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Rules for maintaining power line easements now online

ATLANTA -- Driveways are allowed, and pools aren't. New fences shouldn't block the access to utility crews and signs shouldn't be taller than 10 feet. Vegetation that grows above 15 feet is a threat because power lines sag with heat and current and contact with a line could spell a blackout for a large part of Georgia.

While the rules of power lines rights of way are complex, they just became a little clearer for citizens throughout Georgia with the addition of a new maintenance section on a web site dedicated to issues related to high-voltage power lines. More than 18,500 miles of high-voltage lines cross the state, touching every county and affecting tens of thousands of landowners who have electric utility easements.

Georgia Transmission, which builds and maintains high-voltage transmission power lines for Georgia's non-profit electric membership cooperatives (co-ops), has placed information on rights of way rules on its web site -- www.gatrans.com -- for the first time.

"Property owners living near our rights of way can now look up the answers to such things as how often grass is mowed and what types of plants should be planted," said spokesman Barry Dillon. "You will even find a two-page application online to simplify our utility's review of proposed right of way uses.

Other sections provide information on power line safety, construction planning, underground construction and electric and magnetic fields (EMF). There are links to educational web sites for kids and a map of Georgia's co-ops.

About Georgia Transmission

Georgia Transmission Corp. -- a not-for-profit company owned by 39 of Georgia's 42 electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) -- plans, builds and maintains high-voltage power lines and substations for its owners. It jointly plans and operates the statewide high-voltage power transmission grid with the state's other utility groups. Georgia's consumer-owned electric co-ops provide power to more than 4 million people across a territory that spans 73 percent of the state.