

# **Citizen Participation Meeting Packet**

Enclosed:

- Postcard Notification
- Citizen Participation Meeting Contacts and Comments
- Apex to Phoenix Transmission Line Project Profile
- ITC Corporate Brochure
- ITC Environmental Brochure
- ITC Vegetation Management Brochure

#### NOTICE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION MEETING: PHOENIX SUBSTATION EXPANSION

#### Citizen Participation Meeting

Postcards are being sent to all property owners within 1,000 ft of the project site to give notice that a development petition will be submitted to the City of Ann Arbor shortly. A citizen participation meeting will be held to give you an opportunity to review plans, ask questions, and provide comments that will be considered by the developer to finalize plans and then incorporated into a report for the City Planning Commission.



Fence expansion of existing DTE owned Phoenix Substation located at 2001 Dhu Varren Rd. A retaining wall will be installed due to the fence expansion. Electrical equipment will be installed inside the substation and a monopole outside of the station to improve the electrical safety and reliability in the region. Some regulated natural features are proposed to be impacted and mitigated on the south and west corners of existing substation to ensure the safety of the high voltage electric transmission lines.

#### Meeting Logistics

**Project Description** 

Date: Tuesday, July 24, 2018 Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Place: Ann Arbor District Library 3333 Traverwood Dr., Ann Arbor, MI Persons with disabilities are encouraged to participate. Accommodations may be arranged by contacting 877-482-4829. Requests need to be received at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

#### Return Address ITC Holdings Corp. 27175 Energy Way Novi, MI 48377

#### Proposed Phoenix Sub Expansion Site Plan Review

In accordance with the City of Ann Arbor's Citizen Participation Ordinance, you are being notified that a proposal for Phoenix Substation Expansion will be submitted to the City of Ann Arbor's Planning Department. Details about a citizen participation meeting designed for you to learn about this project are described on the opposite side of this card. Visit <u>www.a2gov.org/participation</u> for more information about citizen participation in Ann Arbor.

#### Questions

Questions or comments may be directed to Adelaide Pascaris, Area Manager, at general@itctransco.com or during business hours at 877-482-4829.



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Name	Address	Email	Comments
Judy & Abe Landau	2030 Dhu Varren Ann Arbor, MI	JJLandau@sbcglobal.net	Reviewed substation ownership between DTE & ITC
			Reviewed Retaining Wall and Vegetation Removals
			All questions answered, and the Landau's were satisfied with our responses, Ms, Landau
			shared that she thought we were very knowledgeable, friendly, and personable.
Jianyan Liu	755 Watershed Ct Ann Arbor, MI	Cherryland.sysm@gmail.com	Jianyan attended as she waited for a program to end at the library. She was surprised we were required to have a public participation meeting because the work scope was minimal. She appreciated the information about ITC.

# Capital Project Profile: Apex – Phoenix Transmission Line Project

### **Overview**

A growing technology sector, excellent schools, and rich cultural and recreational opportunities make Ann Arbor a desirable place to live and work. This makes high-quality, reliable power increasingly important as homes and businesses are filled with sensitive electronics that can be affected by costly and inconvenient power outages.

To support electric reliability and increase capacity in the Ann Arbor area, ITC Michigan, through its ITC *Transmission* subsidiary, will construct approximately three miles of underground transmission line to connect a new DTE Energy substation named Apex, located near the intersection of Huron Parkway and Hubbard Road, to an existing substation named Phoenix, located just north of Dhu Varren Road.

The Apex - Phoenix project is an example of ITC's ongoing commitment to the operational efficiency and reliability of Michigan's high-voltage transmission grid. The company has invested more than \$3.9 billion in capital project maintenance and transmission infrastructure improvements in Michigan since 2003. These investments are improving the reliability and safety of the transmission infrastructure while ensuring its ability to meet new energy demands.

# **Project Approach**

ITC's approach to transmission line development takes into consideration the unique nature of every project. Projects are assessed individually for safety, reliability, cost-effectiveness, environmental impacts and community impacts to determine the best transmission solution for each project.

