



RFP 21-32 Docket No. R-35394 (Independent Engineering Consultant)

For:



Prepared By:



TRC Engineers, Inc.
6095 Professional Pkwy, Ste. 203-B
Douglasville, GA 30134
TRC Proposal: 475565.9990_r1

January 12, 2022

Kimberly O'Brian
Kathryn Bowman
Louisiana Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 91154
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9154

**RE: RFP 21-32 Docket No. R-35394 (Independent Engineering Consultant)
TRC Proposal No. 475565.9990.0000 Rev.1**

Dear Mrs. O'Brian and Mrs. Bowman:

TRC Engineers, Inc. (TRC) is pleased to present the following proposal for the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) with **RFP 21-32 Docket No. R-35394 (Independent Engineering Consultant)**.

Over the last two decades, investor-owned utility spending on distribution system investments has grown over 2.5 times, from \$14 billion in 1999 to nearly \$40 billion in 2019. An estimated two-thirds of that capital spend in 2019 is driven by emergency repairs, aging infrastructure replacement, reliability improvements, or resiliency. The 2019 spend on aging infrastructure replacement, reliability and resiliency alone is greater than the total distribution system investment from the 20 years prior. As the scale of these investments has grown, states are increasingly looking to integrated planning initiatives for distribution and resiliency. The Department of Energy counted 29 states and territories where regulatory commissions have begun such an effort as of 2019.¹

TRC currently supports pole-owning and pole-using utilities on a national basis, and has recently completed a similar study of pole reliability and sustainability, commissioned by an investor-owned utility, in the northeast. As a precursor to completion of the referenced study, TRC reviewed the storm-hardening initiatives of several utilities and state commissions.

In Louisiana, TRC provides best-in-class consulting and design services for investor-owned and cooperatively-owned utilities, as well as broadband providers, and is therefore uniquely qualified to satisfy the objectives of this RFP.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide a response to RFP 21-32, and we welcome any questions or comments related to our proposal provided herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. McCullough".

David McCullough
Support Services Manager
dmccullough@trccompanies.com

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, Resiliency Decision Framework – Presentation to NARUC 2019 Annual Meeting, November 20, 2019. <https://pubs.naruc.org/pub/6A146D0E-B6A2-89F8-1469-484C2B6E8FFE>

Table of Contents

Attachment 1 Proposal..... 3

 1.0 RFP Scope of Representation 3

 2.0 TRC Plan of Action..... 3

 3.0 Period of Representation 6

 4.0 Budget 6

Attachment 2 Work Authorization..... 7

Attachment 3 Schedule of Rates..... 9

Attachment 4 Terms and Conditions..... 11

Attachment 5 Key Personnel Resumes..... 13

Attachment 1 Proposal

1.0 RFP Scope of Representation

Assistance will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Review and analysis of policies, procedures, and data from regulated utilities relative to their distribution systems
- Review of policies, procedures, and data from other jurisdictions (both state and federal) relative to utility distribution systems
- Preparation, review, and response to data requests
- Review of comments filed by any party
- Participation in technical conferences
- Site visits
- Preparation of technical analysis as requested by Staff
- Assistance with the drafting of Staff recommendations, including rules and regulations
- Participation in the development of any proposed rules, including defense and related testimony
- Verification that any rules and regulations issued by the Commission conform with national regulatory standards for regulated utilities
- Attendance and testimony at the Commission's Business and Executive Sessions as needed

The scope of representation will be voted upon by the Commission.

2.0 TRC Plan of Action

TRC brings industry-leading experience in all matters relating to distribution engineering, operations, project management, administration, inspection, and construction management. Our multi-disciplinary project teams provide turnkey services to assist our clients in the implementation of complex projects. With a long history of excellence in the energy industry, the TRC Team offers a unique combination of resources and experience that are ideally suited to successfully provide the services required by the Louisiana Public Service Commission in order to improve the reliability and sustainability of Louisiana's electric utility distribution grid.

Item 1: Requiring regulated utilities have policies in place that ensure the proper inspection and identification of distribution poles.

