

On _____, we conducted an inspection of vegetation growing along the transmission line ROW in your area.

- No tree work on your property is needed at this time.
- Transmission line ROW vegetation maintenance work is required.**
- Please call us at the **tree service contact number below.**
Access to the property ROW is prevented by:
 - Locked Gate
 - Dog
 - Other _____

The items checked below have been identified as necessary to comply with the Company's Transmission Vegetation Maintenance Plan and state and federal vegetation management requirements.

- Tree pruning or removal on your property:**
 - Pruning of trees in border zone
 - Removal of incompatible species in wire zone
 - Removal of incompatible species in border zone

The items checked below are included in the scope of vegetation management work for the ROW on your property:

- Debris handling options need to be discussed.
- To prevent regrowth, licensed applicators will treat stumps with an EPA-approved herbicide.
- Please call us regarding **young or newly planted incompatible trees that have been identified.** When these trees reach mature height, hazardous conditions will occur, requiring their removal.
The trees have been marked with _____
- Free wood chips are available. Call **1-866-458-3079** if interested.
- Work is scheduled to begin on:** _____

For questions regarding our vegetation management guidelines, call our toll-free information line anytime at 1-866-458-3079 and leave your contact information. Please have your 10-digit account number available when you call. Our representative will call you back within two business days.

Tree service company contact information:

Orange & Rockland / Rockland Electric Company contact information:

Please detach this side of the form and retain for future reference.

Important Notification

Vegetation Management Along a Transmission Line Right-of-Way

Dear Property Owner:

The largest blackout in North American history occurred in August 2003. It affected nearly 50 million people in eight states in the eastern United States and Canada. Outage-related financial losses were estimated at \$6 billion. The root cause was several trees that had grown close enough to a transmission line to cause a flashover and the initial line outage that cascaded throughout the Northeast.

Since then, state and federal regulatory agencies have developed stricter requirements for the management of vegetation on right-of-way (ROW) land below and alongside high-voltage transmission lines. To comply with new regulations, Orange & Rockland and Rockland Electric Company have developed a comprehensive vegetation management program that meets those requirements and, at the same time, strikes a "neighbor friendly" balance between aesthetics and service reliability.

Some of the specifics of our program are explained inside. Additionally, because we want you to fully understand the scope of work that's required, our arborist will be available to meet with you at your request to discuss this matter in greater detail.

So that we may contact you appropriately, we would appreciate your completing the back of this form and hanging this portion on your doorknob within 24 hours of receiving this notice.

 Orange & Rockland
Rockland Electric Company



Address where ROW maintenance is required:

Transmission line voltage:

- 35 kV
 69 kV
 138 kV
 345 kV
 500 kV

✓ Please check one, complete and sign:

- I have reviewed this information and understand the scope of work that will be performed and the resulting debris. Wood debris removal will be done within one week of completed vegetation maintenance work, weather permitting. I do not wish to be contacted.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

- I have reviewed this information and would like to be contacted before any tree work is started:

Name:

Date:

e-mail:

Daytime phone:

Evening phone:

Cell phone:

Comments:

- I do not own the property. The owner is:

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Comments:

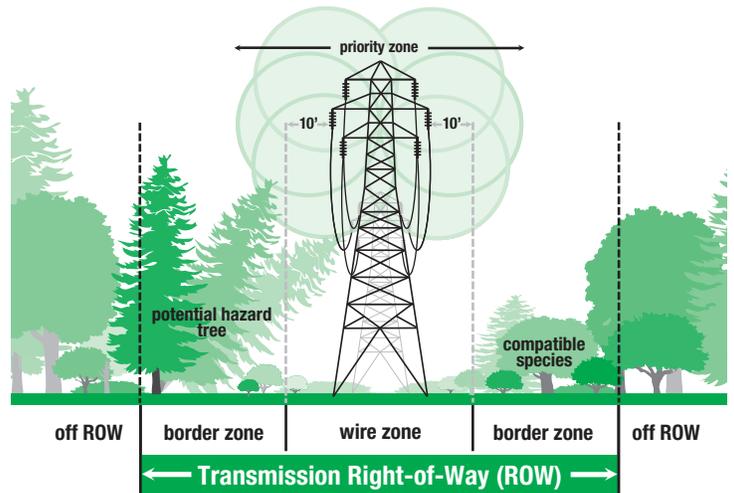


Vegetation Management Along a Transmission Line Right-of-Way (ROW)

