



## EKPC Blasting and Grading Guidelines

May 9, 2023

**Individuals who plan to work in or around EKPC Transmission Line Easements must comply with the guidelines specified herein, in addition to meeting the OSHA standards.**

Considering the nature of the work and the essential role of transmission facilities in maintaining electric reliability, EKPC imposes restrictions on blasting and excavation activities in and around our facilities. Please carefully review the specified restrictions before beginning work, and do not hesitate to contact EKPC at [tld@ekpc.coop](mailto:tld@ekpc.coop) if you have any queries or concerns.

### Blasting requirements in proximity to transmission lines

1. The utilization of blast mats is mandatory for any blasting activities conducted within the EKPC Transmission Line Easements. All blast mats used conform to the established standards set forth by ASTM, OSHA, and ISEE to ensure proper containment and control during the detonation of explosives.
2. Blasting will not be permitted within 100 feet of any transmission line infrastructure inside of the transmission line easement.
3. If any blasting is planned within 1200' of transmission line infrastructure, the contractor must conduct seismic monitoring to ensure that the Peak Particle Velocity at the tower or pole does not exceed 1.00 in/sec. In case this limit is exceeded at any time, blasting activities must immediately cease, and alternative measures must be taken to perform the work.
4. To ensure safe and controlled blasting within Electric Transmission Easements and in close proximity to EKPC structures, a company representative must be present to monitor the activity. The contractor must schedule an inspection with EKPC at least one week in advance to coordinate the presence of the representative.
5. The contractor assumes full responsibility for any damages incurred to the overhead transmission infrastructure during construction work and is required to cover all associated costs. Prior to conducting any blasting activities for the voltage levels listed below, a line of credit must be issued to EKPC in the following amounts, determined by the voltage of the impacted transmission infrastructure: \$200,000 for

69 kV, \$250,000 for 138 kV and 161 kV, and \$400,000 for 345 kV. Upon initial contact with EKPC, voltage class shall be conveyed to the contractor.

6. EKPC must have continuous access to its Transmission Infrastructure. EKPC must be able to access the line with both, heavy and light duty equipment.
7. Prior to conducting any blasting activities, EKPC mandates a pre-blast survey to be performed.

### **Grading requirements in proximity to transmission lines**

1. To ensure safety and avoid electrical hazards, the contractor must not enter the absolute limit of approach with excavating equipment, cranes, or booms as defined by OSHA standard number 1926.1408. These limits vary depending on the voltage and should not be encroached under any circumstance. If the contractor will operate equipment that could potentially enter this limit, a pre-construction meeting will be required with EKPC to discuss safety measures that must be taken. Moreover, the contractor must contact EKPC at [tld@ekpc.coop](mailto:tld@ekpc.coop) to verify the ground clearance of all Overhead Transmission Facilities involved in the project.
2. All equipment operators, particularly those operating cranes, derricks, hoists, and other hoisting equipment, must exercise utmost caution when working in close proximity to energized lines or equipment.
3. Construction activities under high voltage transmission lines must comply with the required vertical clearances. EKPC can provide information on the conductor height in design condition upon request.
4. Before making any grade changes that involve filling, the contractor must obtain approval to ensure that there is sufficient ground clearance from the conductors under design loading conditions.
5. Temporary stockpiling of materials on the easement is strictly prohibited.
6. Avoid any changes to the flow of water or runoff that could result in erosion around existing poles or guys.
7. No cutting or filling may take place immediately around poles or guys. Cuts are strictly prohibited within 25 feet of any pole or guy, and slopes outside of this range must not exceed 2H:1V. In case of more severe cuts, the contractor must provide a ramp for access to structures, and the grade plan must be approved by EKPC prior to implementation.
8. The contractor will bear the financial responsibility for any damages resulting from tree removal in and around EKPC easements without prior consent from EKPC.

9. In order to uphold principles of environmental sustainability, all contractors operating within any EKPC transmission line easement are required to adhere to the standards established by The Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection (DEP).

**Should an emergency situation arise in connection with blasting or grading activities near the transmission line, please immediately contact the EKPC Transmission Control Center at 859-744-4812 ext. 300.**