Arlington Forestry and Natural Resources Commission
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Dominion Energy®

Electric Transmission

Vegetation Management

Dominion Energy maintains over 4,000 miles of transmission rights-of-way, which are divided among various geographic regions. The ROWs contain more than 6,000 miles of transmission line, and approximately 42,000 brush acres which are divided into management units called corridors.

At Dominion Energy, we cut trees and brush inside and adjacent to our right of way corridors. This helps us maintain safe and reliable electric service for our customers. This practice also allows our crews quicker access to power structures during service restoration and maintenance work.

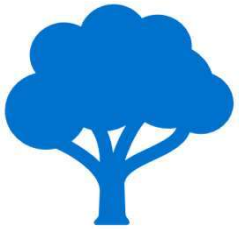
Trees and tree limbs that connect with electrical lines are a leading cause of power outages, especially during storms. Hazard Trees are diseased, dead, dying, or leaning trees or limbs near power lines that have the potential to cause power outages.

We regularly patrol lines to monitor vegetation growth. Transmission lines are routinely maintained about every three to four years.

Compliance

Dominion Energy is required to maintain its transmission assets in compliance with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") standard FAC-003 (Transmission Vegetation Management) which is:

To maintain a reliable electric transmission system by using a defense in-depth strategy to manage vegetation located on transmission rights of way ("ROW") and minimize encroachments from vegetation located adjacent to the ROW, thus preventing the risk of those vegetation related outages that could lead to Cascading.



The purpose of the Dominion Vegetation Management Program is to accomplish the following:

1. Preventing outages triggered by contact from vegetation located on transmission rights-of-way,

2. Minimizing outages from vegetation located adjacent to ROW,

3. Preventing vegetation encroachments into the Minimum Vegetation Clearance Distances ("MVCD") as defined in North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC") Standard FAC 003-4.

Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

- Dominion Energy utilizes an industry best practice commonly called integrated vegetation management; a practice that promotes desirable low-growth native species and controls the spread of non-native invasive species.
- IVM creates a positive environmental impact for native plants and pollinators. IVM strategies reduce the volume and environmental impact of routine vegetation maintenance.
- IVM creates a scrub-shrub, open-space condition to support stormwater management and reduce stormwater runoff rates.

IVM Work Practices

1. **Mechanical:** Selective mowing with forestry mowers for dense areas with undesirable and invasive species.
2. **Manual:** Hand cutting brush with chainsaws.
3. **Herbicide:** There are a variety of different herbicide application methods. Two most common herbicides:

Low-Volume Foliar Herbicide Application:

- An herbicide mixture is selectively applied to the foliage of the target species with a backpack sprayer.
- A Low-Volume Application allows the applicator to “target” only the individual stem that needs to be controlled, providing little to no “off target” control of desirable vegetation.

Cut-Stump Herbicide Application:

- A herbicide mixture applied directly to the stump after the vegetation has been cut.
- A Cut-Stump Application allows for the removal of the above ground portion of the target species while also achieving control of the root system.

IVM Benefits:
Increased Pollinator Habitat

Pollinators play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and regulating local ecosystems.

Selective Low-Volume Herbicide Applications remove rapid growth, competitive vegetation that shades out/hinders the establishment of desirable pollinator vegetation.

Quite often, the seeds of flowering pollinator species lie dormant in the soil unable to compete with surrounding vegetation.

Rights of way have the potential to transition from undesirable vegetation to a thriving pollinator habitat by simply removing the competition.

IVM Benefits:
Invasive Species Control

Dominion's herbicide program helps control non-native federally listed invasive plant species within our rights of way such as:

- Bamboo
- Kudzu
- Ailanthus
- Autumn Olive
- Callery pear
- Mimosa
- Japanese honeysuckle
- etc.

Invasive plant species harm their local environment by adversely affecting ecosystems and out-competing desired native plant species.

Herbicide Application & Plant Backs

Dominion Energy plans to treat woody and invasive vegetation for 2 consecutive years for the entire 32.85 miles.

- Initial application with a follow up application the next year.
- Herbicide applications will be prescribed as needed to control undesirable and invasives species after 2 years.

Plant back of trees and shrubs along the W&OD trail in Arlington County.

- As tree work is completed and herbicide application is applied, Dominion Foresters and NOVA Parks to work together to identify locations for native tree and shrub plantings.
- Locations that are sensitive in the community, potentially where a significant number of trees are removed and sites that would be suitable for replanting in relation to line.
- Once the trees and shrubs are planted the 1-year warranty will be transferred to NOVA Parks.
- Maintenance of the tree and shrubs will be the responsibility of NOVA Parks.

Community Outreach Commitment

- At Dominion Energy, we wholeheartedly believe in ongoing engagement and communication to enhance awareness of our projects and community efforts.
- We are excited to collaborate with NOVA Parks to establish a new agreement that will guide our work on the Trail and ensure that it continues to be a vibrant and accessible space for everyone.
- We will install informative signage along the Trail to support our commitment to environmental stewardship. These signs will highlight areas where we plan to re-plant and create vital pollinator habitats.