

## PERMITTED USES OF THE TRANSMISSION RIGHTS-OF-WAY

*NIPSCO manages nearly 2,800 miles of transmission line rights-of-way (ROW) across Indiana. Making sure the 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.*

### TRANSMISSION RIGHTS-OF-WAY

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

The majority of the ROW used for the NIPSCO electric transmission system was established through the purchase of easement rights from owners of the underlying property. While NIPSCO has rights to operate and maintain the electric transmission system through these easements, the underlying property is still owned by private parties. Their rights to use the property continue, subject to NIPSCO's easement rights.

Government requirements mandate that safe distances be maintained from power lines to prevent contact accidents and ensure electric system reliability. As a result, some uses of property within the ROW are not permitted.

### 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 NIPSCO's ability to construct, maintain, and operate power lines and electrical facilities.

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, drainage systems, wells, sprinkler or irrigation systems, and invisible fencing for pets.

### PERMITTED USES

The ROW is not completely off-limits to the owner of the property. Numerous shrub and tree species such as low-growing shrubs and tree species, 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 us with a request, landowners can ensure that any planned use of the ROW on their property adheres to mandated government standards and NIPSCO guidelines.

Please call or email the project with a brief description of your request and a Project Real Estate representative will address the request with you.

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*Low shrubs, ferns, wildflowers, grasses and crops are allowed within the transmission corridor with minor restrictions.*