

Trees and transmission lines

Requests for wood

The Interstate Reliability Project

National Grid is required by federal standards to maintain vegetation clearances from our transmission lines to ensure the highest reliability possible.

Trees that grow too close to electric transmission lines can conduct electricity and provide a path to the ground potentially causing an outage and other significant consequences. Trees do not have to physically touch an energized power line to be dangerous. Electricity can arc or jump, from a power line to nearby vegetation. In addition to causing an outage, this can also cause a wildfire and is very dangerous. Electric current flowing through a tree can electrocute anyone in close proximity. Therefore, assuring trees remain clear of transmission lines is not only vital for service reliability, it is also a crucial public and worker safety issue.

Managing vegetation along the transmission rights-of-way

National Grid takes great care in selecting new transmission line routes and locating access roads, foundations and structures. Prior to constructing a new transmission line, the right-of-way must be mowed and selected trees cut to allow construction activities and eventual transmission line operation. Prior to construction, the "clearing edge" of the right-of-way is surveyed and staked. Trees located at the edge of the right-of-way that can potentially interfere with the transmission line may also be removed, while low-growing vegetation may be left in place if it does not interfere with construction activities.

In order to accommodate the proposed new transmission line for the Interstate Reliability Project, National Grid will need to clear trees in the transmission line right-of-way.

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Keeping trees away from transmission lines is vital for reliability and crucial to public and worker safety.



Landowner use of transmission rights-of-way

Low growth vegetation typically grows back within one growing season. Land uses such as cropland, gardens, lawns, pastureland and plantings of low-growing shrubs are compatible with our transmission line rights-of-way and welcomed by National Grid. For a list of low-growing plants that can be planted by landowners on transmission rights-of-way, please visit our website at: www.interstatereliability.com

Making requests for wood

The tree removal process offers property owners whose trees will need to be removed an opportunity to obtain wood for their own use. Unfortunately, it is not possible to harvest all usable firewood during the clearing process.

Throughout our public outreach effort, we have been compiling a database of customers who have expressed an interest in obtaining wood from the tree clearing process. If you are interested in wood, please contact Margaret Neves.

Wood delivery

The process for wood delivery is as follows:

- Before the tree removal process begins, we will review each request and meet with property owners to discuss the quantity and location of each wood delivery. Wood cannot be delivered to wetlands or in the vicinity of rare, threatened and/or endangered species habitats.
- Wood will be delivered in “log” lengths, which are typically 18-22 feet. Please be prepared to safely handle and cut your wood.
- Firewood and saw logs are staged at various locations during the clearing process. The logs cut near your home will be moved to a staging area and delivered as time allows.
- Various forestry equipment can deliver from 8 to 10 cords of wood at a time.



Low-growing shrubs are compatible with transmission line rights-of-way.



If you have any questions, need additional information, or would like to be added to our wood request list, please contact:

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