

Environmental protection

Avoid, minimize and restore

With combined transmission line inventory of more than 34,000 miles, Duke-American Transmission Co. (a partnership of Duke Energy and ATC) recognizes that our work impacts the environment. We take our commitment to environmental protection and stewardship seriously. Our goal is to avoid making impacts where we can, minimize those that can't be avoided and restore the environment.

DATC is working cooperatively with state regulators and other appropriate agencies to evaluate and document any potential environmental impacts caused by the Zephyr Power Transmission Project. This process involves comprehensive assessments of sensitive resources, such as wetlands, woodlands, natural areas, threatened and endangered species, wildlife areas, residential and recreational areas, archeological resources, and agricultural resources within the project area.

Our environmental commitment

DATC is committed to environmental leadership in all aspects of our business. We will support sustainable environmental policies and actions through balancing environmental stewardship with financial, engineering and maintenance requirements, and social impacts. Pairing the environmental commitment of DATC's partners with relationships with regulators and stakeholders provides a powerful venue for creative, innovative and entrepreneurial resolution of issues.

Information gathering

The process for identifying routes for a new transmission line is a sensitive one that involves significant information gathering and evaluation. Input from local, state and federal officials, resource agencies, landowners and the public also contributes to route development. The Zephyr project team has spent more than a year identifying and reviewing sensitive environmental areas and land uses in four states.

The proposed route is approximately 850 miles long and is located in Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Nevada. Eighty percent of the proposed route follows existing utility and federal energy corridors, 20 percent follows proposed future utility routes and approximately 60 percent is on federal lands (primarily managed by the Bureau of Land Management).

Regulatory input

When evaluating the proposed transmission line route, we seek input from local, state and federal officials, landowners and other interested parties. Working with the state-level conservation and natural resources offices, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management and natural resource agencies and interest groups helps to ensure that the Zephyr project is located in sensible areas.



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ZEPHYR
POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Construction practices that reduce impacts

DATC must adhere to state and federal laws regulating constructing, rebuilding or upgrading transmission lines. Permits and prescribed construction methods are required to complete work in environmentally sensitive areas. DATC also will use construction practices that reduce the spread of invasive species and transmittal of agricultural pests and diseases.

Restoration

Construction activities may temporarily impact local landscapes, but lands will be inspected after construction to ensure proper restoration. Trees and brush growing directly beneath the transmission lines must be removed so as to not interfere with safe operation of the transmission line. With property owner participation, non-woody native grasses and flowers may be planted in transmission line corridors.

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