

Maintenance and use of rights of way

For frequently requested uses, please contact an Asset Protection agent for additional information.

- In some cases, Duke Energy purchases right-of-way land from a property owner for substations or transmission lines, called **fee-owned land**. Duke Energy will continue to own the land, but in many cases the company can allow some limited agricultural use on the property.
- In other cases, Duke Energy purchases an **easement** for a transmission line. An easement is the right to use part of someone else's land. The property owner continues to own the land but allows the company to use the land for electrical equipment.
- Duke Energy understands that landowners want to use rights of way for many purposes, and we encourage uses that are safe for the public and our employees and that do not interfere with the reliable operation and maintenance of the line.
- A property owner may be allowed to use a right of way for things such as agriculture, grazing, temporary storage of movable items and entrance crossings. Parking may be allowed under lines.
- Certain encroachments, such as parking lots or fences, may be constructed on Duke Energy rights of way with prior written approval from an Asset Protection encroachment representative if they comply with certain conditions. For example, fences must be properly grounded and must include a 16-foot-wide gate to allow crews access to the right of way.
- In some cases, low-growing shrubs, bushes, hedges, flowers, grasses or other plants may be planted within Duke Energy rights of way with prior approval by an Asset Protection representative.
- Septic tanks or related drain fields, wells, burial grounds or similar structures are not allowed within rights of way.

Maintenance of rights of way

- Periodically (approximately every four to eight years depending on the area and other variables), the company will clear the easement area of trees and plants that prevent access, endanger our lines or facilities, or grow taller than 12 to 15 feet at maturity (depending on area).
- Trees with branches that grow into the right of way will be pruned as needed to maintain safe distances from the transmission lines. Dangerous trees will be cut as needed.
- Trees are considered dangerous if they can fall into lines and endanger the operation of the transmission line. Trees in the right of way that reach a mature height of 12 feet or more will be removed.

- Under normal conditions, Duke Energy can access the easement by using the easement itself or any existing public road.

You may contact us to get additional information at:

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