

OEC Current

Broadband Update

We are starting to make decent progress with our broadband deployment this summer. Here's an update on the build progress, we have crews building main-line fiber in the Laurens and Edmeston substation areas, we will be starting in the Oaksville and New Berlin substation areas soon. We are also working at building the connection between our office in Hartwick and our Laurens substation. We have all electronic equipment in for Laurens, Oaksville, Richfield, Edmeston and the New Berlin substation communication shelters. In addition, our Core Router has arrived in Hartwick. We are hoping to get a few accounts hooked up in the Laurens area by mid-September and start doing drops and some installs shortly after.

Our main focus has been working primarily on getting as many miles of fiber up as we can. We have certain deadlines to meet so the focus is getting as many miles of line strung as we can. Based on the project design we cannot simply add customers as we go, we have to build out areas—in our case substations—and then light-up those areas. Once we get the electronics at the office programmed and the Laurens substation programmed and turned on we should be able to "light up" that entire area at once allowing us to start doing installs.

We have received many calls about what prep-work can be done before we arrive. What we will be doing is lighting up areas and then once members want to be served we will have them sign an agreement with us so we can do the drops to the home. In most cases the drops we will follow the path of the electric line to the house. So, if your electric service secondary wire is aerial then we will likely follow that route, similar to how phone or cable drops are done. In some cases, many people have underground services, those will be taken case by case. For some homes the underground drops will be reimbursable and some homes will not. If they are not, then that costs will need to be evaluated and passed on to the homeowner. If members want to put in their own underground conduit in that is acceptable also, we would require 1½ conduit in most cases buried between 8"-12" inches. If your drop to the pole is over 600' please let us know so we can evaluate it first.

There are many layers to building a project like this from the ground up and we appreciate your patience and support as we get all the components in place. If you have any questions please call the office at 607-293-6622.

Marlette Scholarship Recipients

We would like to congratulate Owen P. Kennedy (Cooperstown Central School), Kaitlyn A. Watson (Laurens Central School), and Andrew M. Morell (Oneonta High School) for winning the Howard Marlette Scholarship this year. We had a number of outstanding applications this year! We would like to wish each of the three scholarship winners many more years of success.



Otsego Electric Cooperative
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Office Hours
7:30 – 4:00
Monday – Friday

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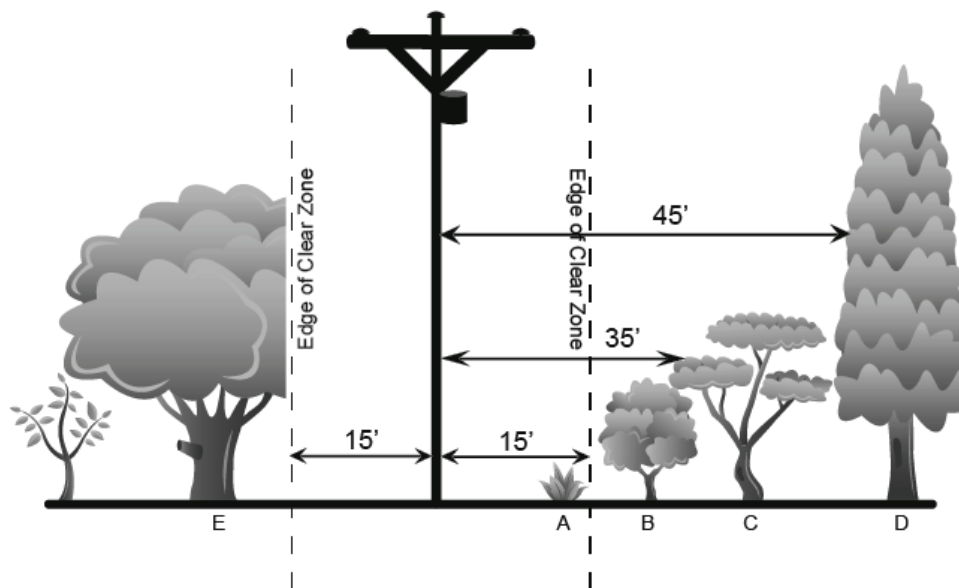
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Vegetation Management

One thing we like to emphasize from time-to-time is our Right-of-Way (ROW) clearing program. Over the past ten years there has been more of an effort put into maintaining the rights-of-way for both safety and reliability. Trees and other vegetation growing near electric distribution lines pose a major threat to the safety of humans—and animals—in the close vicinity of electric lines. Normal operating voltages range from 7,200 Volts to 14,400 Volts on the distribution system. Contact between a person and a tree touching the electric lines, or even the ground near the base of the tree, can result in serious injury or even death. It is important that the Cooperative maintain safe clearances between our electric lines and all forms of vegetation.

Taller-growing trees planted too close to power lines can increase the cooperative's maintenance costs, please avoid planting trees under or near powerlines. We have just over 760 miles of lines to keep clear from trees but we have three full time employees on the vegetation management crew: Fred Beardsley, Jeff Worden, and Todd LeFever work full time to keep your power on, to keep you safe and keep the lines clear. We appreciate all the hard work they do!



Before planting a tree, consider what the mature height of the tree will be. The letters below each tree in the above illustration relate to the types of vegetation listed below that can be safely planted near the cooperative rights-of-way.

- A. If landscaping is needed near right-of-way areas, try to choose low growth shrubs.
- B. Smaller trees can be planted on right-of-way edges, at least 15' from power lines.
- C. Medium trees should be planted at least 35' away from lines.
- D. Large trees should be planted at least 45' away from overhead lines.
- E. Trees planted too close to the lines will always be misshapen due to pruning of limbs to prevent interference with energized lines.

Patronage Capital Retirement

We will be mailing out patronage capital checks on August 1, 2018 to members with allocations on their account from 1985. We will be retiring \$125,000 in Patronage this year and \$50,000 in estates. We have already retired \$25,000 in OECBlue (Satellite Business) patronage on April 30, 2018.