

Sandestin E-News
Written by the Staff and Volunteers
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Gulf Power to Make Huge Impact

This past week, we were notified by Gulf Power that they will commence their project to build the new high voltage transmission line through Sandestin. This particular project has been in the works for several years; however we have never really received details on the scope and magnitude of the project until recently.

The project calls out to install new metal power poles, ranging in height from 90- 125 feet tall. The new poles will be placed thirty feet north of the existing circuit which runs east to west through our community. The new circuit will enable the power company keep up with future growth for the next twenty years. Once the new poles and lines are complete, then removal of the old poles and wires will be accomplished.

In preparation for the above new construction, the power company will proceed with removing and trimming an exorbitant amount of trees and vertical landscape material that has the potential to grow over 15 feet in height, and risks compromising the integrity of the energized circuits. Some will call it “clear cutting” and others call it “trimming the right-of-way”. No matter what we call it, the impact of the cutting will be very, very, significant.

Gulf Power has owned their 100 foot wide easement and right of way, since 1951 and their right to make way for the safe operation of transmission lines, as directed by federal agencies, is guaranteed in their deeds.

With all this said, Gulf Power is going to work with us, as best they can, to mitigate the removal of questionable trees which may border their property lines as the need arises. In addition, they will plan to use all methods available to minimize collateral landscape destruction.