

How Environmental Planning implements wetland, subaqueous lands, and other natural resource protection measures on transmission, distribution, and substation projects in DPL service territory.

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1) Project Initiation

- GIS System EGRET: Use of the PHI GIS system “EGRET” enables Environmental Planning to assess potential environmental impacts and determine potential avoidance and minimization measures.
- Field Visits: Field visits and constructability reviews are conducted with DPL internal stakeholders and project team members to identify potential impacts and discuss preliminary design.

2) Project Planning and Design

- Consultation Letters: Consultation letter responses from various agencies (DNREC, USFWS, NMFS, DHCA, NHESP, etc.) identify resources of concern so Environmental Planning can initiate the necessary field studies.
- Resource Studies: Field studies are initiated (wetland delineations, habitat suitability assessments, raptor nest surveys, etc.) and mapping is developed to incorporate into the design process to minimize environmental impacts where possible.
- Avian Protection: The DPL Avian Protection Plan and staff biologists assist engineers in designing facilities to avian-safe standards.
- Project Mapping: Project mapping developed by Environmental Planning marries engineering design with surveyed resource mapping and construction access plans based on the constructability review.

3) Project Completion

- Best Management Practices: Environmental Planning works with Construction Management to develop BMPs (matting, filter sock, exclusion fencing, etc.) to facilitate construction activities while simultaneously protecting natural resources.
- Environmental Monitoring Program: Environmental monitors are assigned to projects when environmental permits (federal, state, and/or local) are acquired or avoidance and minimization plans developed. The monitor coordinates with the construction representatives; making recommendations to reduce impacts and to ensure compliance with permit conditions and project plans. The monitor also uses an online “Toolkit,” in which construction progress is documented, photos are uploaded, and permit conditions are tracked to ensure compliance.