

Definitions

Operating Plan Attachment 1

from FSH 2709.11, Chapter 80 Powerline Operating Plans/Agreements

80.5 – Definitions

Access Road or Trail. For purposes of this directive, a road or trail constructed, operated, and maintained by an owner or operator that is necessary to access a powerline facility or its linear right-of-way.

Bulk Power System. A system consisting of powerline facilities and control systems necessary for operating an interconnected electric energy transmission network or any part of it, other than facilities used in the local distribution of electric energy, and electric energy from generation facilities needed to maintain transmission reliability.

Conductor. Cable or wire that transmits electricity.

Edison Electric Institute (EEI). The association that represents all investor-owned electric companies in the United States.

Electric Reliability Organization. An independent, self-regulating entity created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that has been certified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to enforce reliability standards for the bulk power system.

FERC License. An authorization issued by FERC for a non-Federal hydropower project and its primary powerline facility, which may include Forest Service conditions for powerline facility maintenance and vegetation management per section 4(e) of the Federal Power Act.

Fiber Optic Cable. An all-dielectric, self-supporting, non-conducting cable consisting of a central core surrounded by buffer tubes containing optical fibers and covered with a protective polyethylene jacket; an optical ground wire; or an overhead ground wire with optical fibers integrated into the design of the cable to provide communications capability as well as lightning protection.

Flashover. An electric discharge over or around the surface of an insulated conductor that may result in fire through the ignition of surrounding objects.

Hazard Tree. For purposes of vegetation management for a powerline facility, any tree, brush, shrub, other plant, or part thereof, hereinafter “vegetation” (whether located on NFS lands inside or outside the linear right-of-way for the powerline facility), that has been designated, prior to failure, by a certified or licensed arborist, qualified vegetation management specialist, or forester under the supervision of the owner or operator to be:

1. Dead; likely to die or fail before the next routine vegetation management cycle; or in a position that, under geographical or atmospheric conditions, could cause the vegetation to fall, sway, or grow into the powerline facility before the next routine

vegetation management cycle; and

2. Likely to cause substantial damage to the powerline facility; disrupt powerline facility service; come within 10 feet of the powerline facility; or come within the minimum vegetation clearance distance as determined in accordance with applicable reliability and safety standards and as identified in the special use authorization for the powerline facility and the associated approved operating plan or agreement.

Integrated Vegetation Management. The practice of promoting desirable, stable, low-growing plants that will resist invasion by tall-growing tree species through the use of appropriate, environmentally sound, and cost-effective methods, including a combination of chemical, biological, cultural, mechanical, and manual treatments.

Linear Right-of-Way. An authorized right-of-way for a linear facility, such as a road, trail, pipeline, powerline facility, fence, water transmission facility, or fiber optic cable, whose linear boundary is delineated by its legal description.

Master Powerline Facility Authorization. A permit or an easement that covers more than one powerline facility to streamline authorization of an owner's or operator's powerline facilities and administration of the associated powerline facility permits or easements, including consolidation of the number of powerline facility permits and easements and their expiration dates, points of contact, and operating plans or agreements.

Maximum Operating Sag. The theoretical position of a conductor when operating at 100 degrees Celsius, which must be accounted for when determining minimum vegetation clearance distance.

Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distance (MVCD). The calculated distance (stated in feet or meters) that is used to prevent flashover between conductors and vegetation for various altitudes and operating voltages. The MVCD is measured from a conductor's maximum operating sag to vegetation on NFS lands within the linear right-of-way for a powerline facility and on NFS lands adjacent to either side of the linear right-of-way for a powerline facility for purposes of felling or pruning hazard trees, which the owner or operator uses to determine whether vegetation poses a system reliability hazard to the powerline facility.

North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC). The Electric Reliability Organization certified by FERC for the purposes of developing and enforcing reliability standards for the bulk power system in North America.

