

It is important that trees do not grow too close to power lines. A power outage can happen when tree limbs come into contact with power lines. Energized tree limbs are also a safety hazard to anyone who touches the tree.

Utility companies periodically prune trees in an effort to maintain enough space between the trees and power lines. Utility companies use pruning techniques developed by the National Arborist Association and approved by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI).

If you decide to prune your own trees, first check for any restrictions in a deed or easement for the property. For safety reasons, pruning near power lines should be done by professionals.

When planting trees, keep in mind how tall or large a tree will grow. Your local nursery can answer questions about the mature height and spread of tree types.

Keep in mind these tips for planting:

- Consult your utility company before planting on or near power line right-of-ways.
- Trees should not be planted under service lines (the small line running directly from the pole to the house).
- Shrubs and other plants should not be planted too close to pad-mounted transformers (rectangular metal boxes near property lines).
- Vegetation should be planted at least 10 feet away from the opening side of the transformer where the padlock is located. This will allow utility workers room to perform repairs and maintenance.

When planning projects that involve digging, such as tree plantings, contact the Palmetto Utility Protection Service (PUPS) at 1-888-SC1-PUPS (721-7877) at least three working days in advance. A

representative will mark the location of utility lines on your property. State law requires notification before any excavation project.

Contact your utility for information on pruning and right-of-way maintenance procedures.

Duke Energy 1-800-777-9898
www.duke-energy.com

Lockhart Power 1-800-368-1289
www.lockhartpower.com

Piedmont Natural Gas 1-800-752-7504
www.piedmontng.com

Progress Energy 1-800-452-2777
www.progress-energy.com

SCE&G 1-800-251-7234
www.scana.com/SCEG



For more information, visit the International Society of Arboriculture website at:
www.treesaregood.com



OFFICE OF REGULATORY STAFF

CONTACT US

The Office of Regulatory Staff can be reached several ways:

By Internet www.regulatorystaff.sc.gov
An online complaint/inquiry form is available through the Consumer Services link on the ORS website.

By Phone

General Information

803-737-0800

803-737-0893 TTY

Consumer Complaints & Inquiries

803-737-5230 (Columbia, S.C.)

1-800-922-1531 (toll-free in S.C.)

Hearing & Speech Impaired Access

803-737-5175 TTY (Columbia, S.C.)

1-800-334-2217 TTY (toll-free in S.C.)

By Fax 803-737-4750

By Mail Consumer Services Division
S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff
P.O. Box 11263
Columbia, S.C. 29211

Hours 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
(closed state holidays)

ABOUT THE ORS

The S.C. Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) was created in 2004 with legislation passed by the S.C. General Assembly.

The ORS is charged with representing the public interest of South Carolina in utility regulation for the major utility industries - electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water/wastewater, and transportation - before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC), the court system, the S.C. General Assembly, and federal regulatory bodies. The ORS also has responsibility for oversight of railroad safety and natural gas pipeline safety in South Carolina.

In fulfilling this mission, the ORS strives to balance the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina.

The Consumer Services Division of the ORS responds to customer complaints and inquiries involving utilities, transportation carriers for hire, and railroad safety issues that fall within the authority of the ORS.

INFORMATION FOR CONSUMERS



TREES,
POWER LINES, &
RIGHT-OF-WAY
MAINTENANCE