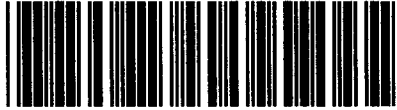




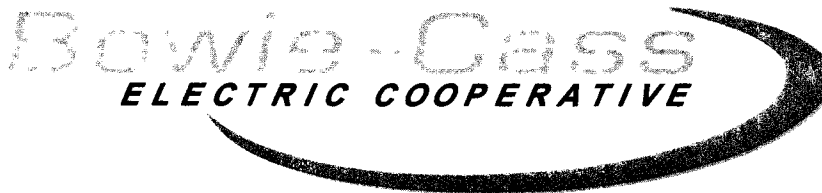
Control Number: 32182




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A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

December 2, 2008

Mr. James Galloway, Filing Clerk  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
P.O. Box 13326  
Austin, Texas 78711-3326

2008 DEC -8 PM 1:44  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
FILING CLERK

Subject: **Project No. 32182** – “PUC Investigation of Methods to Improve Electric and Telecommunications Infrastructure to Minimize Long Term Outages and Restoration Costs 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 Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative’s (BCEC) programs related to vegetation management, ground-based inspections for overhead facilities, and transmission facilities within fifty miles of the Texas Gulf Coast.

**Vegetation Management:**

BCEC’s vegetation management program for distribution and transmission right-of-way (ROW) maintenance include foot, vehicular and aerial surveys, ROW maintenance by hand and mechanized methods, and low volume spraying of small saplings and bushes. Both the distribution and transmission line right-of-ways are maintained on a 5-year cycle. For 2 consecutive years approximately 50% of the transmission system is trimmed and mowed. The following 2 years approximately 50% of the transmission system is treated with herbicide. Each year approximately 20% of the distribution system is trimmed and mowed, and 20% of the distribution system is treated with herbicide. The herbicide program trails the trimming program by 2 years then the area will be re-trimmed 3 years later. Access, erosion and intrusions are addressed following each clearing cycle.

In addition to scheduled ROW maintenance, trees are cleared on an “as needed” basis based on daily Cooperative staff activities, reports of momentary interruptions or as requested by members.

Mr. James Galloway  
December 2, 2008  
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**Ground-based Inspections:**

BCEC completes a ground-based inspection of all transmission lines on a 5-year rotation and all distribution lines on a 10-year rotation. Annually, spot inspections are made based upon reports of momentary interruptions. BCEC utilized contract crews and staff Patrolman to accomplish these inspections. The inspections consist of checking the integrity and proper operation of the poles and equipment. A more rigorous inspection, via climbing or bucket truck, is made as ground-based inspections warrant. Inspections include evaluations of poles, crossarms, conductors, insulators, ground wires, guys, anchors, transformers and protective devices. Items found by the inspections are repaired or replaced as needed in a timely manner.

As well as designated inspectors, staking, service and inspection personnel are familiar with the inspection criteria, and Rural Utilities Service (formerly Rural Electrification Administration), National Electric Code (NEC) and National Electric Safety Code (NESC) guidelines. These personnel continually review the system during normal daily operations and report any abnormal conditions.

Aerial inspection of the entire transmission system is performed twice annually, in the spring and fall.

BCEC owns and operates 212.1 circuit miles of transmission line. For the most recent completed year, scheduled transmission inspections included 286 poles out of a total of 2,829 transmission poles on the system.

BCEC owns and operates 5,948 miles of distribution line of which 5,791.3 miles are overhead line. For the most recent completed year, scheduled distribution inspections included 11,738 poles out of a total of 114,937 distribution poles on the system.

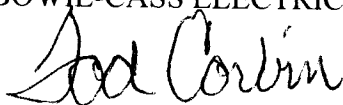
**Inventory of Transmission Facilities:**

BCEC does not own nor operate any transmission lines within fifty miles of the Texas Gulf Coast. Accordingly, BCEC is not filing an inventory of transmission facilities.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Yours truly,

BOWIE-CASS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



Tod Corbin, P.E.

JTC:jc