Management Policy 703-52

DANGER/HAZARD TREE PROGRAM

In the interest of safety and reliability, MEA shall maintain a program to eliminate hazards posed by trees to MEA overhead and underground facilities whether such hazards are reported by MEA employees or the public.

A danger/hazard tree shall be defined as structurally unsound tree, located on or off the right of way, that could come into contact with power lines by growing, falling or swaying into energized lines. The MEA Clearing Department shall evaluate all danger/hazard tree reports based upon pre-established criteria to determine if the tree or trees should be removed by MEA. Each member reporting a danger/hazard tree shall be notified of the determination made by the Clearing Department. Trees meeting the danger/hazard tree criteria will be removed by MEA personnel at no cost to the member. Trees not meeting the danger/hazard tree criteria will not be removed by MEA personnel. Trees or limbs shall only be removed by MEA from service lines if they are in direct contact with the service line or pose an immediate danger to the service line.

MEA shall prioritize danger/hazard tree removal based upon the degree of danger/hazard and whether the danger is to a primary or service line. Trees posing a hazard to primary lines shall be given the highest priority. Trees shall only be taken down on property owned by the member making the request. Any member requesting tree removal outside of an existing MEA easement shall be required to sign a hold-harmless agreement to relieve MEA of liability in the event of property damage.

Debris from trees inside MEA's easement shall be chipped or mulched with larger logs stacked along the edge of the MEA easement in a safe manner and location. Debris from trees outside of MEA's easement shall not be removed but shall be placed in a safe location close to where the work was performed. Removal of this debris shall be the member's responsibility.

Joe Griffith, General Manager

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