MCLEAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

VERSION 1.0

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Manager

Board President

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I. OVERVIEW

A. POLICY STATEMENT

McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s overarching goal is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to its local community. To meet this goal, McLean Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MEC) constructs, maintains, and operates its electrical distribution system and equipment in a manner that minimizes the risk of catastrophic wildfire posed by its electrical lines and equipment.

B. PURPOSE OF THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

This Wildfire Mitigation Plan describes in detail the range of activities that MEC is taking to mitigate the threat of power-line ignited wildfires, including its various programs, policies, and procedures. This plan is subject to direct supervision by the MEC Governing Board and is implemented by the general manager.

C. ORGANIZATION OF THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

This Wildfire Mitigation Plan included the following elements:

- Objectives of the plan.
- Roles and responsibilities for carrying out the plan.
- Identification of key wildfire risks and risk drivers.
- Description of Wildfire Prevention Strategies.
- Community outreach and education.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN

A. MINIMIZING SOURCES OF IGNITION

The primary goal of this Wildfire Mitigation Plan is to minimize the probability that MEC's distribution system may be an original or contributing source for the ignition of a fire. MEC has evaluated the prudent and cost-effective improvements to its physical assets, operations, and training that can help to meet this objective. MEC has implemented those changes consistently with this evaluation.

B. RESILIANCY OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

The secondary goal of this Wildfire Mitigation Plan is to improve the resilience of the electric grid. As part of the development of this plan, MEC assesses new industry practices and technologies that will reduce the likelihood of a disruption in service and improve the restoration of service.

C. MINIMIZING UNNECESSARY OR INEFFECTIVE ACTIONS

The final goal for this Wildfire Mitigation Plan is to measure the effectiveness of specific wildfire mitigation strategies. Where a particular action, program, or protocol is determined to be unnecessary or ineffective, MEC will assess whether a modification or replacement is merited. This plan will also help determine if more cost-effective measures would produce the same or better results.

III. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. MCLEAN ELECTRIC ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

MEC staff have the following responsibilities regarding fire prevention, response and investigation:

- Conduct work in a manner that will minimize potential fire dangers.
- Take all reasonable and practical actions to prevent and suppress fires resulting from MEC electric facilities.
- Coordinate with federal, state, and local fire management personnel to ensure that appropriate preventative measures are in place.
- Immediately report fires, pursuant to specified procedures.
- Take corrective action when observing or having been notified that fire protection measures have not been properly installed or maintained.
- Ensure compliance with relevant federal, state, and industry standard requirements.
- Ensure that wildfire data is appropriately collected.
- Maintain adequate training programs for all relevant employees.

IV. WILDFIRE RISKS AND DRIVERS ASSOCIATED WITH DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE

A. ENTERPRISEWIDE SAFETY RISKS

- Extended drought.
- Vegetation type.
- High winds.

V. WILDFIRE PREVENTATIVE STRATEGIES

A. WEATHER MONITORING

MEC monitors current and forecasted weather data from a variety of sources including:

https://ndresponse.gov/burn-ban-restrictions-fire-danger-maps

https://ndresponse.gov/sites/www/files/documents/gallery/FireDanger/BurnBarn-Restrictions/ND-fire-danger-guide-web-pdf.pdf

https://www.des.nd.gov/contact/countytribal-contacts/northwest-region

www.weather.gov/bis or www.weather.gov/fgf or www.nd.gov/des

B. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

MEC's electric facilities are designed and constructed to meet or exceed the relevant federal, state, or industry standard. MEC monitors and follows as appropriate the National Electric Safety Code.

C. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

MEC meets or exceeds the minimum industry standard vegetation management practices for distribution-level facilities.

D. INSPECTIONS

MEC Follows industry standards for system inspection to include the following:

- Line patrol
- Pole Inspection
- Right of Way Clearing

E. WORKFORCE TRAINING

MEC believes that an important line of defense against the ignition of fires is a well-trained and alert workforce. Internally, it has created a culture of fire prevention. Management has taken a proactive role in ensuring line crews routinely receive hazard recognition and fire extinguisher training to help them identify and handle fire risk issues. Fire extinguishers are carried on vehicles and are tested regularly. During periods of higher fire risk, fire flappers, water cannons, and/or other fire suppression and mitigation tools are carried on designated vehicles and equipment.

F. RESILIENCY OF ELECTRIC GRID

The goal of this Wildfire Mitigation Plan is to improve the resiliency of the electric grid. MEC continues to evaluate and incorporate new technologies and equipment into its electric system. MEC's Operations Department and Engineering Departments are responsible for evaluating new equipment and using standards for emerging and commercial technologies. Using equipment failure data, the departments determine which technologies should be incorporated into MEC's system and which could be improved prior to application. These departments continually evaluate the many new types of technologies which may improve electric reliability and public safety and give special attention to technologies that may contribute to MEC's fire-safety goals and objectives.

G. DEENERGIZATION

MEC works with Western Area Power Association (WAPA) and Central Power Electric Cooperative (CPEC) regarding the operation of the transmission systems to avoid fire issues which may include not automatically reclosing the distribution lines after breaker operations.

VI. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

MEC has created a multi-level approach to community education and outreach as our contribution to public awareness of fire threats, fire prevention and emergency preparedness. The key elements of this approach are:

- Member education includes emergency preparedness and backup generator safety.
- Partnering with local fire departments and tribal authorities regarding fire preparedness.
- Informational and emergency preparedness mailings and emailing.
- Educational advertising campaigns focusing on MEC's preparations for the fire season and the preparations its members should make for emergencies.
- Educational information is disseminated through the Statewide magazine.
- Distribution of informational pamphlets.