

## STANDARDS OF RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE/VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

### I. PURPOSE

To establish the Cooperative's guidelines for right-of-way programs and to ensure good acceptance of Cooperative programs by property owners, members and the public. This policy is further necessary to seek to minimize interruptions in electric service that overgrown or fallen vegetation can cause. This practice applies to maintenance of transmission and distribution rights-of-way. This policy applies to each person(s) or business entity who is a member of the Cooperative.

### II. RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEARING AND RECLEARING SPECIFICATIONS

- A. Aerial primary line (7.2Kv/12.4Kv, 14.4Kv/24.9Kv, and 34.5Kv) in areas away from residences (outside of yard) may be cleared to a width of 30 feet for distribution facilities and 50 feet for transmission facilities, 15 feet (distribution) and 25 feet (transmission) on each side of a centerline, determined by the centerline of the electrical facilities as installed. Trees outside the 15/25 feet limit may be side trimmed, unless dead or leaning heavily toward line. In areas where there are aerial primary lines in the yard of a permanent residence, the clearance must be a minimum of 10 feet on either side of the conductor if obtainable.
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, danger trees (dead, dying, diseased, washed out) in or along the right-of-way, regardless of distance from the right-of-way, which present risks to the Cooperative's lines and facilities, or to property owners, members, or the public, may be removed or pruned to the extent that the hazard is removed. When danger trees are located on private property over which the Cooperative has no control, and if emergency conditions do not require immediate action, the Cooperative will make every reasonable effort to obtain permission of the landowner before removing or mitigating the hazard. Whenever possible, permission should be given in writing, signed by the landowner.
- C. Pruning techniques utilized shall be in accordance with established, sound horticultural principles. These principles include natural or lateral pruning, drop crotching, and directional pruning. Branches or limbs, which must be removed, are to be pruned back to a supporting branch or to the trunk of the tree whenever possible.
- D. Minimum tree trimming clearances between conductor and trees are as follows:
  - i. Aerial Primary Lines (7.2Kv/12.4Kv)- Minimum tree trimming clearances between primary phase conductor and trees or limbs are as follows: Top clearance 10 feet (fast growing species) Side Clearance 8 feet/10 feet (fast growing species) Overhang Clearance 10 feet/12 feet (fast growing species, remove if possible).

- ii. On secondary conductors (triplex or weatherproof), the minimum clearance to be obtained is six (6) feet on either side of any conductor.
- E. Down, span, and other guys shall be free of weight, strain or displacement due to pressure caused by contact with tree parts.
- F. Adequate side trimming to maintain 15/25 feet clearance from centerline will be done simultaneously with hand clearing, mechanical clearing, and chemical application. Tree limbs shall not be left hanging over the line.
- G. The Cooperative will use hand cutting, mechanical cutting, and chemical applications to maintain proper clearances in accordance with good industry practices.
- H. A bona fide attempt shall be made to contact all affected property owners before vegetation management is done. Member-consumers, by becoming members of the Cooperative, grant to the latter the right to clear, trim, remove or make chemical application to any trees, shrubbery and other vegetation which may be located on the Member-consumer's premises consistent with this policy. Cooperative employees, or contractors for the Cooperative may enter the same premises at reasonable times to repair, maintain or perform these clearance services outlined herein and any other duties necessary to maintain satisfactory service for the membership.
- I. All vegetation management shall be undertaken in accordance with accepted rural electric industry standards. All employees engaged in vegetation management shall be properly trained and appropriate schedules shall be established for inspecting the Cooperative's lines and related structures and for keeping a record thereof. All inspections and all requests for landowner permission should be properly documented.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The Line Superintendent, Operations Manager and the EVP/General Manager will be responsible for seeing that this practice is followed and for seeing that the best possible relations are maintained with property owners.

Date Approved: November 28, 2016

Date Amended: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_



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