Pole inspection programs are an integral part of the responsibilities necessary to maintain a reliable electrical distribution system. Such programs include proper pole maintenance procedures to ensure the safety and adequacy of poles, as well as adequate line inspections to catch pole damage due to woodpeckers, split tops, etc., in order to ensure the reliability of

the pole and the overall distribution system. While the NESC (National Electrical Safety Code) doesn't specify time intervals for inspections, it states "*electrical equipment shall be inspected and maintained at such intervals as experience has shown to be necessary.*" It is important that these programs meet industry norms. Outage records or pole failures found during inspections should indicate whether existing programs are adequate or should be improved. TRC is prepared to assist the Commission Staff in the gathering and evaluation of data to assess practices in this area, along with providing assistance for the creation of policies and procedures to enhance the reliability of electrical distribution systems.

Item 2: Implement policies to promote the use of alternative pole materials or potential undergrounding of the distribution system, depending on cost-benefit analysis to rate payers.

TRC will work with Commission Staff to investigate the pole construction cost with alternative materials such as steel, fiberglass, and concrete to increase the reliability of the electrical distribution system. This process will involve obtaining pole construction costs from utilities using wood along with these different materials and evaluating whether the improved reliability would be worth the increased cost of construction. The same process could be utilized for overhead versus underground facilities, keeping in mind that underground equipment in areas prone to flooding is not a solution. Is the Commission looking for new strength or pole loading standards above the NESC for storm hardening to increase reliability during natural disasters such as hurricanes? The answer to this question will involve research into the storm hardening efforts by other states such as Florida and the standards implemented to achieve satisfactory results, followed by the determination as to whether the benefits of such efforts will outweigh the increased costs. TRC is prepared to work with Commission Staff in any of these efforts in order to establish appropriate policies and procedures.

Item 3: Ensure that all regulated utilities have in place vegetation management policies that would increase the resiliency of the distribution system in Louisiana.

Few maintenance programs have such direct effect on the reliability of electric distribution systems as vegetation maintenance programs. Louisiana's climate provides for rapid tree growth which must be controlled effectively by utilities if reliability of service is to be achieved. The first step in the evaluation process would be to obtain and understand the vegetation management programs of the different utilities along with data for outages caused by vegetation. Utilities normally perform vegetation management based on established trimming and clearing cycles which are effective in obtaining the desired level of reliability based on available funds for the program. Some utilities perform annual inspections to determine what areas need to be maintained in the following budget year. The evaluation of the different utility programs in comparison with corresponding outage data

will display whether or not programs are effective or need improvement; especially when comparing outages caused by vegetation on and off established rights of way. Other program characteristics that should be present are hazardous tree removal, herbicide programs, and trimming standards meeting ANSI A300 along with the “Best Management Practices-Utility Pruning of Trees” of the International Society of Arboriculture 2004. It would also be important to review any established vegetation management policies set by other Public Service Commissions with states similar in climate to Louisiana. The gathering and evaluation of information stated above should determine if vegetation management programs should be improved for increased system reliability. TRC is prepared to assist Commission Staff in the evaluation of these programs and the development of policies and procedures to ensure proper vegetation management programs are in place to achieve resiliency goals.

Item 4: *Improve communication between pole owners and pole attachers.*

Good communication between pole owners and pole attachment owners is essential due to the constant change of the pole status. Poles may need to be replaced due to maintenance, facilities may need to be rearranged due to new attachments, storms may cause hazardous conditions which result in the need for coordination in order for all utilities to be repaired in a safe manner. This communication takes place in many ways. In some states a Utility Coordination Council has been set up for better coordination of both underground and overhead utilities in the limited space available in public rights of way. Pole owners may communicate regularly with attachment companies through NJUNS user groups or in attachment count coordination meetings. Significant rule changes may result in the scheduling of meetings for the particular purpose of communicating the changes to all parties involved. For storms, the best means of communication is through state or local emergency management centers set up for the storm restoration where representatives from each company can provide updates on the status of their restoration and expedite specific issues that may arise during storm restoration. TRC is prepared to assist the Commission in evaluating and, where needed, improving this important exchange between the parties.

Item 5: *Establish timelines for pole removal and replacement of abandoned or stranded poles;* and **Item 6: *Require or incentivize pole owners and pole attachers to collaborate on selecting a single party for the removal and replacement of distribution poles.***

Pole replacement, the timely transfer of all attachments to the new pole, and removal of the old pole when transfers are complete are all common problems in every state. The establishment of timelines along with consequences for poor performers are ways a regulator can improve this situation. Most joint use and pole attachment agreements have remedies addressing this process. Unfortunately, many rely on the pole owner to move the

facilities of the utility that has not transferred. This does not achieve the desired result because of the liability concerns if the facility is damaged or sometimes union agreements may be in place which may require only union members move the facility. An effective regulatory policy can provide the incentive needed to encourage all facilities to transfer in a timely manner and for the pole owner to remove the remaining pole promptly after transfers have been completed. Good communication between all parties in the ways recommended above will assist in achieving the desired result.

