

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 and provide for wildfire mitigation that overgrown, fallen, or otherwise right-of-way encroaching vegetation can cause, and to comply with industry standards and the National Electric Safety Code. This practice applies to the maintenance of transmission and distribution rights-of-way, and 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 vertically and horizontally 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. Tree limbs shall not be left overhanging the line.
- 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. In an emergency circumstance, when public safety may be at risk, the cooperative will take whatever action it deems necessary to protect the public, to and including removal of the encroaching vegetation.
- 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:
  - 1. Aerial Primary Lines (7.2Kv/12.4Kv, 14.4Kv/24.9Kv) located in the yard of a permanent residence - minimum tree trimming clearances between primary phase conductor and trees or limbs are as follows: Top clearance 10 feet (fast growing species). Removal of trees located directly below lines is recommended if permission

is granted. Side Clearance 10 feet (fast growing species). Tree limbs shall not be left overhanging the line.

2. On secondary conductors (triplex or weatherproof), the minimum clearance to be obtained is six (6) feet on either side of any conductor. Tree limbs shall not be left overhanging the lines.
- E. Down, span, and other guys shall be free of weight, strain, or displacement due to pressure caused by contact with tree parts.
- F. The Cooperative will use hand cutting, mechanical cutting, and chemical applications to maintain proper clearances in accordance with good industry practices.
- G. A bona fide attempt shall be made to make personal contact with all affected property owners before vegetation management is done. Whenever possible, permission should be given in writing by the landowner. When tree trimming is required in the yard of a permanent residence, if possible Wyrulec employees should meet with the landowner to identify the location of critical infrastructure such as wells and septic systems to avoid damage. 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.
- H. 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: April 23, 2024

Date Reviewed: April 23, 2024

  
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Board President