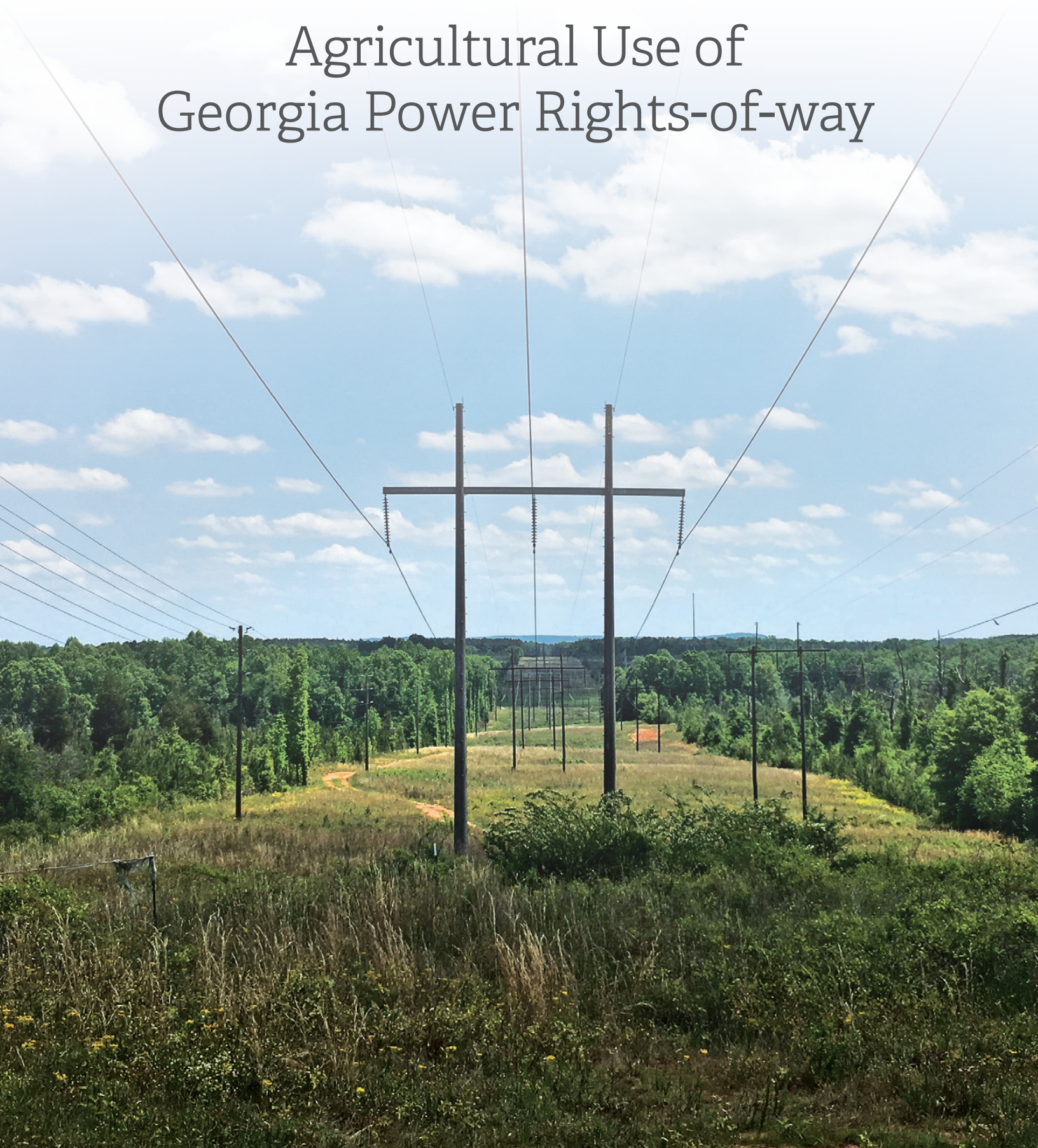


# Agricultural Use of Georgia Power Rights-of-way



# Georgia Power's Commitment to the Farming Community

Georgia Power has a long history of working with landowners and farmers to facilitate land use activities in our transmission rights-of-way that are compatible with transmission safety and reliability standards. We have prepared this document to provide you with important information on several topics related to our transmission rights-of-way and to give you contact information for the appropriate personnel within Georgia Power. By working together, we can protect the safety of the public and ensure the continued reliability of the system.

