

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the project?

As part of our broader strategic effort to better serve our customers and modernize the energy grid serving South Jersey, we are upgrading a critical transmission line using stronger utility poles and modern equipment to benefit more than 8,000 customers in Salem County. The project includes upgrading approximately 3.5 miles of existing transmission line that primarily runs along Route 130 between Penns Grove and Pennsville. 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 severe storms are bringing stronger and more damaging winds and extreme flooding and are having lasting impacts. The existing transmission line was originally built in the 1930s and is currently comprised of aging wood poles, which are more vulnerable to storm damage. While the current line was upgraded during the 1950s and 1960s, it is significantly degraded and is nearing the end of its useful life. 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 transmission line look like?

We will replace some existing wood poles with stronger, state-of-the-art steel utility poles, capable of withstanding hurricane-force winds. Some areas will be rebuilt with new, stronger wood poles based on state requirements. On average, poles will range from 75 to 90 feet tall and have a diameter of approximately 28 inches for the new wood poles and 48 to 60 inches for the new steel poles. The existing wood poles' height

ranges from 55 to 65 feet. The upgraded transmission line will create a stronger and more resilient connection to the regional energy grid.

Why are steel utility poles necessary for this project?

New, stronger steel 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, Dennis Township, Monroe Township, Stone Harbor, Winslow Township, and Woodstown.

How are you minimizing the project's potential impacts to the community?

We are committed to working closely with our customers and communities throughout this important reliability improvement project. As such, we are rebuilding the majority of the transmission line along its existing path. However, after conducting a comprehensive review of potential options for this specific project, we are planning to relocate a section of the transmission line that runs through a residential neighborhood in Penns Grove to minimize impacts to the community.

We are committed to minimizing potential impacts on local traffic, businesses, and the community as a whole, and appreciate the cooperation and understanding of local residents. Construction for upgrading the transmission line will be completed as efficiently as possible to meet the project timeline. We will work to keep noise levels from construction activities within permitted levels. We will confine project activities to the utility right-of-way 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 project design 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 \$16 million in work that will occur from 2021–2022 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 charges are reviewed and set by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 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?

Moving forward, we will continue to follow the designated processes to receive permits and approvals to proceed with the project. We expect construction to begin in August 2022 and be completed by December 2022. We are continuing to design this project and will determine the final locations for the new poles based on a number of considerations, including community input and engineering requirements. We value our customers input and will work closely with them to incorporate feedback and address their concerns, wherever possible. We have a dedicated project phone number 856-351-7690 and email address to ensure we can respond quickly to customer questions.

LEARN MORE:

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