

Agricultural and Farming FAQ

Company representatives balance the need for electric transmission infrastructure with land use and work with landowners at each step during the project's development. The utility considers landowner concerns and preferences when determining the power line route. Many existing land uses such as farming, pastures and orchards can be accommodated along with the need for an obstruction-free right-of-way during construction, operation and maintenance of the power line.

● Will I still be able to farm the full width of the right-of-way, and what limitations should I expect?

Yes, the right-of-way can continue to be farmed. Primary restrictions include permanent structures (such as homes, barns, or grain bins) and tall-growing trees. Row crops, hay, and similar uses are typically compatible. Specific restrictions are reviewed with landowners as the project develops. Farm equipment clearances could result in space around each structure that cannot be farmed.

● How will tower placement affect my ability to plant, spray, and harvest efficiently?

AEP works to site structures in locations that minimize disruption to normal farming patterns where feasible. We understand efficiency matters, especially with modern equipment. Structure locations are planned to reduce interference with field operations; however, right-of-way (ROW) agents work with landowners to discuss site-specific concerns before final placement is determined.

● What clearance heights will I have for large equipment like combines, sprayers, and grain carts?

Transmission lines are designed to meet or exceed National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) clearance requirements. In agricultural areas, this typically allows safe operation of standard farm equipment. Landowners with unusually tall equipment or specific concerns should review concerns with ROW agents.

● How will construction impact soil compaction, and what steps will be taken to restore soil productivity?

Construction can temporarily impact soil conditions, but AEP requires contractors to follow agricultural mitigation practices. These typically include decompaction, grading, and restoration measures to return the land to pre-construction condition as closely as possible. ROW agents document concerns to help ensure they are addressed. Per the terms of the easement agreement, AEP is responsible for payment of crop damages.

● Will topsoil be stripped and replaced, and how will soil horizons be protected during construction?

Where appropriate, topsoil segregation and replacement practices are used, especially in sensitive or highly productive soils. The goal is to preserve soil structure and productivity. Specific methods may vary by location, and those details can be reviewed as construction plans are finalized.

- **What compensation is available if crop yields are reduced long-term due to the line or structures?**

Compensation is agreed to in the easement agreement and typically includes payment for the rights acquired and for anticipated impacts. If construction-related damages occur, they are documented and compensated. ROW agents work directly with landowners throughout the process to ensure damages are addressed in accordance with the agreement.

- **How will existing drainage tile be identified, protected, or compensated for as a result of the project?**

AEP and its contractors make efforts to identify known tile systems prior to construction. If tile is damaged, it will be compensated for. We encourage landowners to share tile maps or knowledge of their systems so they can be properly accounted for and avoided, if possible.

- **What happens if drainage patterns change or tile systems fail after installation?**

If issues arise as a result of construction, they can be evaluated and addressed. The easement agreement includes provisions related to damages, and ROW agents serve as a main point of contact to help coordinate resolution.

- **What can I expect during construction in terms of timing, access routes, and disruption to planting/harvest?**

Once a final route option is determined, prior to construction, ROW agents work with landowners to confirm access for construction and discuss schedule. AEP aims to minimize disruption and works with landowners, where possible, to coordinate around farming activities. Temporary impacts could occur, but communication is a key part of managing them.

- **How will gates, fences, and biosecurity (livestock operations) be handled during construction?**

Company representatives are expected to respect gates, fences, and livestock operations. Temporary fencing or gates may be installed if needed, and properties are to be secured after work is completed each day. If you have specific requirements, those should be communicated in advance so they can be incorporated in the landowner special conditions that construction contractors use.

- **How will this project impact my organic certification or organic farming practices?**

AEP understands that organic farming requires strict compliance with certification standards. During construction, contractors follow environmental and agricultural best management practices to minimize disturbance and avoid the introduction of prohibited substances. Landowners with specific organic requirements, such as buffer zones, input restrictions, or documentation needs, are encouraged to share those with ROW agents so they can be considered in planning and construction. ROW agents can help communicate those requirements and ensure they are documented appropriately.

- **Will AEP or the ROW contractor need ongoing access, and how will that affect my farming operations over time?**

AEP retains the right to access the right-of-way for inspection, maintenance, and repairs. This access is typically periodic and not continuous. When possible, existing access points are used to minimize disruption and advanced notification is provided.



Scan the QR Code to watch a short video on how AEP balances the need for electric transmission infrastructure with agricultural operations.