



## ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

P.O. BOX 190  
STOWE, VERMONT 05672  
(802) 253-7215  
(802) 253-4555 FAX

### Official Right-of-way Policy

The Town of Stowe Electric Department (“SED” or “Electric Department”) acquires easement deeds from property owners for the construction of distribution and transmission lines and related necessary support structures. The Official Right-of-Way Policy, as adopted by the Electric Department and the Town of Stowe Electric Utility Commissioners, interprets the language of these easements and reflects SED’s past, current, and ongoing policies in regards to establishment and maintenance of SED right-of-ways (“ROW”). SED’s easement deed secures “the perpetual right and easement from time to time without further payment therefore to clear and keep cleared a strip along said line.” Maintenance crews must be able to access the lines at short notice in the event of an outage, weather event, or any other service which may be necessary to maintain safe and reliable operation of the grid. Maintaining a clear ROW helps SED continue to provide reliable electric service and to maintain safe operation of the electric grid throughout its service territory. ROW corridors vary in size depending upon the type of electrical line. The total width of each ROW is determined by the type of electrical infrastructure, as illustrated in the chart below. The width is calculated by dividing the total distance by two and measuring that distance outward from center on both sides of the line.

#### Width of Right-of-Ways

Aerial Transmission Line	100 foot ROW
Underground Transmission Line	50 foot ROW
Aerial Distribution Line	50 foot ROW
Underground Distribution	25 foot ROW

#### **Obstructions**

SED requires that ROWs be kept free of obstructions and be regularly maintained in order to ensure continued easy access to the lines, reliable electrical service, and provide for the safety of property owners as well as line maintenance and vegetation management crews.

Construction is only allowed within SED’s ROWs in limited circumstances. Construction of any vertical structure or object that intrudes on the clearance of overhead lines, or any structure or object that would limit the ability to freely service or maintain the lines with necessary equipment, including vehicles and other large machinery, is strictly prohibited. These structures are also prohibited due to the fire risk they can pose to SED crews and property owners in the event of a major fault. Property owners may have a driveway or parking lot located within ROWs. As with other construction projects, it is necessary that they call Dig Safe before beginning such a project so that SED crews can precisely locate any underground utility lines that may be affected.

SED will remove or trim any trees or vegetation that they feel pose a risk to safety or reliability. SED may also employ certified contractors to perform this work under direction of SED. This includes any trees or vegetation that have grown too close to the utility space (the area surrounding the wires that provide electrical, cable, telephone, and other utility services), as well as woody brush and small trees beneath power lines, trees and vegetation which threaten to spread into the ROW, “danger trees” which have grown outside of the ROW but pose or will pose a risk of falling into the ROW or onto the electrical lines, and other situations which SED has determined may pose a risk to reliable electrical service and safety of maintenance crews and property owners.

Careful consideration of the type of plant or tree and its location in relation to the power lines can help SED minimize tree-related outages and eliminate the need to trim or remove the tree at a later date. The Department recommends that property owners only plant low growing, non-invasive shrubs alongside or within ROWs. SED appreciates the assistance and cooperation of property owners in its mission to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electrical service to all of its ratepayers.

Ellen L. Burt  
Ellen L. Burt, General Manager  
Town of Stowe Electric Department

10-15-2014  
Date

Adoption by Town of Stowe Electric Utility Commissioners

Richard Marron  
Richard Marron, Chair

10-15-14  
Date

Larry Lackey  
Larry Lackey, Board Member

10/15/2014  
Date

Mary Lintermann  
Mary Lintermann, Board Member

10/14/2014  
Date