



Control Number: 32182



Item Number: 98

Addendum StartPage: 0



LIVINGSTON TELEPHONE COMPANY
701 W. CHURCH SUITE B LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351-3198
936-327-4309

RECEIVED
06 SEP 11 PM 4:15
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

September 5, 2006

Public Utilities Commission Texas
1701 N. Congress Ave.
Box 13326
Austin, Texas 78711

Project # 32182

Per your request is a copy of the program Livingston Telephone Company uses for vegetation management. This is very short but it does take a lot of time to make it happen.

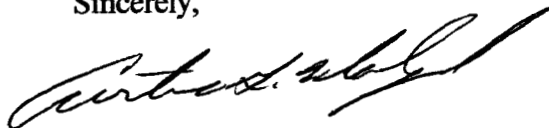
I would like to offer a bit more information if a may however. When hurricane Rita passed within 30 mile of us the biggest problem we had was not vegetation, it was emergency management itself. They were extremely overwhelmed uderstandably first of all traffic was routed through our town from Houston which was in better shape than Livingston. There were no shelters planned here, grocery stores were out of stock, restaurants were out of food, there was no fuel to allow evacuees to go further, etc. The next biggest problem was our employees could not respond to locations due to the fact the Department of Public Safety had routed traffic and would not allow any deviation. The utilities if expected to offer the service we need to must have some type of responder status so that when our employees risk their lives staying through a storm can do the job that needs to be done.

Hopefully this has been a lesson for everyone and we can progress in a manner that allows assets to be used correctly. I think all utilities in Texas are committed to doing their job, and doing it well. In the case of Livingston Telephone we do not have Right-of-Way, we use the Right-of-Way of the Power Companies, pay contact fees etc. In many cases the customer has granted a ten foot easement if you are out of that easement you are considered to be trespassing.

I know Emergency Management and the Department of Public Safety do a great job but with the disaster we experienced there were Game Wardens, troops and every other type authority trying to get the area back to normal. Everyone did a great job and hopefully everyone will be better prepared for future occurrences.

When I can be of further service please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Curtis G. Walzel". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a prominent initial "C" and a long, sweeping underline.

Curtis G. Walzel
President



LIVINGSTON TELEPHONE COMPANY
701 W. CHURCH SUITE B LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351-3198
936-327-4309

TREE TRIMMING

Livingston Telephone Company, LTC, encourages a healthy forest environment. Trees are a valuable asset to our customers, shareholders, their landscapes, and add to the value of life. However if not properly maintained will create many hazards.

Our crews operate year round to maintain required clearances on all cable routes. Each route is inspected and trimmed on a three year cycle. This provides maximum efficiency and control for growth and maintenance.

LTC maintains a three year trim cycle. The exact amount of clearances needed in a given area depends on the size of the route, type construction used and the species type and the position of the tree in relationship to the line. Line sag during temperature extremes as well as wind movement of trees and lines must also be taken into consideration.

LTC will remove trees that are directly under, or so close to the lines that they may pose a hazard. We will follow all rules and conditions of contract, and Right-of Way, due to the fact we only have joint use poles with the power companies, not our own exclusive poles and Right-of-Ways. Branches and trash will be hauled off unless the customer wants it. Trees close to lines that are leaning, dead, decayed, or pose a hazard to our lines will be removed providing they are in the designated Right-of-Way, owner permission is given, or they are not a State "Landmark". We reserve the right to refuse to remove trees that can not be done safely.

Trimming for services is the responsibility of the customer. LTC only trims from pole to pole, including the first ten feet of service wire. If needed LTC will disconnect the service to allow the customer to trim safely and then reconnect.

Most trimming is done by the power companies who own the poles per the Pole Attachment Agreements. Trees that are next to distribution lines will be trimmed to provide proper clearances, promote growth away from the lines, and leave the customer with a well trimmed tree. LTC will follow I.S.A. and ANSI standards for pruning where possible. Unfortunately some species are not suitable around lines and continued trimming will not look appealing.

LTC will strive to maintain sufficient line clearance, but due to weather, species, tree vigor, etc, some trees may reach lines before their next scheduled trim cycle. When the occasions occur we will trim again to maintain customer service.