



EEA Maintenance Master Plan - Vegetation Management

SUMMARY

A continued right-of-way (ROW) maintenance program is essential to assure service reliability. Contact of exposed overhead wires with trees is unacceptable because of the potential service interruptions, complaints, and the safety of the general public.

Empire has adopted a cyclical approach to vegetation management and will inspect overhead lines for intrusive vegetation at a minimum of every 5 years. Vegetation will be removed or trimmed in such a way to reasonably assume any vegetation addressed will not contact or interfere with the electrical system during the following inspection cycle to mitigate the risk of vegetation contacting or interfering with the electrical system.

The National Electric Safety Code, the International Society of Arboriculture's *Best Management Practices – Utility Pruning of Trees* handbook, and the EEA Right of Way Guide will be used as guides for determining when and how vegetation should be trimmed or removed.

Empire employs a contract crew(s) on an annual basis for the purpose of clearing trees and brush from EEA powerlines.

OBJECTIVE

- I. Vegetation management is conducted under the following objectives:
 - A) Maps are used to schedule vegetation management on the system.
 - B) Ensure that the entire system is to be trimmed on a five year trim cycle. An annual review is to be conducted between the vegetation management contractor and the Line Superintendent of Maintenance to review the annual results to ensure the system is being trimmed on a five-year cycle.
 - C) Records will be kept on file of the location's trees are trimmed and removed. The Sample (ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREE REMOVAL OR TREE TRIMMING) form attached will be used to record the data.
- II. Methods of control include but are not limited to:
 - A) Mechanical
 - B) Hand
 - C) Chemical
- III. Results of the program are to be reported to the Operations Manager on a monthly basis.