Subject: Storm Hardening Report for JEA pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, FAC

Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, Florida Administrative Code, attached is the Storm Hardening Report for 2024 for JEA

Jacksonville, Florida / JEA Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C. Calendar Year 2024

1. Introduction

- a) Jacksonville, FL / JEA
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2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2024

JEA served approximately 525,000 electric meters in 2024.

3. Facility Inspections

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

Distribution - JEA continues to perform a visual inspection on an 8 year cycle on all poles and associated equipment such as conductor, insulators, arrestors, cross arms, transformers etc. Ground resistance (ohms) is measured on equipment ground rods. JEA uses the NESC standards for wood decay and reject status for the wood poles. Guided by more than 10 years of accumulated data and experience, wooden poles older than 20 years are inspected at and below ground level with an IML Resistograph micro drill. This process detects unseen decay below ground without damaging the pole or disturbing the soil. Corrective maintenance is initiated as required on any device or pole found defective.

Transmission - JEA owns and maintains 240KV, 138KV and 69KV transmission circuits. Every transmission circuit is inspected on a 5-year cycle. JEA inspects, on average, approximately 20 transmission circuits per year. JEA's transmission circuit inspections are performed in accordance with the JEA "Transmission Circuit Inspection Practices and Procedures" manual. JEA utilized a contractor to perform transmission circuit inspections prior to February 2013. In February 2013 JEA created, equipped, and staffed a five (5) man, one (1) foreman, "Transmission Crew" and self-performed transmission circuit inspections until October 2016 when JEA began utilizing a contractor to perform circuit inspections again.

b) Describe the number and percentage of transmission and distribution inspections planned and completed for 2024.

Distribution - During calendar year 2024, JEA planned to inspect 19,200 poles, approximately 12.8% of the roughly 150,000 distribution poles, targeted for the next 8 year cycle. JEA inspected 17,311 (15.54%) of the poles.

Transmission - JEA is currently using a 5-year transmission circuit inspection cycle. JEA completed 21 circuit inspections (1353 structures) in calendar year 2024.

c) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles failing inspection in 2024 and the reason for the failure.

Distribution - Based on 2024 inspections JEA identified 1,736 defective distribution poles for replacement, a defect rate of 10.03%. Approximately 2.8% of the failures have ground decay, 42.5% of the failures have pole top decay or damage and 0.4% have middle decay or other damage such as damage caused by wildlife. The remaining poles have a combination of these defects.

Transmission - Based on the 2024 inspections, two poles were identified requiring replacement. It was found that 2 - 230kV (steel) poles need replacement due to rust, 6 - 230kV (steel) poles needed repairs due to phase arm rust degradation, 3 - 230kV (wood) poles needed cross arm repairs due to wood rot/splintering, 4 - 230kV (wood) poles needed leg brace repairs due to wood rot/splintering, and 15 - 230kV (concrete) poles needed gunshot repair.

d) Describe the number and percentage of transmission poles and structures and distribution poles, by pole type and class of structure, replaced or for which remediation was taken after inspection in 2024, including a description of the remediation taken.

Distribution – Based on 2024 Inspections: Only one pole was listed as an emergency requiring immediate replacement. Four poles were defined as "priority 2" to be replaced as soon as possible. The remaining poles were defined as "priority 3" to be repaired or replaced as time permits. In 2024, 1,250 poles were replaced.

Transmission – Based on previous circuit inspections: JEA replaced 22 (non-fiscal year) poles (approximately 0.36% of all 6074 transmission poles), one being 69 kV (concrete) transmission poles, 21 being 138 kV (wood) poles, and none being 230 kV (wood) poles in 2024. Inspections identified two poles that are identified for future replacement by inspections done in 2024. No poles were replaced in 2024 due to 2024 inspections, as none were of immediate concern.

4. Vegetation Management

a) Describe the 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.

Transmission - JEA maintains transmission line clearances and reporting in accordance with the NERC Reliability Standard FAC-003 requirements. JEA Transmission and Forestry staff personnel review, make recommendations, and approve or deny landscape plans submitted on transmission easements. Hazard trees (dead, dying, severely leaning) outside of the defined easement area are removed or cut back to mitigate the potential risk of an impact to the electrical system. Property owners are notified in advance if the threat is not imminent, and if the tree(s) are in an urban maintained area. These practices ensure system reliability and promotes customer satisfaction by not infringing on private property rights.

Distribution - JEA has maintained a 2.5-year trim cycle on feeder and lateral circuits until since October 2006. In addition, mowing, hand-cutting, and herbicides are used where appropriate in order to manage fast growing, tall woody vegetation. JEA staff is actively involved with local, state, and national tree care professional organizations and advocacy groups for training as well, as informing, educating, and supporting customers and citizens.

b) Describe the quantity, level, and scope of vegetation management planned and completed for transmission and distribution facilities in 2024.

Transmission- All transmission corridor were inspected to create a work plan for vegetation maintenance such as mowing, pruning and removal of incompatible vegetation. All corridors that are compatible for mowing were mowed in 2024.

Distribution- JEA pruned 1139 circuit miles in 2024.

6. Storm Hardening Research

JEA is a member of the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA), which is participating with all of Florida's electric utilities in storm hardening research through the Public Utility Research Center at the University of Florida. Under separate cover, FMEA will provide the FPSC with a report of research activities. For further information, contact Amy Zubaly, Executive Director, FMEA, 850-224-3314, ext.1, or <u>azubaly@flpublicpower.com</u>.