

UTILIZING DRONE TECHNOLOGY TO INSPECT POWER LINES

In support of modernizing the existing energy infrastructure, NIPSCO is using advanced technology to inspect and maintain a reliable source of energy for communities.

WHAT IS DRONE TECHNOLOGY?

Drone technology is a small unmanned aircraft system (UAS) that is flown by a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) commercially licensed pilot to capture high-quality, actionable data.

WHAT WILL THIS TECHNOLOGY BE USED FOR?

- Identify opportunities to enhance and upgrade the current system to continue to provide a reliable source of energy.
- Produce detailed aerial images and sensor data of electrical overhead power lines, substations, and transmission towers.
- Produce detailed aerial images of vegetation clearances needed within utility right-of-ways.



Example of drone, drone size is approximately 3' x 3'.



Example picture provided by Orbital Engineering of a drone in flight.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- We have contracted Orbital Technical Solutions who has a team of experienced FAA Licensed UAS pilots, engineers and project managers to conduct all planned flight inspections.
- Inspection routes will be identified in advance and limited to airspace near NIPSCO power lines, typically flown between 50 feet to 100 feet above ground level.
- A licensed operator will be located no more than one-fourth of a mile from the drone and flights will be conducted during normal business hours, Monday - Friday.
- We take the privacy of our customers and the citizens of Indiana seriously. Although inspection routes may require drones to be flown over public and private property, no video will be taken of the inspection routes, and the drone will capture pictures only of the existing infrastructure.
- Pilots will take precautionary measures to not fly directly over people during drone operations. Please remember that it is unlawful to interfere with drone operations.

For more information, contact us at 1-800-4NIPSCO or visit [NIPSCO.com/projects](https://www.nipSCO.com/projects)

