



Control Number: 32182



Item Number: 101

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MID-PLAINS RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

411 North Hale Street



September 12, 2006

Mr. David Featherston
Director, Infrastructure Reliability Division
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 Congress Avenue
P. O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711 3326

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RE: Project No. 32182 - Investigation of Methods to Improve Electric and Telecom
Infrastructure That Will Minimize Long Term Outages and Restoration Costs

Dear Mr. Featherston:

As requested in the above referenced project, the following is a description of the vegetation management program for overhead facilities, and the on-going cyclical, ground-based inspection program for overhead facilities for Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

1. Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. does not have a formal program for vegetation control for overhead facilities. Almost all of our outside plant facilities are buried with the exception of aerial plant in the cities of Kress and Silverton, Texas.
2. While we do not have a formal program for vegetation control, our installer/repairmen are in the cities of Kress and Silverton on a daily basis and are constantly aware of any obstructions or problems with trees and other vegetation.
3. When vegetation problems are encountered in areas of public access, we will and have trimmed trees as necessary to protect against damage. We of course, do not have hurricanes in our part of Texas; however, we do have tornadoes, strong straight winds, and ice/snow associated with blizzards.
4. We also share access with electric utilities and cable TV providers. We all have the same common interest of preventing damage and service outages. The municipalities are also concerned and have always been very cooperative in helping us where and when necessary.

5. When we encounter vegetation problems on the premises of individual property owners, such as drop wires, we actively encourage the property owner to trim and remove any vegetation that could damage facilities provided by our Cooperative. Thus far, we have been successful in resolving any such issues.

Maintenance of our outside plant facilities is always a daily and ongoing process at our Cooperative and we will continue to exercise every precaution to protect our subscriber-members from damages and service outages.

I am enclosing ten (10) copies of this response and request that one copy be file-stamped and returned to us in the enclosed postage-paid envelope in order for us to be certain that it has been properly received.

I hope the information provided will sufficiently address the issues brought forth in this project. If there are further questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Danny Johnson
Manager