CONTRACTOR SPECIFICATIONS FOR RIGHT-OF-MAINTANANCE TREE TRIMMING AND REMOVALS

A. **Brush**

   Brush shall be defined as any herbaceous material less than 6 inches DBH (no matter if it has been trimmed or not in the past) which blocks full vehicle access anywhere within the RW area.

B. **Trees**

   A tree shall be defined as any conifer or hardwood with a DBH greater than 6 inches. A canopy tree is any tree that generally grows taller than 30 feet at maturity. (Pine, oak, poplar, maple, sycamore, hickory, gum, etc.) An ornamental tree is any tree that generally grows no taller than 30 feet at maturity. (Crab apple, purple plum, fruit trees, dogwood, etc.)

C. **Proper Trimming**

   All tree trimming shall adhere as best possible to ANSI A300 pruning standards as related to utility line clearance operations. Stubs shall be minimized while not trimming too far outside the easement area of the RW. Re-topped trees will have as many crow’s feet removed as possible. All trimming shall be done with chain saws, hydraulic chain pole saws, pruners or hand saws. **No handheld circular saws shall be used on the NOVEC system for tree trimming.**

D. **Clearance Requirements For Transmission and Primary Right-of-Ways**

   All Primary RW is assumed to be 30 feet wide, i.e 15 feet RW on each side of the pole center line.

   All transmission RW is assumed to be a minimum of 40 feet wide. i.e. 20 feet RW on each side of the pole line. RW widths vary by line section and easements are recorded accordingly from 40 to 100 feet and shall be maintained at recorded width.

   1. **Brush Removal**

      All brush shall be removed from within the full RW width. Exception: Cedar brush along a fence row or individual ornamental brush within yard areas can remain but must be trimmed as described in trimming trees under line section below. Mountain laurel and dogwood brush >2 inches DBH can remain within RW areas as long as RW is still fully accessible and trimming is done as noted in the trimming trees under line section below.
2. **Side Trimming**

On primary lines up to and including 1 set of 3 phase conductors, all canopy trees along the edge of the RW shall be trimmed vertically from the earth to at least 15 feet above the outermost conductor to 15 feet from the pole center line. The size of limbs removed has no bearing on this requirement.

On multiple 3 phase conductor sections and transmission lines, trimming shall extend vertically from the earth to the sky, with no limbs encroaching into the full RW area.

When trimmed, only trees located within the RW edge may have less than 15 feet vertical clearance from pole center line at the main trunk only.

3. **Trimming trees under lines**

Trees previously “topped” shall be trimmed to 6 feet below the neutral across the full RW width. The size of limbs removed has no bearing on this requirement.

“Untopped” trees within the RW <6 inches in diameter at 6 feet below the neutral are to be trimmed to 6 feet below the neutral across the full RW width. The size of limbs removed has no bearing on this requirement.

“Untopped” trees within the RW >6 inches in diameter at 6 feet below the neutral with at least 5 feet vertical clearance from conductors shall be trimmed as specified in the side trimming section above. The size of limbs removed has no bearing on this requirement.

“Untopped” trees within the RW >6 inches diameter at 6 feet below the neutral who’s main trunks are not at least 5 feet from conductors are to trimmed as specified in the side trimming section above. However, they shall be reported to and targeted for cost plus removal by the NOVEC representative.

Trees located under transmission conductors shall be trimmed to a minimum of 20 feet below the lowest transmission conductor, across the full width of the RW. The size of limbs removed has no bearing on this requirement.

4. **Dead Limbs**

Dead limbs over 2 inches in diameter above any conductors shall be removed if they may break off and fall on the conductor.
E. **Pole to Pole Secondary Right-of-Ways**

Pole to pole secondary right-of-way shall be assumed to be 10 feet wide, 5 feet from each side of pole centerline.

All trees along the right-of-way shall be trimmed back vertically 5 feet from the conductors from the earth to 5 feet above conductors. Trees under the line shall be trimmed to 5 feet below the conductor, the full width of the RW. The size of limbs removed has no bearing on this requirement.

When trimmed, only RW trees with main trunks closer than 5 feet to conductors will have less than 5 feet vertical clearance from conductors at the main trunk only.

All brush shall be removed from within the 10 foot wide right-of-way area.

F. **Service Wires**

Limbs shall be trimmed back to achieve 1 foot clearance in all directions from all service conductors where possible.

G. **Debris Disposal**

Wood is defined as woody material greater than 6 inches DBH.

All resulting wood is to be left off the edge of the RW in sections not less than 4 feet long. Wood shall not be left within the RW area where it blocks RW access. No wood is to be removed from the site unless specifically approved by the NOVEC representative. Wood is the property of the individual landowner. Do not leave wood in yards where grass areas will be damaged.

All limbs and branches not classified as wood must be chipped and removed, brush hogged on site or otherwise disposed of as to clear the RW area and satisfy the landowner as to site cleanliness. Any windrowed material must be outside the RW edge. Any existing fallen trees or woody debris shall be moved to outside the edge of the RW during clearing operations to allow full RW access.

H. **Stump Treatments**

The stump of any tree or brush removed by chainsaw shall be treated with an approved herbicide quickly after removal to prevent re-growth if the cut stump is 4 inches or larger in diameter where cut.
I. **Stumps**

Stumps shall be cut to 12 inches in height or less in woods areas outside the RW and less than 2 inches in height within RW areas or yards so vehicles can drive over them.

J. **Danger Trees**

Dead or damaged trees within **40 feet** of pole center line on primary lines or within falling distance of transmission lines which pose an eminent threat of falling naturally directly into conductors, attachments, poles or guy wires before the next trimming cycle shall be made safe. This means they shall be cut short enough so in falling, they won’t contact these facilities. When in wooded areas outside the RW, stubs can be left standing. In yards, or within the RW, the entire tree shall be cut down, debris disposed of as described in the debris disposal section above.

K. **Poles and Guys**

All brush shall be removed from within 5 feet of all poles and guy wires. Limbs on trees located near poles or guy wires shall be trimmed back to achieve 5 feet clearance in all directions vertically from the earth to the top of pole. Trees with trunks located less than 5 feet from poles and guy wires shall be removed at the discretion of the NOVEC representative on a cost plus basis.

L. **New Construction**

All new primary overhead RW shall be completely cleared from the earth to the sky for 15 feet on each side of the proposed pole centerline. No trees, brush or debris shall be left in this space. All stumps shall be cut to 2 inches in height or less.

All new secondary overhead RW shall be completely cleared from earth to height of 40 feet for 7.5 feet on each side of the proposed pole centerline. No trees, brush or debris shall be left in this space. All stumps shall be cut to 2 inches in height or less.