Gmail [redacted]

Proposed powerline corridor widening question

Meadows, Kore Wa ne <Kore .Meadows duke-energy.com> Wed, Jun 12, 2024 at 4:59 PM
To: [redacted]

[redacted]

Thank you for reaching out and looking to gain additional insight on this topic.

Duke Energy continuously evaluates our overall system health, in terms of safety and reliability, and looks for opportunities to strategically improve, based on many factors. More than ten years ago the circuits that pass through Pisgah National Forest from Canton to Pisgah were evaluated as having poor performance in terms of reliability. The evaluation determined that a narrow right of way, limited access, high tree densities and mountainous terrain were primary contributing factors. Typically Duke Energy has easements associated with transmission lines and corridor that allow us to take swift action to mitigate these factors and improve performance in and adjacent to our transmission corridors. With this line crossing the Pisgah National Forest under permit we have had to take a different approach for more than a decade. Multiple trips each year are made by crews on the ground to cut just enough to keep the line clear of brush that reaches a threshold requiring response or climb trees to trim limbs in the upper most canopy. In addition to ground resources we periodically have to call in Aerial resources to trim limbs back away from the line that present unacceptable safety risks to ground resources. This type of “just in time work” often requires emergency forced outages in order to safely execute. None of this provides any kind of effective or efficient long term solution to the vegetation challenges present.

To address the factors leading to poor performance Duke Energy has proposed widening of the corridor. This will greatly reduce the fall in risks we know currently exists. An ancillary benefit of reducing fall in risks by removing trees/widening the corridor is those are many of the same trees that present grow-in risks from the sides requiring responses Aerially to mitigate. Access to and within the ROW will be improved. Access alone has historically been the single largest limiting factor for restoring power, no matter the cause, meaning longer outage durations when an event occurred. We cannot change the mountainous terrain nor do we wish too but through widening of the corridor we can reduce reliability and safety risks associated with vegetation and improve performance in an area of the state that is ever growing and demanding more and more safe, reliable energy.

I recognize that I have not provided specific vegetation related outage numbers, dates and statistics. While vegetation falling or growing into a line provides a very visual cause and effect relationship, vegetation is not the only cause of interruptions. However, narrow corridors filled with vegetation nearly always exacerbates maintenance and restoration efforts across the board. To focus only on outages directly caused by vegetation would not appropriately explain the overall purpose and need for widening the corridor.

Respectfully,

Korey W. Meadows

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"Do Right, and Risk the Consequences" *~ Sam Houston*

https://www.duke-energy.com/community/trees-and-rights-of-way/how-we-manage-trees/transmission-lines-vegetation-management

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From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, June , 4 4: PM
To: Meadows, Korey Wayne <Korey.Meadows@duke-energy.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed powerline corridor widening question

Hi Korey,

I was told to reach out to you by a Duke Energy representative, via the US Forest Service. I have a clarifying question that will help me submit my formal public comment to the USFS for the proposed widening of the transmission ROW and HTZ as it passes through Pisgah National Forest from the Davidson River to Canton. In the documents, it is made clear that this transmission line is a pinch point for reliable electricity to the people of Haywood County and Canton. My question is: can you provide the total number of times that vegetation has caused an outage along this transmission line in the past? I'd love to know any time period, but the longer the better... 10, 20, 30 years would be great to know. Any further details about each outage would be great, if they were recorded, such as "fallen hazard tree; undergrowth contact; non-hazard tree contact; etc." I did not see any of the historical information referenced in the documents, but I apologize if I missed it.

[redacted]

If you could provide that information as soon as possible it would be greatly appreciated. I want to have the information in time to make a reasoned response within the comment period.

Sincerel