

Network Infrastructure

A communications company relies on a high-performance network supported by varied infrastructure deployed across a large territory. This infrastructure consists of components that range from telecommunications towers and data hosting rooms, to manholes, pole storage sites, and the entire aerial and underground network. It also includes all of the equipment installed in the buildings that support the distribution of services to customers.

The wide geographical distribution of Bell's network—along with the great variety of its components—necessitates careful planning for all network deployment or infrastructure management projects. Work carried out by Bell (distribution network design, construction, operation, and maintenance) could potentially affect (visual or functional nuisances, noise, etc.) natural environments (water, air, soil, flora, fauna, etc.) and human environments. Since these environments can present specific individual characteristics, and can include sensitive, protected, or heritage areas that are covered by regulations, we study each network/infrastructure project to assess whether any potential negative environmental impact exists.

Bell ensures that practices in our operations respect the applicable laws and regulations. We developed the Network Infrastructure program which includes environmental assessment processes, the obligation to obtain the permits and authorizations required for the work, the application of mitigation measures where required to minimize the environmental impacts and ensure compliance with air and noise emission limits, and good management practices for the materials generated during operations. The procedures of the program are embedded directly into current operational practices, are mainly aimed at project managers responsible for deployment, and apply to every stage of a project, including planning, design, construction, maintenance, and decommissioning of installations.

Quality audits of network projects are conducted annually on a sample of projects to measure adherence to laws, regulations, and Bell's practices.