

Overview

The Grant Public Utility District (PUD) provides power and broadband fiber service to over 50,000 customers in Grant County. The PUD owns and operates the Priest Rapids and Wanapum dams on the Columbia River and the high voltage transmission lines that help deliver electricity to our customers. The PUD is planning to build a new transmission line from the Wanapum Dam to the Mountain View Substation, near Quincy.

The new transmission line will be 31 miles long and will primarily be aligned along existing roadways and utility corridors. Construction of the new transmission line will include placing 100- to 115-foot tall steel poles roughly every 500 feet along the entire alignment. Smaller distribution poles, which carry distribution and fiber optic lines, will be placed halfway between each transmission pole along the corridor.

Grant PUD needs to acquire rights-of-way along much of the alignment to build, maintain, and operate the transmission line. This folio explains the right-of-way acquisition process — what landowners need to know about the process as well as what it means for the continued ownership and use of land by property owners.

Project benefits

- Meets growing demand for electricity and will serve future generations
- Improves reliability for customers, including those who rely on power for irrigation
- Adds redundancy by strengthening connections among substations

What is Right-of-Way Acquisition?

Right-of-way acquisition gives permanent easement rights to Grant PUD to use the land or property to build and maintain the transmission line. Landowners are paid for the use of the land and retain ownership of the land, but they give Grant PUD permission to use the land indefinitely. If the property is sold the new owner is bound to the terms of the easement. In most cases, Grant PUD will seek to acquire a small corridor of land, just enough to place poles on the property and for the wires attached to the poles. In addition to still owning the land, landowners can use the land except for a small area around the poles. There are some limitations to what can be placed under the lines that will run between the poles. For example, buildings or trees would not be allowed.



