

The Proposed Interstate Reliability Project

Strengthening the Region's Electric Grid

Public Participation

There are numerous opportunities to learn about the project and have your questions addressed. Transmission projects, such as the Interstate Reliability Project, require permits from state, local and federal authorities. The projects are carefully scrutinized by regulatory agencies to make sure that utility companies make prudent investments to maintain reliability with as little environmental impact as possible and at the lowest reasonable cost. The public will have opportunities to provide comments and participate in meetings throughout the permitting process.

In addition to the public meetings required as part of the permitting process, National Grid has an ambitious outreach and education program to ensure a well informed and involved public. Our team meets one-on-one with local and state officials and property owners along the proposed route, as well as with other interested parties. Part of this outreach includes holding open houses where you can learn more about the proposed project and have your questions and concerns addressed by the project team.

Our open houses also provide opportunities to learn more about the regulatory approval process and upcoming public meetings and hearings.

Interstate Reliability Project Open House

September 28, 2011
6:00 - 8:00 pm
Burrillville Middle School
2220 Broncos Highway
Harrisville, RI

Please stop by anytime between 6 and 8 pm.

If you cannot attend the Open House, feel free to contact us with your questions or to schedule a visit with our project representatives.

As the formal permitting process gets underway, abutters can expect to receive notification of all public hearings by mail from National Grid and/or the individual permitting agency. These meetings will also be posted in local newspapers for the general public.

For more information, please visit our website at www.interstatereliability.com.

Stay Informed

We have documented the questions and priorities of those with whom we have met in the past and will be following up with you over the coming weeks and months. Your comments and questions are welcomed.

If you would like additional information or have any further questions about the Interstate Reliability Project, please contact me.



Margaret M. Neves

Margaret Neves
Stakeholder Relations Manager
Interstate Reliability Project
(800) 559-0241
margaret.neves@us.ngrid.com or
visit our project website at
www.interstatereliability.com



Project Update

Several years ago, National Grid proposed transmission system upgrades to maintain reliable electric service in the region. In Rhode Island, the proposed upgrades involved constructing a new 345-kV transmission line within existing rights-of-way in North Smithfield and Burrillville. These upgrades are part of the Interstate Reliability Project in MA, RI and CT.

Following an updated assessment by ISO New England, which reaffirmed the need for the Interstate Reliability Project, permitting of the Project resumed in Summer 2011. As part of this process we are revisiting municipal and state officials and neighbors along the rights-of-way to bring you up to date on the project, respond to your questions and address new, as well as already identified priorities.

National Grid Proposed
Transmission Upgrades
in North Smithfield and
Burrillville, Rhode Island



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Although utility companies, businesses and homeowners have made significant efforts to conserve electricity for many years, electricity usage continues to rise across New England – particularly on the hottest days when demand for electricity is the highest. During the summer of 2010, New England set several records for electricity consumption. New England consumed a record amount of power in July, beating the previous one-month consumption record set in July 2006.

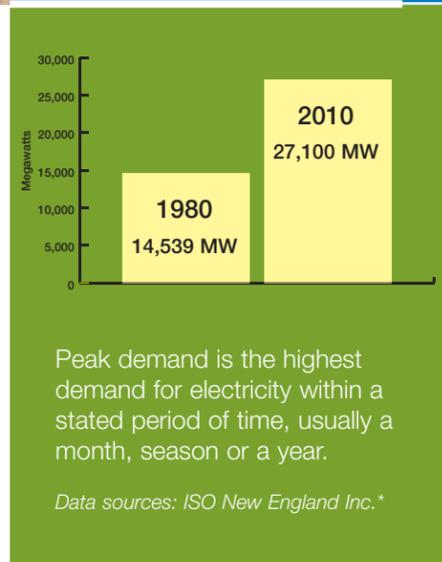
Overall, electricity consumption from June to August was the third highest on record with two new “top 10” demand days also recorded.

The Interstate Reliability Project Need is Reaffirmed

The need for upgrades was identified in a 2004 transmission study of southern New England conducted by ISO New England Inc. (ISO).* The study identified a number of reliability issues for Southern New England, and the Interstate Reliability Project emerged as one of four integrated projects – known as New England East-West Solution (NEEWS) – to strengthen the ability to transfer electricity between Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

Several years ago, National Grid began meeting with municipal officials and neighbors along the project route to discuss the project. However, a number of system changes led ISO to reassess the need for the NEEWS projects. ISO concluded its extensive review and analysis in 2011. The results revealed that despite the slower growth in electricity demand, widespread transmission line overloads could occur as early as 2015 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and that there are inadequate transmission resources to serve the region’s electricity needs.

New England peak demand has nearly doubled since 1980



National Grid proposes to construct a new 345-kilovolt transmission line to strengthen the interstate transfer of electricity between Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and to enhance the reliable performance of the high-voltage transmission network that serves the region.

The proposed line will begin in Millbury, Massachusetts and travel along the existing transmission line rights-of-way in the vicinity of Route 146 into North Smithfield, Rhode Island. It will then travel west to Burrillville, Rhode Island and into Connecticut where it will connect to a new line being constructed by Connecticut public utility, Northeast Utilities.

We propose to locate the new transmission line within our existing transmission line rights-of-way.

Everyone Benefits From Transmission Reliability

The Interstate Reliability Project benefits New England electricity customers by addressing limitations in the reliable flow of power within the region. Here are some additional ways that everyone benefits from transmission reliability:

- Reliable power makes New England more attractive to business.
- A strong transmission system increases competition in wholesale electricity markets and the level of competition influences the prices that customers pay for electricity.
- A strong transmission system increases the options for locating power plants and can enable broader access to hydropower and other renewable energy sources.
- Strong transmission connections allow more power to be moved among states as they each need it.

Proposed Project Schedule

The currently planned schedule for National Grid’s proposed Interstate Reliability Project in Massachusetts and Rhode Island is as follows:

- Planning and engineering: ongoing
- Permitting and licensing: 2011-2013
- Construction: 2014-2015
- Facilities in service: 2015

Community outreach is ongoing and will include open houses, municipal briefings, project updates and visits with neighbors along the proposed route.

The Stakeholder Management team at National Grid is committed to working closely with you, keeping you informed about the proposed Interstate Reliability Project and providing you with opportunities to ask questions, inform us of your priorities and provide feedback on our proposal.

* ISO New England is an independent, non-profit organization that plans and operates New England’s bulk electric system, administers the region’s wholesale electricity markets and oversees regional system planning. National Grid and Northeast Utilities are companies that own and operate portions of the region’s electric transmission system.