North American Electrical Power Grid (the Electrical Grid). The interconnection of hundreds of thousands of miles of high-voltage powerline facilities and millions of miles of low-voltage powerline facilities with distribution transformers that connect thousands of power plants to hundreds of millions of electricity customers across North America.

Operating Plan or Agreement for a Powerline Facility (Operating Plan or Agreement). A plan or agreement prepared by the owner or operator of a powerline facility, approved by the authorized officer, and incorporated by reference into the corresponding special use

authorization that provides for long-term, cost-effective, efficient, and timely inspection, operation, maintenance, and vegetation management of the powerline facility on NFS lands within the linear right-of-way for the powerline facility and on NFS lands adjacent to either side of the linear right-of-way to fell or prune hazard trees and to construct, reconstruct, and maintain access roads and trails, to enhance electric reliability, promote public safety, and avoid fire hazards.

Owner or Operator. For purposes of a powerline facility, the owner or operator of the powerline facility or a contractor or other agent engaged by the owner or operator of the powerline facility.

Powerline Facility. One or more electric distribution or transmission lines authorized by a special use authorization, and all appurtenances to those lines supporting conductors of one or more electric circuits of any voltage for the transmission of electric energy, overhead ground wires, and communications equipment that is owned by the owner or operator; that solely supports operation and maintenance of the electric distribution or transmission lines; and that is not leased to other parties for communications uses that serve other purposes.

Powerline Facility Maintenance.

1. Emergency Maintenance. Immediate repair or replacement of any component of a powerline facility that is necessary to prevent imminent loss, or to redress the loss, of electrical service due to equipment failure in accordance with applicable reliability and safety standards and as identified in an approved operating plan or agreement.
2. Non-Routine Maintenance. Realigning, upgrading, rebuilding, or replacing an entire powerline facility or any segment of it, including reconductoring, as identified in an approved operating plan or agreement.
3. Routine Maintenance. Repair or replacement of any component of a powerline facility due to ordinary wear and tear, such as repair of broken strands of conductors and overhead ground wire; replacement of hardware (such as insulator assembly) and accessories; maintenance of counterpoise, vibration dampers, and grading rings; scheduled replacement of decayed and deteriorated wood poles; and aerial or ground patrols to perform observations, conduct inspections, correct problems, and document conditions to provide for operation in accordance with applicable reliability and safety standards and as identified in an approved operating plan or agreement.

Reliability Standard. A requirement developed and enforced by NERC to provide for reliable planning and operation of the bulk power system in North America, including operation of existing bulk power system facilities and the design of planned additions or modifications to those facilities to the extent necessary to provide for reliable operation of the bulk power system, but not including any requirement to enlarge bulk power facilities or to construct new transmission or generation capacity.

Tort. A civil wrong, other than breach of contract, for which a remedy may be obtained,

usually in the form of damages, which typically falls into one of the following four categories:

1. An intentional act resulting in harm;
2. An act involving unlawful conduct causing unintentional harm;
3. An unintentional act involving an unreasonable risk of harm; or
4. An act resulting in accidental harm for which, because of the hazards involved, the law imposes strict or absolute liability despite the absence of fault.

Vegetation Management.

1. Emergency Vegetation Management. Unplanned pruning or felling of vegetation on NFS lands within the linear right-of-way for a powerline facility and unplanned pruning or felling of hazard trees on NFS lands adjacent to either side of the linear right-of-way that have contacted or present an imminent danger of contacting the powerline facility to avoid the disruption of electric service or to eliminate an immediate fire or safety hazard.
2. Non-Emergency (Routine) Vegetation Management. Planned actions as described in an operating plan or agreement periodically taken to fell or prune vegetation on NFS lands within the linear right-of-way for a powerline facility and on NFS lands adjacent to either side of the linear right-of-way to fell or prune hazard trees to ensure normal powerline facility operations and to prevent wildfire in accordance with applicable reliability and safety standards and as identified in an approved operating plan or agreement.