

TRANSMISSION RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITIES IN AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Where transmission lines span agricultural lands, NIPSCO works closely with property owners to protect their farmland while maintaining the right-of-way (ROW) for utility transmission and distribution uses.

WORKING IN CROP AND PASTURE LANDS

As NIPSCO improves its transmission system to better serve customers, we may need to temporarily work in crop and pasture lands located within the ROW. In some instances, this may affect ongoing agricultural activities in and around the ROW. While easement agreements typically grant NIPSCO rights to clear vegetation that may interfere with construction, operation or maintenance of the transmission system, we are committed to being good neighbors and partners. As such, NIPSCO will work closely with landowners and tenants to minimize agricultural impacts.

SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

Whenever possible, NIPSCO makes reasonable efforts to coordinate the schedule of construction-related activities around the growing and harvest seasons to minimize the impacts on agricultural operations. When this is not possible, NIPSCO pursues reasonable measure to mitigate impacts.

RESTORATION OF DISTURBED OR COMPACTED SOILS

NIPSCO recognizes that disturbed soils, or soils compacted by heavy construction equipment, may affect the soil's ability to support certain agricultural activities. NIPSCO takes reasonable steps to avoid or minimize soil compaction, and will restore soils that are compacted by construction equipment. NIPSCO also

works with affected landowners to determine the appropriate method for restoring the soils, and is open to discussing and implementing landowners' alternative restoration suggestions.

SOIL PRESERVATION AND EROSION CONTROL

NIPSCO will implement all required and other reasonable efforts for soil preservation and erosion controls in compliance with permits and good utility practices. These practices are designed to minimize or eliminate potential adverse environmental effects that may result from construction activities. Examples include the use of hay bales and silt fences.

EXCESS SOIL REMOVAL

After construction is complete, soil material that was excavated to enable the structure installation will be used as backfill. The remaining excavated sub-surface soils will be removed from the site unless otherwise requested by the landowners.

RIGHT-OF-WAY RESTORATION

NIPSCO and its contractors are responsible for importing clean fill to ensure that crop or pastureland is restored. NIPSCO works with landowners to determine an appropriate method for restoring the surface soils, including the appropriate seed mix, to restore pastureland to their pre-construction condition.

PROPERTY DAMAGE OR OTHER LOSSES

NIPSCO works closely with landowners to develop and implement construction and maintenance methods that minimize or prevent damages. If a landowner believes construction and other project-related activities have caused property damage or other losses, the owners should contact their NIPSCO project representative or account executive. NIPSCO will investigate the claim and the landowner will be advised as to NIPSCO's position concerning the acceptance or denial of a claim.

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