# **Public Participation**

ITC recognizes the critical role that local residents, landowners and communities play in reviewing and hosting new electric transmission lines. ITC is committed to open, honest and frequent communications with landowners. We work respectfully with landowners throughout the design and construction process to identify possible routes for the project that minimize impacts to their properties.



Public open houses were held in 2016 to introduce the project and gain community feedback.



27175 Energy Way Novi, MI 48377

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# Capital Project Profile: Apex – Phoenix Transmission Line Project

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### Why is this project necessary?

As in much of the United States, the electric infrastructure serving the Ann Arbor area was constructed decades ago and was not built to support modern-day demands. This can lead to inconvenient, and sometimes costly, power outages. The electric system improvements will enhance the reliability of electric service to Ann Arbor residents and businesses, and create additional capacity to support growth throughout the region.



#### Where will the project be located?

The Apex-Phoenix underground transmission line corridor will follow Dhu Varren Road east from the existing Phoenix substation, proceeding south along Nixon Road and Huron Parkway. It will connect to the new Apex substation near Huron Parkway and Hubbard Road.

#### When will this project start and how long will it take?

Construction will be conducted in two phases:

- Phase 1: From Dec. 4, 2017 Jan. 6, 2018, ITC constructed approx. 1,100 feet of underground duct bank, which will hold the transmission cables, along the southwest portion of the Dhu Varren – Nixon roundabout.
- Phase 2 & 3: Starting in April 2018, ITC will construct approximately 2.5 miles of the underground duct bank and manhole system along Dhu Varren, Nixon and Huron Pkwy. The duct bank will be constructed eastward along Dhu Varren starting in April, southward along Nixon from May through October, then northward along Huron Pkwy. from June through October. ITC anticipates completing construction by the end of 2018 to meet the anticipated energy needs of the region.







# Pioneering transmission-only utility

We are the nation's largest independent electricity transmission company – owner and operator of transmission systems in seven states. ITC's calling card is operational excellence, transforming low performing systems into top-tier reliability success stories and developing transmission solutions to address 21<sup>st</sup> century energy needs.

### FAST FACTS:

- Established in 2003
- Operations in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma; utility status and pending project in Wisconsin
- Member of four Regional Transmission Organizations: Midcontinent ISO, Southwest Power Pool, PJM Interconnection, New York ISO

#### AS OF JANUARY 2016:

- Transmission circuit miles: ~15,700
- Stations and substations with ITC assets: ~565
- System peak load: ~26,000 MW

# Uniquely positioned to modernize the grid

# Our Capabilities:

- Own and operate transmission infrastructure
- Build greenfield transmission projects to solve energy challenges
- Partner with local utilities
- Tie generation to the grid
- Develop contracted transmission projects
- Acquire and integrate transmission systems

# The ITC Difference

Because ITC shares no financial or ownership interest in power generation or distribution services, we take a non-parochial view of transmission grid expansion and access to the transmission grid. This approach facilitates broad regional wholesale energy markets – all to the benefit of customers.

ITC's continuing effort to modernize the grid facilitates emerging technologies, renewable integration and accommodates other evolving demands on the system.



# Backed by a record of excellence

### **Operational Excellence**

Ensuring excellence in every part of our operations is a large part of providing energy security to all consumers and communities in a safe, efficient and environmentally friendly manner. We leverage our planning, engineering and regulatory expertise to create robust electric infrastructure.

#### Safety:

We execute our operational maintenance program to the benefit of customers without compromising quality of service or safety. ITC's performance in recordable injuries and lost workdays routinely ranks among the top of our industry in the Edison Electric Institute Annual Safety Survey.

#### Reliability:

ITC has steadily decreased the average number of outages on the three transmission systems we have acquired beginning in 2003. These continuing improvements in system reliability track with ITC's system investments over the years and our ongoing operations and maintenance program.



#### Operations & Maintenance:

Preventive system maintenance is a critical component of operational excellence. Our comprehensive operations and maintenance programs bring quantifiable increases in reliability and efficiency to ensure a high-performing system. ITC achieved 100 percent compliance with maintenance requirements under NERC standards in the most recent audit of ITC's three operating companies.

#### COMPONENTS OF THE GRID

#### Generation

The production of electricity at power plants or facilities from coal, nuclear, natural gas or renewables.

