

TRANSOURCE AGRICULTURAL MITIGATION PRACTICES

A guide developed by Transource to address agricultural impacts that occur partially or wholly on privately owned agricultural lands. It does not address activities on public lands, public rights-of-way, urban areas or those lands not dedicated to agriculture.

Power lines and agriculture have coexisted since the beginning of the development of the nation's electric transmission grid. In fact, many of the design standards in the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) were developed to ensure the most commonly used farming machinery can be operated safely in the

transmission right-of-way.

Transource understands the valuable role agriculture plays in the region surrounding the Independence Energy Connection project. The practices outlined in this document should serve as a general guide and approach to the construction, operation and maintenance of the IEC project.

A Project Liaison for You

Transource works one on one with landowners during right-of-way negotiations to discuss how specific farming practices can continue within the transmission line's easement while accommodating the safe construction, operation and maintenance of the line.



Transmission infrastructure is designed to accommodate modern farming practices, so agricultural lands remain active, productive and tillable acreage. Transource's design standards take into consideration plowing, planting, irrigation crop management and harvesting so they can continue to safely happen in the power line's path.

A right-of-way agent will be the landowner's point of contact throughout all phases of the project and will coordinate survey permissions, secure land rights, acquire easements, negotiate payment, provide updates during construction, and discuss restoration of property and potential crop loss payments when construction is completed.

Transource expects right-of-way agents and all project representatives to treat landowners and their properties with respect and has provided each landowner a personal point of contact to ensure individualized attention.



Agricultural Activities Allowed in the Right-of-Way

In most cases, typical farming practices can continue within the right-of-way, and it is not uncommon for farm operators to plant and harvest up to the base of transmission structures. However, additional care will need to be taken when working around transmission structures to make sure that farm equipment, and especially components that extend from farm machinery (spray booms, conveyors, unloading augers, etc.), maintain an appropriate safe distance from the lines and structures.

Woody vegetation that can grow to be 15 or more feet tall is generally not allowed within the right-of-way. Where existing commercial orchard operations are present along the transmission line route, Transource can incorporate additional clearance into the design of the transmission line to allow operations to continue. Transource provides for this exception because the majority of orchard tree and vine species are not tall growing or are maintained at a lower height by commercial growers to ensure harvesting efficiency.

Transource will work with commercial farming operations to ensure there are proper safety precautions and signage for employees and customers. Transource will compensate the landowner for any impacts or crop loss during the construction and restoration period.

The photograph depicts a typical double-circuit steel monopole. Actual structure type and height may vary along the route. While the structure type may vary, the typical right-of-way is 130 feet wide for safe construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities.

Environmental Practices

Transource and its parent companies implement a range of best practices as part of environmental stewardship efforts during the construction and operation of transmission projects. These efforts include a host of measures designed to minimize soil erosion, avoid or mitigate soil compaction and avoid sedimentation of nearby wetlands and drainages. In addition, field survey efforts help to identify sensitive natural and cultural resources along the line to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.



Construction Practices

Construction activities include initial vegetation clearing, access-road construction, pouring structure foundations, transmission structure installation, wire stringing and property restoration. Where access roads are required, Transource incorporates best practices to control erosion and sediment production. In most cases, these methods will allow typical farming practices to continue during construction.

Transource will work with certified organic growers to develop a right-of-way management strategy that accommodates their needs to ensure their organic certification.

In situations where pasture areas are impacted during construction, Transource may need to install temporary fencing for livestock in cases where animals need to be relocated during construction.

Any anticipated short-term damages are discussed and settled prior to construction, during easement discussion and acquisition with your designated right-of-way agent. Construction crews will document the property conditions prior to construction to ensure all impacts are mitigated. After construction, Transource will work with farmers to return disturbed land to as close to its original condition as possible.

Power Line Maintenance Practices

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Once the IEC project is in service, Transource will be responsible for maintaining the infrastructure to ensure reliable electric service. Transource or its representatives will work to notify landowners when crews need to access the facilities, but immediate notifications may not be practical in the event of emergency situations. Transource will implement a vegetation management plan to ensure the future safe operation of the transmission lines. Commercial orchard operations are one potential exception to this policy. In certain circumstances, Transource will partner with the commercial orchard owner to share vegetation management and maintenance responsibilities and maintain trees at a specified height.



Based on input from the public and agriculture community, Transource has updated its proposal to include the use of steel monopoles on the project. The rendering depicts a typical 230 kV double-circuit steel monopole; however, engineering standards or topography may require a variance in structure type or height along the route. The typical right-of-way is 130 feet wide for safe construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities.

APPROXIMATELY 6-10 FEET 130-FOOT RIGHT-OF-WAY

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