



25.1 General

Coordinating with a railroad company should be done through the Region Railroad Coordinator. This chapter offers some information that might be useful if you have a railroad on your project. This chapter does not replace the need for involvement by the Region Railroad Coordinator; it is merely a place for railroad information that may be of value to a designer or utility coordinator.

Most railroads are not members of Diggers Hotline and as such they must be contacted separately regarding locating issues. In addition to railroad-related facilities such as buried signal wires; many railroads have entered the right of way marketplace for longitudinal installations of fiber optic cable, electrical transmission lines and other facilities. There are numerous long distance fiber optic cables and other facilities in Wisconsin located on railroad right of way.

Since the railroads are not members of Diggers Hotline, the contact information for each railroads' "Call Before You Dig!" service should be included on the General Notes page of the highway plan and in the special provisions of the highway contract. Contact the Region Railroad Coordinator to verify the current contact information.

Utility coordination must include fiber optic lines that may be located along any railroad. For the Union Pacific Railroad Company, The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company or Soo Line Railroad Company (d/b/a Canadian Pacific Railway), **specific language must be placed in the "Utilities" article of the Special Provisions.** See the "Designer Notes" in STSP 107-026 or STSP 107-034 for the required wording. Other railroad companies do not have specific one-call fiber optic offices and the contact person may vary from project to project, however similar fiber optic coordination language referencing Diggers Hotline should be included when necessary.

For **information on surveying on railroad property**, see Facilities Development Manual [Procedure 9-10-6](#).

Old **railroad right of way** maps have been scanned and are available on CD's. The CDs are also available on the DOTnet at "[mad00fp4\N4Public\brh\OCR plats\Z-PDF-Railroads](#)." There you will find 4 CDs. Open one of the CDs and view the table of contents to determine if that is the one you are looking for. The table of contents has links to the maps. The maps are not current and actual railroad ownership may be different than what is shown on the maps.

Ch. [PSC 132](#) Wis. Adm. Code "Compensation and Conditions for Public Utility Facilities within Railroad Right of way," should be consulted for information on placing utility facilities on railroad lands. Please note that PSC 132.03(1)(a) states, "*Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties and subject to sub. (2), a public utility which locates its facilities within the right of way of a railroad shall compensate the railroad \$500 for each crossing.*"

The Region Railroad Coordinator, the Railroad Coordination Handbook and Chapter 17, Railroad Coordination, of the Facilities Development Manual (FDM) should be consulted for additional guidance on placing utility facilities and highway appurtenances above, below, or near railroad tracks or railroad property.