



City of Denton

City Hall
215 E. McKinney Street
Denton, Texas
www.cityofdenton.com

AGENDA INFORMATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Denton Municipal Electric
GM: Antonio Puente, Jr., DME General Manager
DATE: May 22, 2023

SUBJECT

Consider recommending approval of a resolution of the City of Denton, Texas adopting the City of Denton's Vegetation Management Program ("VMP") to provide rules and policies necessary to manage transmission system and distribution providers' vegetation management standards to provide a safe system environment for customers and the general public to minimize tree related outages caused during high wind, snow, and ice storms, and trees losing their branches from disease or old age; and providing an effective date.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This action supports Key Focus Area:
Support Healthy and Safe Communities

INFORMATION/BACKGROUND

Denton Municipal Electric (DME) established its vegetation management program on April 7, 2006, in order for the utility to be in compliance with NERC/ERCOT Standard FAC-003-1. Recent legislative actions may allow the Public Utility Commission of Texas to provide oversight of a utility's vegetation management program. Austin Energy's high-profile experience with significant (in number and duration) outages during Ice Storm Mara was attributed to unmanaged adjacent trees, heavily loaded with ice, failing, and bringing down distribution pole lines due to the tree's close proximity to electric conductor or telecommunication or fiber company cables. Many Austin Energy customers experienced days of outages before their electric service was fully restored. These items support the need for DME to properly manage vegetation, away from both DME and telecom and fiber assets, with standardized clearances. An effective vegetation management program has proven to be valuable to DME's reliability by minimizing outages by proactive identification of locations where trees, limbs, vines, and other vegetation could potentially cause an outage due to their proximity to DME's primary and secondary conductors.

DME documents, through its written VMP, the program's objectives; customer relation requirements; tree trimming practices, procedures, and definitions; and actual standards for clearances based on Institute of Electric and Electronic Engineers Standards, Occupational Safety & Health Association Tree Trimming Standards, American National Standards Institute Standards for Pruning, and applicable City of Denton Development Code and DME Electric Service Standards. DME's contractor for vegetation management is required to have a Certified Utility Arborist on staff. DME's vegetation management program has earned the Tree Line USA[®] designation for best practices in arboriculture as recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation. The VMP became effective August 25, 2021. The standards include language for clearance expectations for telecommunication and fiber companies.

To codify this Standard, DME is presenting to Council a resolution for adoption of DME's current VMP.

PRIOR ACTION/REVIEW (COUNCIL, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS)

None

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the resolution.

FISCAL INFORMATION

These products and services will be funded through the using department's budget on an as-needed basis.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: AIS-Vegetation Mgmt Resolution PUB

Exhibit 2: Resolution (signed)(5.18)

Respectfully submitted:
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Engineering Division Manager, DME

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