

Reliable Right-Of-Ways

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Plant Growth Management Systems Improves ROW Management Programs

ZEELAND BPW- Reducing Overall ROW Maintenance Costs is a Reality

Operations manager, Don Muller, of Zeeland's Board of Public Works in Michigan began utilizing Plant Growth Management Systems in early 2000. PGMS provided management services that included integrating TGRs into Zeeland's tree program. Zeeland BPW has

been using TGRs for over six years and Don Muller was quoted in the Indiana Public Works News saying, "This process has helped us do more with less money."

The process has helped reduce their tree-trimming budget by one third and has created good public

relations. They chose to work with PGMS because they're the leader in the practical application of TGRs, Paclobutrazol (*ShortStop*), in utilities and has over 20 years of experience in integrating TGRs into a line clearance tree programs.

MISHAWAKA ELECTRIC DIVISION -

Tree Related Outages have Decreased since 2005

Plant Growth Management Systems has worked for Mishawaka Electric Division since 2005 and has helped to organize and plan the ROW Line Clear-

ance Program.

According to Mishawaka's Manager, Tim Erickson, he has seen a significant decrease in overall tree related outages.

In addition, Tim has observed a big improvement in the implementation of the ROW program due to changing from "Trim-Retrim" to Trimming, Mowing, Herbicide Use, and especially Removals.

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Reliable Right-Of-Ways Continues...

STUEBEN COUNTY REMC - A Great Beginning

In late August 2009, PGMS and Stueben County REMC (located in New York) began the initial steps to ROW program modification. Bob Perry, Stueben's Manager, requested a system survey, which consisted of 30 percent random sampling of the primary lines. The data collected included the number of units for tree trimming & removal, brush mowing, and brush herbicide spraying.

Historical information, such as high outage circuits was also incorporated into the total data.

The analysis of the data collected was used for the development of a line clearance management plan specific to Stueben County REMC. In addition to the data, two goals affected the management plan; ^{1.)} reduce the amount of tree-related outages and ^{2.)} decrease the tree program's

budget. The management plan was broken down into yearly budget expectations and prioritized circuits maintenance schedule. PGMS is now setting up tree contractor bid packages and specifications for the line clearance contract. All this adds up to a great beginning for Stueben County REMC.

ALGER DELTA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE- Numbers Say It All

Alger Delta Electric Cooperative's General Manager, Tom Harrell, hired PGMS to manage their ROW Maintenance Program in 2006. He has seen positive results that translate into numbers we can all appreciate. In the last three years Alger Delta has experienced a significant reduction in all outages, both in frequency and in duration.

Mr. Harrell mentioned that since the new program; all overtime with linemen has

"The biggest difference now is that our ROW maintenance program has a more organized, comprehensive approach."

Tom Harrell, General Manager of Alger Delta Electric Cooperative

been reduced by 43% and a sizeable portion of that reduc-

tion has been in tree-related overtime.

The General Manager was quoted to say "the biggest difference now is that our ROW maintenance program has a more organized, comprehensive approach." Alger Delta has not changed its *tools*, they still are using trims/removals/mowing/herbicide, it's just now in the *right places*.

Integrating TGRs into your ROW Clearance Program has many Benefits

There are four major components to a good ROW Maintenance Program; an Aggressive Removal Approach, Effective Trimming & Mowing, Consistent Herbicide Use, and a Targeted Tree Growth Regulator Strategy. A Targeted TGR Strategy will increase the effectiveness of the maintenance program, especially for areas that require frequent trim-

ming (cycle-busters), that have "priority feeds," and/or are in remote locations. Integrating TGRs into the maintenance program will increase the time between tree trimming and reduce the clearance cycle lengths. It can also be used as a utilities' proactive response to homeowners.