

Environmental Licensing and Permitting Overview

All projects (new or maintenance, transmission, distribution, substation and gas) are reviewed for environmental impacts. Project team reviews design and access to avoid wetlands, waterways, rare species habitats, known historical/archeological resources and other environmentally sensitive areas to the extent feasible. We review more than 3000 projects and secure approximately 200 permits per year!

To achieve this, we:

- Conduct permitting assessment to identify need for federal, state and local environmental/cultural resource permits and approvals.
- Coordinate and conduct field work including wetland delineations, rare species surveys, cultural and historical field investigations, constructability walkdowns, and more.
- Hire and manage environmental consultants.
- Coordinate with Federal, State and Municipal agencies required for permit issuance.

Once permits are obtained, we:

- Train construction crews on permit conditions prior to start of construction.
- Conduct compliance inspections during construction.
- Identify when restoration is needed and complete and apply for permit closeouts.
- Track long-term restoration and monitoring requirements for complex projects.

Our work supports the company's overall Environmental Operations Policy which mandates we operate in an environmentally responsible way. At National Grid, we take our responsibilities for sustainable environmental operations seriously. We will, as a minimum, meet our legal and voluntary obligations while aspiring to world-class performance in our environmental operations. This policy commits the company to:

- Delivering continual improvement in our environmental performance,
- Preventing pollution and contamination during operations,
- Using resources responsibly,
- Continuing to influence our supply chains in environmentally responsible ways,
- Ensuring all employees have the training, skills, knowledge and resources to meet our environmental commitments.

National Grid actively strives to improve our environment and leave project sites and land in better condition than we found them. Some examples of recent and ongoing efforts toward environmental stewardship, ecological restoration and habitat improvement include:

Participation in the BIOAudit- At National Grid, our transmission corridors are large, interconnected green spaces teeming with native plant communities, pollinators, and wildlife. Since the 1950s, we have been utilizing integrated vegetation management (IVM) practices to enhance ROW plant and wildlife biodiversity. However, this has never been more important than today with pollinators in decline and invasive species continuing to threaten native vegetation. We have partnered with Dr. Anand Persand of

ACRT where we stand to understand how our ROW management affects biodiversity and where we can improve. The science behind our programs will continue to evolve, and we are already benefiting from the data as it enables us to proactively plan and take measures obtained from on-site assessments. To learn more about ROW management and the BIOAudit visit <https://bioaudit.acrt.com/national-grid/>.

Enrollment in the Monarch Nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement- National Grid has enrolled lands and committed to specific conservation measures to ensure protection of Monarch Butterfly habitat on our lands and assets. These measures include adjusting mowing timing to avoid loss of flowering plants used by pollinators, using targeted herbicide application methodologies to avoid plants used by pollinators, using native seed mixes and planting native plants and avoiding or minimizing disturbance to suitable pollinator habitats. Annual monitoring of enrolled lands is conducted to determine where adaptive management is needed and verify lands are providing adequate habitat.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for Protection of Northern Long-Eared, Tri-Colored and Indiana Bats- National Grid is leading a groundbreaking effort to develop a programmatic, regional, multi-utility Habitat Conservation Plan for federally listed bat species. With 7 utility partners across 7 northeastern states this HCP limits impacts of utility activities which could impact bats, provides consistency of best management practices and conservation efforts at a regional scale, streamlines administrative efforts for federal and state agencies and strengthens the bridge between federal agencies and utilities as partners in industry.

Natural Capital Improvements Program- Natural Capital Improvements are initiatives to enhance the land that we own to make it more supportive of local ecosystems and environments. These efforts support our goals to serve our communities and positively contribute to the areas in which we operate. Initiatives are incorporated into project planning when there is an opportunity to provide an additional benefit to the environment/ecosystem/community while keeping safety, reliability and cost to ratepayer in mind. This work is tracked annually based on contributions to categories including: land improvements, species protection, recreational use, agricultural support, cultural preservation, recycling and renewables.