

Midland PUC – Building a Strong Future

Midland PUC prides itself on its strong, reliable distribution system. As part of their commitment to that system, they are close to completing the replacement of 1800 hydro poles. Work in 2016 is planned for King Street and Eighth Street and due to the warm winter, the utility's replacement crews expect to get an early start on the projects. Crews will replace between 70-100 poles this year and by 2018, 80% of the poles in Midland will be less than 20 years old.

“Our hydro poles are the backbone of our distribution system,” said Roy Rogers, Operations Manager at Midland PUC. “Replacing these poles means we have a solid foundation to provide safe and reliable electricity to our customers.”

With the new poles, Midland residents will benefit from having a robust system that can withstand the high winds of thunder storms and the weight of winter ice storms. A strong, well-managed

system also results in fewer nuisance outages such as trees falling on lines or deteriorated insulators.

“Our constant attention to upgrading and maintaining the system has improved our reliability,” said Rogers. “Our customers can expect a stable, predictable electricity supply.

When replacing pole lines, Midland crews look at all the components including transformers, conductors, switches and underground rehabilitation so that when completed the entire line has been updated and can be relied upon for years to come. The cost of installing lines underground ranges from six to fifty times more than for overhead lines with the lines underground having a lower life expectancy. Midland PUC chose not to incur the cost of the underground lines since they wanted to keep distribution costs low for their customers and the extra costs would

have been passed onto customers through their distribution rates.

Midland’s current Capital Plan also includes maintenance of the Midland PUC fleet including bucket trucks, radial boom derricks, and maintenance vehicles so that crews have the equipment they need to maintain the lines and complete repair work as required. Midland PUC recently completed a \$7 million upgrade to its six substations with up-to-date technology and equipment.

“We pride ourselves in doing more with the resources we have,” said President & CEO, Phil Marley. “We keep the system secure and up-to-date and we are always looking ahead to make sure the system can respond to and accommodate future needs.”



Average number of times power to a customer is interrupted (per year)

