

 OPS-001 Vegetation Management Policy	DEPARTMENT:		INQUIRIES TO:	TOPIC:
	Operations		Leadhand, SCC	OPS Vegetation Management Policy
	ISSUED:		REVIEW DATE:	APPROVED BY:
	September 2020		August 2023	 Vice-President, Operations

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define a brushing program that ensures the organization:

- Completes brushing activities as efficiently and effectively as possible
- Remains in compliance with all relevant regulatory and legislative requirements
- Provides ratepayers with an appropriate trade-off between the cost of electricity and system reliability
- Creates a safe environment around power lines for YEC employees and all members of the public

2.0 Scope

This policy includes all transmission and sub-transmission rights-of-way (ROWs) managed by YEC (approximately 1,142 km and 2,741 ha). It does not cover substations, generation facilities, or distribution lines.

3.0 Goals

The goal of the brushing program is to reduce reliability incidents caused by vegetation to an acceptable level at the lowest possible cost. This will be achieved through the following:

- Operate the program on a pre-determined cycle based on industry best practices
- Encourage the expansion of low-growth species that will not impede limits of approach at their maximum height
- Make use of any treatment types that comply with relevant regulation and that are widely used in other jurisdictions

4.0 Health & Safety

Any brushing work carried out by YEC staff or contractors will be performed in accordance with all relevant regulations, specifically sections 9.23 and 9.24 of the Yukon Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (Tree Pruning and Falling near Energized Conductors). All contractors are required to complete the online YEC Contractor Orientation before any work is performed.

With respect to brushing activities during Yukon fire season, YEC will assess the risk of fire based on daily review of the daily fire danger rating published by Yukon Government. Where appropriate, brushing activities will be suspended when the rating is unacceptably high.

5.0 Environment

Yukon Energy, through its mandate to provide safe and reliable electricity, commits to act in an environmentally responsible manner while developing and maintaining energy

infrastructure in the Yukon. Assessments of all proposed vegetation management methods will include an analysis of the impact on the air, soil and water. Brushing activities will be carried out in compliance with all relevant regulation and guided by YEC's environmental management system. YEC's Environmental Work Practice EMS-EWP-013 contains information regarding relevant permits, seasonal timing of brushing activities, working near water, and applicable legislation.

6.0 Methods

The following mechanical brushing methods will be considered for use by YEC:

- Slashing
- Mowing
- Girdling
- Grooming
- Pruning

If approved for use, the following herbicide application methods will be considered for use by YEC (refer to section 9.0 for further commentary on herbicide use):

- Cut Surface
- Basal Bark
- Backpack Foliar
- Mechanized Foliar
- Injection Techniques

The following assessment criteria will be used for selecting a specific method (or combination of methods) for a given area:

- First Nations concerns/benefits
- Land owner concerns
- Environmental impact
- Concerns of the general public
- Health & safety considerations
- Site characteristics (terrain, species, other land uses)
- Aesthetics
- Effectiveness (long and short term)
- Cost
- Contractor or equipment availability

7.0 Annual Area Selection

YEC has been following the recommended work priority 10-year cycle based on the ECI transmission vegetation condition assessment and their aerial/ground survey of 2010. A summary of the 10 year cycle is attached as Appendix A. In addition, visual inspections are performed by air or ground for all lines at least twice per year and any "hot spot" areas discovered are dealt with on a priority basis.

The cyclical plan will continue to be followed, although as YEC completes a full cycle of the entire system it will be re-evaluated to ensure that the chosen cycle is the most cost effective and efficient way to maintain the Yukon transmission grid.

8.0 Contracting Process

The contracting of brushing services will follow standard YEC procurement procedures, including First Nation Procurement PP-002.

9.0 Herbicide Use

Yukon Energy has not historically used herbicides as a component of its vegetation management plan. The ECI transmission vegetation condition assessment recommended that YEC consider the use of herbicides for vegetation management as a component of IVM to maximize both cost benefits and program effectiveness. As of the current version of this policy, YEC is in the process of studying the use of herbicides for transmission vegetation management in the Yukon.

