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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Tennessee Valley Authority
1101 Market Street
Chattanooga, TN 37402



Right of Way

Safety & Use



TVA Transmission Line Easements—Keep Rights of Way Clear for Safe & Reliable Service

TVA has one of the largest transmission systems in North America. More than 16,000 miles of transmission lines provide the critical link of connecting power from generation plants through a network of 153 local power companies to 10 million people across the seven state Tennessee Valley area. TVA doesn't receive taxpayer funding; rather our revenues come from the sales of electricity. The focus on providing clean, low-cost, reliable power to the Tennessee Valley is foundational to the TVA mission of service and we've delivered 99.999 percent reliability since the year 2000.

Keeping transmission lines safe and reliable is a priority. Most of TVA's transmission lines are built on permanent easements across private property. TVA's rights vary within easements, but generally include the perpetual right to build, maintain, repair, rebuild, operate, and patrol the transmission lines, as well as, the right to keep rights of way clear of all trees, brush, buildings, signboards, stored personal property and fire hazards.

You can help TVA keep these rights of way clear of vegetation, structures, and obstacles that could affect the safety or reliability of the transmission system.



Right of Way Use Requests (RUR)

TVA's rights of way can sometimes be available for other, compatible uses. TVA wants to help you carry out your plans in ways that are safe and satisfactory for everyone. Before beginning any type of construction activity on a TVA transmission right of way, complete a Right of Way Use Request application to ensure that the activity is a compatible use. Any activity within the right of way which may affect TVA's operations or easement rights must be reviewed by TVA and written approval obtained.

Unauthorized or incompatible activities can:

- decrease required clearances for transmission line conductors (wires sagging under temperature and load conditions)
- compromise the integrity of transmission structures (towers, poles, guys, etc.)
- impede access and restoration during/after storm events
- cause safety concerns for those near the transmission line
- impact reliability of the transmission grid

TVA's use restrictions for transmission line rights of way exist to protect public safety and to ensure the reliability of the electrical grid. Generally, nothing can be constructed within the limits of the right of way; however, utilities, ponds, parking lots and driveways are generally permissible, as long as applicable restrictions are observed and safety clearances are maintained at all times, including when construction equipment is present on the right of way.

If you have a planned construction activity on a transmission line right of way, use the request application on our website at www.tva.gov/row.

Surveys

You are encouraged to have a licensed surveyor determine the location of the TVA easements before beginning any construction activities. Unfortunately, many people inadvertently build structures on TVA easements because they believe they know the boundaries of their property and believe measuring off the conductor or centerline of the towers is sufficient to locate the edges of the right of way. Without survey instruments, knowledge of survey law, and an understanding of TVA's easements, it is impossible to accurately locate right of way boundaries. Easement information for surveys can be obtained by using the contact information provided.



DOs and DON'Ts

TVA does not allow any use of rights of way that are unsafe or might interfere with constructing, operating or maintaining our facilities. These restrictions are part of the legal rights TVA acquires for its rights of way. Even when the transmission line easement is vacant (no transmission line present), TVA's rights are maintained for future use. You can avoid or minimize incurring redesign or removal costs and benefit from developing reasonable construction schedules by being aware of the compatible uses and by applying to TVA for concurrence early in your planning process.

DO contact TVA before planting, digging or constructing anything on a TVA transmission line easement.

DO check your property and review your property records for transmission easement encumbrances.

DO take the time to plan projects that align with proper use of the rights of way, which includes submitting a TVA RUR application for review.

DO comply with the conditions of a letter of no objection if provided by TVA.

DO consult with TVA when planning developments, subdivisions, parks, and recreation areas. These areas and TVA rights of way may not be compatible.

DON'T cut or trim a tree near a power line. Call TVA or your local power provider!

DON'T plant, dig or construct in TVA's rights of way without first contacting TVA and submitting a TVA RUR application for approval.

DON'T store personal property on the right of way, including equipment, materials, waste, flammable materials, or anything that would be a safety issue or impede access by construction and maintenance crews.

DON'T assume the location of TVA's fee-owned right of way or easement boundaries without first contacting a licensed surveyor and having them coordinate with TVA on the location.

For more information on TVA transmission rights of way or to submit questions, please visit our website www.tva.com/row, or scan the QR code.

If you prefer to leave a voicemail, call us toll-free at 844-812-2626.