#### Transmission

The bulk delivery of electrical energy from power generating plants along high voltage lines over long distances to the local distribution systems of utilities serving communities – the power grid.

#### Distribution

Lines and poles that distribute energy shorter distances from transmission-connected substations to communities.

DUDA I T

# Promoting broad thinking on grid infrastructure

ITC takes a broad, holistic and transparent approach toward transmission planning to benefit all customers and regions. ITC's open and transparent planning process includes:

- Engaging stakeholders and regulators to identify issues and solutions
- Implementing timely and cost-effective solutions
- Having significant experience and expertise in regional planning
- Advocating tying regional infrastructure together
   eliminating seams between regions through reforms in RTO planning processes
- Having best-in-the-industry resources and partnerships for engineering design, planning and maintenance

# A steward of the grid

### Security

A strong grid combined with sound practices around deterrence, detection and mitigation is the best line of defense against unforeseen events. While ITC has made significant strides in developing a more resilient grid, we know this is an ongoing process. ITC continues to work to reach a modernized national power grid.

# Customer Focus

Our efforts to modernize transmission infrastructure are based on what's best for the grid and for customers.

- Ensuring the connection between consumers and the energy they need is efficient, reliable and cost-effective
- Enabling electricity market competition to drive a robust economy
- Providing customers with solutions to best meet their energy needs today and tomorrow.

### **Environmental Commitment**

ITC integrates a sustainable approach to the environment in our daily work, enabling us to contribute to the well-being of the communities we serve. Our focus areas include vegetation management to ensure reliable electric transmission; recycling materials from our facilities and substations to minimize our carbon footprint; and restoring habitats to their natural environment.

# Building a better, stronger grid

ITC is working to build a modern, interconnected grid to support 21st century technology and policy developments, including:

- Intermittent renewable energy integration
- Distributed generation
- Demand response programs
- Efficiency programs
- Electric vehicles
- Storage solutions



#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Keeping the lines of communication open in the community is absolutely vital to us. If you are interested in additional information or have any concerns, please contact us at: 877.ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829)

www.itc-holdings.com

#### **CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS:**

27175 Energy Way | Novi, MI 48377

Facebook: @ITCHoldingsCorp Twitter: @ITCGrid YouTube: ITCHoldings



# Our Commitment to Environmental Sustainability





# Our Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

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.

Since our transmission systems cross all types of urban, suburban and rural environments, it's important that we co-exist with these surroundings as good stewards of the land, water and air. This ethic begins in our *workplaces* and extends to *building, operating and maintaining our transmission systems*. These systems include poles, towers, power lines and substations incorporated into the nation's electric infrastructure.



# Workplace Stewardship

Our commitment to the environment starts with our employees, who have embraced waste reduction, conservation and habitat projects across ITC.

# Waste reduction:

Following a waste audit conducted in our facilities, ITC identified items suitable for recycling or reuse. Warehouse and facility managers help lead the program.

- Headquarters ITC's Green Team established a program to make waste reduction and recycling easier in our offices through recycling stations and signage. We capture weight data of recycled material and trash so it can be tracked as a performance indicator. Data collected in 2017 show that 45% of the waste generated at ITC's headquarters is being recycled. The Green Team is studying food waste composting and a waste-to-energy stream toward achieving a zero-waste goal.
- Regional offices Recycling programs in place at ITC Michigan, ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains.
- Warehouses ITC is working toward a zero landfill goal for all waste at four warehouses in Michigan and Iowa: Belleville and Wayland, Michigan, and Iowa City and Dubuque, Iowa. Wood, metals, cardboard, paper and plastic have been eliminated from the general waste streams and is now recycled. This project has resulted in an approximate 50% reduction of waste generated at these facilities and the recycling of more than 96 tons of material. At our Wayland and Belleville, Mich. warehouses, we now compact the waste that cannot be recycled and send it to a waste-to-energy power plant, converting the compacted trash into electricity, making these two locations truly zero-landfill.

