

The National Electric Safety Code sets minimum clearance distances between power lines and obstructions or the ground. In addition, the federal government has strict reliability standards for transmission lines. Obstructions in the right of way can be too close to our lines, causing reliability problems and safety issues.

- Anything that is too close to power lines can cause electricity from the lines to “flash” or cause a short circuit.
- Obstructions such as swimming pools also can create situations — such as a person using a long aluminum pole to clean the pool — that increase the danger from overhead lines.
- Remember that while the top of a shed might be outside the required clearance zone, someone standing on the shed roof or using a ladder near the shed could cause an unsafe situation.


For these reasons, PPL Electric Utilities enforces a strict “no-obstruction” policy in the rights of way for its transmission lines.

For safety, and to keep the power on for you and your neighbors throughout the region, keep the PPL Electric Utilities right of way clear of obstructions that can be unsafe or cause a power outage.



WEBSITE:
Visit www.pplelectric.com/obstructions

CONTACT US:
1-800-DIAL-PPL
transmissionencroachments@pplweb.com

A photograph of a rural landscape featuring several tall, brown utility poles with cross-arms and power lines stretching across the sky. The ground is covered in green grass and trees, with a clear blue sky in the background.

**KEEP AREAS
UNDER POWER
LINES CLEAR**

**Obstructions are unsafe and
can lead to major power outages**



Electric transmission lines are the backbone of the regional electric grid. They are vital to our economic health and our nation's security.

Keeping the areas beneath them clear is critical for your safety and the safety of our employees. And it's an important part of maintaining the reliability of electric service for you and your neighbors.

At PPL Electric Utilities, we take a proactive approach to keeping our electric lines clear of anything that might cause a safety or reliability issue. This means that we prohibit buildings and structures such as swimming pools, stormwater facilities, billboards, playground equipment, tall fences, stockpiling of materials and other obstructions under our high-voltage lines.

We recognize that this approach may not be popular with some property owners. But we work very hard to make safety a top priority and to keep our electric system reliable for all of our customers.

What does PPL Electric Utilities prohibit in power line rights of way?

Examples include buildings and structures such as swimming pools, sheds on a foundation, above-grade decks and billboards and any other object, structure or tree that could pose a safety or reliability problem.

Obstructions in the right of way are dangerous and can lead to power outages. They become even more of a problem during periods of peak electricity usage, such as summer heat waves, when power lines can sag significantly due to heavy loading.

Why are these things a problem?

Failure to maintain adequate clearance from electric lines can be extremely dangerous. Obstructions can make it difficult or unsafe for our crews to use our right of way for maintenance and repair. Another problem is major power outages: If a transmission line contacts a tree or other obstruction, it can cause a dangerous short circuit and a power outage for tens of thousands of people in the region.

What is allowed in power line rights of way?

We will review every request individually. Generally driveways, gates, certain low fences and parking lots may be permitted after PPL Electric Utilities review. Note: While we may allow these types of uses on rights of way owned by individual property owners and covered by easement agreements, we generally do not allow obstructions of any kind on property owned by PPL Electric Utilities.

Why can PPL Electric Utilities tell me what to do with my own property?

Our transmission easements – for which property owners are compensated by PPL Electric Utilities – give us specific rights. Because of these agreements, PPL Electric Utilities has the right to build, maintain and operate a transmission line. And we have the right to prohibit anything in the right of way that would interfere with these rights.

How can I get a right of way encroachment application?

If you plan anything in the right of way, you can obtain an application by calling us at 1-800-342-5775 or by downloading it at pplelectric.com. Just select Reliability, then Obstructions and email your application to transmissionencroachments@pplweb.com

Review fees can range from \$500 to more than \$1,500 depending on the complexity of the project. The fees help offset the costs to review your project.

