



Florida Public Service Commission

Consumer Bulletin

Lila A. Jaber, Chairman



TREE TRIMMING

As Florida prepares for and enters the hurricane season (which begins June 1st), the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) would like to call your attention to matters related to tree trimming.

A recent report by the PSC's Division of Economic Regulation states that, as a general practice, investor-owned utilities regulated by the PSC may be called upon to remove tree limbs or other vegetation in contact with service wires that may cause unsafe electrical conditions or a negative impact on electric reliability. This report also highlights the corporate reliability goals and identifies utility tariff language which addresses vegetation management. The regulated utilities mentioned in this report include:

- ◆ Florida Power and Light
- ◆ Progress Energy Florida, Incorporated
- ◆ Tampa Electric
- ◆ Gulf Power, and
- ◆ Florida Public Utilities Company

Until recently, some utilities responded to all customer requests for the removal of tree limbs or other forms of vegetation, including requests for the removal of vegetation which may have no impact on electric safety or reliability. At least one major utility has now changed its policy to providing tree trimming maintenance on a planned maintenance schedule, progressing from one geographic location to another. Customers who request vegetation removal for vegetation that does not threaten safety or reliability may be advised by the utility to either hire an independent tree trimmer or wait until the utility's next trimming cycle.

To learn more about tree trimming in your area, please call your utility company. If, after speaking with your utility company, you still have concerns or general questions about tree trimming, power outages or electric service, please call the Public Service Commission's Division of Consumer Affairs at **1-800-342-3552**. You may also e-mail us at contact@psc.state.fl.us, or visit our Web site 24 hours a day, seven days a week at <http://www.floridapsc.com>. Please feel free to visit our Web site to review our many brochures and reports on electric safety and reliability.

TIPS ON TREE TRIMMING

- ◆ If you see a tree or some other form of vegetation that has come in contact with a power line, stay away from it and call your utility company for assistance.
- ◆ Do not trim vegetation close to your service wire without consulting your utility. If you feel you can't wait until you receive service from your utility company, consider hiring a professional tree trimmer.
- ◆ Follow planting guidelines recommended by your utility.
- ◆ For more information on tree trimming or to request service, contact your local utility. Check your local phone book for the listing.

Lila A. Jaber is the Chairman of the Florida Public Service Commission. The PSC sets the rates regulated utility companies charge for natural gas, electric and telephone service within the state. In 36 counties, it sets the price you pay for the water you drink, if your water company is privately owned. Chairman Jaber is also a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and the state chair of the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services.