

## Solution / Plan

In order to properly maintain a safe, reliable affordable continuous operation of Alger Delta's electrical power lines it is imperative that we keep these lines free of trees.

Vegetation Management as it relates to safe, reliable, affordable electric services is an ongoing commitment that benefits all members and is one of the main objectives of the Board of Directors as well as the Management Team at Alger Delta.

Alger Delta's Vegetation Management program begins with the long-range plan which was prepared by management and approved by the Board of Directors. It is the current goal to clear the right of way every 5-7 years.

The actual Right-of-Way work is determined by management from information taken from outage reports, line inspections and previous Right-of-Way work completed. From this information management determines which lines need the most maintenance. Whenever feasible, notification of our maintenance is given to our members via direct mail, phone calls from Alger Delta or from the tree contractor.

### 2015 Planned Preventative Maintenance Target Areas

- Maple Ridge
- Tie Lake
- 16 Mile Lake
- Garden Corners

### 2015 Capital Improvement Target Areas

- Round Lake

*Note: The Round Lake capital improvement project is in the current Work Plan suggested by our Professional engineer and approved by the Board of Directors. The work is tentatively scheduled for the end of 2015 / beginning of 2016. Prior to the work being done Right-of-Way clearing will need to take place. The reason for this particular capital improvement project is to increase power reliability to the members by reduced power outages.*

### Topping (myth vs facts):

- Invites disease, insects and tree rot
- Increases maintenance costs
- Creates unsafe conditions
- Creates an ugly tree
- Leads to tree death
- Reduced property value

### Vegetation Management Contractor:

Our contractor (s) are licensed trained professionals and we are very pleased with their work.

If our contractor (s) will be cutting in your area Alger Delta as well as the contractor will make every reasonable effort to contact the members who will be effected.

Your cooperation is appreciated when contractor arrives on your property to either communicate future plans or when they are there to trim or remove trees and other vegetation from the power line easement. The reliability and cost of our service to yourself and other members depends in a large extent – on you. .

### 2015 Tree Contactor

Bugle Contracting

**Members are asked to report any trees which may interfere with power lines or leaning trees that may cause a problem now or in the future.**

***Note: Please keep in mind that if we do not respond immediately, it is because our system covers parts of six counties and we try to arrange to take care of all reported trees, once our contractor is in your area.***



## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT LINE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



### OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
1-906-428-4141  
1-800-562-0950

426 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street,  
Gladstone, MI, 49837

## HISTORY

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association is comprised of 998 miles of overhead electric distribution lines in six counties since its founding in 1937.

Presently, Alger Delta averages 7.3 members per mile of line as compared to 60 plus consumers of other local utilities. The end result is that we have considerably more miles of line to maintain at a higher cost per member / consumer than surrounding utilities.

One of the stipulations when a person signs up to be a member of Alger Delta and receive electrical service is an agreement between the member and the cooperative to allow line maintenance including tree trimming and removal in the right-of-way. This agreement gives Alger Delta a legal obligation to remove from the right-of-way, 15 feet on each side of the line, anything that may interfere with Alger Delta's responsibility to ensure safe, reliable electric services for ALL cooperative members.



## WHY CLEAR THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

**Safety:** For Members and Employees

**Reliability:** For Homes and Businesses

**Cost:** Keeping Electricity Affordable

### SAFETY

Trees that are growing through or close to electrical power lines create a safety hazard to the members as well as the general public. Overhead electrical lines can be energized at 34,500 volts. Merely brushing up against these wires can result in an accident or a fatality.

### RELIABILITY

**Intermittent Power:** This occurs when a tree or a tree limb occasionally comes in contact with a power line. This is usually the situations when experiencing “blinking lights”. When there is intermittent power it can effect things like burglar alarms, computers, smoke detectors, clocks, TV's, microwaves, DVD players and heating systems.

**Power Outage:** This usually means damaged or broken electrical lines which may affect a small; or more likely, a large area of members.

- First and foremost the feeling of anxiety of our members during a power outage. During an outage things like lights, radios, TV's fridges, pumps and heating systems will not have power for operation.
- When these outages occur during working hours or more importantly during non-working hours typically crews must be called in to work on the electrical system often in severe weather conditions in very remote areas.

## COST

**Line Loss:** Line loss is the difference between the wholesale power purchased by Alger Delta and that price which it is sold to its members. Line loss occurs when trees, parts of trees, limbs, branches, ect. Come in contact with electrical wires. When anything comes in contact with an electrical wire it sends electrical current through that object. When a tree comes in contact with an electrical line that tree robs electricity that the members could use. Line loss due to tree contact amounts to thousands of dollars each year. This has a direct impact on the overall Energy Efficiency of the electrical system.

**Outages / Intermittent Power:** As previously mentioned during a power outage or intermittent power situations Alger Delta employees typically work extended hours to repair electrical services and many times outside contractors are utilized for additional resources.

**Clearing the right of way will have a direct and significant impact on Safety, Reliability as well as short term and long term Costs for not only yourself but all Alger Delta Cooperative Members.**