

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the project?

The Atlantic City/Brigantine Community Reliability Project includes replacing an existing substation and rebuilding two critical transmission lines between Atlantic City and Brigantine to reduce the impacts of more powerful storms. These upgrades will strengthen the local energy grid and enhance resiliency, leading to fewer storm-related outages and better reliability for customers.

Why is it needed?

Across South Jersey, we are seeing the impacts of more frequent and more severe weather driven by climate change. These storms and hurricanes are bringing stronger and more damaging winds and extreme flooding, and are having lasting impacts, particularly across the barrier islands. To confront this, we are installing stronger utility poles and new, modern equipment in communities across South Jersey to harden the local energy grid and provide our customers and communities with safer and more reliable energy service.

What will the substation look like?

We will replace the existing substation on Bayshore Ave. in Brigantine with a new, larger substation built on our expanded 1.5-acre property at the same location. The new substation will be raised by several feet above the floodplain to help prevent power outages caused by coastal flooding. We have designed the project to minimize potential impacts to the local community. To help screen the substation from the public, the facility will be surrounded by a perimeter fence and much of the equipment will be enclosed within a new building, which will be about 39 feet tall.

What will the transmission lines look like?

The project includes rebuilding 3.4 miles of transmission lines between Atlantic City and Brigantine. In Atlantic City, the transmission lines will be placed underground for a half mile segment along N. Arkansas Ave. and Horace J Bryant Jr Dr. For the portions of the project along Rt. 30 and Rt. 187 in Atlantic City, we will replace wood poles, which are more vulnerable to storm damage, with new, state-of-the-art steel utility poles capable of withstanding hurricane-force winds up to 120 mph. Based on the results of our engineering studies, the Brigantine Boulevard portion of the project will be placed underground due to poor soil conditions that would significantly impact our ability to build overhead steel utility poles.

Why are steel utility poles necessary for this project?

New, stronger utility poles, capable of withstanding winds up to 120 mph, are being installed across our system to help make the local energy grid stronger and more resilient. Steel poles offer significant improvements in reliability, longevity, and durability when compared to wood poles, and require less maintenance over time. We have installed similar steel utility poles in other South Jersey communities, including Avalon, Stone Harbor, Monroe Township, Woodstown, and Winslow Township.

Why did you decide to underground the transmission lines in Brigantine?

We install power lines underground where warranted based on the design constraints of each specific project. Based on the findings of our engineering studies, we have adjusted our plans to place the Brigantine portion of the transmission lines underground. Our studies found poor soil conditions for overhead transmission lines that would have required us to take additional costly and potentially impactful steps, including placing

the foundations of the poles at least 50 feet below ground which would greatly expand the underground footprint of our equipment. The existing wood poles and equipment that deliver energy directly to homes and businesses along Brigantine Boulevard will remain in place. The new underground section of the project will be placed beneath the Brigantine Boulevard median.

What impacts are expected during construction?

To minimize potential project impacts on local traffic, businesses and the community as a whole, construction for rebuilding the transmission lines will only occur during the “off-season.” The transmission and substation work will be completed as efficiently as possible to meet the project timeline and we will continue to keep the community informed throughout the entire process. Work will generally occur between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, weather permitting. We will work to keep noise levels from construction activities within established thresholds. We will confine project activities to the utility right-of-way of our transmission line as much as possible and restore all areas affected by construction.

How will Atlantic City Electric minimize any environmental impacts associated with this project?

We have incorporated the latest safety and environmental features in the proposed facility and have conducted a thorough environmental analysis

of the project. While our studies did not find any significant impacts to wildlife or the environment, we are committed to minimizing any impacts to the local community or the environment and will mitigate any potential impacts, as required by regulatory agencies.

How much does the project cost and who will pay for it?

The project represents about \$100 million in work that will occur from 2020–2022 as part of our comprehensive effort to modernize the South Jersey energy grid. The costs of reliability projects such as this are spread across all of our customer base and are paid for through the delivery charges on customer bills. Delivery and transmission charges are reviewed and set by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission through a transparent regulatory rate review process. These processes are essential to providing the funding necessary to continue modernizing the local energy grid and improving reliability and service for customers.

What’s next regarding the process and timeline?

Construction is currently underway and is expected to be completed by May 2022. We will continue to keep the community informed throughout the entire project. We have a dedicated project phone number **609-625-8888**, email address **ACBrigReliability@exeloncorp.com** and webpage **atlanticcityelectric.com/reliability** where you can find out more about the project’s status.

LEARN MORE:

 atlanticcityelectric.com/reliability

 ACBrigReliability@exeloncorp.com

 **609-625-8888**

