Recommended CMP Amendments to Codify the Electric Transmission ROW Vegetation Maintenance Pilot Program

Pinelands Commission
CMP Policy & Implementation Committee
October 29, 2021
N.J.A.C. 7:50-4.1

- A development application will not be required for:

  - Vegetation management activities conducted within existing rights-of-way for electric transmission lines so long as there is:
    - No increase or expansion in the width of the area historically subject to vegetation management or areas of existing managed rights of way; and
    - No new or additional development; and

  - Provided, all such vegetation management activities are conducted:
    - In accordance with the New Jersey Pinelands Electric Transmission Line Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Plan; or
    - In accordance with the vegetation management prescriptions in N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28
Existing Spans Identified in the ROW Plan

- The ROW Plan will be incorporated in the CMP by reference

- The specific vegetation management prescriptions identified in the 2009 ROW Plan for 3,041 existing spans will continue to apply to those spans.
N.J.A.C. 7:50-6.28

Standards for new or expanded spans

- **Hand Cutting/Manual Clearing**
  - Permitted year-round in uplands, mineral soil wetlands and muck soil wetlands

- **Mowing**
  - Permitted in uplands and mineral soil wetlands
  - Limited to winter months (December 1 through February 28)
  - NOT permitted in muck soil wetlands
Motorized Vehicle Standards

- Applicable to all electric transmission rights-of-way
  - Motorized vehicle use is:
    - Permitted in uplands and mineral soil wetlands, but only in the winter months
    - NOT permitted in muck soil wetlands
    - Permitted on existing access roads within rights-of-way year-round
Reporting requirements:

Utilities will be required to submit EXCEL spreadsheets to the Commission on an annual basis, identifying all vegetation management activities conducted in the preceding year.

Spreadsheets must contain:

- Identification of each span within which vegetation management activities were conducted during the preceding year (either by span # assigned in the ROW Plan or by providing GIS coordinates in degree format for new or expanded spans)
- A list of the vegetation management prescriptions conducted in each span during the reporting period and the dates of such work;
- Any issues that may have arisen during implementation of the vegetation management prescriptions in each span.

Escrow requirements:

Utilities will be required to make escrow payments to the Commission to fund ongoing inspections and preparation of periodic reports to the Commission on vegetation management within the ROWs.
N.J.A.C. 7:50-10.31 - 10.35

- Repeal existing Electric Transmission Line Rights-of-Way Vegetation Maintenance Pilot Program