

# power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## Our Vision: Reliability and Value in Your Electric Service



**Shaun Lamp**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

**Reliability is something we count on every day, from the coworkers we depend on, to the friends and family who support us, to the tools and equipment we use to get things done.** The same holds true for the electric and internet services that power our lives and keep us connected. It's why reliability remains at the heart of the work we do for our members.

From the ice storm that devastated the northern portions of our service area in late March to winter storms that caused thousands of outages around Thanksgiving and Christmas, 2025 provided many significant reminders of why we make providing our members with reliable service at a good value one of our top priorities.

One important way we strive to enhance our system's reliability is through our robust vegetation management program, designed to reduce tree-related outages by trimming or removing trees and limbs that could pose a threat to our lines and other equipment during storms or other events.

Each year, we strategically target locations across our 26-county service area for this work using specially trained contracted tree-trimming crews. This process, known as **re-clearing**, occurs on a rotating basis about once every seven years across all 8,500 miles of GLE's overhead power line rights-of-way.

In 2026, we will invest significant resources to re-clear **power line rights-of-way in 73 townships across 15 counties.**

In a related effort to enhance our system's reliability in the coming years, we will be relocating portions of our overhead distribution lines underground.

Additionally, starting this year, our standard practice for installing service lines in new construction will be to place them underground.

Other critical investments that bolster reliability include replacing aging equipment such as power lines, poles, transformers, switches, and meters. We are also making technological upgrades to meet the current and future demands of our evolving industry.

### As a member, you have a role in reliability, too!

Reliability isn't just a cooperative priority; it's a shared responsibility. One important way members help is by completing and filing property easements when requested. Easements, which are required as a condition of GLE membership, allow our crews safe and legal access to maintain and upgrade power lines and equipment on your property. Without them, critical work can be delayed, which may impact the reliability of your service and that of your neighbors.

If you receive an easement request from GLE, **please review it promptly and return the signed document.** Your cooperation helps us keep the power flowing safely and reliably for everyone.

Reliability is not just a core value at GLE; it's central to our company vision statement:

*"We will empower and enrich our members' lives with reliable service."*

These proactive investments are essential to achieving this vision and avoiding more costly expenses in the long run.



### VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:

[gtlakes.com/vegetation\\_management/](https://gtlakes.com/vegetation_management/)

to watch a video about our vegetation management program.



# Annual Vegetation Management Program Begins



This winter, contracted tree-trimming crews will be working to remove trees and limbs near power lines throughout the Great Lakes Energy service area.

The work is part of the cooperative's annual vegetation management program, aimed at improving electric service reliability and safety. In 2026, GLE will invest significant resources to re-clear trees along power line rights-of-way (ROW) in 73 townships in 15 counties.

Great Lakes Energy members will be notified by postcard, email, and phone if ROW re-clearing work is scheduled in their area. Please be sure we have your current billing address, email address, and primary phone number for your service location. **You can verify and update this information by logging into your online account or by calling (888) 485-2537.** This will help ensure that we can reach you when needed.

Tree-related power line damage is a major cause of outages. Re-clearing of the co-op's entire power line distribution system is performed on six- to seven-year cycles. The amount of trimming required to maintain adequate power line clearance depends on the type of tree, its location, growth, and the type of line voltage. In addition to weak and dying trees, healthy trees may need to be trimmed or removed if they pose a threat to your electric service. As always, we will address any trees, both in and out of the ROW, that pose an imminent threat to our lines as needed throughout the year.

If you have questions about our re-clearing program or concerns about a tree that may be a hazard to our lines, contact our **vegetation management department** at **(888) 485-2537, ext. 8221** (all areas south of Cadillac) or **ext. 1295** (all areas north of Cadillac).



## Counties and Townships Scheduled for 2026 Re-Clearing

**Allegan County:** Hopkins, Martin, Wayland

**Antrim County:** Elk Rapids, Milton, Mancelona, Star, Torch Lake

**Barry County:** Irving

**Emmet County:** Hayes, Readmond, Resort, West Traverse

**Grand Traverse County:** Fife Lake

**Kalkaska County:** Blue Lake, Clear Water, Cold Springs, Kalkaska, Rapid River, Springfield

**Lake County:** Chase, Dover, Ellsworth, Sauble, Yates

**Manistee County:** Filer, West Stronach, East Stronach

**Mason County:** Amber, Branch, Custer, East Grant, Eden, Freesoil, Hamlin, Logan, Meade, Pere Marquette, Riverton, Sheridan, Sherman, Summit, Victory, West Grant

**Mecosta County:** Aetna, Big Rapids, Grant, Green

**Montcalm County:** Reynolds

**Newaygo County:** Barton, Big Prairie, Denver, Goodwell, Monroe, Norwich, Wilcox

**Oceana County:** Golden, Hart, Leavitt, Newfield, Shelby

**Osceola County:** Burdell, Hersey, LeRoy, Richmond, Sherman

**Otsego County:** Bagley, Chester, Elmira, Gaylord, Hayes, Livingston



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