

City of Lakeland/Lakeland Electric
Report to the Florida Public Service Commission Pursuant to
Rule 25-6.0343, F.A.C.
Calendar Year 2024

1. Introduction

- b) Name of city/utility
City of Lakeland/Lakeland Electric
- c) Address, street, city, zip
501 East Lemon Street
Lakeland, FL 33801
- d) Contact information: Name, title, phone, fax, email
Cynthia Clemmons
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Lakeland Electric
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2. Number of meters served in calendar year 2024

138,923

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.**

Lakeland Electric aims to inspect all wood poles on its system every eight years. Lakeland Electric's pole inspection Contractor inspects all wood poles using visual and the sound and bore techniques with ground line excavation and strength assessment that include all pole attachments. Additionally, LE personnel inspects for T&D facility damage throughout the service territory during the course of normal travel, operations work, and in response to outages. LE also uses concrete and tubular steel poles which receive a visual inspection only.

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

<u>Pole inspection results</u>	<u>Distribution</u>	<u>Transmission</u>	<u>Total</u>
Poles planned for inspection	7,800	66	7,866

Percentage planned	12.5 %	12.5%	12.5%
Poles inspected	16374	118	16,492
Percentage inspected	26.2%	22.4%	26.1%

The number and percentage of poles planned for inspection are the total in each category divided by eight (eight-year cycle). Since the inspections are done by geographical region, the actual number of poles inspected may be slightly higher or lower than the expected numbers.

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

In 2024, eight transmission poles (6.8% of those inspected), and 1,208 distribution poles (7.4% of those inspected), failed to meet minimum strength requirements due to decay.

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.

- e) All poles recommended for strengthening from the inspections during the calendar year of 2024 were assessed for appropriate action.
- f) Distribution poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2024: 422
- g) Transmission poles replaced, repaired, or removed in 2024: 2

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.

Lakeland Electric's vegetation management program is arranged by circuit on a three-year schedule. Clearance requirements are based on individual tree species and directional pruning techniques are utilized to maximize tree/conductor separation. The incorporation of these techniques provides sufficient clearance for the anticipated regrowth within the three-year cycle for transmission and distribution circuits. If a vegetation conflict occurs on a 3-phase feeder or transmission circuit prior to the maintenance schedule, it will be prioritized to ensure system reliability. Tree trimming and tree removal is provided by contractual services.

Lakeland Electric's tree removal program targets trees that will require future maintenance and less than twelve inches in diameter. Tree replacement certificates provide customer incentive to promote proper tree selection and energy conservation. Tree planting information booklets with setback recommendations correspond with the City of Lakeland and Polk County Land Development Codes.

Lakeland Electric finds these practices are sufficient because the anticipated tree growth will generally not exceed the established three-year tree trim cycle and there are budgetary allowances for any priority situations.

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

230 kV transmission lines: Lakeland Electric inspected 27 miles of BES to verify vegetation clearance meets or exceeds the FAC-003 compliance requirements.

6.86 miles were planned and completed.

69 kV sub-transmission lines: 13 miles of were planned. 13 miles completed.

12 kV distribution lines: 435 miles were planned. 435 miles were completed.

Distribution maintenance includes the trimming required for secondary voltage spans not calculated in the stated mileage.

All maintenance trimming was inspected to verify that it meets the required Lakeland Electric clearance specifications.

6. Storm Hardening Research

Lakeland Electric 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 azubaly@flpublicpower.com.