# ITC recycled more than 157 tons of waste across its facilities in 2017.

### Rain gardens:

ITC has installed rain gardens and native plants at three warehouses in Iowa and Michigan. Recognizing that storm water runoff from urban rooftops, driveways, yards and streets can carry pollutants directly to rivers and streams without any treatment, ITC assessed potential locations for rain gardens as a solution. Each of the three resulting rain gardens – in Iowa City and Belleville and Wayland, Mich., is designed with plants and loose fill to absorb approximately 4,000 gallons of rain runoff. Employees participate in monitoring and maintaining the rain gardens.

## Fuel conservation:

ITC introduced a fleet vehicle idling policy to reduce fuel consumption and therefore lessen air emissions and natural resource consumption. We established procedures based on vehicle class, operational roles and environmental conditions and set a goal of saving an estimated 22,000 gallons of fuel and reducing air pollutants by 12.5 tons annually. Fleet managers review reports related to vehicle usage and "Zonar" technology tracks vehicle performance and idle time.

### Habitat projects:

ITC's award-winning headquarters property encompasses 92 acres featuring a naturalized transmission high-voltage corridor, diverse woodlands, open green space, wetlands and a large pond. We maintain these grounds under sustainable environmental principles involving employees and the local community through educational outreach programs. Habitat projects at our headquarters includes:

- Installation and maintenance of a corridor demonstration garden and pollinator gardens planted with native species. This effort led to ITC earning the 2015 Pollinator Advocate Award, presented by the Wildlife Habitat Council in collaboration with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. The award recognizes ITC's land management practices to support birds, bees, butterflies, moths and bats around its headquarters and through community partnerships.
- Invasive species removal
- Monitoring of bluebird nesting boxes and bat roosting boxes
- Installation and monitoring of wildlife trail cameras
- Annual flora and fauna surveys
- Participation in the Great Backyard Bird Count
- Participation in the Michigan Vernal Pool Project
- Installation and monitoring of wood duck nest boxes
- Environmental education signage

# ITC Green Team:

ITC established the Green Team in 2008 to help implement environmentally friendly practices across the company. This committee of employee volunteers reviews everything from recycling programs to reducing energy consumption in ITC buildings. Among its accomplishments, the Green Team expanded the company's recycling program, eliminated the use of Styrofoam, cafeteria take-out containers and paper towel dispensers within ITC facilities, and implemented a double-sided printing initiative. The team also established wildlife habitat projects and hosts environmental outreach programs in the community.

# Planning and Constructing Transmission

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

- The proposed route for our 122-mile KETA transmission line linking eastern and western Kansas passed through a breeding ground for the Lesser Prairie Chicken, once listed as a threatened species. To help preserve the bird's breeding grounds, ITC voluntarily developed an appropriate environmental mitigation and accommodation plan in cooperation with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks which included converting approximately 1,200 acres of privately owned land in south-central Kansas into Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat. The KETA project entered service in 2012, facilitating the integration of wind energy throughout the region.
- Rebuilding old power lines in rural wetlands can pose particular environmental challenges for utilities. In western Michigan we needed to replace five transmission lines running through several miles of wetlands on deteriorated wooden H-frame poles. Before line work could begin, crews had to reconstruct an old access road and install three temporary bridges over waterways. Crews also sunk caissons for the towers directly into the ground using a hydraulic vibration process in compliance with wetland regulations, reducing or eliminating the need for digging foundations. As an environmental bonus, the five old lines were consolidated onto three new sets of steel monopoles reducing the system's footprint. The rebuilt lines returned to service in 2011.

In a more recent project requiring a sensitive environmental touch, ITC collaborated with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and 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 aspect of the project corridor is that it serves as habitat for the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. With support from our state government partners, we applied for a Certificate of Inclusion in the Statewide Habitat Conservation Plan – a 20-year permit that would allow ITC to perform work in this type of environment using state-recommended mitigation and monitoring procedures. ITC also contributed to a Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan to restore native prairie in a 39-acre area adjacent to the project corridor. Completed in late 2014, this cooperative project ensures that reliable power flows to west Michigan communities in harmony with the Karner blue butterfly population.



# Regulatory compliance:

ITC works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and various other state and federal agencies to ensure our projects are meeting regulatory compliance with the respective agencies' rules and regulations.

