

**Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to Rule 25-  
6.0343, F.A.C.  
Calendar Year 2015**

**1) Introduction**

- a) Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative Inc.**
- b) 11340 100<sup>th</sup> St.  
Live Oak, FL 32060**
- c) Contact information:** Kurt Miller, 386-330-5639, kurtm@svec-coop.com

**2) Number of meters served in calendar year 2015**

25,487

**3) Standards of Construction**

SVEC adheres to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Service construction standards.

**a) National Electric Safety Code Compliance**

Construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative comply with the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C-2) [NESC]. For electrical facilities constructed on or after February 1, 2012, the 2012 NESC applies. Electrical facilities constructed prior to February 1, 2012, are governed by the edition of the NESC in effect at the time of the facility's initial construction.

**b) Extreme Wind Loading Standards**

At this time, Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative facilities are not designed to be guided by the extreme loading standards on a system wide basis. Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative is participating in the Public Utility Research Center's (PURC)

granular wind research study through the Florida Electric Cooperative Association. Though we continue to self-audit and evaluate our system to determine any immediate needs for system upgrades and hardening in isolated areas. At this time we do not have sufficient data to substantiate the effort and cost of making major upgrades to our system. We feel that it is important to wait for the results of this research before making such a commitment.

**c) Flooding and Storm Surges**

Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative is a non-coastal utility; therefore, storm surge is not an issue.

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

Electrical construction standards, policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures at the Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative provide for placement of new and replacement distribution facilities so as to facilitate safe and efficient access for installation and maintenance. Wherever new facilities are placed (i.e. front, back or side of property), all facilities are installed so that Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative's facilities are accessible by its crews and vehicles to ensure proper maintenance/repair is performed as expeditiously and safely as possible. Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative decides on a case-by-case basis whether existing facilities need to be relocated. If it is determined that facilities need to be relocated, they will be placed in the safest, most accessible area available.

**e) Attachments by Others**

The pole attachment agreements between Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative and third-party attachers include language which specifies that the attacher, not the cooperative, has the burden of assessing pole strength and safety before they attach to the pole. Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative performs follow-up audits of attachments to ensure the attachment is properly installed and maintained per NESC and RUS standards.

**4. Facility Inspections**

- a) Description of policies, guidelines, practices and procedures for inspection transmission and distribution lines, poles and structures including pole inspection cycles and pole selection process

Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative inspects all structures every eight years. Inspection is followed up with the following as needed; treatment, repair, replacement. This work is performed in accordance with RUS standards and procedures.

b) Transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed

Inspection is two step process, visual evaluation of pole and all attached hardware and sound and bore. 2015; 10,394 inspections were completed representing 12% of system total distribution structures, 5 inspections were completed representing 100% of the system total of transmission structures. 2016 10,535 inspections are planned representing 12% of system total distribution structures, 5 inspections are planned representing 100% of transmission structures.

c) Number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection and the reason for the failure.

2015 1,265 inspections of distribution structures failed representing 13% of inspections. 6% of these failures were due to groundline decay, and 94% from excessive splitting and woodpecker damage, 0 inspections of transmission structures failed.

d) Number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles, by pole type and class of structure, replaced or for which remediation was taken after inspection, including a description of the remediation taken.

2015 1,378 poles were remediated by ground line treatment representing 13.2% of total inspected distribution structures, 0 transmission structures were remediated. Ground line treatment is dig/excavate and/or bore/inject pole with RUS approved wood treating products. 234 poles were replaced representing 2.3% of total inspected.

## 5. Vegetation Management

b) Utility's policies, guidelines, practices, and procedures for vegetation management, including programs addressing appropriate planting, landscaping, and problem tree removal practices for vegetation management outside of road right-of-ways or easements, and an explanation as to why the utility believes its vegetation management practices are sufficient.

Suwannee Valley Electric Cooperative inspects, cuts, and sprays right-of- away every 4/3 years. Danger trees outside right-of-way are located and cut.

- c) Quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities.

2015: 962 miles of right-of-away were cut representing 29% system right-of-away and 600 miles of right-of-away was sprayed. 2016: 950 miles of right-of-away are planned to be cut representing 28% system right-of-away and 962 miles of right-of-away are to be sprayed.