

AEP Ohio Transmission Vegetation Management Standards



Trees are one of the top causes of power outages, and our foresters work daily to manage vegetation to avoid contact to power lines and equipment. A single tree branch contacting a high-voltage transmission line can cause widespread, extended outages across multiple states and regions.

In the last year, important changes were made to the federal reliability standards associated with electric transmission lines. At AEP Ohio, we follow these standards as part of our ongoing commitment to providing safe and reliable power to the communities we serve.

Electric Regulatory Authorities

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is a regulatory authority for electric utilities. It creates, sets and enforces reliability standards for electric utilities to prevent risks for large-scale power outages. Non-compliance increases the risk and safety of the electric grid and can lead to significant penalties for utilities.

Transmission Vegetation Management Standards

NERC includes reliability standards for transmission vegetation management practices to limit vegetation in and near utility rights-of-way. The standards specify minimum clearance distances between transmission lines and the nearest vegetation. Utilities inspect, document and remove vegetation in their rights-of-way to comply with these requirements.

Updates to the Standards



In the past, NERC's vegetation management guidelines applied to transmission lines 200-kilovolts (kV) and higher. These are extra-high voltage transmission lines that span across states, connecting power plants to substations.



NERC recently updated the standard in 2024 to include high-voltage transmission lines below 200-kV, and identified by regional planners as potential risks to the reliability of the electric grid in the event an outage is caused by vegetation contact. Transmission lines at these voltages are smaller than extra-high voltage lines and span from city to city.

Effective vegetation management is vital for reducing power outage risks and ensuring reliable service for our customers. We are committed to complying with these updated standards to protect electricity for customers while respecting the natural environment. Thank you for your understanding as we implement these changes.

For more information about our forestry practices, please visit [AEPTransmission.com/Forestry](https://aeptransmission.com/forestry).