

Aesthetics and Property Impacts

Progress Energy Florida anticipates building about 200 miles of 230- and 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines in nine Central Florida counties. Work will include building new substations and improving existing lines and substations.

- Progress Energy is committed to minimizing impacts on environmental and cultural resources as well as homes and businesses. Current construction materials and designs support this goal.
- Structures would be made of steel, either single poles or H-frame structures.
 - Single poles (500-kV is shown on right)
 - 230-kV structures average 85 to 150 feet tall, but can be taller when crossing roads, water or other electrical equipment.
 - Typically 6 feet in diameter at the base.
 - Typically rights of way are 100 feet.
 - 500-kV structures average 150 to 175 feet tall, but can be taller when crossing roads, water or other electrical equipment.
 - Typically 9 feet in diameter at the base.
 - Typically rights of way are up to 220 feet.
 - H-frame structures average 120 to 145 feet tall; each leg is 6 feet in diameter at the base. (500-kV is shown on right)
- Trees will be cleared from the land under the transmission lines and in the right of way to protect the lines from damage and to allow for future maintenance.
- Typically, during the initial clearing process, Progress Energy removes trees and debris from the rights of way to the extent possible given the land conditions. Stumps are not removed but are cut as close to the ground as possible.
- Except for emergency situations, a property owner can generally expect the transmission line to be patrolled by helicopter three times a year, patrolled by foot every five years, and the easement area to be cleared or mowed every four years.
- Trees in and near the right of way will be pruned and cleared on a four-year cycle, and dangerous trees will be cut as needed. Trees are considered dangerous if they can fall into lines and endanger the operation of the transmission line. Trees in the right of way that reach a mature height of 12 feet or more will be removed.
- Certain uses, such as fences, may be constructed on Progress Energy rights of way with prior written approval from an authorized Progress Energy encroachment representative, if they comply with certain conditions. For example, fences must be properly grounded and must include a 16-foot-wide gate to allow crews access to the right of way.
- In some cases, low-growing shrubs, bushes, hedges, flowers, grasses or other vegetation may be planted within Progress Energy Florida rights of way if they do not interfere with the company's access or maintenance requirements. **Before you plant landscaping, consult with a Progress Energy forester for specific recommendations by calling 800-700-8744.**
- Septic tanks or related drain fields, wells, burial grounds or other similar structures are not allowed within Progress Energy rights of way.
- If Progress Energy damages property, the company is responsible for paying reasonable damages, if the landowner notifies Progress Energy of the damage.

