

Meeting Highlights Vegetation Management SDT — Project 2007-07

March 3-6, 2009 | 8 a.m.–noon MST

Conference Call Information

Dial-In Number: (866) 289-4175

Conference Code: 6310586983

WebEx Site: <https://nerc.webex.com/>

Password: standards

Doubletree Hotel Reid Park
445 S. Alvernon Way
Tucson, AZ 85711

1. The chair, Richard Dearman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

The following drafting team members were in attendance:

1. Richard Dearman
2. Tom Andersen
3. Steve Cieslewicz
4. Randy Gann
5. Ed Mennella
6. John Schechter
7. John Tamsberg
8. Steve Tankersley
9. Ron Turley
10. Gary White
11. Ken Wright
12. David Morrell

The following drafting team members participated by WEB-EX:

1. Ron Adams
2. Steve Genua

The following FERC staff members were in attendance:

1. Chris Young
2. Ibrahim Oweis

2. The standards coordinator, Harry Tom, reviewed the Antitrust Guidelines.

3. The drafting team reached consensus on revisions to R1, R1.1, R1.2, R1.3, R1.4, R2 and R4 as well as adding a new requirement R1.6 as follows:

R1. Each Transmission Owner shall have a documented transmission vegetation management program that describes how it conducts work on its Active Transmission Line Rights of Way to avoid Sustained Outages due to vegetation, considering all possible locations the conductor may occupy under the effects of sag and sway throughout its operating range under rated conditions. The transmission vegetation management program shall:

R1.1. Specify the methodologies that the Transmission Owner uses to control vegetation.¹

R1.2. Specify a Vegetation Inspection frequency of at least once per calendar year that takes into account local² and environmental factors.

R1.3. Require an annual plan that identifies the applicable lines to be maintained and associated work to be performed during the year. It shall be flexible to adjust to changing conditions and to findings from Vegetation Inspections. Adjustments to the plan within the year are permissible. The plan shall take into consideration permitting and scheduling requirements from landowners or regulatory authorities. It shall support the objectives of the transmission vegetation management program and utilize the methodologies outlined in the transmission vegetation management program.

R1.4. Require a process or procedure for response to imminent threats³ of a vegetation-related Sustained Outage. The process or procedure shall specify actions which shall include immediate communication of the threat to the Transmission Operator or proper operating authority. The process or procedure shall specify what conditions warrant a response.

R1.5. Specify an interim corrective action process for use when the Transmission Owner is constrained from performing vegetation maintenance as planned.

R1.6. Specify the maintenance approach used to achieve Table 1 clearances such as minimum tree-to-conductor distance or maximum tree height. The maintenance approach shall consider the sag and sway of the conductor throughout its operating range under rated conditions.

¹ ANSI A300, Tree Care Operations – Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Maintenance – Standard Practices, while not a requirement of this standard, is considered to be an industry best practice.

² Local factors include treatment cycle, extent and type of treatment, and their relationship to the normal growth rate.

³ The term “imminent threat” refers to a vegetation condition which is placing the transmission line at a significant risk of a Sustained Outage. Refer to Technical Reference for examples of imminent threat procedures and conditions for implementation.

- R2.** Each Transmission Owner shall record and maintain documentation for each implementation of its vegetation imminent threat procedure. Such records shall include the date, time, location, description of triggering condition, and shall be submitted within 30 days upon written request from the Regional Entity.
 - R3.** (NO CHANGE)
 - R4.** Each Transmission Owner shall prevent encroachment of vegetation into the “Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances” listed in Attachment 1 for its applicable lines as observed in real-time with the following exceptions:
 - 1. Encroachment into the “Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances” listed in Attachment 1 resulting from natural disasters.⁴
 - 2. Encroachment into the “Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances” listed in Attachment 1 resulting from human or animal activity.⁵
 - 3. Brief encroachment into the “Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances” listed in Attachment 1 resulting from falling vegetation.
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- 4.** A proposal was offered to the team for Harry Tom and Richard Dearman to make a presentation to the NERC Operations Committee on March 18th 2009 regarding the CCZ. After due consideration the drafting team reached consensus on a proposal to not continue with this effort.
 - 5.** The next meeting of the SDT is planned for April 28 to May 1, 2009 at Duke Energy offices in either Cincinnati, OH; Florence KY; or Plainfield, IN.

⁴ Examples include, but are not limited to, earthquakes, fires, tornados, hurricanes, landslides, wind shear, fresh gale, major storms as defined either by the Transmission Owner or an applicable regulatory body, ice storms, and floods.

⁵ Examples include, but are not limited to, logging, animal severing tree, vehicle contact with tree, arboricultural activities or horticultural or agricultural activities, or removal or digging of vegetation.