



## Vegetation Management Notice

*Overgrown vegetation is the leading cause of temporary power outages!*

Because tall brush, “weed trees” and vines have grown too close to the power lines or equipment that deliver electricity to homes and businesses in your community, Conectiv Power Delivery will soon be performing integrated vegetation management in your area.

Conectiv is committed to manage this process in a way that is compatible with the intended use of the right-of-way, and discourages only growth that poses safety or reliability problems for energy delivery. Conectiv has been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its professional pruning methods, training and tree planting efforts. In fact, a well-managed right-of-way corridor can act as a wildlife greenway and can actually recreate ecosystems necessary for the survival of many rare or endangered plants.

Please read this brochure for more information about Conectiv’s eco-friendly vegetation management process. If you have a question about this service, feel free to call Conectiv Power Delivery at one of the numbers listed on the back of this brochure, and our representative will respond to your questions.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. By working together, we here at Conectiv Power Delivery can continue to provide you with safe, affordable and reliable electricity!

### Questions?

For questions or additional information on Conectiv’s Integrated Vegetation Management Program, please call one of the following numbers:

*New Castle County, DE  
302-454-0300*

*Delmarva Peninsula and  
Harford County, MD  
800-375-7117*

*New Jersey  
800-642-3780*



## Integrated Vegetation Management Program





## *Why Vegetation Management?*

Conectiv Power Delivery must maintain thousands of miles of electric corridors or rights-of-way in order to bring electric power to you our customer. A right-of-way can range from several hundred feet wide for transmission of high voltage from power plants to substations, to as little as a few feet wide for distribution of the power to your homes.

Vegetation growing in these rights-of-way must be controlled in order to allow access for workers to maintain or repair the poles and wires, and to prevent them from growing into or falling through the power lines.

You can prevent tree and electric wire conflicts in your yard by planting only low growing shrubs and trees under our facilities. Where conflicts do occur we must prune tree branches away from our conductors to maintain safe and reliable service. Conectiv’s professional pruning methods, training and tree planting efforts have been recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation through their “Tree – Line USA Award”.

Outside of a maintained yard, trees and vines naturally grow and can soon conflict with safe transport of electricity. These “weed trees” can also be maintained through periodic cutting of their stems with chainsaws or mowers, but cutting can only temporarily control their growth, it does not remove them from the rights-of-way. Like most weeds, a tree’s root system simply resprouts to replace those that were cut.

Mechanized saws and mowers may also present hazards to workers from their sharp blades, they may injure or kill animals living in the right-of-way, and they may pose environmental hazards from oil and gasoline spillage and soil erosion. Mowing is also non-selective, so in addition to the weed trees, cutting also removes beneficial low growing plants that do not pose a problem for the utility.



## *Pioneering Responsible Solutions*

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is a new approach to controlling weed trees and vines that Conectiv has helped to pioneer. IVM is a system of controlling vegetation by first identifying plants that pose a problem, and then using a combination of control options based on effectiveness, safety, environmental impact and cost. While manual or mechanical cutting may be appropriate tools under some circumstances, other control options include biological, chemical and cultural methods. The goal of an IVM program is to manage for vegetation that is compatible with the intended use of the



right-of-way, and discourage only those weed plants that pose safety and reliability problems.

To begin an IVM program the vegetation may first need to be cut because of its overall

height and density, but then after it has resprouted the incompatible trees are treated with herbicides that stop the roots and stems from further growth. Today’s herbicides do this by blocking chemicals plants need to convert water, sunlight and nutrients into food for their growth. Since animals and humans do not have these same chemicals, these herbicides are very low in toxicity to people or animals. Without any food, the weed trees are starved out of the rights-of-way.

## *Promoting Biodiversity*

With the removal of the weed trees the rights-of-way are now open for the growth of desirable plants; grasses, herbs, wildflowers, shrubs and small trees. These low growing plants do not need to be constantly maintained, in fact they help to maintain the corridor themselves! In addition to competing with weed trees for sunlight, water and nutrients, many plants also produce chemicals in their leaves or root that act as herbicides. These natural herbicides reduce the number of weed trees that can become established and need to be maintained.

With the return of grasses, herbs, wildflowers, shrubs and small trees comes increased food and cover for a wide variety of wildlife. Bobwhite quail and wild turkey benefit from the high protein of grass insects; bees and butterflies obtain food and pollinate the wildflowers; while shrubs and small trees provide berries and nesting sites for birds and other mammals. The increased wildlife also provides increased control of the weed trees. Birds, voles and field mice consume a vast quantity of seeds and help to control any new growth of weed trees. This management assistance again limits the amount of work the utility needs to perform, and when treatment is necessary, it can then be done selectively to only remove the incompatible weed trees without disturbing the rest of the plants or animals.

## *Protecting the Natural Ecosystem*

A well-managed right-of-way corridor can actually recreate ecosystems necessary for the survival of many rare or endangered plants. Wetland meadows, shrub-scrub forest and old field habitat once occupied large areas of the Mid-Atlantic States due to naturally occurring and native American induced fire. Judicious herbicide use can duplicate this effect and restore these valuable refuges. Conectiv manages close to 100 different rare plants, some of which only occur within its rights-of-way corridors.



Conectiv has shared its vegetation management expertise by forming agreements with state and private conservation agencies and by conducting training for other companies, associations, and wildlife refuge managers. Conectiv is a charter member of the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program, a voluntary agreement to lower the level of risk to humans and the environment. We are also partners with Project Habitat, a wildlife enhancement program cosponsored by Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Butterfly Lovers International, Buckmasters and American Cyanamid Company.