

FITCHBURG-VERONA TRANSMISSION LINE

FAQs

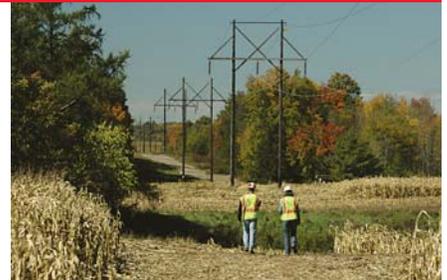
HOW DOES ATC ACQUIRE ACCESS TO THE LAND NEEDED TO BUILD NEW LINES?

Once the PSC determines a route is needed for a new transmission line, ATC must acquire the required easements for the right to build and place a transmission line on private property. Land Services Co., headquartered in Madison, will work on behalf of ATC to carry out the associated real estate activities and will contact individual landowners along the approved route of the transmission line.



WHY DOES ATC HAVE TO REMOVE TREES NEAR TRANSMISSION LINES?

As the owner of the electric transmission lines, ATC is responsible for ensuring that the facilities operate safely and reliably. Transmission lines are typically located on an easement. This easement provides a corridor of safety for protecting people and structures from the high voltage current, and to allow access for periodic maintenance. Within the easement, ATC will carry out its responsibility to clear the right-of-way, which may include cutting down any trees and overhanging branches that may interfere with the safe operation of the line.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT?

For safety and reliability reasons, Wisconsin law requires ATC to eliminate natural hazards - such as trees and other vegetation - that can interfere with electric transmission lines. Trees can cause interruptions in electric service if they grow into or fall on the lines. In fact, the 2003 eastern U.S. blackout was initially caused by power line contact with overgrown trees. Therefore, transmission rights-of-way must be clear of trees and brush to help ensure reliable operation and access to facilities for maintenance or repair.



WHAT TYPES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES DO YOU CONSIDER IN PLANNING A ROUTE?

We gather information on wetlands, woodlands, agricultural lands, threatened and endangered species habitat, floodplains, historical, cultural and archeological resources, state natural areas, lakes and rivers, and national and state wildlife areas, parks, wilderness areas, scenic rivers and forests. This information is useful in the early stages of route evaluation to help identify the most suitable routes.



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WHEN WILL THE WORK BEGIN AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

Depending on the project and the area, much of the construction activities take place during the winter months when the ground is frozen to minimize disturbances to soil and sensitive vegetation. During the construction phase, local communities and landowners are kept informed of activities such as right-of-way clearing, traffic from construction equipment, possible road closures, lay-down area for materials and supplies, and other issues that may raise questions or concerns.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ALL OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK IS DONE?

After construction is completed, property restoration is the final step. We recognize that our infrastructure impacts the environment, the landscape, and land use. Guided by our environmental policy and our environmental management system, we strive to reduce the impact that construction, operation and maintenance of our facilities has on the environment. We look for opportunities to apply innovative practices and new technologies that lessen the effect of our work on the environment.



CAN LANDOWNERS PLANT ON THE TRANSMISSION RIGHT-OF-WAY?

ATC strongly discourages planting anything on a transmission right-of-way regardless of the size. If you have an easement with ATC and have questions about planting near the edge of the right-of-way, please talk with us first so that we can advise you on appropriate plant species or easement rights. Ultimately, the easement agreement and ATC govern what trees and vegetation, if any, are suitable in and around the right-of-way. For a review of your plans, contact our Real Estate Department, 866-899-3204.



CAN LANDOWNERS USE THE PROPERTY THE TRANSMISSION LINE IS BUILT ON?

Land within the right-of-way may be used for purposes that do not interfere with the operation, maintenance or construction of the line. Some examples of appropriate land use if wire to ground clearances remain acceptable include using the land for cultivation or pasture in farming operations, or for streets, curbs, gutters, underground utilities in areas of potential development. Landowners should contact ATC before a change in use occurs to assure compliance with safety codes.

