

Sincerely,



Chase Custer
VP and Director of Finance
NEFCOM

120 E. 1st Street | Lewisville, AR 71845
Tel (870) 921-5758
Fax (870)-921-4400
ccuster@townes.net