Appendix E: Vegetation Management Plans Overview

We maintain comprehensive vegetation management plans for the long-term maintenance, reliability, and safety of our entire system. Toward that end, our crews install, service, and maintain 11,034 miles of subtransmission and distribution lines.

This appendix contains our Transmission Right-Of-Way Management Plan, our Distribution Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, and a short description of our emerald ash borer mitigation strategy.

Below., you will find GMP's currently estimated full program budget and line miles of trimming for the next 3 years, as required in Appendix B of the Comprehensive Energy Plan. Please note that the actual year to year spending may change based upon several factors, including contractor ability to staff the require miles for the cycle, changes in costs, and shifts in operational plans to account for new events and needs.

Green Mountain Power - Forestry (CC #16) Budgets
v 11-22-21

Maintenance Type	Miles	Acres	Maintenance Cycle (Years)
Sub-transmission	978.4	11,837.1	5
Distribuiton			
Five (5) Year Cycle	1,319.1	n/a	5
seven (7) Year Cycle	8,632.6	n/a	7
Total	9,951.68		

Budget

Type of Line Maintenance	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY22	FY23	FY24
Sub-transmission	2,611,440	3,611,440	2,197,193	3,160,845	4,004,863	3,796,083
Distribution	14,386,018	15,522,800	14,778,381	14,840,826	20,659,792	21,061,979
Emerald Ash Borer	0	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000	2,333,115	4,337,749
Budget Total	16,997,458	20,334,240	18,175,574	18,175,574	26,997,769	29,195,812

Actual

Type of Line Maintenance	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY22	FY23	FY23
Sub-transmission	2,569,984	2,298,827	2,026,437	n/a	n/a	n/a
Distribution	13,257,698	16,233,501	12,962,187	n/a	n/a	n/a
Emerald Ash Borer	0	1,172,381	1,151,756	n/a	n/a	n/a
Actual Total	15,827,682	19,704,709	16,140,379	n/a	n/a	n/a

Distribuiton Miles Trimmed	1,428	1,153	1,173	1,423	1,504	1,504
Tranmission Miles Mowed	209.1	181.2	124.3	194.5	263.4	209.1

TRANSMISSION RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Our Plan discusses our philosophy for regularly handling the vagaries of nature, then describes the physical attributes of our transmission system. The Plan then describes in detail our plan for managing our rights-of-way (ROW) and how that plan is implemented.

We updated our Plan in 2018 to include updated conditions, techniques, procedures, and our overall process; the next Plan revision is scheduled for 2023. It is included as Appendix G to this IRP.

DISTRIBUTION INTEGRATED VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (IVM) PLAN

Our Distribution IVM Plan discusses our goals and objectives, details surrounding the types of vegetation and their growth rates, costs related to managing this growth, how we manage trimming and herbicidal application needs, and the fundamentals of operating the IVM Plan.

We also updated our IVM Plan in 2018 as part of our continued commitment to maintain and operate a low-cost, effective vegetation management program. The IVM Plan is scheduled to be revised in 2023. It is included as Appendix F to this IRP.

EMERALD ASH BORER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The emerald ash borer (EAB) might not be an exotic beetle in its native Asia, where ash trees have co-evolved and developed inborn defenses. In North America, however, the beetle has become a monumental pest, killing hundreds of millions of ash trees since its discovery in southeastern Michigan in the summer of 2002. It's generally believed that the invasive insect was transported from its native Asia home to North American in wood packing materials carried by cargo ships or airplanes.

The emerald ash borer was confirmed in Vermont in February 2018, after its discovery in nearly all of the United States and at least half of the Canadian provinces Since the February 2018 discovery in Vermont, the confirmed rate of spread across the State has become increasingly concerning as captured in the State Infestation Area Map, https://vtinvasives.org/land/emerald-ash-borer-vermont.

Nothing short of an up close inspection of a healthy ash tree can determine if the tree has been infected by the emerald ash borer. At the present time, not all ash trees along our rights-of-way have become infected and of those that have been infected, not all will pose a hazard to our power lines, our field workers or the public at large. Nonetheless, our evaluations have determined that it's safer, more efficient, and more cost effective to remove all ash trees within our ROW, even those that are currently uninfected. All ash trees are susceptible to infestation and GMP believes it's far better to use a proactive approach – as opposed to a reactive approach – when managing ash trees. We have determined that waiting for signs of infestation not only poses significant safety and reliability risks, but also doubles or even triples the cost of removal.

As a result of our research and evaluations, we developed an EAB Mitigation Program for removing ash trees growing along the utility ROWs. The mitigation strategy was approved by the Department and implemented shortly thereafter in October 2019. The program was funded for three years with an annual budget of $1.2M with the specific focus of removing exclusively ash trees. At the time of this writing, we are reviewing progress made with the first two years of the EAB Mitigation Program including the expanded footprint of the EAB, rate of infestation, tree removal data and costs. Recommended program enhancements that will apply during our next regulation plan period will be presented to the Department and included in our overall vegetation management plan rather than as a separate endeavor. The budget above assumes an increased cost for removal of these trees as a part of our overall IVM, though the actual cost are expected to vary as noted above.