

POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

I. OBJECTIVE

- A. To establish a comprehensive power line right-of-way clearing, re-clearing and maintenance program, which will promote safety, continuity of service and cost effectiveness.
- B. To ensure compliance with Rural Utilities Service's (RUS) recommended multiple-method right-of-way maintenance approach.
- C. To provide for employee and public safety and environmental protection by ensuring that only unrestricted chemicals are used in any right-of-way treatment program and that all laws and regulations are strictly observed.
- D. To provide for maximum benefits to GVEA and the State of Alaska by inviting appropriate agencies to monitor the program and by maintaining accurate records, so that results can be verified.
- E. To provide for "owner right-of-way maintenance" at no cost to GVEA when the property owner requests it and certain requirements are met.
- F. To provide for member education, understanding and support for GVEA's right-of-way maintenance program.

II. POLICY

- A. The Board recognizes the important interrelationship between effective power line right-of-way maintenance, safety, outage prevention and cost control. Right-of-way maintenance must be planned for the life of the facilities, which is normally 35 years. Maintenance is much more effective and economical if done systematically on a regular basis than if done on an as-fails, emergency basis.
- B. The Board accepts RUS's recommendation that an effective program contain provisions for multiple methods, that is, manual, mechanical and chemical vegetation control.
- C. The Board realizes the importance of public and member understanding and support for the maintenance program. Maintenance is most often performed on property, which is owned by others—not by GVEA. The program will operate smoothly and satisfactorily only if the vital ingredient of cooperation is present.

- D. The following requirements for implementation of GVEA's right-of-way maintenance program shall apply:
1. GVEA will employ a multi-method approach to right-of-way maintenance, using manual, mechanical (mowing) and chemical means, as appropriate, for vegetation control; however, the use of chemicals will require prior approval by the Board.
 2. A procedures manual will be written and kept current and will govern execution of the program. Any accident or incidents will be reported to the Vice President for Operations and a record maintained. Records will also be kept of all maintenance operations. Copies of the procedures manual will be available to members on request. Records of accidents or incidents and maintenance operations will be kept in such a manner that the Board may review annually the effectiveness, cost and member acceptance of this policy.
 3. The Association's Policy 3.9 (Safety Program) and posted safety manual will govern all maintenance operations.
 4. When chemical treatment is used, all federal and state laws will be followed, including public notice requirements. Labeling requirements will be strictly followed.
 5. Only non-restricted chemicals, as defined by the Environmental Protection Agency or Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (EPA or ADEC) will be used where chemical treatment is employed.
 6. Insurance required by the DEC will be maintained. Higher coverage may be obtained if considered advisable, based on advice from GVEA's insurance carriers and risk managers.
 7. If GVEA intends to use chemicals during a calendar year, between January 1 and April 1 of each such year, the Vice President for Operations will contact the ADEC and copy the UAF Experimental Farm, the Institute of Arctic Biology, and the Cooperative Extension Service to share GVEA's plans for the year and invite them to make suggestions and conduct field observations of GVEA's maintenance operations.
 8. Where concerns for safety and effective maintenance can adequately be met, GVEA will provide for owner right-of-way maintenance when the member wishes to avoid mechanical clearing or chemical application on the member's property. The member will be required to sign an agreement providing for satisfactory maintenance at no cost to the Association and providing adequate indemnity.

9. No right-of-way maintenance may be performed unless GVEA has the legal right or the owner's permission to do so.
10. GVEA will carry on a continuing member information and education program regarding its right-of-way maintenance program and will inform members of the self-maintenance program.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Vice President for Operations will be responsible the administration of GVEA's right-of-way maintenance program and will provide and keep current written procedures governing the day-to-day operation of the program.
- B. The President & CEO will report to the Board in December of each year concerning the methods used and results of the program.
- C. The President & CEO will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy.

ADOPTED: April 15, 1987
AMENDED: June 26, 2017