The use of a common contractor could aid in expediting this process as long as that contractor was qualified to the satisfaction of all parties to work on all facility types on the pole. Regulatory oversight in this area would provide an incentive for all parties to agree on a contractor and alleviate many of the liability barriers that are often presented without regulatory oversight. TRC is prepared to assist Commission Staff in developing policies that overcome the hurdles encountered during the pole replacement process.

Item 7: Other Policies that would advance the reliability, accountability, and sustainability of the electric distribution grid in Louisiana.

There are other policies that would promote the integrity of Louisiana's electrical distribution system such as new construction inspection programs for electrical distribution lines (as recommended in the 2014 LPSC Pole Attachment Order). This would include the inspection of both electrical and communications attachments to poles. TRC is prepared to assist the Commission Staff in preparation of other policies to ensure the reliability of electricity to the state of Louisiana.

3.0 Period of Representation

TRC can begin work on the project immediately after receiving LPSC's Work Authorization. LPSC estimates the completion of the Scope of Representation will take approximately 12 months.

4.0 Budget

TRC proposes to perform this Scope of Representation on a Time and Expense basis, with an estimated total contract value of \$196,350. The total contract value is comprised of \$189,370.00 in fees and \$6,980.00 in estimated expenses.

TRC's Schedule of Rates can be found in Attachment 3 of this proposal.

Should LPSC request TRC to make changes in the services or to perform additional services, TRC will prepare a Change Order for LPSC acceptance prior to execution of the work. Additional services will also be performed in accordance with change order directions.

Attachment 2

Work Authorization

Acceptance of TRC Proposal No. 475565.9990.0000

The signatures below, by duly authorized representatives of both parties, indicate acceptance of the above referenced proposal without exception. ***All work is to be performed in accordance with the details and provisions stated in this proposal and are contingent upon execution of the Terms and Conditions between LPSC and TRC Engineers, Inc.***

Approved and accepted as of the date shown below:

TRC Engineers, Inc.

Louisiana Public Service Commission

By:

By:

Signature

Signature

Printed Name

Printed Name

Title

Title

Attachment 3

Schedule of Rates

2022 CONSULTING RATE SCHEDULE

<u>JOB CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>HOURLY RATE</u>
Senior Contract Consultant	\$195.00
Engineering Consultant	\$175.00
Legal Consultant	\$185.00
Contract Consultant	\$150.00
Project Manager	\$150.00
Contract Analyst IV	\$125.00
Contract Analyst III	\$115.00
Contract Analyst II	\$80.00
Contract Analyst I	\$60.00
Project Coordinator	\$80.00

1. Labor

- Work requests for labor greater than 40 hours will be billed at standard, straight-time hourly rates according to listed consulting services.

2. Mileage

- Mileage will be charged at the current IRS rate of \$.585/mile and is included in the total expense estimate of \$6,980.00.

3. Per Diems

- Per diems are not anticipated as being required. Meals and Lodging, when required for the project, will be billed at actual charges – not to exceed the LPSC expense guidelines.

4. Material

- No additional materials are anticipated nor are such included in the expense total estimate.

Attachment 4

Terms and Conditions

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Terms and Conditions for this RFP will be consistent with the Louisiana Public Service Commission's standard Terms and Conditions for similar consulting projects. TRC counsel will work with the Commission's counsel to finalize all relevant and governing terms and conditions.

Attachment 5

Key Personnel Resumes

WILFRED ARNETT

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Mr. Wilfred Arnett has experience in the following general areas:

- Joint Use and Pole Attachment Matters
- Joint Use Rate Methodologies
- Regulatory and Legislative Affairs
- Joint Use Contract Development and Negotiation
- Outside Plant Engineering – ILEC and CATV
- Project Management and Planning
- Expert Witness Testimony

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Mr. Arnett is considered an expert in joint use and pole attachment matters and has served as a consultant on a vast array of issues which includes operational matters, contract development and negotiation, rate methodologies, and regulatory requirements. Mr. Arnett's extensive knowledge related to joint use and pole attachment issues is a result of his background and service to public and private-sector clientele. He has over 50 years of technical, engineering, and management experience, which includes work with the Departments of Transportation for Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and the Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Arnett currently serves as a Director of TRC's Joint Use Management group.

