

Transmission Rights-of-Way Restoration



**Northeast
Utilities**

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

Northeast Utilities (NU), through its electric 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 (ROW) in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. During line maintenance and construction activities within these ROWs, NU will make reasonable efforts to avoid or minimize disturbances to a landowner's property including damage to trees, shrubs, lawns, and gardens, as well as non-vegetation items such as walls and fences. However, despite such efforts during these activities, some damage to private property may be unavoidable. If this occurs, NU will restore property to its pre-construction condition in a manner that is compatible with NU's operations and maintenance activities. This will take place as soon as is reasonably possible following construction completion.

RESTORING VEGETATION AREAS

When construction or maintenance is complete, disturbed ROW areas will be restored. Erosion controls will also be removed, although some may need to remain until the area is stabilized or until removal is directed by a regulating authority. In previously unlandscaped areas, native shrubs and ground cover will be allowed to grow. In areas that were previously covered with grass, NU will restore the area to its pre-construction condition with topsoil and seed. In some areas where visual impacts are greatest, NU will replant trees and shrubs with vegetation that is compatible with the future operation and maintenance of its transmission lines according to NU's guideline entitled, "Vegetation for Transmission Rights-of-Way" and as required by state law and/or regulatory directive.

RESTORING ACCESS ROADS AND WORK AREAS

Construction and maintenance vehicles must be able to safely access each structure location. In the early stages of a new line's construction, gravel roads approximately 15 to 20 feet wide may be built to support the movement of large equipment and materials. Level gravel work areas ("crane pads") are also needed to stabilize equipment.

When construction is complete, access roads may remain for future maintenance of the transmission facilities within the ROW. Most crane pad areas will be removed and the area will be rehabilitated with topsoil and reseeded. Temporary erosion controls, such as hay bales and silt fences, may need to remain in some areas to prevent soil erosion until the grass or other vegetation regenerates.

ADDRESSING DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR OTHER LOSSES

NU will attempt to minimize property damage or other losses that may occur as a result of construction and maintenance activities. If a landowner believes that transmission system work has 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, CT, area). NU will investigate the claim, and the landowner will be advised as soon as practicable concerning the response to the claim.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Transmission Vegetation Management
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