

WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

INFORMATION SHEET
MINNESOTA



Easement Acquisition and Survey Permission

- An easement is a permanent right authorizing a utility to use the Right-of-Way (ROW) to build and maintain a transmission line.
- Access may be needed for construction and long-term maintenance of the transmission line.
- To assist with transmission line engineering and design, temporary access or permission from landowners would be acquired.
- Engineering, environmental, cultural, and land survey studies would be conducted to develop the final transmission line route.
- Market data from recent sales of similar properties is used to determine fair and appropriate landowner compensation.
- Every effort will be made to reach a fair and reasonable settlement. When negotiations are unsuccessful, which is rare, we may have to exercise our eminent domain authority may be required.

Working in the Right-of-Way

- Normally, access by the landowner within the transmission line easement is not restricted, and agricultural activities can still occur.
- Activities not permitted within the easement are those that jeopardize the integrity of the structures or reduce the ground-to-line clearance, such as construction of buildings.
- Landowners should exercise caution when operating tall equipment, moving irrigation pipes, fueling vehicles, or conducting other activities within the easement to prevent electrical shock or contact with the line.

Easements and Agriculture

Irrigation

- Structures will be placed to avoid conflicts with irrigation equipment and its operation to the extent possible.
- Site specific circumstances can be addressed with landowners.

Planting and Harvesting

- ROW agents would work with individual landowners to determine when to avoid construction during the planting and harvesting seasons.
- If damage to crops cannot be avoided, compensation for crop loss will be offered.

Livestock

- In coordination with the landowner, segments of fences may be removed or access gates may be installed during line construction.
- Crews would construct temporary fences and work with landowners to minimize impacts to and protect livestock.
- If the landowner is in agreement, gates would be left in place to facilitate future maintenance activities.