TRC formerly Utility Support Systems, Inc. / RASR Associates, LLC Douglasville, GA (Managing Principal: 1997- 2016, Presently Director)

- Directs the Joint Use Management Group which assists clients with contract, field, and administrative services related to joint use and pole attachment matters.
- Reviews existing agreements, develops and negotiates new contracts and amendments, ensures all rates are appropriate, provides training and interpretations regarding the terms and requirements of the various agreements.
- Manages joint use related field activities including review and processing of permit applications, attachment inventories, inspections, and construction management.
- Supervises personnel responsible for client services related to contract administration.

Utility Support Systems, Inc. (Executive Vice President: 1997 – 2013)

- Directed engineering design, inspection, outside plant construction, and rights of way services.
- Managed the administration of joint use and third-party pole attachment agreements for investor- owned, cooperatively-owned, and municipal electric companies, as well as electric transmission and communications companies.
- Utility Support Systems, Inc. was acquired by TRC in July 2013

WILFRED ARNETT

RASR Associates, LLC (President: 1997 – 2013)

- Served as a consultant to investor-owned, cooperatively-owned and municipal electric companies regarding operational provisions and rental rates in joint-use agreements and pole attachment agreements.
- Represented over 75 power companies and organizations.
- Provided advice regarding pole attachment issues, contract interpretation, contract negotiation assistance, rights of way assistance, expert testimony, and various other consulting services.
- RASR was acquired by Utility Support Systems, Inc. in 2008

Universal Ensco / Universal Field Services (Vice President: 1996 – 1997)

- Responsible for right of way acquisitions, outside plant engineering staff, and business development in the southeastern United States.
- Managed right of way, engineering design, and consulting services for several utilities, including communications companies and electric providers.

BellSouth Consumer Multimedia Services (Manager: 1994 – 1996)

- Managed outside plant engineering and right of way responsibilities for BellSouth's entry into the Broadband Network and video dial-tone program in the southeastern United States.
- Assisted in the deployment of video dial-tone in Atlanta and several other locations within BellSouth's nine state territory.
- Responsible for outside plant design and construction to support video dial-tone projects, rights of way acquisition for the new facilities, and coordination of joint use matters, including all make ready activities necessary for the construction of BellSouth Entertainment's new hybrid fiber-coaxial networks.

BellSouth Outside Plant Engineering (1968 – 1994)

- Various Line and Staff Engineering responsibilities in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.
- Supervising Engineer responsible for outside plant engineering and budgets in West Georgia for 12 consecutive years. Responsible for outside plant design and construction, rights of way acquisition for the new facilities, and coordination of joint use matters, including all make ready activities necessary for provision of services and network maintenance and reliability.
- Responsible for Joint Use and Rights of Way for the North Sector of BellSouth (Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina) between 1987 and 1994.

WILFRED ARNETT

EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY

Mr. Arnett has provided expert testimony in numerous proceedings representing communications companies, numerous electric cooperatives, municipal power providers, and investor-owned utilities, including:

- Alabama Rural Electric Association
- Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
- Carroll Electric Cooperative (Georgia, North Carolina, Arkansas)
- CPS Energy (San Antonio, TX)
- Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (Louisiana)
- Entergy (all operating companies)
- Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
- Oncor Electric Utility (TX)
- Ozarks Electric Cooperative (Arkansas)
- Singing River Electric Cooperative (Mississippi)
- Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative
- Tri-County Electric (Azle, TX)
- BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (Atlanta)

ALLEN F. BELL

EDUCATION

B. S. Civil Engineering, N. C. State University

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Mr. Allen Bell has experience in the following general areas:

- Legislative and Regulatory Lobbying
- Pole Attachment Permitting and Make-Ready Construction Management
- Expert Witness Testimony
- Distribution Engineering
- Industrial and Construction Engineering

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Mr. Bell has over 30 years of experience and progressive responsibility in engineering management and pole attachment legislative and regulatory matters . His qualifications include legislative and lobbying experience, distribution, industrial, and construction engineering management, and regulatory affairs expertise. Mr. Bell's background includes extensive work with the Federal Communications Commission, the Georgia Utility Coordination Council, the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Edison Electric Institute, the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, and the Georgia Public Service Commission. He currently serves as a Contract Consultant for TRC's Joint Use Management group.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY LOBBYING

