

Discussion Paper: Damage Prevention Framework for Federally Regulated Power Lines

Question 1. Is a prescribed area of 30 metres on either side of the federally regulated power line adequate to maintain safety and prevent damage to the power line?

Yes, although further reassurance can take place by assigning a person to briefly inspect the area before authorization is given.

Question 2. Are the proposed safety measures adequate to maintain safety and prevent damage to the power line?

The proposed provisions to the regulatory framework under the NEB Act are necessary in order to ensure the safety of the construction employees, the people within the construction zone (if any), and to prevent damage to the power lines. Although this may require further steps to obtain authorization and more time to ensure the safety of employees, in the long run it will prevent any mishaps occurring.

Question 3. What other considerations, if any, need to be taken into account when a holder responds to a request for authorizations?

- Safety
- Location of the activity
- Surroundings
- Weather
- Equipment being used during activity

Question 4. What other considerations, if any, need to be taken into account when making a locate request prior to conducting work near a federally regulated power line?

- Who will be affected (any people or businesses near the location)?
- Will the power lines have to be shut down for a period of time during the activity to ensure the safety of construction employees, and/or people near the area?
- Weather/Season

Question 5. Do you have any comments on the proposed requirement for a holder to be a member of a One-Call Centre?

Being a member of a one-call centre may speed up the locate request process for holders that are already members. Perhaps this can eventually shorten the three day notice period.

Question 6. Do you have any other comments on the requirements for construction of federally regulated power lines near facilities?

The geographic location of the construction site should also be taken into consideration, in order to avoid dangers such as extreme weather or natural disasters, which may pose a risk during or after the construction activity.

Question 7. What other considerations, if any, need to be taken into account for a holder to have a damage prevention program for power lines?

- Individual risks associated with the specific location chosen by the holder

- When to cancel activities due to weather or other unpredictable occurrences
- Emergency evacuation of the area, if a situation was to suddenly occur that could endanger life

Question 8. Is a period of three months from the coming into force of the proposed regulations to develop and implement a damage prevention program sufficient?

Three months seems to be short time. Maybe six months is more reasonable amount of time due to the research that needs to be done prior to the activity. Also the amount of time that it may take to compile a list of contacts and to establish contact with those who would be involved in the event of an emergency.

Question 9. Are there any other comments related to the proposed regulations that you would like to provide?

It is vital to assure the holders and the public that the proposed regulations requesting that further steps of precaution be taken in order to obtain leave for requests, is solely intended for the safety of the construction employees, as well as the public within the areas of construction activity. Try not to focus more on the protection from damage of the power lines, as those can be replaced or repaired if damage were to occur.