

**Motion: Rural people are deprived by Right of Way (ROW) of transmission line, require immediate policy and guidelines for the ROW.**

As of 2017 there are more than 1102.074 km of high voltage transmission line constructed across the country (BPC).

The transmission lines are constructed as far as possible close to motorable road and through the valleys overcrossing settlements and private registered land due to economic reasons.

As per the notification issued by the National Land Commission Secretariat dated 8<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (the only document on the ROW) authorized Bhutan Power Corporation only to acquire private land falling under transmission tower (Pylon) in rural areas with the payment of compensation to the landowner and transfer the land registration to the BPC or on lease. The compensation or land substitution is only for the construction of pylon tower (approx. area is 10 decimal).

Wherein, clause 9 (minimum approach distances) of Safety Code, Bhutan Electricity Authority, 2008 states the following;

<b>Nominal Design Voltage (kV)</b>	<b>Minimum Approach Distance (Meter)</b>
400	8.3 m (27 feet) from the center of the tower)
220	5.5 m (18')
132	4.2 m (13')
66	2.8 m (9')
33	2.1 m (7')
11	1.5 m (5')
0.4	0.5 m (1.6')

Although, it was not specifically mentioned on the **right of way** of transmission line in any of the documents available till date. During the execution of the transmission line, the compensation and private land substitution was based on the notification issued by the National Land Commission and could not ascertain any policy or guidelines for proper and uniform implementation.

Therefore, apparently, rural folks are facing challenges in accord of clearances for the residential construction in their registered land according to the above table, because the transmission lines transverse above or nearby their land. In fact, the people were unaware of the consequences of their consensus during public consultation.

**Recommendation:**

1. Bhutan Power Authority or any other relevant agencies should come up with the policy, proper guideline, rules and regulations on the transmission line

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2. As far as possible avoid private registered land in rural areas, if it is inevitable, land must be substituted or compensation for the ROW.
3. The landscape beauty of the locality should not be destroyed by construction of pylon tower

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