- Worked with Georgia Utility Coordination Council on several revisions of the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act
- Worked with Georgia Utility Coordination Council and the DOT on a bill to reform the utility relocation process
- Worked with individual municipalities around the state on approval of their amendment to Georgia Power's Franchise Agreement
- Worked with other electric utilities and EEI at the FCC on the VOIP Petition, the National Broadband Plan, 2011 Pole Attachment Order, Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, the 2018 Pole Attachment Order, the Disaster Recovery Subcommittee of the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee
- Developed relationships and worked with the staff at the Georgia Public Service Commission. Particularly involved with the regulatory issues for Southern Company Gas. (3 years)

EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY

Served on the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation team which testified before the Georgia Public Service Commission to establish a new statewide pole attachment contract in the fall of 2020.

ALLEN F. BELL

POLE ATTACHMENT AND ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

- **Distribution Support Manager** - Managed the individuals responsible for negotiating contracts and billing for \$40 million a year in pole attachment revenue. Managed the individuals responsible for pole attachment permitting and make-ready construction. Served on the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee at the FCC as the only investor-owned utility representative. Maintained relationships with the DOT Board and Staff in order to assure an effective working relationship with Georgia Power. Served on the Georgia 811 Board responsible for the protection of underground and overhead facilities around the state. (16 years)
- **Assistant to Western Region Vice President** - Supported the activities of a Vice President of Region Operations who had direct responsibility for the Employees, Customer Service and External Affairs in the business offices in the western third of the Georgia Power territory. (18 months)
- **Manager of Industrial Customers** - Lead a team whose goals were to increase market share and achieve customer loyalty for over 100 large customers representing \$120 million in annual revenue in West Central Georgia. Prior to this position, worked as an account executive directly responsible for 20 customers in the same area. Major team accomplishments included finishing in the top three in the state for five years in customer satisfaction including first in 1996. (6 years)
- **Distribution Engineer** - Designed and managed construction for extensions to the existing electrical distribution system in Columbus, GA for new facilities including subdivisions, commercial developments, single family dwellings and large industrial plants. Large projects have included a \$1.5 million installation for an industrial customer using an express feeder and a customer substation. Upgraded the existing system through replacement of old facilities and reconductoring as well as assuring proper coordination of the circuits in order to maintain a reliable power system. (4 years)
- **Sr. Power Marketing Engineer** - Promoted the use of electro-technologies to industrial customers and competitive loads such as space heat and water heat to commercial customers. Successful projects included the use of heat pumps in the air conditioning of 54 schools and the retention of 3 MW electric furnaces in a foundry. Provided assistance to both industrial and commercial customers in the area of electric rates and energy management. (3 years)
- **Associate Engineer and Construction Engineer** - As a member of the owner's engineering staff in the mechanical phase of nuclear plant construction, managed the pipe insulation contract, the completion of various systems throughout the plant including the main steam system and the installation of pipe supports in the containment building. (4 years)

TITUS J. DIAMOND, P.E.

EDUCATION

B.S. in Electrical Engineering, University of Florida, May 1983

M.B.A., Georgia College and State University, May 2003

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Mr. Titus Diamond has experience in the following general areas:

- Engineering and Operations Management
- Pole Attachment Contract Negotiations
- Electric Utility Operations
- Expert Witness Testimony

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Mr. Diamond has over 30 years of experience and progressive responsibility in engineering management and electric utility operations. His qualifications include extensive engineering design and management, pole attachment contract negotiations, expert witness testimony, and executive operational leadership of an electric utility. Mr. Diamond's background includes work with the electric cooperatives, Rural Utilities Service, Oglethorpe Power Company, Georgia Transmission Corporation, Georgia System Operations Corporation, and the Georgia Public Service Commission. He currently serves as a Contract Consultant for TRC's Joint Use Management group.

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Flint Electric Membership Corporation

- Directed Engineering and Operations for cooperative serving over 92,149 meters with 50 substations and over 6,888 miles of distribution line. This includes supervising the activities of 123 cooperative employees along with some 80 contract employees.
- Led cooperative power supply team bidding out and negotiating contracts with power supply vendors.
- Managed Fort Benning privatization contract for 20 years supplying significant additional revenue to the cooperative. Installed microgrid on Post.
- Served on executive staff as second in charge of the cooperative evaluating different areas of cooperative for efficiency. Have established relationships with cooperatives in Georgia including OPC, GTC, and GSOC serving on several committees.
- Developed effective relationships with Southern Power and Georgia Power through power supply contracts.
- Worked with RUS dealing with work plans and loan processes for over 37 years.
- Highly successful in bringing technology to the Engineering and Operations departments such as Outage Management, Graphical Information Systems (GIS), etc.
- Installed distribution automation in the rural portion of the cooperative's electrical system.
- Involved in budgeting process, power supply cost, rate study processes, analysis of operational and financial processes and ratios, and other activities of the cooperative to ensure members receive reliable service at the least possible cost.
- Reviewed vegetation management program with Operations including specifications and budgets.

