

Management and Use of Transmission Easements



Duke Energy's electric transmission lines are in both urban and rural areas. Typically, the company does not own the land on which the facilities are located but has easement rights that allow Duke Energy to use another person's property to construct, operate, maintain, repair, replace electrical facilities and maintain access to those facilities and keep the easement area clear of interferences and obstructions. The landowner may continue to use the easement area so long as the use is not inconsistent with the easement.

Duke Energy understands landowners may want to use transmission easements for many purposes. We encourage uses that are safe for the public and our employees that do not interfere with the reliable operation and maintenance of the line.

- These compatible uses may include farming, grazing, gardening, biking, hiking and parking.
- In some cases, low-growing shrubs, bushes, hedges, flowers, grasses or other plants may be planted within Duke Energy transmission easements.
- If you are not sure if your intended plans are compatible, we encourage you to speak with a Duke Energy Asset Protection Specialist.

Any incompatible use by the landowner is called an encroachment because it may compromise the safe and reliable operation of the line and/or interfere with maintenance or outage restoration efforts. Incompatible uses – encroachments – include but are not limited to:

- Permanent or temporary structures and buildings, garages, sheds, satellite systems, intersections, cul-de-sacs, entrances, streets, swimming pools, decking, playground equipment, graves, billboards, dumpsters, signs, wells, deer stands, retaining walls, septic systems or tanks
- Mounding or stockpiling any material, such as spoils, dirt, logs, construction or building material, wrecked or disabled vehicles
- Fences or utilities that cross the easement in multiple segments in a non-continuous alignment from outside edge of the easement to the opposite side of the easement at angles less than 30 degrees or greater than zero degrees
- Parking or lighting facilities that affect clearances, access or Duke Energy's ability to make full use of its easement
- Placement of combustible materials and/or fire pits, or the burning of anything

Management of Transmission Line Corridors

- Duke Energy's vegetation management program is designed around an integrated vegetation management (IVM) strategy that targets the removal of incompatible vegetation to minimize potential outages to the transmission system and to ensure necessary access, and staging/working areas for large, heavy equipment within all transmission easement areas.
- IVM promotes and conserves sustainable plant communities that are compatible with the intended use of the site and manages incompatible plants that may conflict with that intended use. This approach is recognized as an industry best management practice and aligns with the ANSI A300 Part 7 standard.
- Incompatible vegetation for above-ground transmission lines – Vegetation within or outside of the transmission easement that will at any time now or in the future mature to a height or size that will pose a grow-in, fall-in, or blowing-together threat to the transmission conductor (typical maximum mature height greater than 15 feet within the transmission easement depending on location and voltage).
- Incompatible vegetation for underground transmission lines – Vegetation within or outside of the transmission easement that at any time now or in the future is capable of posing a threat (e.g., root systems, etc.) to the underground transmission conductor by a) causing damage to the underground pipes/cables or b) reducing the moisture in the soil, thus altering the thermal properties of the surrounding soil/backfill and thereby negatively impacting the cable ampacity rating (typical maximum mature height within the easement – greater than 3 feet depending on location and voltage).
- Incompatible vegetation for safe and reliable operation and access on all transmission lines – Vegetation that does or will limit or block access, limit the safe and reliable operation, emergency restoration, or maintenance of the transmission facilities, limit the full use of the transmission easement for its intended purposes or vegetation, which is typically within a horizontal distance of 25 feet of any Duke Energy facilities (towers, poles, guy wires, guy anchors, manholes, dip-poles, substation equipment, etc.).



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