

Board of Directors Policy

Subject: Vegetation Management			Policy No: 301
Original Issue: 6/15/16	Last Revised: 4/17/19	Last Reviewed: 4/17/19	Page 1 of 3

I. OBJECTIVE

To maintain La Plata Electric Associations Inc.'s (Cooperative's) property and rights-of-way in a manner that ensures the safety of landowners, employees and the public, as well as comply with National Electrical Safety Code, federal, state, and local laws and regulations pursuant to the operation of electrical facilities.

II. POLICY AND PROCEDURES

- A. When necessary, the Cooperative will obtain any required government permits or applicable authorization for vegetation and tree removal or trimming prior to engaging in any vegetation removal. The Cooperative will comply with all applicable federal, state, municipal, and tribal laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations regarding vegetation removal.
- B. The Cooperative shall seek to trim/remove any vegetation and/or trees that in the Cooperative's opinion presents an immediate hazard, danger, or substantial risk to the Cooperative's employees, power lines, or facilities.
- C. The Cooperative will use hand cutting, pruning, and mechanical cutting to maintain proper clearances in accordance with recognized industry engineering and electrical safety practices.
- D. For the safety of the Cooperative's employees, members, and system, and the public at large, the Cooperative will strive to remove all Hazardous Trees, whether located within the Cooperative's right-of-way, a public right-of-way, or on private property. When located on private property, the Cooperative will seek the landowner's permission prior to removing the Hazardous Tree or remove the line from service to allow the landowner to safely remove the Hazardous Tree. If the landowner refuses to have the Hazardous Tree removed, the Cooperative shall document the refusal and maintain a record of the landowner's decision and the Cooperative's request. A "Hazardous Tree" shall be defined as a tree that, in the Cooperative's opinion, is dead, severely damaged, or may present reasonable risks to the Cooperative's lines and facilities.

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- E. The Cooperative will strive to remove all trees, whether hazardous or not, growing beneath the Cooperative's lines in a public right-of-way or the Cooperative's right-of-way. All trees that can be reasonably removed from private rights-of-way, with the landowners' permission, shall be removed. A special effort shall be made to remove all young trees in rights-of-way while they are small and before they become a potential hazard to the power line. Brush and other vegetation that could potentially become a hazard will be removed during regular tree trimming procedures.
- F. To the extent that it is impractical or beneficial to remove a tree from a public right-of-way or the Cooperative's right-of-way, the Cooperative shall trim the tree to the extent that the designated minimum clearance area will be kept free of growth until the next scheduled trimming cycle. The Cooperative shall maintain appropriate records of tree trimming to ensure adequate retrimming is accomplished.
- G. The Cooperative has no affirmative duty to remove trees outside the Cooperative's rights-of-way. However, the Cooperative will work with landowners to remove trees that are, or could become, a danger to the Cooperative's power lines and facilities. With a written request from a landowner, the Cooperative may assist the landowner with the removal of any tree outside the right-of-way at no cost to the landowner, as long as the Cooperative has identified the tree as either a Hazardous Tree or a tree that could become a Hazardous Tree.
- H. The Cooperative shall be responsible for removing all branches and other debris from vegetation and tree removal inside the Cooperative's right-of-way, unless the landowner directs the Cooperative otherwise and signs an agreement indemnifying the Cooperative from any damage associated with leaving the branches and other debris. Removal of any branches or other debris from outside the Cooperative's right-of-way shall be the sole responsibility of the landowner, unless otherwise agreed upon in writing. Stumps shall be cut as close to ground level as possible. Complete removal of a stump is the responsibility of the landowner.

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- I. The Cooperative shall maintain a tree trade-out program. The tree trade-out program will allow a landowner to receive a tree to replace a tree that the Cooperative removes completely from the Cooperative's right-of-way. To be eligible for the program, the landowner must: i) sign a tree trade-out contract; and ii) designate an alternative planting location that is agreeable to the Cooperative. The Cooperative will remove all eligible trees and provide the landowner a tree trade-out certificate. The landowner may choose to keep the wood from the removed trees.
- J. The Cooperative shall control vegetation and trees around its property, including the fenced boundaries and within its substations, to ensure the safety of its members, employees, and the public while maintaining the reliability and integrity of the Cooperative's power lines and facilities.
- K. The Cooperative will establish a communication program to allow the public to notify the Cooperative of trees in and around the Cooperative's power lines that are or could become a hazard. The Cooperative shall encourage members to report trees that are potential hazards, in and outside the Cooperative's rights-of-way, which may become a threat to public safety and/or the system's reliability.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The Chief Executive Officer shall be responsible for the administration of this policy.

4/17/2019

Date


Secretary