TITUS J. DIAMOND, P.E.

- Directed Engineering and Operations for cooperative serving over 70,000 meters with 40 substations and over 5,674 miles of 12.5/25kV distribution line. This includes supervising the activities of 102 employees in the Staking, Line Construction, Right-Of-Way, Equipment Maintenance, Metering and Communications, and Planning Departments. SCADA, Load Management, UAI Mapping, TWACS, and Outage Management.
- Directed engineering for cooperative serving approximately 60,000 meters with 32 substations and 5,000 miles of 12.5/25kV distribution. This included supervising the activities of 45 employees in the Staking Department, Metering and Communications Department, Procurement, Equipment Maintenance Shop, Drafting and Engineering.
- Designed and built six (6) substations, and installed SCADA system. Performed detailed engineering studies such as Two-Year Work Plan, Long Range Plans and Power Requirement Studies. Negotiated relocation contracts with PCS companies such as AT&T, Sprint, etc. due to FCC auction of 2GHz frequencies.
- Played a major role in the acquisition of the electric utility system on the Fort Benning Army Base. The system included a 46kV transmission system, seven substations, and a 12.5kV distribution system.

Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc.

- Directed Engineering and Operations for rural cooperative serving some 55,520 members with over 28 substations and 5,503 miles of 12.5/25kV distribution lines. Cooperative had 230 employees. System also included approximately 56 miles of 69 kV transmission lines.
- Load Management and SCADA systems were expanded to improve reliability and performance and to reduce costs to member-consumers. Coordinated efforts in the design and construction of a 230/69kV, 70 MVA substation. Completed RUS Long Range and Two-Year Work Plans. Supervised department of 55 employees.

EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY

Served on the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation engineering team which testified before the Georgia Public Service Commission to establish a new statewide pole attachment contract in the fall of 2020.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

NRECA Manager Leadership Laboratory
NRECA Management Internship Program
IEEE NESC School
McGraw Overvoltage School

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Professional Engineering license from the State of Georgia, July 1990

BRENDA SEARS, P.E.

EDUCATION

B.S., Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATIONS/CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Professional Engineer, 7 States [OH, NC, SC, FL, NM, IL, NJ]

Principle voter of National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) Subcommittee 5

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Brenda Sears has management and technical experience in the following general areas:

- Make-Ready and Joint Use Program Management
- Attachment Services Start-up, Implementation, and Coordination
- FCC, PUC, and PSC Rulings and Requirements
- SPIDAcac (Structural Pole Loading)
- Interpretation and Application of NESC and GO95 Codes
- Process Improvements and Efficiencies

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Ms. Sears has over 20 years of experience and progressive responsibility as an Engineer and Manager and is a registered professional engineer in 7 states. Her qualifications include client acquisitions, project start-up, and planning; field and office design; and project management. Ms. Sears' background includes:

- Make Ready Engineering and Remediation
- NESC/GO95 Inspections
- Process Evaluations and Development
- Utility Construction Coordination
- Work Management Systems

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Ms. Sears is an instrumental member of TRC's Distribution Engineering Practice and maintains a consultant role with various TRC sectors. Currently, Ms. Sears is responsible for identifying and implementing process efficiencies while maintaining the level of quality that our clients expect. This includes advancements in technology and training as well as modifications of processes and deliverables. Prior to transitioning into her new role, Ms. Sears managed the attachment services work performed for Duke Energy, American Electric Power, Dayton Power & Light, Ameren, and Southern California Edison. In addition to client work, Ms. Sears is an active participant in various industry committees and meetings. Ms. Sears is a member of NESC Subcommittee 5 – Overhead Lines Strength and Loading. In this role, she reviews and votes on potential changes to the National Electrical Safety Code. Understanding that the code is the consensus standard to which almost all states and utilities adhere, many considerations must be taken into account when votes are cast.