



Control Number: 32182



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Addendum StartPage: 0

October 3, 2006

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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

windstream



Filing Clerk
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

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

Enclosed please find an original and ten copies of Windstream Communications response
to the Staff request for a written description of the:

- 1) vegetation management program for overhead facilities, and;
- 2) On-going cyclical, ground-based inspection program for overhead facilities.

This response is for the following Windstream companies:

Windstream Communications Southwest
Windstream Communications Kerrville
Windstream Sugarland
Texas Windstream

1) Vegetation management program for overhead facilities

In general our overhead facilities follow the local power company routes and vegetation management is minimal. Also, of note is that in our coastal properties such as Winnie, and Sweeny less than 10% of our facilities are overhead. It is our policy that when work requiring installation or replacement of aerial lines that:

- a. The engineer charged with the project inspect the site prior to the work beginning and allot time for the construction contractor to trim trees as needed so as not to interfere with the work being done.
- b. Contractors arriving on site to do said work noticing trimming work that needs to be done, but not on the work order, will call in to the engineering department and get the work approved so that it can be done immediately.
- c. Most of our installation/maintenance technicians are equipped with minimal trimming tools and do small amounts of trimming as needed. This work is concentrated primarily on or around aerial drop runs going up to residential or business buildings.

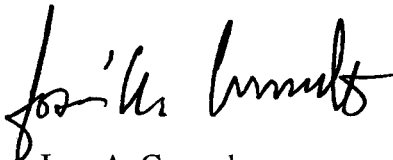
2) On-going cyclical, ground –based inspection program for overhead facilities:

It is our policy:

- a. During the installation or replacement of overhead facilities the engineer charged with project will visually inspect the route for poles that need to be replaced and that work will be included on the work order.
- b. Contractors arriving on site to do placement, find a pole that needs to be replaced will contact the engineering department and obtain approval to replace the pole immediately.
- c. All of our installation/maintenance technicians are trained to perform a probe test and shell/rot test to insure the integrity of each pole prior to ascending it. If the pole is found to be defective he is to write up an IPR (Improper Plant Report) and submit it to his supervisor for replacement immediately.
- d. All new pole contacts are reported to our engineering department by those we have contact agreements with and inspected as soon as possible. We also require our technicians to provide contact information when we add or rearrange a contact on other utility companies we shared agreements with.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at (512) 457-9949.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jose A. Camacho
Vice-President External Affairs Texas
Windstream Communications