

Rate Case Study

Materials, Maintenance, Other Adjustment Summary

Test Year: 12 months ending December 31, 2025

Rate Year: July 5, 2026 - July 4, 2027

Filed: 21-May-26

**VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

JEC carries out its scheduled trimming starting around May with the aim of completing it around the end of October. JEC recognizes the correlation between tree trimming spending with strategic planning and delivery of service. As a result, JEC has over the last 8 years committed itself to spending a level annual budget of \$50,000.

Since submitting our last IRP, there has been a substantial increase in the cost of vegetation management and tree trimming. JEC is seeing over a 100% increase in the cost from just 3 years ago resulting in JEC falling substantially behind in our planned 5-year cycle. To account for this change JEC has extended its vegetation management plan to a 7-year cycle and starting in 2025, has set a commitment to a \$120,000 (\$100,000 to tree trimming and \$20,000 to danger trees) annual budget for tree trimming. This would allow for a 7 miles per year, reducing the 1-year cost burden on JEC customers.

JEC Distribution Vegetation Management Cost Changes Since IRP

	2019	2024
Spans per mile	26.21	26.21
Cost per span	\$400	\$650
Cost per mile	\$10,464	\$17,036
Miles per year	10	7
Miles not needing trimming (fields, lakes, lawns etc.)	5	1
Total Cost	\$52,420	\$102,216

JEC manages vegetation in two ways: 1) roadside trimming is done by brush hogging, which reduces foliage and saplings to ground level and is expected to last 7 years, and 2) visual inspection is conducted yearly in May and danger trees are identified, listed and removed internally or sent to a tree removal company for quotation. Additionally, the meter reader, during monthly meter reads, reports all limbs on the lines and the limbs are removed. JEC has now added an additional level of GIS management and auditing of the trimming cycle to ensure all trimming is being completed and managed for the next 7 years.

JEC has a program to identify danger trees within its rights-of-way and to either prune or remove those trees. Again, the success of this program is measured by whether danger trees are a root cause of system outages. Danger trees are identified by utility personnel while patrolling the lines, reading meters, or inspecting the system. Once a danger tree is identified, it is promptly removed if it is within JEC's right-of-way. For danger trees outside of the right-of-way, JEC contacts the property owner, explains the hazard, and with the owner's permission removes them. Where permission is not granted, JEC will periodically follow up with the property owner to attempt to obtain

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permission. \$20,000 will enable JEC to remove 10-20 danger trees per year. This work would be completed in house or by outsourcing to a vendor.

A newly implemented GIS vegetation management layer will be used to measure the ongoing efficiency of this program and will aid in planning and monitoring the schedule. Keeping the 7-year cycle is a top priority for JEC. JEC will plan to send the project to RFP in January for a start of work in May. The RFP will be broken into 2 pieces. The first part of the RFP will be for ground level trimming and removal. The trimming will consist of clearing all trees and brush in the 15 feet of the base of the power line. Any tree less than 6 inches in diameter will be cleared to 20 feet of the center of right of way. The second part of the RFP will be for work around the power lines themselves. Once again, the vendor would be expected to remove all brush, trees or branches with 15 feet of the power lines. Any limbs above the lines that are determined to be dying shall also be removed. JEC will be accepting bids for both or either part of the RFP and determining which proposals are the best fit for each part of the RFP.

JEC does not use herbicides.

The emerald ash borer has become an active issue in JEC's territory. JEC monitors, developments and coordinating efforts with VPPSA and VELCO and will make use of any guidance that becomes available as a result. If a tree is infected with emerald ash borer in JEC's territory, affected trees are cut down, chipped and properly disposed of.

JEC Vegetation Trimming Cycles

	Total Miles	Miles Needing Trimming	Trimming Cycle
Distribution	50 miles	40	7-year average cycle

JEC Distribution Vegetation Management Costs

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (To-date)
Amount Budgeted	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Amount Spent (FY)	\$29,665	\$44,500	\$37,700	\$52,000	\$19,330	\$29,135	\$44,313	\$52,999	\$25,000
Miles Trimmed	9 miles	14 miles	10 miles	8 miles	8 miles	8 miles	13 Miles	22 Miles	35 miles

JEC Tree Related Outages

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Tree Related Outages	15	7	7	11	14	25	22	10	6	6	10
Total Outages	33	19	30	35	40	38	33	26	23	11	20
Tree-related outages as % of total outages	46%	37%	23%	31%	35%	65%	66%	38%	26%	55%	50%

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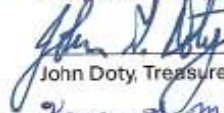
RESOLUTION

So be it resolved that the undersigned Village of Jacksonville Board of Trustees, direct the Manager of the Electric Company, to uphold this Vegetation Management Plan to the best of their ability going forward until which date a new plan is needed and is set forth by the same governing board.

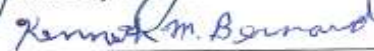
Tyler Colford, President



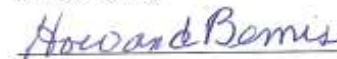
Jeneffer Burnell, Clerk



John Doty, Treasurer



Howard Bemis



Kenneth Bernard

DATE: August 13, 2024