

Permitted Use of the ROW

Greentown-Reynolds
Electric System Improvement Project



Making sure the right-of-way (ROW) is free of obstructions is vital to public and employee safety, and ensures a reliable electric system for everyone. That's why inspecting and protecting the ROW is a critical part of what we do at NIPSCO and Pioneer Transmission.

TRANSMISSION RIGHTS-OF-WAY

A right-of-way (ROW) is the corridor of land that utilities use to access, construct, operate and maintain electric facilities. Electric transmission ROW typically contains wood or metal structures with high-voltage electric lines.

The majority of ROW used for the current electric transmission system was obtained through the purchase of easement rights from owners of the underlying property. While those easement rights allow NIPSCO and Pioneer Transmission to operate and maintain the electric transmission system, the underlying property is still owned by private parties. Their rights to use the property continue, subject to the easement terms.

NON-PERMITTED USES

Non-permitted uses by a landowner of property in the ROW can create hazards that may not be obvious, but which could result in power outages or tragedy. Non-permitted use is any use of the property within the transmission ROW that restricts our ability to construct, maintain, and operate power lines and electrical facilities in a safe and reliable manner.

Common examples include any permanent items such as buildings, swimming pools, fuel tanks, sheds, decks, roadways, parking areas, and flag poles. Also included are underground items such as septic systems, utilities, wells, and invisible fencing for pets.

PERMITTED USES

The ROW is not completely off-limits to the owner of the property. Numerous low-growing shrubs, grasses, flowers, and ferns are allowed within the ROW, with minor restrictions. To allow for inspection and maintenance of the transmission facilities, new plantings should not be placed where they will obstruct access roads, or be within 10 feet of a structure or supporting wires. Farmed crops are also allowed within the ROW.

PERMITTED USE REQUESTS

We want to work with landowners to evaluate any proposed use of the easement area to make sure it is safe and does not interfere with system reliability. By contacting your project representative with a request, landowners can ensure that any planned use of the ROW on their property adheres to mandated government standards and utility guidelines.

Example of a non-permitted use (sheds and fence) within the ROW.



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