

Managing Vegetation with Proper Tree Planting

Trees are an important part of the landscape acting as shelterbelts and adding aesthetics to a property. However, trees too close to power lines are a hazard. They can cause power outages or momentary power interruptions when branches touch overhead lines. Electrical arcing from a wire to a nearby branch can cause fires.

More seriously, if you are standing too near a tree that is in close proximity to a powerline, (particularly if it is wet) electricity can jump from the tree to you. Whether it's the utility line or the service line to your home, long swaying tree limbs can easily make accidental contact with electric wires and once again, cause serious injury to people working around and/or children playing around or in the tree.

Vegetation management is an important aspect of maintaining a safe, reliable distribution system. While ATCO Electric has this primary responsibility, members also have a role to play when considering where and what to plant as it relates to the powerline location.

Regardless of where you're planting, before digging, you must contact Utility Safety Partners (formerly Alberta One-Call @ 1-800-242-3447) to have utility lines marked before you begin the project. Once marked, remember to dig very carefully around any electrical infrastructure ensuring that no contact is made.

It's important to know that having powerlines on or near your property does not mean that you can't plant trees. Do your research or check with a greenhouse or landscaper to determine not only how high, but how wide the tree canopy will be, at maturity.

The following guidelines will assist in ensuring your trees and powerlines don't meet!

- Nothing should be planted closer than 5 meters (roughly 16.5 feet) from the base of a power pole.
- Trees or shrubs planted closer than 7.5 meters (24.5 feet) should be low-growing varieties (e.g., berry hedges, roses, honeysuckle, etc.).
- In the mid-zone, lilac and cherry trees could be potential choices.
- Tall trees (spruce, birch, pine, etc.) should be planted at least 15 meters (just over 49 feet) away from powerlines.
- If you have a secondary line connecting your home or farm to a power line, avoid planting trees that will grow into the line and become hazardous.



For power outages, emergency power troubles and service requests, contact the distribution system operator for FENN REA: **ATCO Electric**
Phone toll-free: 1-800-668-2248

FENN REA
Box 31, Fenn, Alberta T0J 1K0
Phone: c/o Philip Jarmin,
1-403-740-9384
Email: fennrea@gmail.com
www.fennrea.com

Battle River Power Coop
Member Care & Billing
Box 1420, Camrose AB T4V 1X3
Phone toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
Email: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

Have you visited your **FENN REA website** recently?

Did you know the more you visit, the more the internet recognizes your address and can present the REA when people are looking for electricity service in your REA service area? So take a click and enhance our Google positioning!

The site is designed to be an additional resource for FENN REA members and to further the REA's positioning as a co-operative utility providing services with its rural service area.

About Us

This page speaks to the history of REAs in Alberta and includes a map of the FENN REA service area.

Become a Member has details on membership.

Newsletters & News has time sensitive information and past newsletters.



Contact information and direct email is located on the **Contact** page

The **Energy Services** page has information on electricity provision within the FENN REA area.

The FENN REA Compliance Plan is accessible to members as a download by clicking [here](#) on the page and confirms the following.

Complaints about contraventions of the Code of Conduct Regulation may be made to the Alberta Utilities Commission or the Market Surveillance Administrator. The Alberta Utilities Commission can be reached via phone: 1-780-427-4903 or email: consumer-relations@auc.ab.ca. The Market Surveillance Administrator can be reached via phone: 1-403-705-3181 or email: compliance@albertamsa.ca. The Alberta Utilities Commission and the Market Surveillance Administrator are independent of FENN Rural Electrification Association Ltd. and the regulated rate suppliers and affiliated providers. For a copy of the plan, please click [here](#).

Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

The RRO rate may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you receive the default RRO rate.

For March 2023, the RRO is priced at \$0.13500 per kWh, which is reflected on your enclosed bill. For April 2023, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate for FENN REA members is \$0.15633. The RRO rate is also listed on www.fennrea.com.

Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit ucahelps.alberta.ca or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

Information on **FENN REA's Code of Conduct Compliance Plan** can be found on our website: www.fennrea.com