Environmental Programs

Biodiversity and integration into the physical environment

Bell recognizes that the first step to protecting the environment and at-risk species is to be extremely vigilant when deploying our network. Accordingly, we conduct environmental assessments for our network projects and apply mitigation measures to minimize potential impact on natural habitats when working in sensitive locations and to obtain regulatory approvals and strictly adhere to their conditions when such approvals are required. For instance, we avoid the use of treated wood poles in sensitive natural areas, using cedar poles instead.

We have developed an internal program for evaluating and minimizing the impact network projects may have on the environment. The evaluation process is mainly intended for project managers and applies to all project steps, including planning, design, construction, maintenance, and decommissioning.

Biodiversity preservation, a primary way to reduce the potential for resource scarcity that could affect us all, is also essential to our business continuity. We therefore make every effort to minimize tree trimming, cutting and clearing during network deployment, while maintaining network integrity.

The outdoor application of pesticides on the company's properties is another environmental concern that may represent a risk to biodiversity and human health.

In 2016, Bell adopted a new integrated pest management directive replacing a 2002 policy. The purpose of this directive is to establish a framework for indoor and outdoor pest control, in compliance with applicable legislation and best practices. The use of pesticides may cause environmental impacts, as well as pose risks to human health. This directive complements our environmental approach to managing vegetation, which involves planning, maintaining, and monitoring properties in order to reduce pesticide use. Nevertheless, the nature of our business requires that we sometimes control the proliferation of vegetation. For example, we must ensure that vegetation does not restrict access to telecommunication cables, for safety and service assurance. In such cases, mechanical methods, such as pruning and clearing, are prioritized over the use of chemical products.

Last updated: April 2017

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