# Equipment Recycling:

In addition to building new transmission lines where power flow is needed today, we are rebuilding hundreds of miles of aging transmission infrastructure, which includes power lines and electrical substations. Replacing old equipment poses the challenge of how to responsibly handle the retired components, which include conductor (wires), oil-insulated transformers, circuit breakers, underground cable, structural metals, wood poles, batteries and concrete. Fortunately, most components of decommissioned electrical equipment can be recycled:

- Station back-up power batteries are sent to a battery recycling facility where the lead and acid are separated.
- PCB-contaminated oil and metal is sent to a federally licensed treatment facility for dechlorination and recycling.
- Concrete pads from construction projects are sent to recyclers where they are crushed and used as aggregate in new concrete production.
- Utility poles often are donated to the landowner.
- Untreated wood is sent to a recycling facility for reuse as landscaping mulch.



# In 2017 alone, ITC recycled 4,000 tons of metal – enough to build a fleet of 351 school buses!

### Creative reuse of power poles:

Our efforts to protect and restore natural habitats include repurposing wooden transmission structures for habit support.

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

### Facilitating renewable energy:

As the nation's energy picture changes – driven by the sources of energy and where it needs to go to serve customers – ITC is providing supportive transmission solutions. For example, ITC worked closely with stakeholders in Michigan to build the 140mile Thumb Loop transmission project to help the state reach its renewable energy goals. Completed in 2015, the Thumb Loop now serves as the backbone of a system designed to meet the identified maximum wind energy potential of the Thumb region. In Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Oklahoma combined, ITC has connected 5,233 megawatts of wind energy production capacity to the grid, with another 1,404 megawatts in production.

We also recycled 265 thousand gallons of oil used in transformers, circuit breakers and other substation equipment – that's 5,300 barrels of oil!



# **Operating and Maintaining Transmission**

Responsible management of the natural space under and around transmission corridors accomplishes more than the main objective of maintaining safe and reliable electric service: This work results in diverse, stable, natural greenways where grasses, wildflowers and low-growing shrubs thrive, and with less environmental disturbance. A natural prairie in a transmission corridor also provides wildlife habitat, preserves native plant species and supports storm water management. Foresters and other trained field staff inspect our corridors to identify both appropriate and incompatible species on a site-by-site basis and recommend suitable management methods in the greenways.

ITC's environmental team coordinates with partner organizations to maintain databases 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 identify where specialized vegetation management techniques are needed to protect rare species and habitats in the course of our operations and maintenance activities. Techniques typically include limiting equipment access to times when animals are hibernating or plants are dormant, and using special equipment to limit impacts in wetlands or other sensitive habitats. Field efforts include identification of invasive species and recognition of native plant species typical of different ecosystems, unique habitats, and monitoring for rare and protected species.

Further, in an effort to protect large birds such as eagles, hawks and blue heron that frequent certain transmission corridors, ITC installs bird diverter technology on these lines – coiled objects designed to help make the lines more visible to birds to discourage contact with the lines.

Among many examples of ITC's stewardship of transmission corridors, we partner with Stony Creek Metropark, a 4,500–acre multi-use recreational park north of Detroit, to manage wildlife habitat in ITC's transmission corridor passing through the park. This includes removing invasive plant species and reestablishing and seeding native prairie grasses and wildflowers. Involving the community is an essential part of integrated vegetation management. ITC works with local agencies to develop special habitat and educational partnerships to create a sense of pride and ownership for residents in these areas.

### Restoring native prairie lands:

ITC is supporting work by states and local communities to address declines in natural lands and habitats:

- To help lowa address its increasing loss of native prairie lands, ITC over-seeded three electric transmission line corridors in the Cedar Rapids area in late 2014, covering about 42 acres. The plantings feature native grasses and wildflowers. Well-established prairie grasses will help prevent various types of invasive trees from taking root and potentially growing into the power lines, while creating a more diverse habitat in the parks.
- Michigan also is dealing with a declining natural feature: Lakeplain prairie lands.
  We are partnering with The Nature Conservancy in a multi-year effort to restore these lands, including some found along ITC transmission line corridors. Restoration involves eliminating invasive plant species that crowd out the original prairie and are detrimental to wildlife. This effort helps restore ecosystem functions, improve and increase habitat for rare insects, plants and animals and increase flora and fauna diversity.

