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VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Stowe Electric Department serves over 4,000 customers with 7.1 miles of transmission and 120 miles of distribution overhead lines within the Town of Stowe. About 70 miles of line require trimming. Stowe Electric Department has established a target of attaining a five-year vegetation maintenance cycle on transmission right-of-ways and a seven-year maintenance cycle on distribution right-of-ways. Tree outages are SED's top cause of all outages.

Lands within the Stowe Electric Department right-of-way are either owned by private individuals or are in State ownership. A perpetual easement is the most common type of utility right-of-way document. Most easements at Stowe Electric Department are 50 feet on distribution and 100 feet on transmission.

A variety of vegetation is present along Stowe Electric Department right-of-ways, ranging from open agricultural land, low-growing shrubs and brush, as well as fully grown trees. Tree growth rates vary widely and depend on a number of factors, such as aspect of slope, moisture, sunlight, competition, seed source and soil makeup. The most common forest types in wooded areas along Stowe Electric Department right-of-ways are Northern Hardwoods, Spruce-Fir, Eastern Hemlock, Yellow Birch and White Pine