

LEACH XPRESS PROJECT

Understanding Surveys

Before building new energy infrastructure, Columbia's project teams conduct surveys to make sure facilities are designed and constructed safely and in a way that minimizes impacts to natural and cultural resources. Surveying the landscape is our way of getting to know a community and its resources. The federal and state environmental laws we must follow rely heavily on the information we gather during the survey process. In fact, many states have laws that allow utility companies to survey private property once proper notification to landowners has been given.



CONTACT US

Our community relations team, led by Zane Daniels, is available to answer your questions.

Please contact Zane at (614) 855-5625 or by email at zdaniels@cpge.com.

WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

Our first step in the survey process is to contact area landowners to introduce them to our company and request permission to conduct civil, environmental and cultural surveys on their property. Typically, survey teams consist of small crews of technical surveyors, engineers, biologists and archaeologists. All Columbia employees and its contractors carry the proper identification and will present it if asked.

INCREASING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LANDSCAPE

Engineering surveys are designed to evaluate potential facility locations and construction work areas. These surveys may take into account factors such as physical terrain and slope, operational requirements, access to potential work areas or roads, and proximity to other facilities.

Biological surveys document vegetation types, protected species habitat, and the location of streams and wetlands. Our biologists may conduct soil tests by using a small diameter probe to examine potential wetland locations. Soil samples are examined on-site and promptly returned to the landscape.

Archaeological surveys are designed to identify cultural or historic resources, and can be slightly more involved than biological assessments. Prehistoric artifacts are often found buried beneath the ground surface. Therefore, small excavations may be required to conduct an adequate survey. Our archeological teams take special care to remove and separate sod and topsoil so it can be replaced once excavations are completed. Recovered artifacts are considered property of the landowner and are returned after they are studied and catalogued.

RESPECTING YOUR PRIVACY

Despite their role in protecting natural and historical resources and promoting safe construction practices, we understand that survey activities may inconvenience local landowners. That's why we strive to minimize the number and duration of visits made by our survey crews. In circumstances where follow-up visits are required, we will first consult with landowners about what additional information is needed. To learn more about Columbia's survey process, please call our landowner hotline toll free at (888) 499-3450.