### Right Tree, Right Place Program:

ITC works with residents to help them understand what kinds of plants and shrubs can be safely established near transmission



lines – and the right places for trees. Under our Right Tree, Right Place program, ITC holds site selective education events in communities to complement property-owner landscape management and help prevent tree interference with transmission lines. ITC is a perennial awardee of the Tree Line USA certification in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of our tree-care education programs and sponsorship of tree-planting events.

# EPA program partnership at ITC Michigan, ITC Midwest and ITC Great Plains:

ITC voluntarily joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's SF<sub>6</sub> (sulfur hexafluoride) Emission Reduction Partnership for Electric Power Systems in 2005. SF<sub>6</sub> is an insulating gas used in high-voltage substation equipment and is a potent greenhouse gas. Through the partnership, ITC instituted an industry standard for reporting its emissions, to establish inventory tracking of its SF<sub>6</sub> use, and to work in collaboration with other industry partners and the EPA to develop and improve gas handling and maintenance programs. In recognition of these efforts, the EPA presented ITC with its SF<sub>6</sub> Team Leadership Award in 2012.



# ITC's Environmental Philosophy

ITC strives to minimize the environmental, health and safety risks to our employees and the communities in which we operate through safe technologies, facilities and operating procedures, and by being prepared for emergencies.

We will safely, effectively, and responsibly manage properties, materials, emissions, and wastes in ways that are both responsible and environmentally sound through appropriate due diligence. When feasible we will:

- Purchase and use environmentally preferable materials, products and services
- Eliminate or reduce emissions and wastes at the source of generation
- Properly store, handle and dispose of all wastes
- Pursue opportunities to recycle and reuse waste materials
- Communicate ITC's sustainability measures and pollution prevention technology, knowledge and methods
- Encourage responsible use of energy

### Environmental Management System

Our environmental stewardship activities are driven by an ISO-14001-based environmental management system across our operations. These standards provide a framework for setting goals for environmental improvement; developing policies, procedures and work practices to meet those goals; evaluating performance, developing corrective and preventive actions and performing management reviews.

Managing the power grid carries far-ranging environmental responsibility. The modern utility is required to think beyond the reliable delivery of power to consider how its infrastructure works in harmony with the environment." – Jon Jipping, Chief Operating Officer, ITC

# Recognition

### Wildlife Habitat Council

**CONSERVATION CERTIFICATIONS:** ITC holds 15 environmental site certifications from the Wildlife Habitat Council. This internationally-recognized organization showcases conservation efforts by corporations which involve management, employees and the community to conserve



and restore wildlife habitats on corporate lands. ITC's certifications involve the restoration, creation, protection and enhancement of habitat and individual species management at sites across Michigan and Iowa.

#### Michigan:

- ITC Corporate Headquarters Novi, Michigan, including 2015 Pollinator Advocate Award in collaboration with the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign, and 2015 Corporate Habitat of the Year nominee.
- Crow Island State Game Area Partnership Saginaw and Bay Counties, Michigan
- Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy Sand Point Nature Preserve Huron County, Michigan
- Sterling State Park Monroe, Michigan
- Stony Creek Metropark Transmission Line Right-of-Way Macomb and Oakland Counties, Michigan
- Wolcott Mill Metropark Transmission Line Right-of-Way Macomb County, Michigan
- Chippewa Nature Center Transmission Line Right-of-Way Midland County, Michigan
- Belleville Warehouse Rain Garden Washtenaw County, Michigan
- Wayland Warehouse Rain Garden Allegan County, Michigan
- Tomlinson Arboretum Transmission Line Right-of-Way Macomb County, Michigan

#### lowa:

- Beverly Park Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Sac and Fox Trail Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Squaw Creek Park Marion, Iowa
- Iowa City Warehouse Iowa City, Iowa
- McLoud Run Park Linn County, Iowa

Visit ITC's website for details on ITC's conservation certifications.

#### Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

- Clean Corporate Citizen Awarded 2012, renewed 2014, valid to 2019
- Michigan Business Pollution Prevention Partnership First recognized 2012, current
- Michigan Environmental Leaders First recognized 2015, current
- Neighborhood Environmental Partners Awarded 2014

#### Washtenaw County, Michigan

Environmental Excellence in Pollution Prevention Award – 2011

### Governor's Iowa Environmental Excellence Award In Recognition of Habitat Restoration, 2013, 2016

Environmental Protection Agency

SF<sub>6</sub> Emission Reduction Team Leadership Award, 2012







### Environmental and Conservation Groups We Support:

NATIONAL Ducks Unlimited / The Nature Conservancy / National Wild Turkey Federation / Pheasants Forever / USFWS MICHIGAN Auburn Hills Community Parks Foundation / Chippewa Nature Center / Friends of the Clinton River Trail / Clinton River Water Festival 2016 / Clinton River Watershed Council / Conservation Resource Alliance / Detroit Riverfront Conservancy / Friends of Grand Rapids Parks / Greening of Detroit / Huron Pines / International Wildlife Refuge Alliance / Friends of the Rouge River / Heart of the Lakes / Huron River Watershed Council / Kalamazoo County Parks Foundation / Lake Milton Raptor Education Center / Lake St. Clair Watershed Festival / Legacy Land Conservancy / Lenawee County Parks / Michigan DNR / Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority / Michigan Arbor Day Alliance / Mparks – Michigan Recreation & Parks Association / Novi Parks Foundation / Oakland County Parks Foundation / Oakland County Green Infrastructure / Otsego County Conservation District / Friends of the Paint Creek Trail / River Raisin Watershed Council / River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation / Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy / Sanilac WhiteTails Unlimited / SELCRA -SE Livingston County Rec Authority / Six Rivers Land Conservancy / South Lyon Area Recreation Authority / Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy / Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy / Tollgate Fall Fair -MSU ext. / Wayne County Parks and Recreation / Washtenaw County Waste Knot / Washtenaw County Community Partners for Clean Streams / Wildlife Habitat Council ITC MIDWEST Friends of Lake Wapello / Friends of Pool 9 / Friends of Union Slough / Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation / Nevada, IA Parks and Recreation Department / Story County, IA Conservation / Polk County, IA Conservation / Iowa Lakes Corridor / Development Corp / Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards / Iowa Farm Bureau / Jackson County Conservation / Lime Creek Nature Center / Prairie Ecology Bus / Albert Lea Lakes Foundation / Iowa County Conservation District / Black Hawk County Conservation District / Linn County Conservation District / Dubuque Arboretum / Trees Forever / Tama County Conservation District / Clayton County Conservation District / Dubuque County Conservation District / Iowa DNR / Conservation Corps. Minnesota and Iowa ITC GREAT PLAINS Sand County Foundation, Kansas/ Oklahoma / Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts / Kansas Association of Conservation Districts / Ogallala Aquifer / Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition / Kansas Natural Resources Coalition / Oklahoma Nature Conservancy / Kansas Nature Conservancy / Playa Lakes Coalition / Western Area Fish and Wildlife Agencies / Pawnee Watershed District



#### **CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS:**

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Facebook: @ITCHoldingsCorp Twitter: @ITCGrid YouTube: ITCHoldings

#### **ABOUT ITC:**

ITC Holdings Corp. is the largest independent electricity transmission company in the U.S. – owner and operator of transmission systems in a footprint expanding to eight states. ITC's calling card is operational excellence – transforming low-performing systems into top-tier reliability success stories, building new transmission infrastructure, and developing transmission solutions to address 21st century energy needs. ITC is a subsidiary of Fortis Inc., a leader in the North American regulated electric and gas utility industry.







# ITC maintains an integrated vegetation management program to protect electric reliability and public safety.

Trees and high-voltage power lines are a hazardous combination. Tree interference with transmission lines is a leading cause of electric power outages and poses a safety threat to the public.

