

NOTICE OF:

TREE REMOVAL

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Dear Property Owner,

Providing safe and reliable electric service, while complying with various government agencies' requirements, is our top priority. To do so, we routinely maintain vegetation along our right-of-way.

Employees from Xcel Energy's vegetation management contractor,

_____, will be working in your area in the coming weeks. They will perform routine maintenance, in accordance with our "Vegetation Management Guidelines" and common industry practices, on the transmission lines running through your property and adjacent properties.

One or more of your trees have been identified as needing to be completely removed to the ground. This is necessary due to the type of tree(s) and its proximity to the power line. Our contractors will cut the tree(s) as close to the ground as practical. The wood will be left on site, the limbs will be hauled away, and where applicable the stump(s) will be treated to prevent re-sprouting.

This service is provided at no cost to you to prevent outages caused by trees and to best ensure compliance with various government agencies' rules and regulations.

If you wish to discuss the necessary work please call

_____ at _____.

Otherwise expect crews to arrive within the coming days.

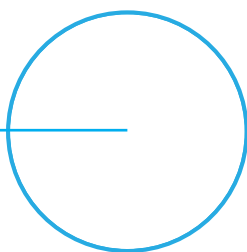
Thank you for your cooperation as we work to provide safe, reliable electrical power.

Sincerely,
Xcel Energy

Work Description:

Date : ____ / ____ / ____

Line # _____ State _____



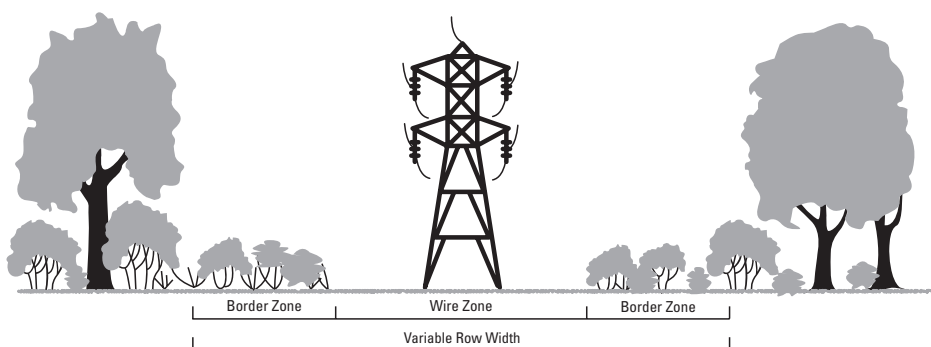
Please call and notify us if:

- You wish to discuss necessary tree removal
- You have a pet and/or locked gate, as we need a day's notice.
- You do not own the property.

NOTE: DO NOT attempt to prune or remove any tree that could come into close proximity with an energized conductor. It may be against the law and must be done by a qualified line clearance professional.

The primary objective of the transmission line clearance program is to keep transmission facilities clear of all incompatible trees, brush and other vegetation that could grow too close to conductors. This is accomplished by routine maintenance on each transmission circuit, including tree removal, pruning, mowing and herbicide application. Each transmission right-of-way (ROW) has an established maintenance cycle depending on the work required. Maintenance objectives include:

- Public and worker safety
- Compliance with regulatory and legal requirements
- Reliable electric service that allows for operational flexibility
- Environmental stewardship and habitat enhancement



Wherever feasible, the wire zone/border zone concept (Bramble and Byrnes) shall be integrated into the vegetation management program to allow for different types and heights of vegetation in the ROW. The International Society of Arboriculture's booklet titled "Best Management Practices—Integrated Vegetation Management" provides a good working summary of this concept. This concept differentiates between the wire zone directly under the conductors and the remaining border zone.

Generally, this concept allows for different, yet compatible, vegetation types in these separate zones.

- **Wire Zone:** Area directly underneath the conductor(s). Vegetation in the wire zone consists of low-growing forbs and grasses.
- **Border Zone:** Area that begins at the outside edge of the wire zone and extends to the edge of the easement. The border zone may contain additional low-growing woody plants and trees.
- The wire zone/border zone concept, as applied by Xcel Energy, does not require removal of tall-growing trees if, at maximum mature height, the tree would not come within the distances set forth in the "Minimum Clearance Guidelines", even if the tree were to fall toward the conductors.

Areas outside the border zone must be patrolled for hazard trees.