Orange & Rockland and Rockland Electric Company are implementing a vegetation management program to comply with state and federal regulations which require that electric utilities remove any incompatible species within a transmission line ROW. *Incompatible* is defined as any trees or vegetation located within the ROW that could grow into the transmission lines or any trees on the ROW that have the potential to fall and come in contact with the transmission lines.

Large machinery may be used along the ROW to complete the maintenance work and to handle the resulting debris. If you have any questions about the work or equipment to be used, please contact us at **1-866-458-3079**.

For more information on compatible and incompatible tree species and tips on proper tree selection, planting, and pruning, please refer to the Company's Tree Maintenance Guide which can be accessed online at www.oru.com/treeguide.



Wire zone — The area of the ROW directly underneath the transmission lines and extending 10 feet beyond the conductors on each side of the tower or pole.

Border zone — The remaining area in the ROW that is outside the wire zone. The widths of the border zones are the distances between the edges of the wire zone and the edges of the ROW.

Priority zone — The space around each conductor where any encroaching vegetation is required to be removed to ground. The priority zone can range from 30 feet on a 500 kV line to 8 feet on a 34.5 kV line. As wires sag between towers, the priority zone will also sag around them and be lower to the ground between towers.

Please detach this side of the form and retain for future reference.

Important:

**Please complete the form above and sign.
Detach and hang this portion on your doorknob
within 24 hours of receiving this notice.**

What are the new guidelines?

As a result of more stringent regulatory standards, we began implementing a comprehensive vegetation management plan that requires the removal of all tall-growing species within the entire width of the ROW — including both the wire zone and border zone.

What land is included in a transmission line ROW?

A transmission line ROW typically includes land directly beneath the wires (wire zone) and land between the wire zone and the edge of the ROW (border zone). A ROW is the land described in an easement, which is a permanent, legal land right to use the land or property of another owner for a special purpose.

Easements grant Orange & Rockland and Rockland Electric Company the right to build, operate and maintain power lines and to clear vegetation around them. Utilities typically acquire easements with landowners rather than purchase the property outright. Compensation is made to landowners at the time the easement is acquired. Landowners retain ownership of their property, but its use is restricted. As the property is transferred and sold to new owners, the easement remains in place. The ROW — or the land area described in the easement — must be clear of woody vegetation and structures that could interfere with the safe and reliable operation of the power line. While many property owners plant in the easement area or place recreational or storage structures there, **anything** in the ROW is subject to removal.

What other vegetation management practices are used in a ROW?

We apply herbicides to minimize regrowth of trees and woody species. Native grasses are generally not affected by the application of herbicides. Only persons who are certified and licensed to apply herbicides perform this work.

With customer's consent, we remove dead, dying,

diseased or leaning trees or branches outside of the easement if they encroach on the ROW and threaten the safe and reliable operation of the transmission system.

There is a tall tree on my property that has the potential to fall and come in contact with the transmission line. Does O&R have the right to cut that tree down?

In situations where an incompatible tree is located outside of the ROW, we will obtain the property owner's consent before cutting the tree down.

What is your cleanup policy after a tree crew has completed its work?

Generally, cleanup is conducted within one week after work is completed. That's because depending on weather conditions and the terrain along the transmission lines, it may be more productive to clear a lengthy section of transmission lines first, and then return for cleanup at a later date.

In the event the debris cannot be safely removed through a transmission line ROW, we'll ask permission to go through private property.

What does O&R and Rockland Electric do with tree stumps left along the ROW?

