

## Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection

### Attachment 5, Bi-Annual Tree Management and Reduction Strategy

#### SUMMARY

This attachment discusses the management and reduction strategy of trees planned for bi-annual pre-inspection patrol. A bi-annual tree is a tree that cannot be prescribed enough clearance to maintain one-year compliance and no other alternatives are available. The bi-annual patrol cycle intends to effectively address fast growing trees that may not hold compliance for a full cycle and the customer is refusing removal of the tree(s).

#### 1 Bi-Annual Patrol and Identification

##### NOTE

Due to unpredictable growth and proximity to the lines, Major Woody Stems with epicormic sprouting are not managed as bi-annuals and the tree should be removed.

- 1.1 The Vegetation Management Inspector (VMI) must DETERMINE if the prescription will achieve enough clearance to maintain the MDR based on anticipated growth rates to the next annual work cycle.
  1. IF one year of clearance can be achieved,  
THEN the VMI must PRESCRIBE the tree for routine priority.
  2. IF clearance cannot be achieved,  
THEN the VMI must ATTEMPT to obtain customer approval for removal.
    - a. IF the customer refuses removal,  
THEN the VMI must CONTACT the VM Representative (or Delegate).
- 1.2 The VPL or VM Representative (or Delegate) must ATTEMPT to obtain customer approval for removal.
  1. IF the customer refuses, THEN the VPL or VM Representative (or Delegate) must FOLLOW the steps in the Utility Procedure [TD-7102P-04, "Vegetation Management Distribution Interference"](#)  
AND ESCALATE to the Vegetation Program Manager (VPM).

##### NOTE

IF land rights allow, THEN REMOVE tree.

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- 1.3 The VPL and VPM (or Delegate) must CONSIDER the mitigation options outlined in Table 1

AND DETERMINE a course of action for the tree.

1. IF the tree cannot maintain compliance on a bi-annual work schedule,  
  
THEN the VPL or VM Representative (or Delegate) and VPM must move forward with the step instructions in the Utility Procedure [TD-7102P-04, "Vegetation Management Distribution Interference"](#) to enable removal.

- 1.4 IF the VPM approves the tree for bi-annual patrol,  
  
THEN the VMI, VPL, or VM Representative (or Delegate) must PRESCRIBE the bi-annual priority.

## 2 Mitigation Strategies for Bi-Annals

A bi-annual is a tree that should be inspected between routine inspections to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Management alternatives detailed in Table 1 must be considered before listing a tree as a bi-annual.

**Table 1. Bi-Annual Mitigation Strategies**

| Options                          | Considerations   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Interference                     | 1. IF property owners, land managers, Federal, State or local agency policies or site conditions restrict, constrain, or otherwise interfere with the ability to meet the requirements of this procedure,<br><br>THEN FOLLOW the instructions in the <a href="#">TD-7102P-04, "Vegetation Management Distribution Interference"</a> procedure. |
| Increase Line Clearance Distance | 1. DETERMINE whether the previous clearance distance maintained compliance for at least one work cycle.<br>a. CHECK the last tree work date in VMD.<br>2. INCREASE clearance to match site conditions and species' specific growth rates.  |
| Change Prescription              | 1. DETERMINE whether the previous prescription contributed to the tree NOT maintaining compliance for at least one work cycle.<br>2. PRESCRIBE directional pruning versus topping (if possible).   |
| Seek Removal                     | 1. Is this an appropriate removal?<br>a. REFER to Appendix G, "Further Guidance on Removal Criteria" in the Utility Procedure <a href="#">TD-7102P-01, "Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection."</a>  |

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| Seek Removal<br>(Continued)   | <p>2. Will replacement tree(s) facilitate successful removal negotiations with the customer?</p> <p>3. Do the land rights give PG&amp;E the authority to remove the tree in question?</p>   |
| <p>Seek Engineering and Line Construction Solutions</p> <p><i>For VPM VPL, or VM Representative (or Delegate) consideration only.</i></p> <p><i>Do not share with customer.</i></p> | <p>1. NOTE that the best time to address the adverse effects of trees on distribution lines is at the time of initial design.</p> <p>2. NOTIFY the VPL or VM Representative (or Delegate) of potential infrastructure alterations, including new line construction, upgrades to the electrical system, and road widening or relocation projects.</p> <p>3. CONSIDER overhead construction alternatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alley or wing arm construction</li> <li>• Compact construction</li> <li>• Covered overhead primary (i.e., Raychem)</li> <li>• Squirrel guard on tree (use “side wrap” code in the system of record)</li> <li>• Spacer (Hendrix) system (combination of covered wire and compact construction)</li> <li>• Aerial cable</li> </ul> <p>4. NOTE that only in exceptional cases can the cost of converting an existing system to an alternative construction type be justified based on reliability, avoided cost of future tree maintenance, or infrastructure repair.</p> |

### REVISION NOTES

| Where?          | What Changed?  |
|-----------------|--|
| Entire Document | Reviewed document as part of the distribution consolidation efforts. Minor formatting changes to align with Doc Governance template standards.   |
| Table 1         | Revised the language in “Seek Removal” row and removed herbicide sentence. Referenced the new Appendix “Further Guidance on Removal Criteria in TD-7102P-01, Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection” procedure. |