

761—115.6(306A) Scenic enhancement.

115.6(1) *Introduction.* The type and size of a utility facility and the manner in which it is installed can materially alter the scenic quality, appearance and view of highway roadsides and adjacent areas. For these reasons, additional controls are applicable in areas that have been acquired or set aside for their scenic quality. Such areas may include, but are not limited to, scenic strips, scenic overlooks, rest areas, recreation areas, public parks and historic sites, aesthetically enhanced corridors, and the right-of-way of primary highways that pass through or are adjacent to these areas. These additional controls are addressed in this rule.

115.6(2) *Underground installations.* The department may permit a new underground installation if it does not require extensive removal or alteration of trees or other natural features visible to the highway user and if it does not impair the visual quality of the area being traversed.

115.6(3) *Aboveground installations.* The department may permit a new aboveground installation only if the following three conditions are met:

- a. Other locations for an aboveground installation are unusually difficult, are unreasonably costly, or are less desirable from the standpoint of visual quality.
- b. Underground installation is not technically feasible or is unreasonably costly.
- c. The location, design and materials to be used for the proposed aboveground installation will give adequate attention to the visual qualities of the area being traversed.