



SECTION: MEMBER POLICIES

POLICY NO. 615

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

LREC will maintain vegetation under, in and near its electric service and distribution lines, other facilities and easements and rights of way to promote safety, to minimize damage to service and distribution lines, to lessen the risk of line losses, and to minimize power outages and enhance reliability of service. In accordance with Section 2.9 of the Bylaws, members will allow LREC rights of access, rights of way, and/or easements (as determined by LREC) to their property for purposes of maintaining service, improving service, rebuilding service, repairing facilities and lines, and creating new service. The rights of access, rights of way, and/or easements will be used for tree trimming, tree cutting, tree clearing, tree removal, brush trimming, brush cutting, brush clearing, brush removal, vegetation trimming, vegetation cutting, vegetation clearing, vegetation removal, and any and all other vegetation management actions at LREC's discretion. This policy gives members and other landowners notice of LREC's systematic vegetation management practices.

I. OBJECTIVE

- A. To improve the safety, reliability, efficiency and cost effectiveness of electrical service by managing vegetation under, in and around power lines, easements, and rights of way.

II. PROVISIONS

A. Systematic Trimming

To minimize the interruption of electric service from power line contact and to permit equipment access to service powerlines, LREC maintains a systematic, powerline, easement and right-of-way vegetation management policy. LREC's goal is to work by substation, feeder and line section on a five-year cycle. Vegetation growth will be routinely cut, trimmed, removed and cleared under, in, around, and near power lines, electric facilities, easements, rights of access, and rights of way. Members shall permit LREC rights of access, rights of way, and/or easements (as determined by LREC) to their property for purposes of maintaining service, improving service, rebuilding service, repairing facilities and lines, and creating new service. The rights of access, rights of way, and/or easements will be used for tree trimming, tree cutting, tree clearing, tree removal, brush trimming, brush cutting, brush clearing, brush removal, vegetation trimming, vegetation cutting, vegetation trimming, vegetation removal, and any and all other vegetation management actions at LREC's discretion. Trees, vegetation, and brush in the clearance area will be removed, if possible. Where complete removal cannot be accomplished, trees, vegetation, and brush will be trimmed to maintain the scheduled interval.

1. Minimum Clearance Guidelines
 - a. Vegetation outside of the easement or right of way will be cleared to a minimum of ten feet from primary conductors or the distance of five years of regrowth, whichever is greater.
 - b. Vegetation outside the easement; Trees <10in DBH with any portion of canopy within 10ft of wire will be removed if they present a perceptible hazard to line and biologically responsible pruning is not possible. Additionally, trees deemed hazardous through Tree Risk Assessment by a TRAQ Arborist may also be removed; LREC is not liable for the cleanup of such trees.
 - c. Vegetation outside of the easement or right of way that is overhanging primary conductors will be cleared to sky.
 - d. Vegetation within the easement or right of way and underneath primary lines will be removed. Brush (trees under four inches DBH) will be removed, and trees will be trimmed a minimum of fifteen feet from the conductor or the distance of five years of regrowth, whichever is greater. Should the member decline the trimming or removal, they will be responsible for ongoing costs to maintain clearance.
 - e. If LREC does not have a signed and/or recorded easement for a member's property, LREC shall have all rights, interests and privileges afforded to it per LREC's bylaws, policies, and member agreement, and the member shall sign an easement in a form approved by LREC.
 - f. Neutral wire will be cleared ten feet in all directions.
 - g. Overhead secondary lines – 5 feet on triplex; 7 feet on bare conductor in all directions.
 - h. Underground primary and secondary lines – trim, cut or remove vegetation as needed to access underground lines.
 - i. Underground cabinets and vaults – 3 feet on back and sides; 10 feet in front.

(1) Trimming Options

(2) Transplant – Small trees (less than 10 feet tall) within the power line corridor, which will be more than 15 feet tall when mature, are incompatible with electric lines. These trees may be transplanted by the member, at the member's expense, at least 25 feet away from overhead power lines. Small trees not transplanted will be removed from the corridor. Tree transplant is the member's responsibility and will be completed within 60 days of notification of conflict.

(3) Underground – When conditions may allow, overhead line may be converted to underground at LREC's discretion. An LREC staking technician will estimate the cost to the member/landowner. The underground cost-share maintenance fee is billed and payable 30 days after receipt of the invoice, and the conversion to underground will not take place until the invoice is paid in full by member/landowner.

B. Miscellaneous Trimming

1. Member requests – Service orders will be created in response to member/landowner requests to trim, cut, clear, or remove trees, brushes, or other vegetation threatening power lines when not in the regular trimming cycle. LREC or its contractor will communicate with the member/landowner regarding the request. After trimming, cutting, clearing, or removal, the member/landowner is responsible for cleanup except in unusual circumstances as determined by LREC or its contractor. Member requests will be satisfied on a timeline that is most economic to LREC.
2. Storm damage – Storm damaged trees, brushes, or other vegetation will be cut and trimmed to correct hazardous situations and to allow for repair of electric lines. Clean up is the responsibility of the member/landowner.
3. Member-owned lines – LREC is not responsible for trimming, cutting, clearing, or removal of trees, brushes, or other vegetation endangering the property owner's lines located beyond the point of metering. At the member/landowner's request, LREC will de-energize lines so trimming or tree removal can be done safely.

C. Vegetation Control

One or more of the following vegetation management methods may be used at LREC's discretion depending on the vegetation mix. The manner and method will be determined by LREC and/or its contractor.

1. Complete removal of tree or trees in the right-of-way.
2. Hydro-axing, fecon, and brush mowing.
3. Foliar spraying with certified applicator using approved products.
4. Trimming and cutting back trees following minimum clearance guidelines and industry best practices.
5. Allowing low-growing vegetation to remain.
6. Replacing overhead line with underground to eliminate future vegetation management.
7. All Vegetation Management activities will be completed by LREC or a qualified contractor to the following industry guidelines and specifications:
 - a. ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards
 - b. OSHA 1910.269 training requirements
 - c. ANSI A300 (Part 1) – 2008 Pruning
 - d. Dr. Alex Shigo's "Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines" booklet
8. Drones, unmanned aircraft, and/or unmanned vehicles may be used by LREC and/or its contractors to assist with implementing the LREC's vegetation management program.

D. Cooperation

1. Reliable electric service is dependent upon implementation of an effective vegetation management program, which necessitates member and landowner cooperation. LREC and its members will work together under

the guidelines of this policy to affect vegetation management, but LREC will have the final decision on implementation of vegetation management. Members will allow vegetation management for the purpose of satisfying all LREC and member interests involved.

E. Alternative plans allowed at the discretion of LREC

1. LREC may offer an alternative vegetation management plan to a member so long as the alternative management plan is created, administered, and implemented at the member's cost and approved by LREC. The members' cost of such an alternative vegetation management plan will be at the discretion of LREC. Before an alternative vegetation management plan becomes enforceable, a written agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the alternative vegetation plan must be signed by the member and LREC.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

A. It is the responsibility of the CEO to direct administration of the policy.

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Tom Jennen, Chairman

Original, signed copy filed in Administrative Services