

Managing Access to Transmission Rights-of-Way



**Northeast
Utilities**

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

Northeast Utilities (NU), through its operating companies, manages nearly 1,900 miles of transmission line rights-of-way in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In the management of these rights-of-way, NU's priorities are public safety and maintaining the integrity of transmission system property and equipment, while respecting the rights of private property owners who have utility easements on their property. To support this effort, NU will install entry barriers as requested by property owners in targeted access road locations to help deter unauthorized vehicle access to the utility rights-of-way.

The majority of the rights-of-way used for the NU electric transmission system were established through the purchase of easement rights by an NU operating company from owners of the underlying property. While NU has rights to operate and maintain the electric transmission system through these easements, the underlying property is still owned by private parties. Their rights to use the property continue, subject to NU's easement rights.

Where transmission rights-of-way cross public roads and private property and are readily accessible to the public, NU's operating companies, Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P), Western Massachusetts Electric (WMECo), and Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), will work with property owners to determine if entry barriers will help deter unauthorized access. Where appropriate, CL&P/WMECo/PSNH will offer to purchase and install entry barriers to help deter unauthorized vehicle access. Typically, the entry barrier is a gate.

Access gates located on private property are usually secured by dual locks, one of which is controlled by the utility company and the other by the owner of the property. Alternatively, a single company-issued combination lock may be used.

During periods of transmission line construction, NU or an authorized NU contractor may require an opening in an existing fence to gain access to the construction area. With the owner's permission, the company will install a gate in that opening to prevent unauthorized entry and, if needed, restrict the exit of livestock.

NORTHEAST UTILITIES WILL INSTALL ENTRY BARRIERS AS REQUESTED BY PROPERTY OWNERS IN TARGETED ACCESS ROAD LOCATIONS.

An agreement for the installation of the access gate will be provided to private property owners who request to have a gate installed. Gates will be permanently installed unless the property owner requests that the gate be removed after construction. The agreement will outline the ownership, company and landowner access, and maintenance of the gate. For gates being removed, the company will restore the area to a condition substantially the same as that which existed prior to construction, as long as each party is allowed to maintain authorized access.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Transmission Vegetation Management

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