

Transmission Right-of-Way Activities in Agricultural Lands



**Northeast
Utilities**

Connecticut Light & Power
Public Service of New Hampshire
Western Massachusetts Electric

Northeast Utilities (NU), through its operating companies, Connecticut Light & Power, Western Massachusetts Electric and Public Service of New Hampshire, manages nearly 1,900 miles of transmission line rights-of-way in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Where transmission lines span agricultural lands, NU works closely with property owners to protect their farmland while maintaining the right-of-way for utility transmission and distribution uses. On NU-owned property, we also consider licensing portions of our property to farmers for agricultural or other purposes.

As NU improves its transmission system to better serve customers, we may need to temporarily work in croplands and pasturelands located within rights-of-way. In some instances, this may affect ongoing agricultural activities in and around the rights-of-way. While easement agreements typically grant NU rights to clear vegetation that may interfere with construction, operation or maintenance of the transmission system, we are committed to being good neighbors and partners. As such, when we undertake transmission system improvements, NU will work closely with landowners, licensees and stakeholders to minimize agricultural impacts.

NORTHEAST UTILITIES MAKES REASONABLE EFFORTS TO COORDINATE THE SCHEDULE OF CONSTRUCTION-RELATED ACTIVITIES AROUND THE GROWING AND HARVEST SEASONS.

SOME OF OUR ROUTINE PRACTICES INCLUDE:

SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

Whenever possible, NU makes reasonable efforts to coordinate the schedule of construction-related activities around the growing and harvest seasons to minimize the impacts on agricultural operations. When this is not possible, NU pursues reasonable measures to mitigate any impacts.

RESTORATION OF DISTURBED OR COMPACTED SOILS

NU recognizes that disturbed soils, or soils compacted by heavy construction equipment, may affect the soil's ability to support certain agricultural activities. NU takes reasonable steps to avoid or minimize soil compaction, and will restore soils that are compacted by construction equipment. NU also works with affected landowners to determine the appropriate method for restoring the soils, and is open to discussing and implementing the landowners' alternative restoration suggestions.

After a transmission system improvement is complete, NU removes all construction-related equipment and debris from the right-of-way.

SOIL PRESERVATION AND EROSION CONTROLS

NU will implement all required and other reasonable efforts for soil preservation and erosion controls in compliance with all applicable permits and good utility practices. These practices are designed to minimize or eliminate potential adverse environmental effects that may result from construction activities. Examples of these mitigation measures include the use of hay bales and silt fences.

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NU WILL IMPLEMENT ALL REQUIRED AND OTHER REASONABLE EFFORTS FOR SOIL PRESERVATION AND EROSION CONTROLS.

EXCESS SOIL REMOVAL

After the installation of a transmission system structure is complete, soil material that was excavated to enable the structure installation will be used as backfill. The remaining excavated sub-surface soils will be removed from the site unless otherwise requested by the landowner.

RIGHT-OF-WAY RESTORATION

After construction is complete, NU, through its contractors, is responsible for importing clean fill to ensure that cropland or pastureland is restored. NU works with landowners to determine an appropriate method for restoring the surface soils, including the appropriate seed mix, to restore pasturelands to their pre-construction condition.

ADDRESSING DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR OTHER LOSSES

NU works closely with landowners to develop and implement construction and maintenance methods that minimize or prevent property damage or other losses that may occur as a result of these activities. If a landowner believes that transmission system improvements have caused property damage or other losses, the owner should contact his or her NU project representative, account executive or customer service representative by calling 800.286.2000 (860.947.2000 in the Hartford/Meriden area). NU will investigate the claim and the landowner will be advised as soon as practicable as to NU's position concerning the acceptance or denial of a claim.

NU is committed to working with landowners before, during and after transmission construction on transmission rights-of-way. Our intent is to minimize or avoid any adverse impacts or inconveniences during construction and/or maintenance activities.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Transmission Vegetation Management

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