To prevent soil erosion, we cut the stumps as close to the ground as possible and leave them in place. In some instances, we may use a spot application of a growth inhibitor that prevents the tree from regenerating. We grind tree stumps at the customer's request.

Who do I contact for more information?

For additional information about Orange & Rockland's and Rockland Electric's vegetation management guidelines along transmission line ROWs, please contact **Mark Beamish**, Manager – Vegetation Management Department, toll-free at **1-866-458-3079** at any time of the day or night. The computerized answering system will prompt you to leave your contact information, as well as your 10-digit Orange & Rockland or Rockland Electric account number.

What can I plant near power lines?

With property owner participation, transmission line corridors can be cultivated with native grasses that provide food value to birds and wildlife and are more compatible with the operation of a high voltage transmission line. Native grasses also have deep root systems which make them more likely to recover easily from the effects of ROW maintenance and repair work. While all vegetation in the easement is subject to removal, we can provide you with a list of species of grasses and flowers that are less likely to interfere with access for emergency or maintenance crews.

Keep in mind that small immature trees planted today can grow into problem trees in the future. Planting trees outside the ROW at an adequate distance from power lines allows the canopy and root system to develop more fully. For a list of compatible tree and shrubbery species, visit our Web site at **www.oru.com/compatiblespecies**.

And remember, before you start any landscaping project, make sure that you call **811** prior to digging to make sure there are no buried pipes or wires.



Orange & Rockland
Rockland Electric Company

Vegetation Management Along Transmission Rights-of-Way



 Orange & Rockland
Rockland Electric Company

1007-0071-B-R

Frequently Asked Questions

Frequently Asked Questions about Vegetation Management along Transmission Rights-of-Way

Why are Orange & Rockland and Rockland Electric Company removing trees along transmission Rights-of-Way (ROWs)?

As a result of a widespread blackout in August 2003, state and federal agencies imposed stricter vegetation management requirements on utilities who own easement rights for land below and alongside high voltage transmission lines. To comply with these requirements, O&R is implementing its Transmission Vegetation Management Plan as approved by the NYS Public Service Commission.

On land bordering ROWs but outside of legal easements, we will contact the owner for consent to trim or remove incompatible vegetation that may threaten electric service reliability.

What does tree removal and vegetation management along transmission ROWs have to do with the August 2003 Blackout?

