



# Transmission Line Vegetation Management

Improving the reliability of your electric service

## Transmission line vegetation management

Trees and other vegetation must be kept away from power lines. They are the top cause of storm-related power outages.

If trees get too close to power lines, the result can be a power outage. There is also the potential of a serious safety risk to you and to our employees.

We are obligated to keep the grid safe and reliable while adhering to the regulations and expectations of state and federal regulatory agencies.

Our vegetation management program is aimed at limiting the effects of trees on the grid.



## We take a proactive approach to vegetation management

PPL Electric trims and clears its transmission line rights of way in a much more comprehensive way than in the past. Coupled with investments in new poles, wires, equipment and technology, we've been able to substantially improve reliability for customers.

### Our pledge to you

We maintain our transmission line rights of way according to a schedule that allows us to address our entire system over a period of several years.

We know removing and trimming trees is not always popular, but it is the right thing to do on behalf of everyone who depends on the grid. We pledge to:

- Communicate with property owners in advance of scheduled work.
- Work in a professional manner, and to work within the limits of the rights we have to perform this work on each property.
- Treat all property with care.
- Strike a careful balance between landowner concerns and the need to keep the grid safe and reliable.



## Vegetation management is critical to electric reliability

Millions of people served by PPL Electric Utilities depend on having reliable power for their homes and businesses. Effective vegetation management along high-voltage transmission lines is a critical part of maintaining that reliability.

We operate thousands of miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Our vegetation management program is designed to promote the safe and reliable operation of the electric grid while making sure that we are sensitive to the concerns of property owners and our obligations to electric customers.

### PPL Electric Utilities' right to do this work

The vegetation management work we do will depend on the specific rights we have for each property. We will be happy to discuss these rights with you in advance of any work.

To schedule a meeting with a PPL Electric Utilities representative, call **1-800-342-5775**.

For further information, visit [www.pplelectric.com/vegetation](http://www.pplelectric.com/vegetation).

### Details of the work we will do

Reducing tree-related power outages is important everywhere, especially along transmission lines that carry high-voltage electricity over long distances.

PPL Electric Utilities works with state and local conservation, land management and environmental groups to advance common goals of electric reliability and environmental stewardship.  
[www.pplweb.com/vegetation](http://www.pplweb.com/vegetation)

When it comes to transmission line vegetation management, we view the rights of way in two main sections. The area directly under the wires, plus an additional 10 feet is called the **wire zone**. The rest of the right of way is called the **border zone**. The types of vegetation allowed in the rights of way depends on the voltage of the line, but in all cases it must be compatible with PPL Electric's job to reduce the threat from trees and other vegetation.

**Hazard trees** – Sometimes, trees near the right of way fall into poor condition because of disease, storms or other factors. To prevent these trees from falling onto our lines or equipment, we cut them down at no cost to the property owner. Those who decline the removal of a hazard tree could be liable for the cost of repairs to the power line due if it is damaged by the hazard tree.

**Benefits to birds** – Managing transmission line rights of way creates openings and edges that provide opportunities for native plants to grow and attract birds. According to the National Audubon Society, there are many types of wildlife that favor shrub lands and thrive along edge habitat.



### Compatible species\* –

#### SMALL TREES

Flowering Dogwood  
 Redbud  
 Hawthorn  
 American Hornbeam  
 Eastern Red Cedar  
 Northern White Cedar  
 Dwarf Willow  
 Deciduous Holly (Winterberry)

#### All native grasses, ferns and non-woody plants

#### LARGE SHRUBS

Witch-hazel  
 Spicebush  
 Common Chokecherry  
 Elderberry  
 Rhododendron  
 Viburnum  
 Dogwood  
 Smooth (Dwarf) Sumac  
 Staghorn Sumac  
 Chokeberry

#### SMALL SHRUBS

Mountain Laurel  
 American Yew  
 Sweetfern  
 Honeysuckle  
 Huckleberries  
 Blueberries  
 Viburnum  
 Meadowsweet  
 Wintergreen  
 Trailing Arbutus  
 Blackberry  
 Raspberry  
 Hazlenut  
 Scrub Oak

*\*This list is not all inclusive and is meant as a guide for border zone plantings. Mature specimens of any species may be removed for operational, safety or reliability reasons. In wire zones, all native grasses, ferns and non-woody plants are preferred.*



**PPL Electric Utilities**