

Clearing the Way for Safe, Reliable Power: MEA's Summer Easement Work Is Underway

Keeping the lights on starts with keeping our power lines clear. As part of our ongoing 5-to-7 year vegetation management cycle, MEA crews and contractors will be out this summer clearing rights-of-way in Fairview, Knik Goose Bay, Pt. MacKenzie, Chugiak, Birchwood, Eklutna, and Eagle River. This essential work helps reduce tree-related outages and ensures safer access for crews during storms or emergencies. Most easements are 30 feet wide (15 feet on each side of the pole), but may range from 20 to 40 feet depending on the area. All vegetation within the easement will be removed using a combination of mowing, hand cutting, and bucket truck access. To help crews work safely and efficiently, please remove any vehicles, animals, or equipment from the easement and unlock any gates. MEA notifies members in advance with a postcard and follow-up automated call. Want to see if we're clearing in your area? Check out our online clearing map at www.mea.coop

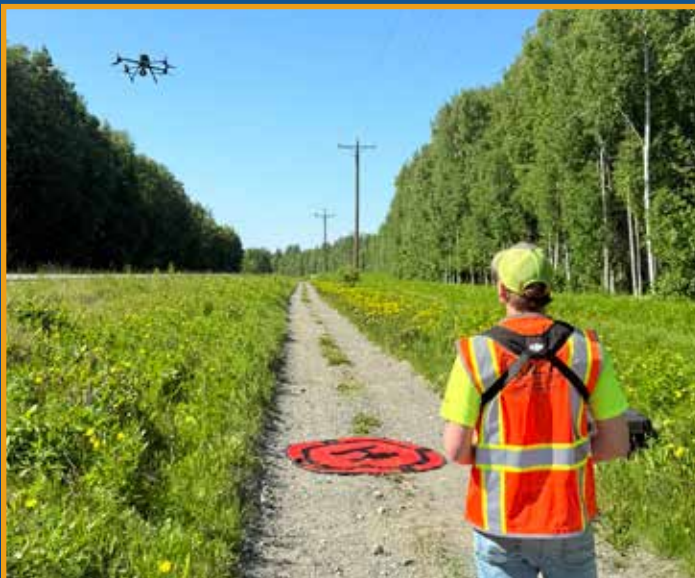
MEA Launches New Drone Program to Improve Reliability and Safety

MEA is taking a high-tech approach to vegetation management with the launch of a new drone program designed to enhance electric service reliability and keep our crews and members safe.

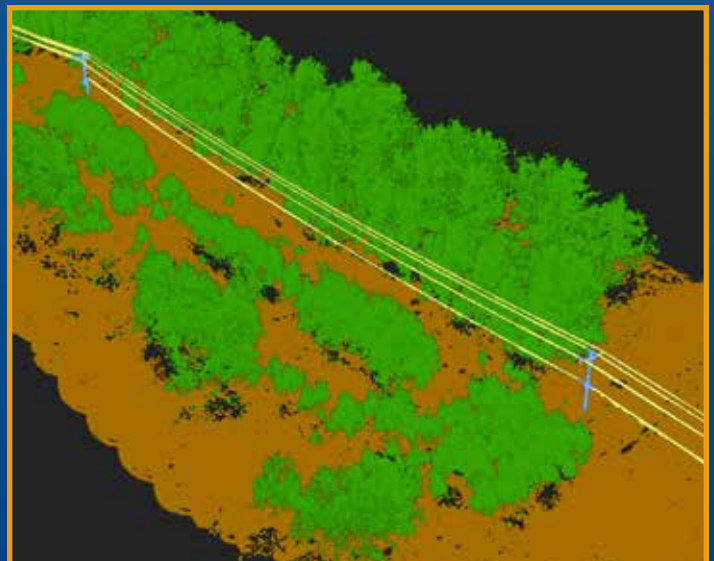
Using high-resolution imaging and LiDAR technology, MEA's drones can efficiently map and monitor areas where trees or vegetation may encroach on power lines. This cutting-edge tool allows MEA to proactively identify potential hazards, better plan easement clearing, and reduce the risk of outages—especially in remote or difficult-to-access terrain.

All drone flights are conducted by FAA-licensed pilots and follow strict safety and privacy protocols. The drones are limited to flying over MEA rights-of-way and easements only. No images of homes or private property are captured during these inspections.

By spotting trouble spots early, MEA can reduce inspection time, optimize our clearing schedules, and ensure faster, safer response times. This program is just one of the many ways MEA continues to invest in technology that strengthens our electric system and improves service for members.



As FAA-licensed pilots, MEA staff follow strict safety and privacy protocols for drone flying.



LiDAR imaging shows where vegetation may encroach on power lines.

Electric Rates Increase in Third Quarter

Beginning July 1, MEA members will see an average increase of approximately \$8.87—or 5.7%—on their monthly electric bills. This change is due to a 3% increase in MEA's base rate and a 12.2% increase in the Cost of Power Adjustment (COPA).

The base rate helps cover the fixed costs of delivering power to homes and businesses, such as infrastructure, equipment, and maintenance. The COPA rate, which is adjusted quarterly and reviewed by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA), recovers the cost of fuel used to generate electricity and power purchased from other utilities. This quarter's increase is driven by several factors:

- Higher anticipated power purchases from Eklutna hydro and Chugach Electric

- Under-collected fuel costs from earlier this year
- Lower overall electricity usage during an unseasonably mild winter, which reduced our ability to recover fixed fuel costs

These under-collections must now be recovered, as required by the RCA. MEA anticipates the COPA rate to return to more typical levels in future quarters. While costs for materials, equipment, and generation continue to rise industry-wide, MEA is actively working to find smarter, more cost-effective ways to deliver reliable power to our members. MEA carefully reviews and adjusts rates every quarter to ensure they align with RCA guidelines and reflect current market conditions. A variety of factors—including fuel prices, power generation sources, seasonal weather, and member usage—can all impact electric rates.

Go Paperless & Get a \$10 Bill Credit

If you're reading this printed newsletter, chances are you're also receiving a printed electric bill. Now is a great time to make the switch to paperless billing—and receive a one-time \$10 bill credit for doing so!

Each month, MEA mails nearly 40,000 bills. By going paperless, you help your member-owned cooperative reduce printing and postage costs while also supporting sustainability efforts. Members who switch all of their active accounts to paperless billing will receive a \$10 credit, applied to their primary account within two to three billing cycles.

It's quick and easy to make the switch. Contact our Member Services team at (907) 761-9300.

Know Before You Buy: Is Your Power Ready?

Thinking about installing a hot tub, electric vehicle (EV) charger, shop heater, or welder? Before flipping the switch on any new high-powered equipment, it's essential to make sure your home or business is electrically prepared.

Adding high-demand appliances or tools without first evaluating your electrical system can overload your transformer — the device that converts high-voltage power from MEA's system into the lower voltage used at your property. Transformers are carefully sized to meet the average energy needs of each location. When a transformer becomes overloaded, it can lead to serious safety hazards, damaged equipment, outages, and costly repairs — often at the member's expense.

That's why MEA encourages members to contact us before making major upgrades that will increase your energy usage. Our team can assess your current load and determine whether a

service or transformer upgrade is needed to safely and efficiently support your new equipment. We're here to help ensure your system is ready — and reliable — for whatever you add next.

Planning an upgrade? Call us at (907) 761-9300 or email info@mea.coop so we can guide you through the process. Tariff information and service upgrade requirements are available on our website www.mea.coop