Our society depends upon electricity, so the loss of power can bring daily life to a halt. Outages and blackouts are inconvenient, costly and potentially dangerous. The Northeast Blackout of 2003 – which started with a tree coming into contact with a power line – left 50 million people in 13 states and Ontario without power for days. Our economy suffered billions of dollars in lost productivity. Vital infrastructure such as health care facilities, financial institutions and public safety are just a few examples of essential services relying on uninterrupted power.

ITC favors removal of incompatible trees over trimming because trees that are trimmed can produce aggressive new growth. This is especially hazardous during hot summer months when transmission lines sag due to the energy load they carry.



Other types of transmission towers

Lines can sag during high demand and hot weather, and both lines and trees can sway in windy conditions.



# Our Approach to Vegetation Management

To further our record of service reliability, industry-leading safety and positive interactions with communities and property owners, we look for the best approaches to preventing vegetation-caused outages and exchange ideas with other transmission owners – all toward providing safe and reliable service to communities. We communicate with residents through notices and personal contact about planned maintenance activity. Key benefits of our integrated vegetation management program include diverse, stable, natural greenways in the communities we serve.

Selective removal of incompatible species in urban, suburban and rural transmission corridors is the cornerstone of our vegetation management program. These efforts make space for grasses, wildflowers and low-growing shrubs to thrive. Foresters and other trained field staff routinely inspect our corridors, identify both appropriate and incompatible species on a site-by-site basis, and recommend appropriate management methods. They are available to discuss individual questions or concerns with residents.

A secondary objective of integrated vegetation management is keeping access routes to transmission equipment free of large woody plants and trees to enable regular inspection and maintenance activities.

#### **Natural Greenways**

ITC's holistic approach to vegetation management results in safe and reliable transmission corridors that can foster stable and diverse greenways for people and wildlife – along with decreased environmental and property disturbance.

#### Compatible Species: Right Tree, Right Place

ITC appreciates that tree removal can be a sensitive issue for property owners. The safety of residents and reliability of the transmission system are our top priorities. ITC works with residents to help them understand what kinds of plants and shrubs can be safely established near transmission lines, and the right places for trees.

Under our "Right Tree, Right Place" program, we hold site selection education events in communities to complement property-owner landscape management and help prevent tree interference with transmission lines.



#### **Preventive Maintenance**

As part of our preventive maintenance program to ensure ongoing system reliability, ITC conducts aerial and ground patrols of the transmission system to identify and address potential vegetation threats before they can cause problems.



#### About ITC and Electric Transmission

ITC is the nation's largest independent electric transmission company. We own, operate and maintain high voltage transmission systems in seven states.

> Transmission is the bulk delivery of electrical energy from power generating plants along high voltage lines to the local distribution system of utilities serving communities.

# vegetation management

# We're sometimes asked...

#### 1. Why does ITC remove trees instead of trim them?

ITC has adopted an approach that calls for removal of incompatible vegetation in order to maintain the safety of the public and reliability of the transmission system. ITC identifies and removes incompatible trees that can grow to the point of interfering with transmission lines; whereas trimming such trees often stimulates faster growth. Proactive removal of these species and the encouragement of compatible vegetation is a long-term approach that fosters stable and sustainable transmission corridors.

#### 2. Why does ITC need access to my property?

ITC needs access to your property, granted through utility easements, in order to perform necessary maintenance work and other activities to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of power to your community.

#### 3. How can I verify the rights ITC has on my property?

Recorded easement information can be obtained from the county register of deeds or county clerk offices. This information can also be found in the title work associated with your property.

#### 4. How will I know ITC is planning vegetation management activity?

Our ways of communicating vegetation management plans to residents and communities include placement of door tag hangers, personal contact and printed notices about individual sites where maintenance is needed.

#### 5. How often does ITC return to perform vegetation work?

Existing and potential new vegetation, and their growth rates, vary across locations. Our routine monitoring allows us to schedule appropriate work as needed to maintain electric reliability and public safety.

#### If you don't see your question here, please contact us by phone or e-mail (see below).



Facebook: @ITCHoldingsCorp Twitter: @ITCGrid YouTube: ITCHoldings

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

If you have questions about ITC's vegetation management program or our activities in your community, please contact ITC's customer line at: **877.ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829)** For more information about ITC, please visit **www.itc-holdings.com**