

**GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THIRD PARTY WORK  
AROUND AEP TRANSMISSION LINES  
Revised 7/24/2017**

The following guidelines are provided to illustrate considerations and requirements for work to take place in or near AEP transmission easements and facilities (wires, poles, or towers). Transmission wires generally operate at higher voltages than distribution wires. Facilities owned by distribution and transmission are independent and each presents their own unique considerations. Consult your AEP project contact to determine if facilities are operated by distribution or transmission. These guidelines are applicable for transmission facilities. Work around distribution facilities needs to be coordinated with distribution personnel. These guidelines are provided to ensure the safe and reliable operation of the bulk electric power system and bring attention to unique considerations when working around transmission lines. This is not intended to be an inclusive list and shall not be applied to any work other than the specific activities for which it was provided. Each project may have its own specific requirements and shall be provided to an AEP representative for review prior to commencement of the work.

**AEP Transmission expects anyone performing work around its transmission lines to read and understand the following. Work directly with your AEP project contact if clarifications are needed.**

1. It is the responsibility of the person and company performing the work to determine, understand, and adhere to all required OSHA clearances to an energized transmission line at the verified operating voltage during all project phases including planning, mobilization, set-up, construction, and demobilization.
2. AEP transmission lines have a wide range of operating voltages. The voltage on one line may not be the same as another even if they visually appear similar. Each voltage has mandated OSHA clearances for the work being performed. The operating voltage must be known before any work can be planned. Consult your AEP project contact if you do not know the operating voltage.
3. All lines should be considered energized and in use at all times unless an AEP representative has secured a planned outage and holds the clearance. Grounds shall also be visually confirmed on either side of the work area to verify a line is de-energized.
4. The transmission wire positions are not static and will move due to wind, ambient temperature changes, and ampacity through the lines. The changes in position can be significant. For example, if the work should take place during hot weather or high load demand periods, the conductor height from ground will vary and could drop in sag by several feet so clearances should be checked routinely as needed to ensure safe construction means and methods.
5. The person or company performing the work shall determine if an observer is required to act as a spotter during all construction activities.
6. The person or company performing the work will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and codes governing the work associated with the project.
7. Stockpiling materials, soil, or fill material under transmission lines or within the AEP easements, during or after construction, is not permitted without approval from an AEP representative.
8. Excavating within a transmission line easement or within 30' of poles and/or guy anchors and 40' within tower legs, if a transmission easement does not exist, is not permitted without approval from an AEP representative.

9. If grading or excavating activities around AEP facilities is approved, the person performing the work shall take extreme care to not encroach upon approved offset distances, or contact, the pole or guy anchors. Even a small amount of contact can loosen anchors or damage poles and render unsafe conditions.
10. If trenching around AEP facilities is approved, the person performing the work shall backfill and compact in 6" lifts to maintain stable soil conditions. The details of this work shall be discussed with your AEP project contact.
11. AEP maintains the right to have personnel on site during construction activities to monitor the work being performed. Notification to your project contact shall be provided a minimum of 1 month prior to the start of work.
12. The person or company performing the work assumes and accepts full responsibility, including financial obligation, for all work performed near the transmission lines. The financial obligation to remedy any conditions deemed, at the sole discretion of an AEP representative, to be detrimental to AEP assets and as a result of the work being performed, shall be the sole responsibility of the person or company performing the work.

AEP remains committed to safe work practices and remain available to address any issues that the person performing the work feels is necessary.