

Vegetation Management Distribution Inspection Procedure

Attachment 5, Bi-Annual Tree Management and Reduction Strategy

This attachment discusses the management and reduction strategy of trees planned for bi-annual pre-inspection patrol. A bi-annual tree is a tree that cannot be prescribed enough clearance to maintain one-year compliance and no other alternatives are available. The purpose of the bi-annual patrol cycle is to effectively address fast growing trees that may not hold compliance for a full cycle and the customer is refusing removal of the tree(s).

1 Bi-Annual Patrol and Identification

NOTE

Due to unpredictable growth and proximity to the lines, major woody stems with epicormic sprouting are not managed as bi-annuals and tree should be removed.

- 1.1 The Vegetation Management Inspector (VMI) must DETERMINE if the prescription will achieve enough clearance to maintain the MDR based on anticipated growth rates to the next annual work cycle.
 1. IF one year of clearance can be achieved, THEN the VMI must PRESCRIBE the tree for routine priority.
 2. IF clearance cannot be achieved, THEN the VMI must ATTEMP TO OBTAIN customer approval for removal.
 - a. IF the customer refuses removal, THEN the VMI must CONTACT the Pre-Inspection Manager (PIM).
- 1.2 The PIM must attempt to obtain customer approval for removal.
 1. IF the customer refuses, THEN the PIM must FOLLOW the steps in [Utility Procedure TD-7102P-04, "Distribution Vegetation Refusal Procedure"](#) AND escalate to vegetation program manager (VPM).

NOTE

If land rights allow, REMOVE tree.

- 1.3 The PIM and the Vegetation Program Manager (VPM) must consider the mitigation options outlined in Table 1 and DETERMINE a course of action for the tree.
 1. IF the tree cannot maintain compliance on a bi-annual work schedule, THEN the PIM and VPM must PERSUE removal.
- 1.4 IF the VPM approves the tree for bi-annual patrol, THEN the VMI/PIM must PRESCRIBE the bi-annual priority.

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Table 1. Mitigation Strategies for Bi-Annuals

A bi-annual is a tree that should be inspected between routine inspections to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Management alternatives detailed in this table must be considered before listing a tree as a bi-annual.

Options	Considerations
Refusal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If property owners, land managers, Federal, State or local agency policies or site conditions restrict, constrain, or otherwise interfere with the ability to meet the requirements of this DRIP, follow Utility Procedure TD-7102P-04, "Distribution Vegetation Refusal Procedure."
Increase Line Clearance Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether the previous clearance distance maintained compliance for at least one (1) work cycle. Check last tree work date in VMD. • Increase clearance to match site conditions and species' specific growth rates.
Change Prescription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine whether the previous prescription contributed to the tree not maintaining compliance for at least one (1) work cycle. • Prescribe directional pruning versus topping (if possible).
Seek Removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this an appropriate removal? • Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cost-effectiveness ○ Tree species, DBH, and height ○ Reliability and facility protection ○ Is the trunk positioned below or within close proximity to the conductors? ○ Will replacement tree(s) facilitate successful removal negotiations with the customer? ○ Use herbicides on removals for control of re-sprouting species unless directed otherwise by the customer. ○ Do the land rights give PG&E the authority to remove the tree in question?

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Table 2. Mitigation Strategies for Bi-Annuals (continued)

Options	Considerations
<p style="text-align: center;">Seek Engineering and Line Construction Solutions</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For VPM/PIM consideration only.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Do not share with customer.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best time to address the adverse effects of trees on distribution lines is at the time of initial design. • Notify the PIM of potential infrastructure alterations, including new line construction, upgrades to the electrical system, and road widening or relocation projects. • Consider overhead construction alternatives including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alley or wing arm construction ○ Compact construction ○ Covered overhead primary (i.e., Raychem) ○ Squirrel guard on tree (use “side wrap” code in the system of record) ○ Spacer (Hendrix) system (combination of covered wire and compact construction) ○ Aerial cable • Only in exceptional cases can the cost of converting an existing system to an alternative construction type be justified based on reliability, avoided cost of future tree maintenance, or infrastructure repair.

REVISION NOTES

Where?	What Changed?
NA	This is a new attachment created from information previously presented in Utility Procedure TD-7102P-01, Rev. 1.