

## **New Vegetation Program Manager at Otter Tail Power Company**

Larry Enderle recently came to visit Minnesota Power to discuss vegetation management challenges and opportunities at our electric utility in an effort to learn more about our program and look for potential ways to enhance the existing program at Otter Tail Power Company. Minnesota Power Reps Rocky Anderson and Brian Asmus met with Otter Tail colleagues and exchanged ideas.

Recognizing that Larry has assumed the title of Vegetation Program Manager I thought it would be a good time to introduce Larry and Otter Tail Power Company to the Utility Arborist Community so I have asked Larry to give us a little background on himself and the Corporate Vegetation Management Program at Otter Tail Power so, Larry provided me with the following thumbnail sketch.

Larry Enderle, Transmission Maintenance Specialist and Vegetation Program Manager has joined the Delivery Maintenance Department at Otter Tail Power last April after spending 18 years in the Information Technology Department in several capacities. His main tasks in Delivery Maintenance are to manage the Corporate Vegetation Management Program and look for opportunities to enhance the cost effectiveness of the program while at the same time maintaining/improving electric reliability, customer satisfaction and environmental sensitivity.

Larry is actively involved in an OTP interdisciplinary team that has been assembled to collect information on vegetation management programs in the region and to conduct a formal review of their existing Vegetation Management Program in an effort to look for opportunities to improve their program effectiveness.

The distribution system at Otter Tail Power resides in 3 states and contains approximately 740 feeders. It serves approximately 130,000 customers. OTP is attempting to achieve a 5 year distribution vegetation management cycle. All of the vegetation management activities at OTP are on a time and materials basis. These activities include tree trimming, tree removal and herbicide application.

The transmission circuits at OTP are defined as everything from 41.6 KV to 230 KV. These circuits transmit power through their 3 state area over a distance of approximately 5000 miles. The transmission vegetation management program is coming to completion on its 5 year management cycle.

Some of the biggest challenges Larry sees in the future are looking for opportunities to be more cost effective and staying compliant with NERC Transmission Vegetation Management Program requirements.

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