Management and Use of Transmission Easements

Duke Energy's electric transmission lines are in both urban and rural areas. In most cases, the Company does not own the land on which the facilities are located and has easement rights that allow Duke Energy to use another person's property to construct, operate, maintain, repair and replace electrical facilities. The landowner may continue to use the easement area so long as the use is not inconsistent with 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 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 within all transmission line corridors.
- 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 is considered dangerous if it can fall into and endanger the operation of the transmission line. Incompatible vegetation will be cut or removed.
- Vegetation with branches that have the potential to grow into the transmission lines will be pruned to maintain safe distances from the transmission lines.
- Vegetation that is compatible will be permitted if it does not exceed a maximum mature height that ensures safe, reliable operation and maintenance of the facilities within the easements. For specific height restrictions and guidance, please visit the website listed below.

For more information and contact information for a local Asset Protection Specialist, please go to:
duke-energy.com/TransmissionROWGuidance.

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