



ENVIRONMENT + SUSTAINABILITY

Threatened and Endangered Species Program

ITC's transmission systems cross all types of environments, so it's important that we plan, construct and operate this infrastructure in a way that helps sustain threatened and endangered species.

Planning and Constructing Transmission

When planning transmission projects, ITC includes environmental assessments for wetlands, threatened and endangered species and other sensitive habitats. By including these factors at the front end in a transmission line route analysis and in collaboration with environmental agencies, we can adjust the placement or timing of construction to avoid or limit the environmental impact.

For example, ITC collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in planning a 21-mile rebuild of a deteriorating transmission line crossing the Manistee National Forest in Michigan. A unique feature of the project corridor is that it serves as habitat for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. With support from state government partners, ITC was granted a permit allowing the company to perform work in this environment using state-recommended mitigation and monitoring procedures.

Operating and Maintaining Transmission

Once new power lines are in service, as with existing electric infrastructure, ITC is responsible for managing the natural space under and around the lines with the objective of maintaining safe and reliable electric service. In collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies, ITC works to develop diverse, stable, natural greenways where native grasses, wildflowers and low-growing shrubs thrive, and with less environmental disturbance.

In support of these efforts, ITC's environmental team developed a geographic information system (GIS)-based database of rare plant and animal species and unique natural ecosystems that occur within, or close to, ITC power line rights-of-way. We use the database to develop techniques to avoid disturbing rare species and their habitats in the course of our work.

Creative reuse of power poles: In Michigan, ITC is working with the Huron River Watershed Council, Osprey Watch, the Audubon Society and the City of Ann Arbor to increase the number of osprey in southeast Michigan. Two 16-foot-high osprey nesting platforms made from recycled ITC power structures were placed in the Ann Arbor parks system in 2015. In Iowa, ITC donated 10 cedar poles from decommissioned power structures to the Iowa Department of Transportation in 2015 for appropriation as bat poles serving the habitat of the northern long-eared bat, a federally threatened species.

About ITC:

ITC is investing in a 21st century power grid to improve reliability, expand access to markets, lower the overall cost of delivered energy and allow new generating resources to interconnect to our transmission systems. In the course of our daily work, ITC integrates a sustainable approach to the environment, enabling us to contribute to the well-being of the communities we serve.



ITC's environmental team engages the services of Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT), which provides multidisciplinary environmental services worldwide.

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