## Georgia Power Transmission Rights-of-Way

The strips of land upon which Georgia Power transmission lines are located are called rights-of-way. Georgia Power acquires these rights-of-way for the purposes of constructing, operating and maintaining its transmission facilities in a safe and reliable manner. The majority of Georgia Power's rights-of-way are in the form of easements which allow for Georgia Power to keep the land subject to the easements clear of obstructions and activities that may interfere with Georgia Power's use of the right-of-way and allow ingress and egress across adjacent lands to and from the strip.

## Landowner Use of Transmission Rights-of-Way

Landowners can generally continue to use the property subject to the easement if the use is compatible with Georgia Power's right of use. Any use of the property that is not permitted by the terms of the easement is considered an encroachment and must be approved by Georgia Power. In determining whether to approve a particular encroachment, Georgia Power must consider many factors, the most important of which is the safety of the public and Georgia Power's crews. In addition, a minimum undisturbed area must be maintained around all Georgia Power facilities (required distances vary depending on Georgia Power's needs, minimum distances established by applicable law or standards and the type of use). Other considerations include but are not limited to maintenance of access to the right-of-way and all facilities, potential impact on reliability, and compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and Georgia Power construction and design guidelines.

## Contact Us!

Coordinating with Georgia Power early in your planning process can help keep you safe and avoid wasting time and money.

If you plan to make use of the right-of-way, it is important that you contact Georgia Power as early as possible to ensure that your intended use is acceptable and to apply for an encroachment agreement, if required.

Failure to get prior approval for an encroachment may result in you being required to remove the encroachment at your own expense.

## Agricultural Uses

For your information, we have included below some general information and guidelines regarding common agricultural uses of Georgia Power's transmission line rights-of-way.

Please keep in mind that every encroachment has a unique set of circumstances and is evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

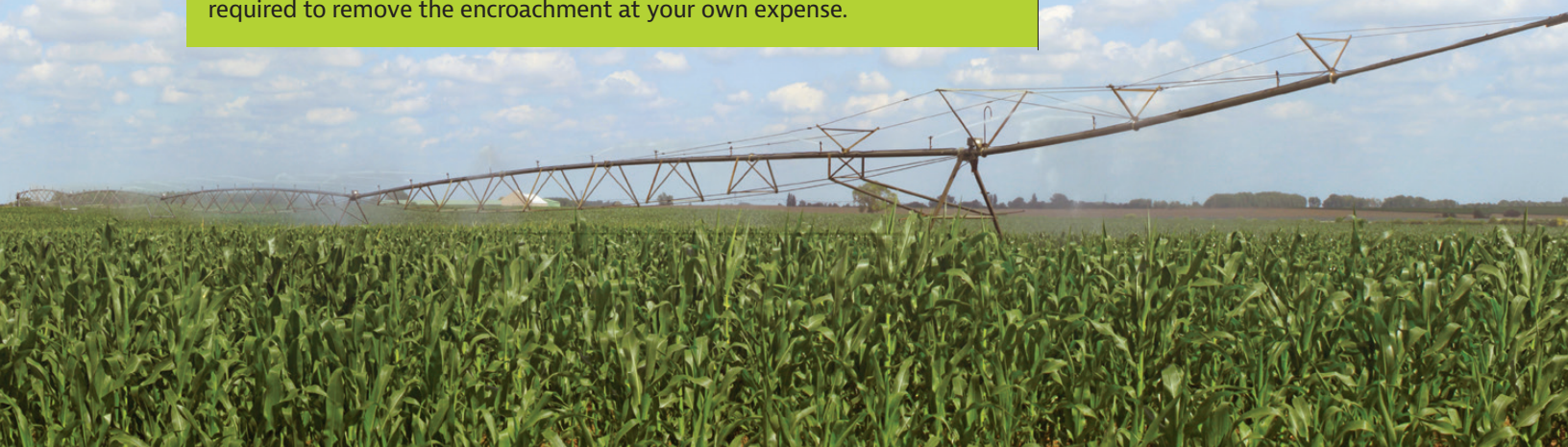
You must contact Georgia Power Right-of-Way Services to discuss your intended use and related safety issues prior to beginning work.

We can advise you at that time if your use will require an encroachment agreement.

### Crops

In general, agricultural crops may be grown within Georgia Power's transmission line rights-of-way. The crops must not impede access to the transmission facilities. Tree farms, orchards and trees capable of reaching a mature height of more than 15 feet are not permitted. Please note that any crops within the right-of-way are at risk of being damaged when crews need to access the right-of-way. Georgia Power will work with crop owners to address any damage caused by our crews.

When operating machinery that extends vertically (e.g., sprayers, augers, hay elevators, fertilizer applicators, harvesting combines, cranes, derricks, booms, etc.), remember that additional clearance is needed beyond the truck height. No part of the equipment should be extended higher than 15 feet from ground level.



