

Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability: **Vegetation Management on Rights-of-Way**

A reliable supply of electricity is essential to the safety, security, economy and welfare of our nation and the communities where we live and work. To ensure the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to our customers, PHI must manage vegetation near its transmission and distribution lines and other facilities to prevent interruptions, blackouts and wildfires. PHI's regulated power delivery operations are required to maintain transmission and distribution rights-of-way so that trees, shrubs and other vegetation do not pose preventable hazards to power lines, poles or other facilities. PHI uses "best practices" to manage vegetation around electricity infrastructure, selecting among mechanical, chemical (herbicides), cultural, and biological control methods for the most suitable approach to meeting safety and reliability needs while maintaining or improving habitats for the region's indigenous flora and fauna.

Vegetation Management: The Basics

- All across the country, electric utilities own and manage thousands of miles of rights-of-way over upon which their electric transmission and distribution lines are sited.
- Utilities must obtain federal, state and local permits – covering multiple land use and environmental issues – in order to build generation facilities and transmission lines.
- Utilities must identify the most direct, least intrusive route possible, in order to minimize both the amount of land used and any environmental impact.
- Trees and other vegetation beneath power lines must be properly maintained to avoid causing interruptions of electric service by growing into, falling through or knocking down power lines.
- Utilities maintain right-of-way lands on a regular basis in order to provide for the safe transmission and distribution of electricity.
- In partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), PHI, like most utilities, implements integrated vegetation management strategies to minimize overall risk to people and the environment while providing safe and reliable electric service.



HOW DOES PHI MANAGE VEGETATION NEAR ITS POWER LINES?

- ❖ PHI carefully selects vegetation management practices that balance environmental concerns, public needs, safety and cost-effectiveness.
- ❖ With the exception of service roads, most land around PHI's transmission power lines remains covered with compatible trees, grasses, shrubs and flowers.
- ❖ PHI partners with state, regional and local groups to create and maintain numerous natural habitats on its rights-of-way.
- ❖ PHI strives to reduce the use of EPA-approved herbicides through the selection and use of proper application methods, equipment and technology which minimize application rates.



PHI strives to:

- ❖ Promote indigenous flora and fauna through vegetation renewal projects;
- ❖ Enhance management project site plantings with native plant species;
- ❖ Protect native rare species populations that could otherwise be impacted by rights-of-way establishment, construction or maintenance;
- ❖ Manage rights-of-way areas to maintain wildlife habitat and protect threatened and endangered species habitat; and
- ❖ Reduce the introduction and control the spread of nonnative invasive species or noxious weeds in rights-of-way and adjacent lands.

Recognized Excellence

- ❖ Pepco is currently the only electric utility in the nation whose rights-of-way vegetation management program is certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council.
- ❖ All PHI utilities (Atlantic City Electric, Delmarva Power and Pepco) are active in community outreach and educational efforts to promote its **Right Tree, Right Place** initiative. **Right Tree, Right Place** advocates planting each tree species where it will thrive and not planting large species where they will interfere with power lines once they reach mature height.
- ❖ All PHI utilities have been named **Tree Line USA Utilities** by the National Arbor Day Foundation. The Tree Line program is sponsored by the foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters. It recognizes utilities that demonstrate: a program of quality tree care, annual worker training in quality tree care, and a tree planting and public education program.
- ❖ PHI has longstanding commitments to vegetation management and green infrastructure efforts to help promote the sequestration of carbon dioxide by trees and other vegetation to stabilize and gradually reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