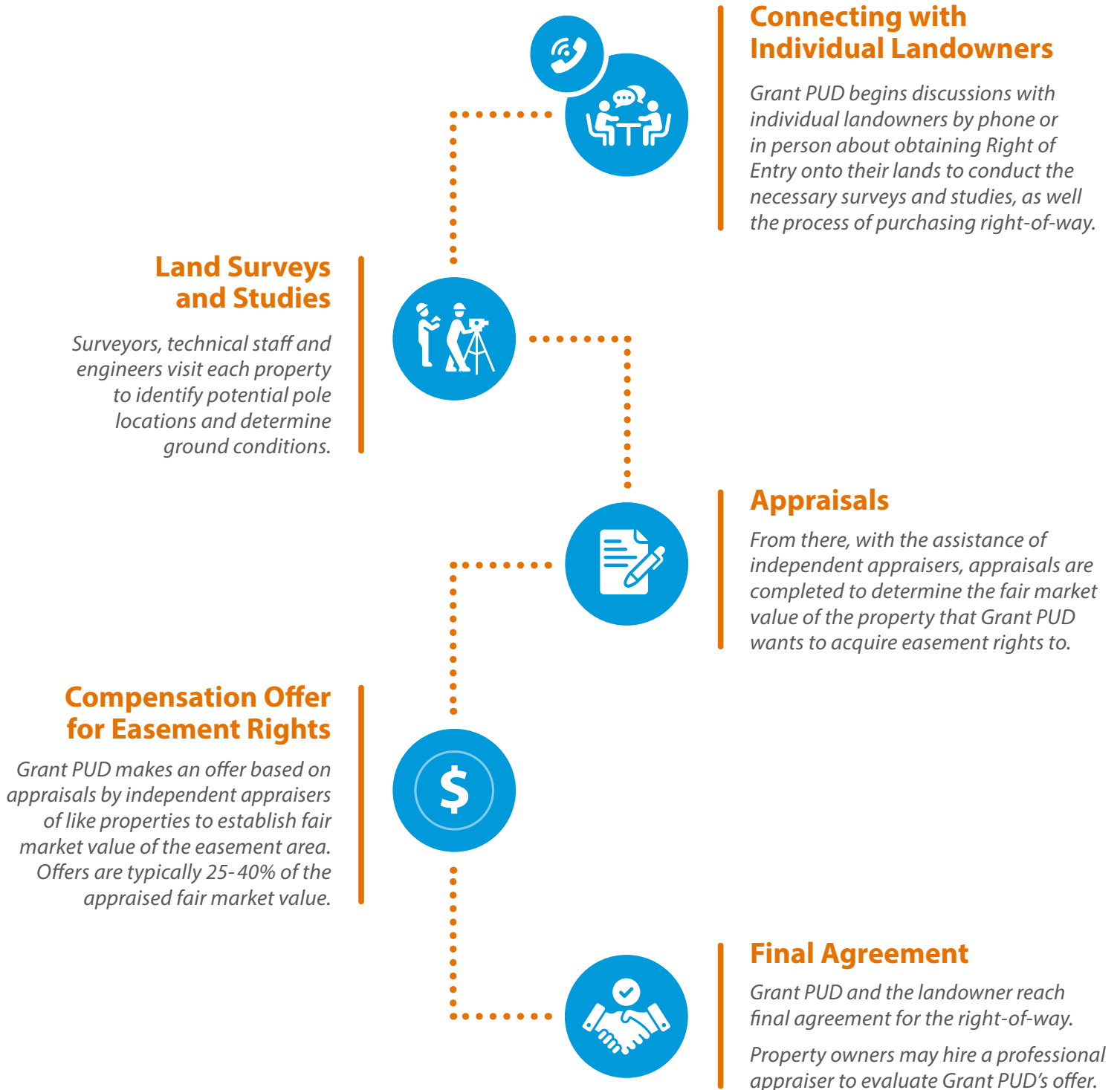
Roadside transmission lines

Transmission lines carry electricity from generation plants to substations, or from substation to substation. There are currently over 200 miles of 230kV transmission lines in Grant County, some along roadways.

Transmission line poles are typically taller and larger than neighborhood distribution line poles, and roadside poles often sit in an easement just outside of the right-of-way. Distribution lines carry reduced voltages that provide electricity to customers.

What is the process for Right-of Way Acquisition?

Right-of-way acquisition is a multi-step process which is explained in the graphic below.

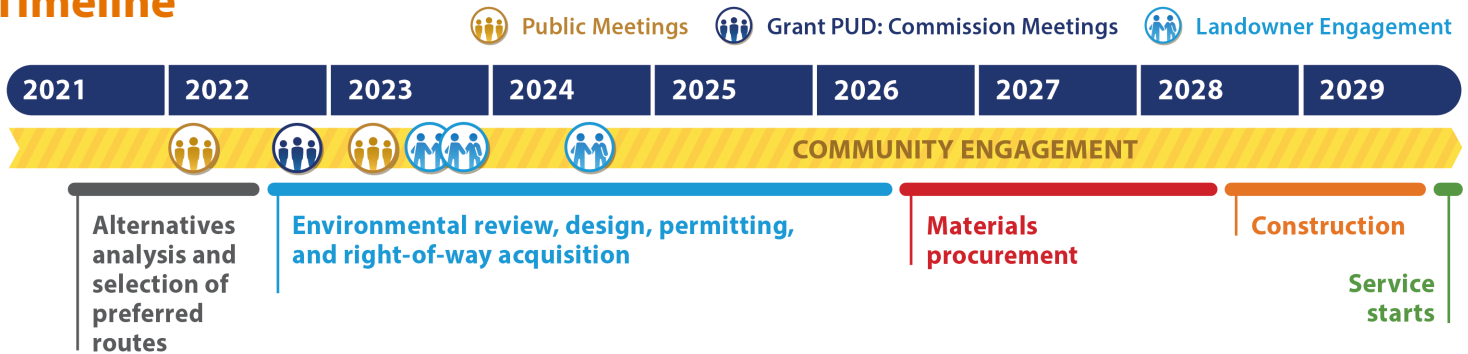




What happens if an agreement cannot be reached?

As a last resort, Grant PUD may pursue a process called condemnation if an agreement cannot be reached with a landowner. Condemnation is a rarely used process under which a judge can decide whether the right-of-way is needed and its value. Condemnation is part of a government’s right to acquire or authorize the acquisition of a private property for public use with just compensation to the owner. This is also referred to as eminent domain.

Timeline



Frequently Asked Questions

? Can I use my property after the transmission line is built?

Yes! Land within the easement may be used in ways that do not interfere with the operation, maintenance, or construction of the line. We intend to minimize impacts to agricultural operations during the design, construction, and operations and maintenance of the transmission line. Since agriculture operations vary along the route of this project, we plan to work through specific land use and operational concerns with each individual property owner.

? How much maintenance should I expect?

Except for emergency situations, property owners can generally expect the line to be accessed once a year by Grant PUD. Maintenance will be conducted if issues are observed during the assessment. Maintenance may include pruning trees that encroach in the right-of-way. In the event of an outage the line could be accessed as line crews troubleshoot the root cause of the outage.

? This area experiences high winds. Will it be safe to be near the line?

The NESC is an industry standard that provides minimum line design requirements including likely wind loads in the area. Grant PUD realizes that these are minimum requirements and has many years of experience designing new lines within the area to withstand high-winds.

For more FAQs and additional project information, visit www.grantpud.org/qtep

Contact Us

Grant PUD Public Affairs

(509) 754-5035

publicaffairs@gcpud.org

Grant PUD was founded in 1938 by local residents who envisioned the benefit of affordable electricity for the entire county. Today we realize their vision by generating more than 2,100 megawatts of clean, renewable, reliable energy at some of the most affordable rates in the country. Our mission is to safely, efficiently, and reliably generate and deliver energy to our customers.