## Fences

Georgia Power generally permits fences within the right-of-way, so long as certain standards are observed. If you would like to install a fence in the right-of-way, please contact Georgia Power ahead of time. We will work with you to identify an appropriate type of fence for the location and ensure that your design complies with the easement terms and Georgia Power's policies and guidelines.

In general, a fence should be no taller than fifteen (15) feet; the easement may require a shorter height. A fence must not obstruct access to or along the right-of-way and must be placed in a manner that will ensure proper minimum distances from Georgia Power facilities are maintained. Any fence that spans the right-of-way must have a minimum sixteen (16) foot drive-through gate installed with an appropriate Georgia Power padlock. Single-cable fencing is not acceptable for Georgia Power access. Fencing and gate locations should be clearly visible to Georgia Power's crews. Any fence built with conductive material should be effectively grounded, and electric filters may be required on certain electric fences.

## Clearances and Working in the Right-of-Way

Many state and federal regulations set minimum clearance and work requirements around electrical lines, including the NESC, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, the Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act (GUFPA) and the Georgia High Voltage Safety Act. There are many factors to consider when determining whether

sufficient clearance exists for any particular use. For example, the distance between the wires and the ground may vary depending on the type of structure and span length of the line on your property. In addition, wires sag with temperature and electric load changes so sufficient clearance may exist one day but may be much less the next. Further, there may have been a change in grade since the construction of the line that has reduced the distance between the wires and the ground. Contact Georgia Power prior to working in the right-of-way to confirm line voltage, facility locations and minimum clearance requirements.

## Irrigation Systems

Please contact Georgia Power as soon as possible prior to designing and installing an irrigation system within or near the right-of-way so that Georgia Power personnel can work with you to ensure the safe storage, handling, installation and operation of the irrigation system near Georgia Power's transmission facilities. When designing your system, please keep the following minimum guidelines in mind:

- Pivot points and wells are not permitted within the right-of-way. Georgia Power discourages the location of pivot stops within the right-of-way, but if permitted (case-by-case basis), the stop must be clearly marked and visible at night.
- The system must maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of twenty-five (25) feet from any structure or attachment, and must be no taller than fifteen (15) feet from ground level. Please contact Georgia Power for any

additional clearance requirements.

- The system must be properly grounded.
- Water conducts electricity, so it is essential that the system does not spray a continuous solid stream on the wires. Water can also corrode the transmission facilities. Nozzles should be positioned so as not to spray towards facilities or conductors, and a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet should be maintained between the spray and the facilities or conductors. All nozzles that pass under a conductor should be equipped with spoilers or automatic shut-offs to ensure that the water stream does not make contact with the facilities or conductors.
- There is a risk of induced voltage when a system is parallel to the transmission lines. As such, the system should be oriented perpendicular to the lines to the extent possible, and any maintenance to or repair of the system should be done while it is perpendicular to the lines.
- Buried water lines associated with the irrigation pivot should cross perpendicular to the right-of-way and must be buried at a depth and strength to withstand the passage of Georgia Power's maintenance and construction equipment.

You will need to submit detailed plans to Georgia Power for review, which must depict the location and dimensions of the irrigation system, as well as the location of the right-of-way and Georgia Power's structures and attachments. An encroachment agreement will be required prior to placement of any part of the irrigation system within the right-of-way.



### Drainage Ditches and Ponds

Drainage ditches, retention and detention ponds may be permitted if certain conditions are met. For example, proper minimum distances must be maintained from Georgia Power facilities and any channeling of water must not have the potential to cause erosion or water pooling around a structure. The location of the ditch or pond must encompass less than fifty percent (50%) of the right-of-way width and must allow for unrestricted ingress and egress to and along the right-of-way. Contact us for additional requirements related to drainage ditches and ponds.

### Bee Farms

Bee boxes may be permitted in the right-of-way on a case-by-case basis. The boxes should be located in the outer five (5) feet of the right-of-way, in a manner so as to not obstruct access. In addition, the boxes should be kept a minimum of fifty (50) feet from all Georgia Power facilities. The boxes must be immediately moveable and contact information must be clearly marked on the boxes in the event that Georgia Power personnel need to have one or more boxes moved

### Remember to Call 811 - It's the Law!

The Georgia Utility Facility Protection Act and the High Voltage Safety Act require that before beginning any excavation in the vicinity of underground electrical lines or working within 10 feet of an overhead high-voltage electrical line, you must call 811 to request an underground locator service or overhead safeguards.

For more information, visit [georgia811.com](http://georgia811.com).



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**