An Overview of the New Jersey Pinelands Electric-Transmission Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Plan and CMP Pilot Program

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Approval:

Purpose:
- Maintain early successional habitats
- Preserve wetlands integrity
- Maintain utility transmission line safety

Extent:
Manage 233 miles of high voltage ROW in the Pinelands Area.
2009: ROW Plan approved as a 10-year Pilot Program in the CMP.

2010: Companies begin annual reporting on which spans were managed.

2014: Staff provided the First Progress Report on years 2010-2012 to Commission.


2019: “Commission Executive Director must review Pilot Program and determine whether or not the Program has been successful and may be incorporated into CMP.”

“Or two-year extension”
The Vegetation Management Prescriptions

- Developed by Rutgers University and Pinelands Commission Science staff to maintain Pinelands successional habitats
- Are on a span-by-span basis for all 3,041 spans in the Pinelands
- Prescriptions reflect local Pinelands habitats such as scrub-shrub vegetation, emergent wetlands, ponds and grasslands
- 59 prescriptions were developed, the basic prescriptions are “mow” and “cut trees manually, do not mow,” with various additional restrictions added, such as a timing restriction
Spreadsheet integration with Arcview mapping

Note: Sightings are not actual data
The Three Utility Companies

No. of Spans (3,041)
- ACE: 85%
- PSEG: 7%
- JCP&L: 8%

Area of ROW (2,695 acres)
- ACE: 47%
- PSEG: 38%
- JCP&L: 15%
Wetlands spans on a JCP&L line in Berkeley Township
Administered by Two Offices

Regulatory Programs Office

Site inspects ROWs to see if prescriptions are being carried out correctly.

Science Office

Reports on vegetation study plots to assess the effects of the prescription.
The Pilot Program was generally successful in meeting its goals …

… but we need more time to adopt an Amended ROW Plan that addresses issues encountered over the past ten years.

A two-year extension will allow the development of the Plan.
Since 2012, all three utilities have been requesting the use of IVM (Integrated Vegetation Management), including limited herbicide use, to better manage tree regrowth.
Questions?