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**TVEC**

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Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

December 1, 2008

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

Mr. James Galloway, Filing Clerk
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 Telecommunications Infrastructure to Minimize Long Term outages and Restoration Cost Associated with Gulf Coast Hurricanes"

Dear Mr. Galloway,

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

Vegetation Management:

TVEC's written vegetation management program provides guidelines for rights-of-way ("ROW") maintenance. Activities associated with the program include: Trimming, mowing underbrush, and cutting of dead trees. The program specifies ROW trimming for distribution lines will be completed on a five or six year cycle depending on species, soil, and moisture conditions. Approximately 50% of the system is on a five year trim cycle and the remainder is on a six year cycle. Mowing underbrush on distribution ROW is completed at the same time during the trimming cycle. Additionally, mowing underbrush is also conducted between trim cycles. Transmission ROW is monitored and trimmed at least once per year. Mowing, underbrush, and tree removal along transmission lines is completed every year. Both distribution and transmission ROW is inspected twice a year for dead trees or potential problems.

Ground-Based Inspections:

Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative oversees its lines and facilities with the use of field inspectors, line patrolling, and third party pole inspections. The following sections explain each of the processes.



Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Field Inspections

We use field inspectors to review the construction of our lines after construction to make sure they are meeting the specification from which they were designed. Any noted deficiencies are reported back to be corrected to meet necessary requirements and specifications.

Line Patrolling

Our field personnel are continuously driving by our electrical lines and monitoring for any structural or support damages. If a facility or line is identified to have deficiencies, the location is staked, sent back to the office, and set in the work to be repaired.

Third Party Pole Inspections

We have a pole inspection process in place to help identify any poles that may have become structurally unsound and they are marked for replacement. The process is a 10-year cycle, which approximately 10% of our poles are inspected.

Sincerely,

Tony Watson
Manager of Operations
TVEC

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