

OKEFENOKE RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

POLICY NO. 418

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST HIGH VOLTAGE LINES

C. OBJECTIVE:

To establish policy assuring compliance with the Georgia High Voltage Safety Act.

II. CONTENT:

C. Purpose of The Act

The purpose of the High Voltage Safety Act is to prevent injury to persons or property, and interruptions of utility service resulting from accidental or inadvertent contact with high voltage electrical lines (See Attachment 1). High voltage electrical lines are defined as overhead high voltage lines in excess of 750 volts between conductors or from any conductor to ground. The Act provides that no work shall be done in the vicinity of such lines unless and until the Cooperative has been notified of such work and has taken one of the following safety measures:

1. De-energizing and grounding the line
2. Relocating the line
3. Installing protective covering or mechanical barriers

C. Applicability of The Act

The High Voltage Safety Act applies to a person or entity in pursuit of his trade or business.

Even though private citizens working on their own property are exempted by this law they shall receive the same response that a person in pursuit of a trade or business would receive.

Any telephone company, cable television company, or other entity which has a joint use contract with the Cooperative is exempted from this act.

C. Compliance with The Act

No person in pursuit of a trade or business shall commence any work within ten feet of any high voltage line unless and until the person responsible for the work has given notice to the Utilities Protection Center during its regular business hours at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to commencing work.

If the Cooperative is contacted directly by a person in pursuit of a trade or business concerning work to be performed within ten feet of a high voltage line within the State of Georgia, the Cooperative shall direct the person to the Utilities Protection Center to comply with the law before commencing any work. If the work to be performed is within the State of Florida, the Cooperative shall deal directly with the person making the request.

The Utilities Protection Center will forward to the Cooperative all notices involving Cooperative owned high voltage lines. After receiving notification from the Utilities Protection Center, the Cooperative shall contact the person whose name is given on the Utilities Protection Center notice within a reasonable time.

Information shall be maintained by the Cooperative of actions of the person doing the work in connection with the Act (See Attachment 2). The following arrangements should be discussed and agreed upon in writing and recorded for the safety precautions required:

1. Date and Time
2. Name of Owner and Firm
3. Name of Person
4. Coordination of the work schedule
5. Type of work and equipment to be utilized
6. Evaluating safeguard deemed to be most feasible under the circumstances
7. The specific lines affected by this notification shall be identified, and instructions given that if work is to be done within ten feet of other lines located near the work site, additional notification is necessary.
8. Payment and costs to affect such safety precautions if applicable.

D. Reimbursement of Costs Incurred by The Cooperative

The person or firm planning to perform work near a high voltage line shall be required to reimburse the Cooperative for costs incurred in affecting necessary safety precautions. Such costs shall be determined by an hourly rate for labor and equipment as set forth in Policy No. 409, Fees Schedule. If relocation of facilities is required, the cost of any unsalvageable material shall be recouped in addition to the labor and equipment charges.

The Cooperative shall maintain sole discretion as to the most appropriate safeguard, and as to the men and equipment required to affect the necessary safety precautions.

The cost of providing temporary precautionary measures shall be borne by the Cooperative when:

1. During public highway construction, high voltage electric lines are located upon public highways or roads (state or county), and
2. The construction is undertaken pursuant to a permit issued by the state or county and neither the state or county received consideration for the permit.

NOTE: Even though no cost is associated with the above, the law still requires the person that is to perform the work to contact the Utilities Protection Center.

E. Refusal to Enter an Agreement

If for any reason a person planning to work near a high voltage line refuses to enter an agreement as mentioned above, the Manager of Engineering Services or the Manager of Distribution Services (or designee) will explain the necessity for safety around Cooperative facilities and will take whatever steps are appropriate in an attempt to secure an agreement.

Also, the person to perform such work shall be made aware of the penalty if not in compliance with this Act:

1. Guilty of a misdemeanor
2. Upon conviction, a fine of \$1,000.00 for a first offense and \$3,000.00 for a second or subsequent offense.

If all attempts to reach an agreement fail, then steps shall be taken immediately to enjoin such person(s) from proceeding with any work in violation of the Act.

III. APPLICABILITY:

This policy shall apply to all persons who perform work within ten feet of the Cooperative's high voltage lines, within the State of Georgia unless specifically exempted by the Act. In the case of work to be performed in the State of Florida, all persons shall be encouraged to comply with this policy. In any event the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code must be adhered to.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY:

It shall be the responsibility of the General Manager or his designee to carry out the provisions of this policy.

Date Adopted: April 26, 1994

Adopted: July 1, 1994

Issued by: John Middleton, General Manager

Effective July 1, 1994