South Coast Reliability

nationalgrid

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE PROJECTS

FAQs

Project Overview

Q: What is the Acushnet to Fall River Reliability Project?

A: The Acushnet to Fall River Reliability Project is a joint project of National Grid and Eversource. The proposed overhead transmission line is approximately 12.1-miles in length, 115 kilovolt (kV) and will be constructed in an existing transmission right-of-way, with approximately 7.9 miles located in Acushnet, Dartmouth and New Bedford, MA (Eversource Energy) and approximately 4.2 miles in Fall River, MA (National Grid). The new line begins at the Industrial Park Tap in Acushnet, MA and terminates at the Bell Rock Substation in Fall River, MA.

Q: Why is this Project necessary?

A: The Acushnet to Fall River Reliability Project is one of several planned infrastructure upgrades in southeast Massachusetts needed to support the growing transmission needs of the area well into the future. The transmission grid serves as the backbone of the electric system and is vital to our region's safety, security, and economic prosperity. Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE) determined that additional transmission infrastructure is needed in this area to maintain system reliability.

Q: What is the expected timeline for completion?

A: Pending regulatory approvals, construction would begin in early 2026, and the project would be placed in service in early 2027. The project will undergo a rigorous approval process with the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board, as well as other federal, state and local agencies. National Grid and Eversource are undertaking extensive community outreach to inform and elicit feedback from project stakeholders, including municipalities, business owners, residents, and community groups.

Q: What is the exact route the construction will follow?

A: The proposed project will be constructed in an existing ROW, with approximately 7.9 miles located in Acushnet, Dartmouth and New Bedford, MA (Eversource Energy) and approximately 4.2 miles in Fall River, MA (National Grid). The new transmission line is

proposed to be built on the south side of the power line corridor alongside an existing 115 kV transmission line. To view a map of this route please click this link.

Q: How was the route selected?

A: National Grid and Eversource conducted a thorough examination of all possible routes to improve the reliability of the electrical system, carefully considering both the cost implications and the impact the project would have on the affected communities in which construction would take place. The proposed route is within established overhead transmission line corridors which have existed for decades between the Industrial Park Tap and the Bell Rock Substation. These corridors are controlled by National Grid and Eversource and contain sufficient width to construct a new overhead transmission line adjacent to the existing overhead transmission lines.

Q: Is there an available project map?

A: Yes. Please refer to the maps on the website for details on where the construction will take place. To view the map please click this link.

Q: Were alternative routes examined?

A: Yes, all possible routes that would mitigate cost and disruption while at the same time achieve the project goals were considered. National Grid and Eversource performed a detailed evaluation of the environmental impacts, reliability, and cost of the alternative routes to determined that this was the best option in terms of environmental impact and cost to the consumer.

Q: What will the new transmission lines look like?

A: The new transmission line will consist of self-weathering or galvanized structures ranging in height from approximately 47 to 112 feet. They will be H-frames, consistent with the existing transmission line structures within the corridor. The new structures will not appear much different than what's currently in place. Please refer to project simulations located on the website to view simulations of the new transmission lines. To view the photo simulations please click this link.

Customer Benefits/Impacts

Q: Who will benefit from the Acushnet to Fall River Project

A: This Project will help strengthen Southeastern Massachusetts's electric system and will maintain the electric reliability in this area. All southeast Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island electric customers will benefit from this increased reliability.

Q: What can I expect for road closures?

A: We anticipate some traffic impact along the route. Traffic management plans will be instituted to ensure minimal disruptions. We will communicate any traffic disruptions via our project website.

Q: Will this project cause any power outages or disruptions?

A: No customer power outages or disruptions are anticipated in relation to the construction of this project. Customers may experience power outages resulting from storms or other weather events; however, these outages would be events unrelated to construction of the project.

Environment

Q: What is the environmental impact of the project? And what does National Grid do to minimize environmental concerns?

A: National Grid works closely with federal and state agencies, environmental organizations, local communities, and other interested parties to maximize environmental protection in our operations. We are committed to protecting and enhancing the environmental status of the land on which we operate. National Grid has established and proven environmental guidelines and practices that will be implemented during the construction of the Project.

For the Acushnet to Fall River Reliability Project, National Grid is coordinating with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) to minimize or avoid potential adverse effects on rare species habitats during design, construction, and operation of the Project.

The proposed Project will create conditions that support and encourage wildlife. Tree clearing and mowing will create additional scrub-shrub and open meadow habitats, which are rare in southern New England. These habitats are beneficial to many species, including insects, native pollinators, birds, bats and other state-protected birds and reptiles. Creation of additional scrub-shrub and open meadow will also increase habitat opportunity for state-listed plant species colonization.

Q: Does National Grid participate in any programs to help the environment?

A: National Grid works closely with federal and state agencies, environmental organizations, local communities, and other interested parties to maximize environmental protection in our operations. Please visit the environmental section on NationalGridUS.com for more information on how National Grid is committed to both protecting and enhancing the environment.

Q: What type of vegetation clearing will occur to construction this new transmission line?

A: Larger trees will need to be removed to establish horizontal and vertical clearances for the proposed structures and overhead lines. Mowing of shrubs and herbaceous vegetation

will be temporary to facilitate access and construction. Stumps, roots and seed stock will remain intact and be allowed to re-establish to provide soil stabilization. Stumps located where structures or work pads are proposed may need to be removed. If required, a mitigation plan using native species could be implemented to supplement the revegetation of plants along the affected edge of the right-of-way.

Q: What impact will this have on endangered species habitat?

A: To avoid and minimize species habitat impacts, National Grid will develop a Conservation and Management Plan for approval by the NHESP that includes measures such as:

- Environmental and rare species awareness training for construction crews
- Seasonal restrictions for tree clearing and vegetation removal
- Installation of signs alerting work crews and local traffic to rare species habitats
- Tracking and protection via radiotelemetry or other field methods
- Restoration of habitat after construction
- Onsite and/or offsite habitat protection measures

Transmission Line Installation

Q: When will the transmission line be installed?

A: Pending regulatory approvals, construction would begin in early 2026, and the new transmission line would be placed in service in early 2027. This timeline is subject to change and is pending regulatory approval.

Q: What is the process for transmission line installation?

A: Once all regulatory agencies approve this Project the access for the construction equipment will be created. This will be done through removal or pruning of large trees and mowing approved access and work pads. Once the area is prepped for construction the base of each transmission line structure will be built. Once structures are in place the transmission line wire will be strung between the structures. After work is completed the land will be restored.

Project Communications & Outreach

Q: How can I stay updated on project progress?

A: Our Project team is committed to ensuring that community members in Fall River, Dartmouth, New Bedford, and Acushnet are kept up to date with the latest Project information. If you have any Project-related questions, please reach out to us.

Eversource: ProjectInfoMA@eversource.com or call 833-836-0302.
National Grid: Info@SouthCoastReliabilityProjects.com or call 833-233-7277.

Q: Will there be any community meetings on the project?

A: Yes. We are fully committed to providing the community with the opportunity to see the plans and comment on them. Additional community meetings and open houses are being planned for the affected area. Our dedicated project website, hotline (1-833-233-7277) will also provide additional ways for customers and the public to connect with the project team quickly and easily with questions or concerns about the project.

General National Grid Information

Q: How can I report a power outage?

A: You can report an outage by visiting the Report an Outage page on NationalGridUS.com or by downloading the smart phone app. You can also call 800-465-1212.

Q: Where can I pay my bill?

A: For information about bills and payment options please visit the Bills and Payments page on NationalGridUS.com.