

**EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 511**

SUBJECT: LINE CLEARANCE AND RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

POLICY:

To ensure public safety, maintain system reliability, minimize outages and blinks caused by vegetation, create positive member relationships, and clearly define the member and Cooperative responsibility toward line clearance and right-of way (ROW) maintenance. The Cooperative will conduct cost-effective vegetation management services on a scheduled maintenance cycle that ensures vegetation clearance from power lines and equipment that is consistent with the most current engineered specifications and industry standard practices.

CONTENTS:

- A. Prior to the extension of overhead electrical service, the new member/applicant shall:
1. Provide a minimum of 30, to a preferred 60, feet of clearance limb-to-limb (15 to 30 feet on each side of the proposed line) for all new **overhead** primary distribution lines. All species of trees which grow over 15 feet tall must be cut to the ground if they are within 15 to 30 feet of the proposed new line. All limbs which hang within 15 to 30 feet of the line must be trimmed back to meet the clearance requirement. In addition, if any trees or limbs outside of the 15 to 30 feet requirement will impose a hazard to the future line, then they must be cut or trimmed. The Cooperative may require additional ROW clearance as determined by the Cooperative Engineering Department, in its sole discretion. If trees or limbs to be cut are near or will endanger an existing line, the member/applicant should not cut or trim them, but instead will be cut or trimmed by the Cooperative.
 2. Provide a minimum of 20, to a preferred 30, feet of clearance limb-to-limb (10 to 15 feet on each side of the proposed line) for all new **underground** primary distribution lines. All trees must be cut to the ground if they are within 10 to 15 feet of the proposed new line. All limbs which hang within 10 to 15 feet of the line must be trimmed back to meet the clearance requirement. The Cooperative may require additional ROW clearance as determined by the Cooperative Engineering Department, in its sole discretion. If trees or limbs to be cut are near or will endanger an existing overhead line, the member/applicant should not cut or trim them, but instead will be cut or trimmed by the Cooperative.
 3. Provide necessary ROW clearance for all new secondary distribution lines, whether underground or overhead. Necessary clearance will be determined by the Cooperative Engineering Department, in its sole discretion.
 4. Agree not to plant any trees within 15 to 30 feet of any Cooperative overhead distribution line, nor within 10 to 15 feet of any underground distribution line.
 5. The member/applicant shall notify the Cooperative Engineering Department when the ROW for the new line has been cleared. Where extensive cutting or trimming is required, a Cooperative representative will inspect the ROW before construction crews are sent to construct the line. The line will not be constructed until the ROW requirements are not met.

**EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 511**

B. The Cooperative is responsible for maintaining tree clearance for primary and secondary owned by the Cooperative, and will maintain the Cooperative's overhead and underground right-of way as follows:

1. The Cooperative requires that the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Tree Care Operations standard practices relating to quality tree care, pruning, and integrated vegetation management be followed to the extent possible when planned maintenance is being performed in the vicinity of the Cooperative's electric lines and equipment. Employees and Cooperative Contractors shall also adhere to ANSI Z133.1 Safety Standards.
2. Member is responsible for tree clearance on member owned lines. The Cooperative strongly recommends the member hire a professional tree service to ensure member safety and prevent damage to electric lines.
3. Trees that endanger Cooperative-owned secondary lines (that portion of the line located from the transformer to the meter) may be cut down or pruned by the Cooperative to eliminate any immediate hazard. Covered secondary lines will not receive the same level of priority as uncovered lines.
4. Vegetation maintenance along primary lines (those between the substation and the service transformer) and transmission lines owned by Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC) in which the Cooperative has primary lines attached will be maintained. The appropriate vegetation management practices will be utilized at the discretion of the Cooperative's vegetation management staff to achieve the required line clearances until the next maintenance cycle.
5. Underground primary lines and structures, the ROW corridor will be managed to a minimum of seven and a half (7.5) feet either side of the center line. The corridor and all structures shall remain clear and accessible, by the member, to not hinder operations and or cause damage to facilities.
6. Overhead primary lines, trees and brush growing within the ROW corridor, outside of the home landscape, shall be removed by the Cooperative. Overhead ROW corridors shall be managed to a minimum fifteen (15) feet for single phase distribution, a minimum twenty (20) feet for multiphase distribution, and a minimum forty (40) feet for transmission lines to either side of pole center. Primary lines shall be trimmed, as to not have any overhang while maintaining the health of the tree. When overhanging branches are left on trees, they should appear to be structurally able to withstand the stress of wind, snow, and ice.
7. Trees outside the ROW corridor, which are dead, dying, structurally defective, or otherwise pose a danger of falling on the lines (deemed "hazard trees"), shall also be removed.
8. Landscape and/or yard trees are trees located within an established lawn area or are ornamental specimens growing within the home landscape and/or yard. Generally, the main trunk of landscape and/or yard trees should be ten (10) feet or more from the vertical plane of the wires for distribution lines. Landscape and/or yard trees will be trimmed to provide clearance until the next scheduled maintenance cycle. The pruning distance will depend upon the species, cycle length, and location of the tree. Landscape

**EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 511**

and/or yard trees requiring repetitive pruning or those which are disfigured while achieving necessary clearance may be selected for removal with the property owner's consent. All live wood in a range from three (3) to sixteen (16) inches in diameter (pending equipment capabilities) will be chipped in a landscape and/or yard location. All wood larger than 16 inches in diameter from a trimmed or removed tree shall be cut into lengths no shorter than 16 inches in diameter for the property owner to dispose of.

9. All dead, dying, or defective limbs of authorized work, which may interfere with or endanger operational safety and line maintenance, shall be removed even if they may be outside the clearance specified.
10. During maintenance cycle work, in non-landscaped and/or yard areas, small branches may be mulched or windrowed. Larger limbs and tree trunks will be left on site for disposal by the property owner. All wood and brush debris shall not be left within public, road, or utility rights-of-way, and must be moved to an area (edge) that will not interfere with utility access or flow of streams and irrigation ditches.
11. All stumps shall be cut at a height no greater than six (6) inches above ground and treated with an approved herbicide unless off-site contact is possible or if the tree is unaffected by the herbicide (i.e. most evergreens). All brush stumps shall be flush cut, resulting in no "spears" left in ROW.
12. When forestry work is necessary because 1) trees have caused a power outage, or 2) because trees have died and present a hazard, all debris will be left for disposal by the property owner.
13. Dead and or dying trees are generally presumed to be infested with disease or insects (Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm, Oak Wilt, etc.). Trees not infested with disease or insects (Infested is greater than 30% canopy dieback) shall be removed to the Cooperative specifications. Cooperative specifications state that brush will be chipped, hauled off site, and logs will be cut and stacked on-site. Dead, and or dying, trees that are generally presumed to be infested with disease or insects will be made safe (below the overhead line) and all debris left on site.
14. Tree management requests made by a member will be investigated by the Cooperative to determine whether the tree poses a hazard to the power lines. The Cooperative will prune or remove trees that are hazardous to the power lines. The Cooperative may provide assistance to the member by temporarily dropping secondary lines to accommodate member removal of a tree near the secondary. Disposal of all debris from a tree management request by a member is the responsibility of the member.
15. It is the practice of the Cooperative to use herbicides, as needed, to manage trees and brush within the ROW corridor. Tree growth regulators may be used to control the growth rate following pruning. Applications of chemicals to manage vegetation will be performed according to appropriate State and Federal regulations that govern their use.
16. When available, door-to-door contacts, brochures, door hangers, phone messages, and/or electronic communications will be used to notify property owners of vegetation management work. It is the responsibility of the member to keep all methods of contact information up to date with the Cooperative. No advance notice will be given prior to off-

**EGYPTIAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION
POLICY BULLETIN NO. 511**

schedule work, including the removal of hazard or storm-damaged trees for power restoration activities.

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Attested: Gilbert Kroening, Secretary

Attested: Randall Campbell, Secretary