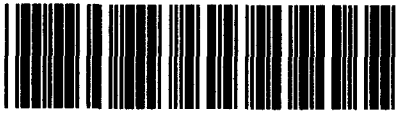




Control Number: 32182



Item Number: 126

Addendum StartPage: 0



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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

September 21, 2006

Filing Clerk – Central Records
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Avenue
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

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

Dear Filing Clerk:

Enclosed for filing with the Public Utility Commission of Texas are an original and nine (9) copies of responses for Consolidated Communications of Fort Bend Company and Consolidated Communications of Texas Company (Consolidated Communications), pursuant to the staff request of August 23, 2006 in the above-referenced project

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Any questions may be directed to me at 936.827.7400 or bill.terry@consolidated.com.

Sincerely,

Bill Terry
Senior Manager – Regulatory
Consolidated Communications

Consolidated Communications Vegetation Management Program

September 2006

Aerial Plant Inspection Practices

1. Biannual ground-based inspections will be conducted on all aerial plant and other company facilities located on company property and in public right-of-ways.
2. Company employees from the outside plant engineering and/or construction department will conduct inspections. Inspections will be supervised by the appropriate departmental manager.

Employees will inspect company property and right-of-ways for vegetation that may interfere with company facilities and potentially affect service. Any potential service-affecting growth will be reported to the construction supervisor. Inspectors will also note any vegetation located outside the right-of-way that is dangerous or has imminent potential to impair service. Examples include tall leaning trees that may fall across aerial plant or other company facilities. The report will specify the exact location and type of vegetation observed.

3. Private property owners may be contacted to consider removal of dangerous vegetation.

Vegetation Control Practices

1. Based on inspection reports, proper vegetation control methods will be used. Pruning is normally the primary practice.
2. Vegetation control will be conducted by knowledgeable contractors in an effective manner but with as little damage as possible to vegetation. Contractors will work within company property and in public right-of-ways.
3. The Construction Supervisor in each market will be responsible for the supervision of contractors.
4. Emergency Vegetation Control Practices – In the event of an emergency situation such as a hurricane, tornado or other infrastructure-threatening event, company management will engage all resources necessary to restore service and eliminate safety hazards in the shortest timeframe possible. Company employees will follow guidelines in the Consolidated Communications Emergency Operations Plan and the direction of the Emergency Response Team.