

## Lesson Learned

### Vegetation Management — Multiple Contractors/Single Line

#### Primary Interest Groups

Transmission Owners

#### Problem Statement

A single span of 500kV transmission line was inadvertently left out of an entity's vegetation management program when separate contracts for two different contractors were awarded on a single long-distance transmission line.

#### Details

A transmission owner awarded separate contracts to perform vegetation management work on one of its long-distance 500 kV transmission lines. Due to the length and geographic location of this line, the work was awarded to two different contractors. However, when the contracts were signed, one company was assigned an end point of one tower and the other company was assigned a start point of the next tower. This meant that the span between the two towers was not under either company's contract. The single span of 500kV was not maintained for two maintenance cycles before the error was discovered.

#### Corrective Actions

The entity, upon discovery, corrected the error of non-inclusion of the single span by adding the span to one of the current vendor's contracts and verified the area not maintained was inspected and within the limits as specified in the entity's vegetation management plan.

#### Lesson Learned

- When awarding vegetation management contracts on single long-distance lines to multiple vendors, it should be verified that all spans are covered by the multiple contracts and no spans have been inadvertently left out, paying particular attention to start and end points.
- After a line is maintained, a visual inspection should be made of the end points of the contracts, as well as random spans. All contracts on that line should be available to the inspector to ensure nothing was inadvertently missed, either in the creation of the contract, or by the contractors.

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