

Directive No. 98-06 **Date** November 19, 1998

Subject **Industrial Vegetation Management Treatments**

Purpose To provide the opportunity for proper management, safety and reduced fire hazard at industrial facilities.

Policy A significant portion of Alberta's landbase contains oil & gas pipelines and electrical powerlines. Aggressively growing vegetation often begins to encroach on these developments. In the interest of safety, forest protection and facility management some of this vegetation may often be cleared.

Industrial disposition holders are responsible for vegetation control and reclamation on their disposition. All maintenance activities performed after the initial **right-of-way (ROW)** construction require Land and Forest Division (LFD), Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) approval prior to commencement. Approval must consider multiple use objectives such as wildlife cover or timber landbase constraints.

Mechanical treatments, such as hydroaxing, are effective in removal of some competing vegetation. Chemical treatments, involving the use of registered herbicides, have proven to be very safe and effective methods of controlling conflicting vegetation in these circumstances.

Procedure **Removal of Hazardous Trees along Powerlines and Pipelines**
Vegetation located within the ROW is normally removed under the terms of the initial ROW approval. Vegetation control easements (VCE), located on either side of the ROW, are granted for the selective removal of vegetation located outside of the ROW that present a hazard to the industrial development. These easements are issued solely for the purpose of managing vegetation, not to authorize further construction or salvage of timber.

Mechanical vegetation control treatments are approved through LFD Area offices, using a temporary field authorization (TFA). All applications must be made in writing to the Area Manager, demonstrating that the proposed method of clearing is appropriate and feasible. The written approval of the Area Manager is required prior to treatment.

Application for treatments involving herbicides should be forwarded to the Pesticide Branch of the Environmental Regulatory Service (ERS) Division, Alberta Environment. Pesticide Branch staff will consult with LFS Area staff and Fish & Wildlife staff and authorize the treatment if appropriate.

Hazardous trees located outside of both the ROW and the VCE may be removed under a TFA, issued by the Area Manager.

Reclamation and Reforestation on Powerlines or Pipeline Easements

Industrial operators conducting powerline or pipeline development activities through forested areas will not normally reforest these areas following deactivation of the installation. Instead, the area is usually removed from the province's 'productive forested landbase', with a subsequent reduction in the **Forest Management Unit's (FMU) Annual Allowable Cut (AAC)**.

Compensation will be paid to the timber rights holder (either the Crown or a **Forest Management Agreement (FMA)** holder).

Where the **Timber Damage Assessment (TDA)** is paid without the reforestation portion, a condition is to be added to the approval requiring reclamation using coniferous seedlings.

Reporting

Industrial disposition holders are required to inform Area staff when work is completed. An annual report outlining all completed vegetation management activities, including herbicide treatment volumes must be submitted by each disposition holder by November 30. The Area should forward a copy of this report to Forest Management Branch (FMB).

Authorities

Section 9(3) of the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application

Regulation - No person shall apply a pesticide for forest management by any application method unless the pesticide and application method are authorized by the latest edition of the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides published by the Department.

Section 9(3) of the Pesticide Sales, Handling, Use and Application

Regulation - No applicator shall use, apply or handle a pesticide other than in accordance with the latest edition of the Environmental Code of Practice for Pesticides published by the Department.

Section 21(1)(d) of the Forest and Prairie Protection Regulation Part II - in

lieu of requiring the re-establishment of vegetation on geophysical (seismic) lines by the operator, the Minister may require the payment of a levy.

Cross- Reference

- Forest Management Herbicide Reference Manual

Contacts

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