

# A GUIDE TO DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN ATC UTILITY CORRIDORS



ATC owns and operates over 10,000 miles of power lines in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. ATC's power lines are located in both urban and rural areas. In many cases, ATC does not own the land on which the facilities are located but has easement rights for the specific purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the line. Easements are legal documents that are commonly found in landowners' title to their property. Because ATC operates power lines with varying voltages (from 69,000-volts to 345,000-volts), easements may vary too.

The "basic" parameters below should be used when considering any developments within an ATC utility corridors in order to keep people and power lines safe.

- ▶ Unobstructed ATC access to the easement utility corridor area must be maintained at all times.
- ▶ ATC may permit nonresidential buildings and driveway entrances within the easement boundaries, however close coordination with, and approval from, ATC is required to ensure OSHA or other clearance requirements are met.
- ▶ Clearance requirements are mandated by OSHA safety regulations and apply to personnel and machinery "working" in the utility corridor under our power lines.
- ▶ No excavation is allowed within 20 feet of the face of any structure.
- ▶ Contact Diggers Hotline at least three working days prior to any excavation within the easement.

## **THE FOLLOWING MAY BE ALLOWED, BUT PLEASE CONTACT ATC PRIOR TO INSTALLING ANY OF THEM:**

- ▶ Detention basins, constructed within the easement, may or may not be compatible with the operation and maintenance of power lines. Any grade changes within the easement must not exceed 4:1 slope.
- ▶ Grade changes in excess of one foot (plus or minus twelve inches) must be reviewed and approved by ATC. Transition slopes for grade changes should be four feet to one foot vertical for steel towers and poles; three feet horizontal to one foot vertical for wood poles and wood H-frame structures.
- ▶ Fences in the utility corridor must be approved by ATC and erected a minimum of 10 feet away from the face of any power line structure. ATC must have access to its facilities for maintenance. It is recommended that all metal fences constructed within the easement utility corridor be grounded. Gates (a minimum of 14 feet) may be mandatory for access to the power line assets if blocking the easement width.
- ▶ Lighting structures may or may not be allowed within the easement.
- ▶ Septic systems or private wells may or may not be allowed within the easement.
- ▶ Landscaping plans should be submitted to ATC for any plantings impacting an utility corridor. All vegetation is at risk of trim or removal in accordance with easement rights. Landscaping should not impede access to facilities (structures and conductors).
- ▶ During snow removal operations, snow must not be piled under the conductors (i.e., wires) or near the towers. Piles of snow can create a code violation or create a dangerous climbing surface.
- ▶ Unauthorized structures, plantings, facilities, or other encroachments may be removed without compensation or reimbursement and at the landowner's expense.

**[More information and the ATC Encroachment Request form.](#)**