

Environmental and Rights of Way issues

Acting responsibly toward the environment is a vital part of Progress Energy Florida's overall commitment to customers, employees and neighbors. The company's goal is to minimize impacts on the environment, cultural resources and our communities.

- Overhead transmission lines can be built above many environmentally sensitive areas, without directly impacting them. For example, overhead transmission lines are able to span streams and rivers.
- Through our partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, Progress Energy Florida is helping birds and other wildlife proliferate in the Apalachicola National Forest. Grasses and shrubs are planted in our transmission rights of way, which provides beneficial habitat for numerous species.
- In some cases, Progress Energy purchases right of way land from a property owner, called **fee-owned land**. The utility will continue to own the land, but in many cases the company can allow some limited agricultural use on the property.
- In other cases, Progress Energy purchases an **easement** for a transmission line. An easement is the right to use someone else's land. The property owner continues to own the land, but provides Progress Energy permission to use the land for a transmission line.
 - Progress Energy understands that landowners want to use easement for many purposes, and we encourage uses that are safe for the public and our employees, and that do not interfere with the reliable operation and maintenance of the line.
 - A property owner may be allowed to use an easement for things such as agriculture, grazing, parking lots, temporary storage and entrance crossings. A property owner can build a fence across or along the easement, if it includes a gate at least 16 feet wide to allow Progress Energy trucks access to the easement.
- 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 mowed once every four years. Trees in and near the right of way will be pruned every four years, and dangerous trees will be cut as needed. Trees are considered dangerous if they can fall and endanger the operation of the transmission line.
- Under normal conditions, Progress Energy can access the easement by using the easement itself or any existing public road. If Progress Energy damages property, the company is responsible for paying reasonable damages, if the landowner notifies Progress Energy of the damage.