

TREE TRIMMING Q&A

This information is provided by the New York State Department of Public Service, for customers of PSEG-LI.

Vegetation growing near power lines increase the chance of power outages and pose safety risks. This fact sheet addresses some basic questions about vegetation management and the measures PSEG-LI is taking to help ensure safe and reliable electric service.

Why does PSEG-LI perform vegetation management activities?

The reliability of the electric system in New York State depends on the safe and effective transmission of electric power from where it is generated to where it is used. For transmission lines (the high voltage lines between the power generation facility and substations or from substation to substation), sufficient clearance is needed between the transmission lines and the trees and vegetation to ensure safe and proper transmission of electricity. If there is any contact between transmission lines and trees or other vegetation, power outages can occur. Similarly, for distribution lines (lines connecting homes and businesses to the system), sufficient clearance is required to reduce the potential for damage to power lines and decrease the likelihood of outages during storms. Effective management of the trees and other vegetation that is near power lines helps ensure the reliability of the electric system as well as the safety of the system and the public.

How does PSEG-LI plan to manage vegetation near power lines?

PSEG-LI only maintains clearance around electric wires at the top of utility poles, not around the lower telephone and cable television lines. For the distribution system, utilities including PSEG-LI follow guidelines established by the American National Standards Institute, specifically ANSI A300 as well as the publication "Best Management Practices: Tree Pruning." PSEG-LI's vegetation management program improves upon the program previously in existence and utilizes utility best practices. Under PSEG-LI's plan, vegetation management will be conducted on a four to five-year cycle. The plan addresses both distribution lines and transmission lines. Using industry best practices, PSEG-LI will determine which vegetation needs pruning or removal to keep the electric lines free of vegetation interference. It will take into account both vegetation growth during the four to five year cycle, as well as vegetation that constitutes a hazard to the lines. PSEG-LI hired the following licensed contractors to conduct the tree trimming: Asplundh, Harder Services, IPC Contracting Corp. and Lewis Tree Service. The vegetation management practices used by PSEG-LI were developed by the U.S. Forest Service and are endorsed by the International Society of Arboriculture.

How much of the vegetation is removed during a trimming?

The goal is to create a safety buffer between the power lines and the vegetation to reduce the likelihood of power outages from either contact with vegetation or storms. The amount of vegetation removed is based on how much trimming is needed to create and maintain the buffer zone until the next trimming cycle. The standard buffer to be used by PSEG-LI for their distribution lines is 10 feet below the power line, 8 feet on the sides and 12 feet above. At times, complete removal of a tree may be necessary if it is weak or "at risk" of falling onto the power lines, especially

during storm events. PSEG-LI's contractors will remove all debris resulting from the vegetation management.

How will PSEG-LI let its customers know when it will be trimming vegetation in their area?

PSEG- LI will provide public notice prior to trimming or managing vegetation. PSEG-LI will meet with local elected officials in the communities where vegetation management will take place to discuss the vegetation management plan before work begins. PSEG-LI will also send letters to customers in those neighborhoods where work will take place informing them of the planned work and the schedule. Door hangers will also be placed on each customer's door reminding customers of the company's activities. Customers who have any questions should contact PSEG-LI at:

Residential Customers: 800-490-0025

Business Customers: 800-966-4818 Online at www.psegliny.com

Should customers take care of overgrown vegetation themselves?

No, power lines are extremely dangerous and state and federal laws prohibit any person from, at a minimum, working within 10 feet of any electric power facility without proper training and certification. Only PSEG-LI representatives should trim or remove vegetation near the power lines. In the event of an emergency such as a broken limb or wire, customers should call PSEG-LI's emergency line 1-800-490-0075.

Other safety tips to keep in mind:

- Never climb trees or build tree houses near power lines.
- Contact PSEG-LI before performing house projects near overhead lines. Common household items such as aluminum siding, tools, lumber, gutter and ladders conduct electricity and use of these items near overhead power lines could cause serious injury or even death.

What if a customer has a concern about the vegetation management work done by PSEG-LI?

In these circumstances, it is recommended that the customer contact PSEG-LI by phone at 1-800-490-0025 or visit its website at www.psegliny.com. If the disputed matter cannot be resolved, customers may then contact New York State Department of Public Service, Office of Consumer Services at 800-342-3377 or file a complaint by visiting the website at www.dps.ny.gov.

For more information about the Department of Public Service, visit the Department's Long Island website at www.dps.ny.gov/longisland/