



Recommended CMP Amendments to Codify the Electric Transmission ROW Vegetation Management Requirements

Pinelands Commission
CMP Policy & Implementation Committee
September 30, 2022




N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.1

- ▶ A development application will not be required for:
 - ▶ Vegetation management activities conducted within existing rights-of-way for electric transmission lines so long as there is:
 - ▶ No increase or expansion in the width of the area historically subject to vegetation management or areas of existing managed rights of way; or
 - ▶ No new or expanded development is proposed; and
 - ▶ Provided, all such vegetation management activities are conducted:
 - ▶ In accordance with the New Jersey Pinelands Electric Transmission Line Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Plan, dated February 2009; or
 - ▶ Complies with the vegetation management prescriptions in N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28



N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28

- ▶ Existing Pinelands Commission Electric Transmission Line Rights-of-Way Vegetation Management Plan
 - ▶ Will be incorporated by reference and will prescribe the vegetation management required for the rights-of-way for existing electric transmission rights-of-way span contained within the plan (69Kv or larger lines existing in 2009)
- ▶ Hand Cutting/Manual Clearing
 - ▶ Permitted year round in uplands and wetlands
 - ▶ May ONLY utilize hand cutting/manual clearing in muck soil wetlands



N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28 (cont.)

➤ Mowing

➤ Permitted in:

➤ Uplands

➤ Mineral Soil Wetlands

➤ But, limited to Winter Months (December 1 through February 28)

➤ NOT permitted in organic soil wetlands


➤ Removal of Vegetative Debris

➤ Vegetative debris from mowing may remain in ROW provided the volume of debris will not prevent the sprouting shrub and herbaceous vegetation.

➤ Hand cut saplings and small branches may be left in place

➤ Larger branches shall be chipped into a vehicle that must be located on the access road.

➤ Tree trunks and logs shall either be chipped in a vehicle on the access road or stacked in the ROW.




N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28 (cont.)

➤ Use of Motorized Vehicles

- Permitted in uplands and mineral soil wetlands, but only in the winter months
- Use of motorized vehicles NOT permitted in organic soil wetlands
- Permitted on the access roads within rights-of-way year round

➤ Maintenance of Existing Roads

- No expansion of existing access roads or construction of new roads (temporary or permanent) without submission of an application to the Commission.
- Development of any new or expanded structures (e.g. culverts, coffer dam, bridges (temporary or permanent) requires an application to the Commission.
- Maintenance shall not result in increase of width or elevation of access road
- Fill materials shall be devoid of debris and hazardous contaminants and consist of natural materials



N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28 (cont.)


- ▶ Reporting requirements:

- ▶ Utilities will submit an EXCEL spreadsheet to the Commission no later than January 31st of the year following vegetation management activities.
- ▶ Spreadsheet will contain:
 - ▶ Identifying information, including GIS coordinates in degree format for the starting and stopping points within spans in which vegetation management activities were conducted;
 - ▶ A list of the vegetation management prescriptions conducted in each span during the reporting period and the dates of such work;
 - ▶ Any issues that may have arisen during implementation of the vegetation management prescriptions in each span.



N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28 (cont.)

- Minor Adjustments to Vegetation Management Plan Prescriptions
 - Made in writing to the Executive Director
 - If approved, will be posted on the Commission's website and applicable solely to specific ROW.
- Escrow
 - Utilities to make escrow payments to the Commission to fund periodic monitoring/inspection of the vegetation management prescriptions conducted in their spans.



N.J.A.C. 7:50-10.31 - 10.35

- ▶ Repeal existing Electric Transmission Line Rights-of-Way Vegetation Management Pilot Program
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