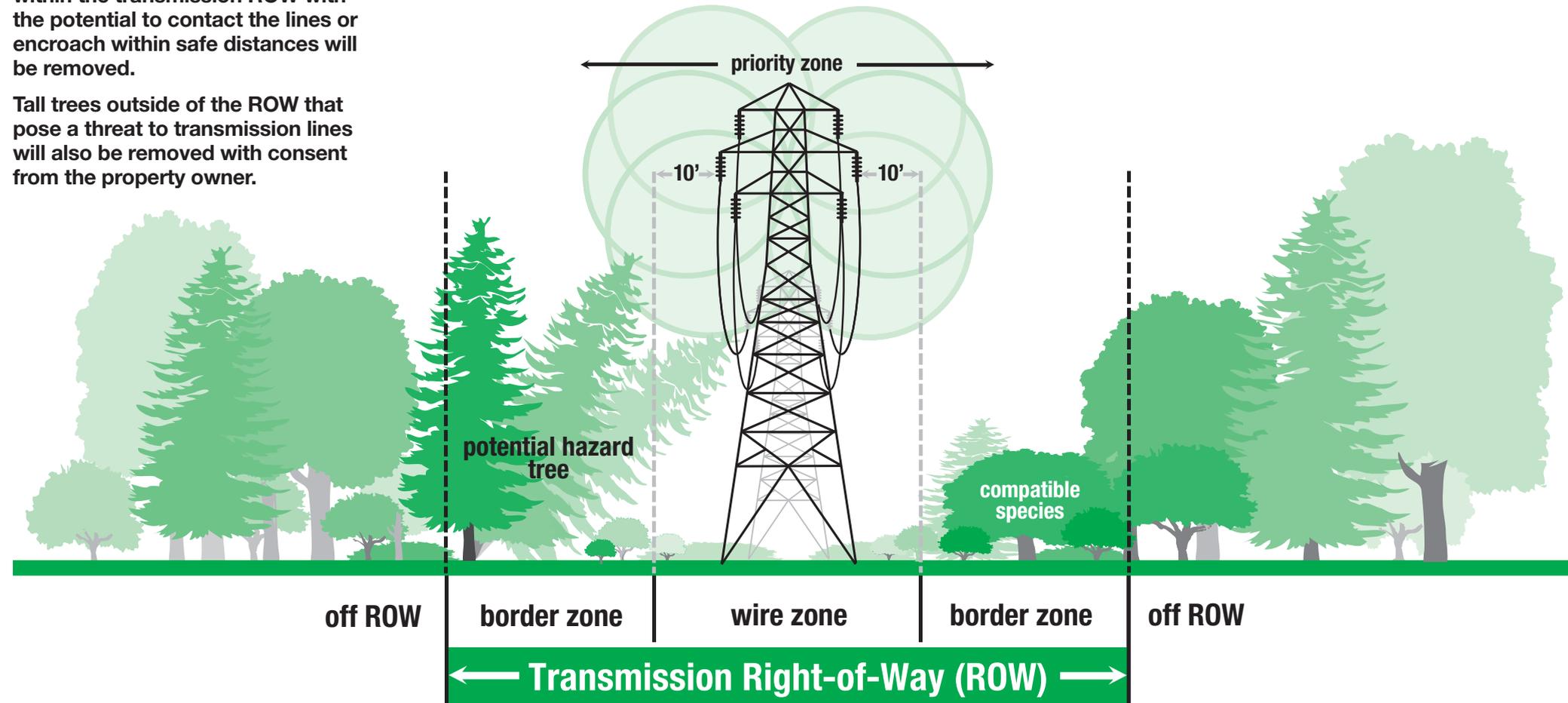
The August 2003 Blackout was the largest in North American history. It affected nearly 50 million people in eight states in the eastern United States and Canada. Outage-related financial losses were estimated at \$6 billion. The root cause was several trees that had grown close enough to a transmission line to cause a flashover and the initial line outage that cascaded throughout the Northeast.

Have Orange & Rockland and Rockland Electric Company always managed vegetation along the transmission ROWs?

Yes. For years, we have implemented a vegetation management program along transmission ROWs. However, the August 2003 Blackout made it abundantly clear that all utilities must exercise their easement rights to control incompatible vegetation along ROWs. Regulatory agencies, including the NYS Public Service Commission, the NJ Board of Public Utilities and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, also realized this and developed the more comprehensive standards that are currently in effect.

For public safety and electric system reliability, trees and other vegetation within the transmission ROW with the potential to contact the lines or encroach within safe distances will be removed.

Tall trees outside of the ROW that pose a threat to transmission lines will also be removed with consent from the property owner.



Priority zone — The space around each wire. For a 138 kV transmission line, the space extends out from the wire a distance of 14 feet — less for lower voltage lines. As wires sag between towers, the priority zone will also sag around them and be lower to the ground between towers.

Wire zone — The area of the ROW directly underneath the transmission lines and extending 10 feet beyond the conductors on each side of the tower or pole.

Border zone — The remaining area in the ROW that is outside the wire zone. The widths of the border zones are the distances between the edges of the wire zone and the edges of the ROW.

Line Voltage (kilovolts)	Wire zone standards	Border zone standards
200 kV and above	Remove all trees and brush, regardless of height.	Remove all trees and brush, regardless of height. In some cases, we may allow low-growing, low-density vegetation.
69 kV – 200 kV	Remove all trees and brush, regardless of height.	Clear all trees and brush with a mature height greater than 15 feet. Low-growing, low-density vegetation may be allowed.