

Permitted & Non-Permitted Use On Transmission Rights-of-Way



**Northeast
Utilities**

Connecticut Light & Power
Western Massachusetts Electric

Northeast Utilities (NU) manages nearly 1,900 miles of transmission line rights-of-way through its operating companies, Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) and Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo). Making sure that these rights-of-way are free of obstructions is vital to public and employee safety, and ensures a reliable electric system for everyone. That's why inspecting and protecting these rights-of-way is a critical part of what we do.

TRANSMISSION RIGHTS-OF-WAY

A right-of-way is the corridor of land that NU uses to access, construct, operate, and maintain electric and other utility facilities. Transmission rights-of-way typically contain wood or metal structures with high-voltage electric lines.

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.

Government requirements mandate that safe distances be maintained from power lines to prevent contact accidents and ensure electric system reliability. As a result, some uses of property within the right-of-way are not permitted.

USES THAT AFFECT RIGHT-OF-WAY ACCESS OR SAFETY (NON-PERMITTED USE)

Non-permitted uses by a landowner of property in the rights-of-way can create hazards that may not be obvious, but which could result in power outages or tragedy. Non-permitted use is any use of the property within the transmission right-of-way that restricts NU's ability to construct, maintain and operate power lines and electrical facilities.

Common examples include: buildings, swimming pools, fuel tanks, sheds, fences, decks, roadways, parking areas and flag poles. Also included are underground items such as septic systems; utilities; drainage systems; wells; sprinkler or irrigation systems; and invisible fencing for pets.

PERMITTED USE APPLICATION

We want to work with landowners to evaluate any proposed use of the easement area to make sure it is safe and does not interfere with system reliability. By submitting a "Permitted Use Application," landowners can ensure that any planned use of the right-of-way on their property adheres to mandated government standards and NU's guidelines. A Permitted Use Application Package is available from NU and provides details on what information should be provided in the application. To request a package from NU, please contact the applicable operating company:

CL&P and WMECo

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continued >

NU WILL REVIEW THE PROPOSED USE TO SEE THAT IT DOES NOT COMPROMISE PUBLIC SAFETY; INTRODUCE ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS; OR INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REPLACEMENT OR UPGRADE OF ITS FACILITIES.

THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Careful evaluation of proposed changes to the right-of-way requires a minimum of 60 days. The length of the evaluation period depends on the complexity, accuracy and completeness of the application. NU will look to see that the proposed use does not compromise public safety; introduce environmental hazards; or interfere with the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement or upgrade of its facilities.

During the evaluation, NU may request revisions to the application and additional information or documents. The results of the evaluation will determine if the intended use is permitted. If approved, NU will provide the terms and conditions associated with the approval. Alternatively, if denied, NU will provide the reasons for the denial.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Connecticut & Massachusetts

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