

Pole Treatment Guideline

Objective: To identify the process for completing annual pole inspection and treatment.

While not required by the Public Service Commission, Owen Electric Cooperative (OEC) will create and follow a 10 year schedule for inspecting and treating all OEC owned wood poles at ground level. OEC will contract this work out to a third party pole inspector. Prior to the annual inspection, the poles due to be inspected and treated will be exported to the third party pole inspector via a shapefile.

1. Poles that are less than 5 years old shall be visually inspected and reported if the visual inspection warrants it.
2. Poles more than 5 years old and less than 10 years old shall be visually inspected, sounded with a hammer, bore tested if needed, and reported.
3. All poles more than 10 years old will be visually inspected, sounded, bore tested, and excavated below ground line area.
 - The third party pole inspector shall excavate a minimum of 20" around each pole to ensure the pole is solid below ground level. If excavation cannot occur to some or all of the pole, the third party pole inspector shall drill and apply an internal wood preservative to the pole that protects against fungal decay, mold, or insects.

Reporting

The third party pole inspector shall provide weekly invoices that include a complete list of all poles and location numbers that have been tested or inspected. OEC personnel will analyze all data submitted, reviewing for duplicate pole locations. Upon completion of the review, orders will be generated based on deficiencies reported.

A summary of the poles treated and rejected will be maintained by OEC. A reject percentage will be calculated based on the number of poles that were treated and those that did not pass inspection.