

FLEMING-MASON ENERGY COOPERATIVE, INC.

P.O. BOX 328 • FLEMINGSBURG, KENTUCKY 41041 • (606) 845-2661 • FAX (606) 845-1008

December 20, 2007

RECEIVED DEC 2 6 2007 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Jim Welch Director of Engineering Kentucky Public Service Commission P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, KY 40602-0615

Dear Mr. Welch:

Enclosed is Fleming Mason Energy's Vegetation Management Plan requested by the Public Service Commission's Order dated October 26, 2007 for Case No. 2006-00494.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Jackie Pollitt, Right of Way Supervisor. He can be reached at 606-849-5372 or by email at <u>jpollitt@fmenergy.net</u>.

Sincerely,

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Christopher Perry President/CEO



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Vegetation Management Plan

December 2007

FLEMING MASON ENERGY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Introduction

Vegetation management and Right of Way (ROW) maintenance are essential components of distribution reliability management. The establishment of a distribution ROW clearance requirement helps the utilities in preventing undesirable outages from occurring. Vegetation management is not the sole factor in regards to distribution reliability. However it has the largest economic impact on distribution maintenance. It only makes sense to lay down the ground work on this concept and provide a plan of action. The following document is a guideline to Fleming Mason Energy's vegetation management program.

Right of Way Objectives

The predominant goals of a Right-of-Way program are consumer reliability and, of course, public safety. Consumer reliability is measured using the standard indices set forth by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE). These indices include SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI. Values will be recorded and monitored regularly by Fleming Mason staff. Such indices are recorded to observe and evaluate reliability performance of each substation or individual feeder. The changes in these indices will indicate the performance of Fleming Mason's ROW plan.

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Cutting Method

The initial stages of the ROW program begins with the construction of new power lines. At this time the ROW should be removed in a manor that meets all requirements of the ANSI A300 and applicable RUS standards. The requirements include but are not limited to the clearing width of distribution ROW. Fleming Mason practices a minimum clearing width of 40' where ever practical. This standard is the same for single and/or polyphase distribution lines. All trimming inside of 40' should be completed in a manor that a ground to sky corridor wall is established. Once this ROW is established, it is then maintained to this degree by use of Fleming Mason's ROW clearing cycle. Fleming Mason's diverse territory drives the need for many types of vegetation management. These methods include, side trimming, topping, total removal, pruning, and spraying. The location will dictate the method of choice.

Maintenance Cycle

Fleming Mason implements two vegetation maintenance programs; a ROW clearing cycle and a ROW spraying cycle. The ROW clearing cycle is the removal of vegetation inside of the proclaimed 40' ROW. Traditionally, the clearing cycle has been on a 6 to 6 ½ year rotation with each substation cleared in consecutive order. There are deviations to the process when a trouble area or "hot spot" occurs. Such areas are found during the 2 year system inspection that is required by the Public Service Commission, consumer reports, or employee notification. These areas are then evaluated and handled on a case by case basis. The spraying cycle makes use of an environmental friendly herbicide that

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limits the growth of vegetation residing within distribution ROW. A three year rotation is desired for the herbicide treatment. The spraying cycle generally covers one thousand miles of line and frequently includes the prior years cutting cycle. It is believed that this method is the best possible solution for maintaining future growth. Attached on pages 6 and 7 are the projected cutting and spraying cycles. Both the spraying and clearing cycles hold the right to be extended or reduced depending on each situation.

Personnel

Fleming Mason holds the right to utilize contractors for the clearing and spraying of distribution ROW. A ROW supervisor is appointed at Fleming Mason to handle concerns involving any ROW matter. The ROW supervisor reports directly to the Operation Superintendent.

Tree Replacement

Fleming Mason exercises a tree replacement program that encourages consumers to replace problem trees with trees that are more manageable to our ROW program. Trees that are continually "cycle busters" and present both a public hazard and a high cost due to constant re-trimming should be removed and replaced with a small, slow growing species given landowner permission. Educating our landowners to the benefit of tree replacement is a priority.

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Landowner Notification

Fleming Mason attempts to provide a courtesy notification for maintenance of ROW (including, but not limited to, spraying, tree pruning and target brush species maintenance) to the property owner, authorized agent, or public authorities having ownership or control over each tree.

Adherence to Regulations

All work involving the clearance and maintenance of Fleming Mason's facilities shall be in accordance with all federal, municipal, county, state, and other local laws, ordinances, and regulations that may be applicable. All work shall be performed in accordance with standard practices established for such work and in accordance with the cooperative distribution line clearance specifications as may be applicable.

FLEMING MASON ENERGY

Proposed Right of Way Clearing Cycle

	Substation	Mileage
2008	Peasticks	270
	Plummers Landing (Blue Bank)	59
	Flemingsburg (Indian Fields, Helena, Underbuild)	163
	TOTAL	492
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2009	Flemingsburg (Cowan, Tilton)	259
	Murphysville (Bluelicks, Stonewall)	270
	TOTAL	529
2010	Snow Hill	169
	Murphysville (Barret Pike, Strodes Run)	55
	Maysville	107
	Rectorville (Owl Hollow, Tollesboro)	146
	TOTAL	477
2011	Rectorville (Plumville)	71
	Charters (Burtonville, Vanceburg, Holly)	315
	TOTAL	386
2012	Charters (Tollesboro)	116
	Sharkey	107
	Oak Ridge	200
	Hilda (Interchange, Pine Hills, Blue Stone)	93
	TOTAL	516
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2013	Hilda (Cranston)	65
	Hillsboro	344
	Plummers Landing (Muses Mill, Hillsboro)	102
	TOTAL	511

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