

PRE-CONSTRUCTION

Field Surveys

The field data we collect allows our scientists and engineers to plan and design the line with the information necessary for construction.

Wildlife Surveys

Wildlife surveys provide important data about the species living in the area, helping us plan how to minimize impacts to wildlife species and habitat.

Wetland and Stream Surveys

To survey wetlands and streams, our field staff visits locations that we identified through analysis of maps and aerial imagery as streams or potential wetland areas. The purpose of the surveys is to determine if these features can be classified as a wetland or a stream based on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidelines. The crew will collect data on vegetation, hydrology and soil characteristics.



Archaeological Surveys

Archaeological surveys consist of walking the easement area to look for cultural artifacts on the ground. If artifacts are found, they are collected for further analysis. To access areas where visibility is limited, such as woody or grassy areas, archaeologists may hand-dig a small hole to screen soils for artifacts. All excavated shovel test areas will be filled back in after the survey is completed. If a culturally-significant site is identified, additional testing may be required to determine if it is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Soil Surveys

As a part of the project, engineering staff will design the foundation for each transmission line structure. The field data we collect will help our engineers determine the final design and structure locations, and will help to minimize impacts to cultural and biological resources during construction.

The design process requires information about the soil where the structure will be located. Collecting soil information is completed using the following steps by our geotechnical field survey crews:

- Partner with our real estate team to request property access.
- Gather samples from each site by digging a 4-6 inch wide hole into the ground, known as a soil boring. Soil boring areas will be filled back in after the survey.
- Review samples to determine the physical properties and layering of the soil.
- Use soil information to design each foundation and structure dimensions.