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## Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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November 20, 2008

Public Utility Commission of Texas 1701 N. Congress Ave. P.O. Box 13326 Austin, Texas 78711-3326

RE: Project No. 32182 – "PUC Investigation of Methods to Improve Electric and Telecommunical Infrastructure to Minimize Long Term outages and Restoration Cost Associated with Gulf Coast Hurricanes"

In response to David Featherston's letter dated October 15, 2008 this letter contains the requested information concerning Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative's programs related to vegetation management and ground-based inspections for overhead facilities. Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative does not operate any transmission lines within fifty miles of the Texas Coast. Accordingly, Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative is not filing an inventory of transmission facilities.

## Vegetation Management:

Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative's vegetation management program follows the guide lines of the RUS Bulletin 1730-1. The Bulletin provides guidelines for right-of-way maintenance. Activities associated with this include: Right-of-Way-Clearing, Erosion, Appearance, and Intrusions. Service and Right-of-Way crews perform ground based inspections annually. Right-of Way mowing crew's average re-clearing under growth on a two year cycle and Trimming crews shall provide adequate clearances for a minimum of five years. Diagrams are included in the RUS spec book which indicated the minimum trimming clearance for each-applicable voltage as a guideline for the ROW maintenance personnel.

## **Ground Based Inspections:**

Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative completes a ground based inspection of all transmission lines annually and all distribution lines every two years. The inspections consist of checking the integrity of the structures and the proper operation of equipment. Transmission and Distribution structures are further inspected if there is visual evidence of insulator or hardware corrosion, pole damage, or cross arm damage that requires a closer look to ascertain the extent of the problem. In addition to the



inspections, wood pole ground line treatment, fumigant application, and preventive wrap treatments are performed on an average 10% of the total transmission and distribution system each year.

So far in 2008, Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative has performed 69.65 miles of aerial transmission line inspection, mowed approximately 1283 miles of distribution and transmission line, trimmed 253 miles of distribution line, Osmose tested and treated 4398 poles, replaced 11 reject transmission poles, and field personnel continue to view the system each day and report any deficiency in the system.

Respectfully

Randy Morgan

**Assistant Manager of Operations** 

Jasper-Newton Electric Cooperative, Inc.