

8. PROPERTY/RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION

8.1. Identification of Existing Utility and Public Rights of Way

8.1.1 Utility Rights of Way

The first 1.5 miles of transmission line from the Mud Lake Substation to STH 18 will parallel an existing GRE 230 kV transmission line.

Most of the existing MLEC and CWP distribution lines along STH 18 will be removed, upgraded and attached to the new transmission line, the centerline of which will be just outside the road right of way.

8.1.2 Public Rights of Way

Approximately 10.5 miles of the proposed transmission line will parallel the STH 18 public right of way.

8.2 Right of Way Requirements

Approximately 25 additional feet of right of way will be required for the 1.5 miles of line parallel to GRE's 230 kV transmission line north of the Mud Lake Substation.

Along STH 18, the transmission line will be constructed on a 70-foot right of way (35 feet on either side of the transmission centerline).

Additional right of way may be required for longer spans or special design requirements based on final survey. Right of way width depends on conductor blowout and the recommended clearances to obstructions along the route.

8.3 Property/Right of Way Acquisition Procedures

Once a route permit is issued by the Commission, land rights acquisition will commence. Land rights include easement acquisition in the case of a transmission line, or acquisition of a fee interest in the case of a substation or breaker station. As a general practice, landowners will be contacted to review project details and to discuss the initial phase of the transmission project, including survey and soil investigation. Upon completion of the survey and preliminary design, landowners will be contacted and easement/fee acquisition negotiations will commence.

During the acquisition phase of the project, landowners are given a copy of the conveyance documents generally including easements, deeds, structure design or photos, offer sheets, and a plan showing the proposed transmission line or facility relative to the landowner's property. Additional information may also be given to each landowner explaining powerline safety, easement acquisition

procedures, and damage settlement. In addition to permanent easements necessary for the construction of the line, temporary easements may be obtained from certain landowners for temporary construction, access, or staging areas for temporary storage of poles, vehicles, or other related items. Landowners will be notified in the event site access for soil boring is required to determine soil suitability in areas where certain soil characteristics may require special transmission structure design.

8.3.1 Substation Property Acquisition

GRE owns 4.55 acres of land adjacent to MLEC's Wilson Lake Substation that will accommodate the construction of the new 115/69 kV substation at the site. During the substation construction phase, any nearby property owners will be advised as to the construction schedules or needed access to the site. To construct, operate and maintain the proposed substation, all vegetation will be cleared from the substation footprint area, from the substation driveway area, and from a buffer area of 15 feet outside the substation fence. Vegetation on the property outside of the substation footprint, driveway, and buffer will be left undisturbed, except where it must be impacted to allow for transmission line access to the substation.

8.3.2 Transmission Line Easement Acquisition

GRE will acquire easement rights for the new 115 kV transmission line. GRE Land Rights Field Representatives will be available to discuss easement issues with all property owners.

8.4 Tree Clearing and Staking

After land rights have been secured, landowners will be contacted to discuss the initial construction phase of the project including schedules, ingress and egress to and from the planned facility, tree and vegetation removal, damage mitigation, and other related construction activities.

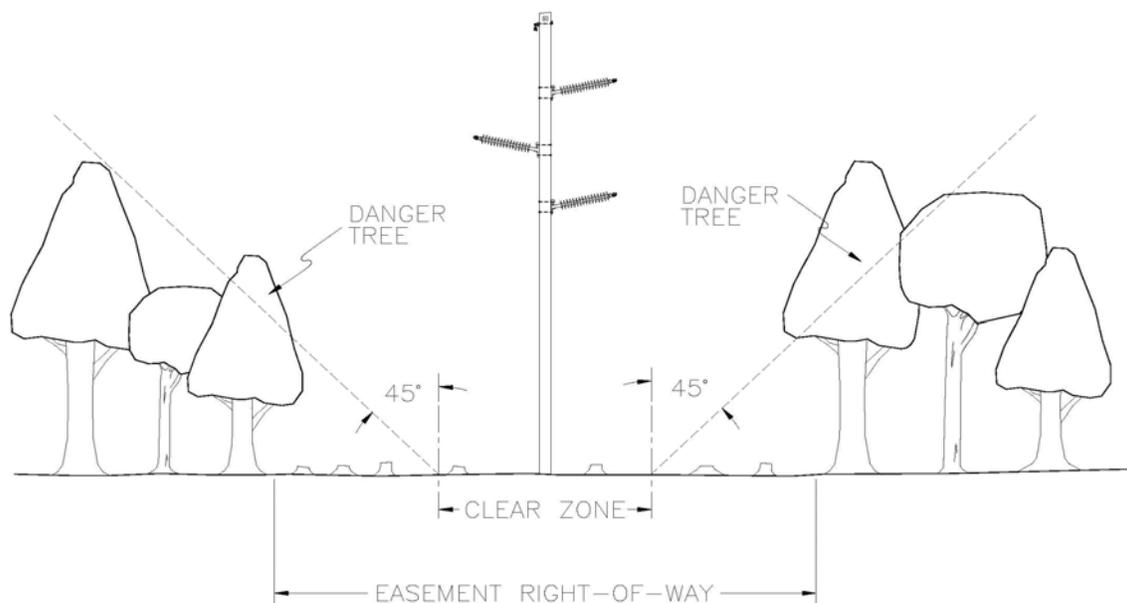
The first phase of construction activities will involve surveying the centerline of the new transmission line, followed by removal of trees and other vegetation from the right of way. As a general practice, low-growing brush or tree species are allowable at the outer limits of the easement area. Taller tree species that endanger the safe and reliable operation of the transmission facility are removed. In developed areas and to the extent practical, existing low growing vegetation that will not pose a threat to the transmission facility or impede construction will remain in the easement area.

The NESC states that "trees that may interfere with ungrounded supply conductors should be trimmed or removed." Standard practices per specifications from the RUS indicate total removal of trees within the easement

area. Trees beyond the easement area that are in danger of falling into the energized transmission line should be removed or trimmed to eliminate the hazard as shown in Figure 8-1. In special circumstances, tree trimming agreements may be possible to minimize tree removal based on negotiations with individual landowners.

The second phase of construction will involve staking the location of structures, followed by structure installation and stringing of conductor wire.

Figure 8-1 Standard Tree Removal Practices



8.5 Right of Way Restoration

Upon completion of construction activities, landowners will be contacted to determine whether or not construction damages have occurred. Areas that sustain construction damage will be restored to their pre-construction condition to the extent possible. Landowners will be notified of the completion of the project, and asked to report any outstanding construction damage that has not been remedied or any other issue related to the construction of the transmission line. Once construction cleanup is complete and construction damages have been successfully mitigated, landowners will be sent a final contact letter signaling the close of the project and requesting notification of any outstanding issues related to the project.

