

ST. CROIX ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

1925 Ridgeway Street
Hammond, WI 54015

POLICY BULLETIN 604

Rights-of-Way and Maintenance

I. POLICY

Every applicant requesting electric service shall provide without cost to the Cooperative, right-of-way easements to allow the Cooperative to extend or furnish service to the applicant and to other Cooperative members and customers. The rights-of-way may be used generally for constructing, operating, maintaining and upgrading of the Cooperative's electrical system. The easement rights will include the right to remove, clear, cut or trim trees and other vegetation in the right-of-way area, whether by mechanical or by chemical means, as described in Administrative Policy 604A, and to trim or remove danger trees outside the specified width of the right-of-way. At the request of the Cooperative, applicant will sign a written easement agreement to confirm the Cooperative's easement rights, in a form suitable for recording in the Office of the County Register of Deeds. If the applicant is not the owner of the land where the right-of-way is located, applicant shall obtain, at no cost to the Cooperative, the consent of the landowner to the necessary rights-of-way and signatures for the necessary recordable easement agreement. Upon receiving the easement agreements, the Cooperative shall record them. However, nonrecording of an easement agreement shall not in any way impair the Cooperative's easement rights. The rights-of-way shall not be abandoned except by specific direction of the Board of Directors.

The applicant requesting electric service shall have the responsibility to provide a cleared path on the right-of-way sufficient for the installation of the Cooperative's facilities. For underground construction the minimum width of the right-of-way shall be ten (10) feet on either side of the route of the proposed line. For overhead construction the minimum width of the right-of-way shall be ten (10) feet on either side of the proposed pole line and extending upward for an unlimited height. Before Cooperative facilities will be installed, the land within the right-of-way shall be within one (1) foot of its final grade and free of standing water, large rocks or other debris, stumps, brush and trees larger than one (1) inch in diameter.

The Cooperative shall follow a program of scheduled maintenance to maintain its rights-of-way in a manner so as to reasonably minimize the number of outages and outage restoration time, maintain power quality, and reasonably reduce potential hazards to the general public and personal property, all consistent with maintaining a reasonable cost of service to its members. In maintaining its rights-of-way, the Cooperative may cut, trim, clear and remove (by mechanical or by chemical means) those trees, branches, shrubs, and other vegetation as it deems reasonably necessary or prudent. The minimum right-of-way clearing and maintenance areas shall generally be the strips of the widths described above, as may be modified from time to time by decision of the Board of Directors, except as may be otherwise defined in particular easement agreements with specific members.

The Cooperative reserves the right to modify the methods and widths for right-of-way maintenance to maintain its standards of service quality, including access to the line for regular scheduled maintenance or outage response. Where there is no express easement agreement or the right-of-way maintenance area is not specifically defined, or in areas adjoining public road rights-of-way where Cooperative facilities are located, the right-of-way maintenance areas shall be the strips of land centered on the power lines with the widths previously described in this policy.

It is not uncommon for trees outside the right-of-way strip to grow or to lean in such a fashion as to threaten the safety or reliability of the Cooperative's lines and facilities within the right-of-way strip. The Cooperative reserves the right to trim or remove any trees outside of the specified right-of-way maintenance areas that the Cooperative determines may pose a threat to public safety or to the Cooperative's facilities.

This policy was duly adopted by the Board of Directors pursuant to Article V, § 8 of the by-laws, is incorporated in the membership agreements with the Cooperative's members and is binding upon all of the members of the St. Croix Electric Cooperative.

Due to the expense of the necessary right-of-way maintenance and vegetation clearing, and the relative length of Cooperative lines per member-customer served, it is not consistent with a reasonable cost based system of providing electric service to Cooperative members, to trim only selected branches on trees growing within the area for right-of-way maintenance. This policy authorizes the Cooperative to remove all trees and other vegetation that might impede Cooperative access or maintenance to its power line, anywhere within the width of the right-of-way described in this policy. The Cooperative reserves the right, in its sole judgment, to modify its maintenance practices or use other measures for right-of-way maintenance provided that those measures preserve the reliability and reasonable cost of service to the Cooperative's members.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of the President / CEO to enforce this policy.

Date Adopted: 05/06/93

Date Amended: 12/02/02

Date Amended: 11/01/10

Date Amended: 06/06/16