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# Understanding Underground Easements



*Conceptual example only*—actual details of installation will be customized to your property and vary depending on terrain, the possible presence of phone or cable service lines, and other factors.

**An easement is a signed document that provides legal permission to an entity to perform specific work on another person's public or private land. The property owner still owns the land subject to the rights granted to the utility company. These rights include constructing, maintaining, repairing, and/or replacing lines and equipment.**

If we request an easement from you, then you are granting us the ability to install, maintain, and operate our equipment on your property. We ask you to ensure that the easement area is accessible to our equipment if repairs need to be performed.

#### **Will I be compensated for an easement?**

We do not offer financial compensation for easements.

#### **Why am I being asked to sign an easement form?**

As part of Dominion Energy Virginia's Strategic Underground Program, we relocate existing overhead lines underground. Dominion Energy must obtain authorization from property owners before any work is performed on their property. The Underground Distribution Easement Agreement, that Dominion Energy asks property owner(s) to sign, grants permission to do this work.

#### **Will I have to sign more than one easement?**

In situations where Dominion Energy partners with telephone and cable companies to place lines

underground, property owners may need to sign more than one easement. When possible, we will incorporate a joint electric and telecommunications underground easement into a single document.

#### **How much easement area is required?**

The standard underground easement area is fifteen (15) feet wide. This width provides adequate space for the installation and maintenance of underground electric equipment.

#### **What does it mean if my property has an underground easement?**

An underground easement simply gives the utility permission to perform work on your property and maintain its equipment. The property owner still retains ownership of the land. We ask you to ensure that the easement area is accessible to our equipment if repairs need to be performed.

**Landscaping around our equipment is permissible, within guidelines. Plantings must be at least 3 feet from the back and sides of the equipment and 10 feet from the front.**

**If there are underground lines on the property, remember to call 811 before you dig.**



Strategic  
**Underground  
Program**