



Control Number: 32182



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**Sharyland Utilities, L.P.**  
Sharyland Logistics Center  
4403 West Military Highway  
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McAllen, Texas 78503  
(956) 687-5600  
Fax: (956) 664-1903

September 15, 2006

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

RECEIVED  
06 SEP 15 AM 11:50  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
FILING CLERK

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:

Sharyland Utilities, L.P. (SU) is a Transmission and Distribution Service Provider (TDSP), providing electrical delivery service within a 6,000 acre service territory located in the Cities of Mission and McAllen, Texas. SU is responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the electric distribution and transmission facilities that currently serve approximately 1650 customers. The distribution facilities installed by SU are primarily underground however; a small portion of the area is served from overhead facilities purchased from the previous utility.

Staff requested from each utility, a written description of its:

1. vegetation management program for overhead facilities

Response: Sharyland Utilities' policy for visually inspecting for vegetation contact in our distribution facilities is based on a yearly cycle. However, due to our small service territory and the construction activity in the area, we are able to visually inspect all of our overhead distribution lines at least once a quarter. SU has approximately fourteen (14) miles of overhead transmission lines that are inspected on a six-month cycle at this time. When obstructions or close contact is found, then appropriate action is taken to trim or remove the obstruction in a timely manner.

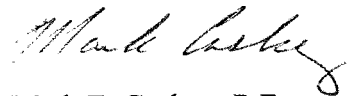
2. on-going cyclical, ground-based inspection program for overhead facilities.

Response: SU's ground based inspection policy on the overhead facilities is performed on a yearly basis to ensure the poles are capable of handling the loads and angle stresses. Most of the work performed on the overhead lines is from bucket trucks; however, each pole is checked for soundness before work is performed. The inspection also includes visual verification of the ground conductor. SU is not currently ground-line treating poles.

Sharyland Utilities believes strongly in the reliability aspects of the total underground system. Lightning and tree contact are not an issue with the underground system and when strategically placed greatly eliminates contact by motor vehicles. SU currently has plans to provide underground looped service to every customer within the service area. We are systematically removing all overhead facilities as the underground equipment is installed.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit. If you have any questions, please contact me at (956) 687-5600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark E. Caskey".

Mark E. Caskey, P.E.  
General Manager  
Sharyland Utilities, L.P.