



Cape Cod  
Solution

## Cape Cod Solution FAQ

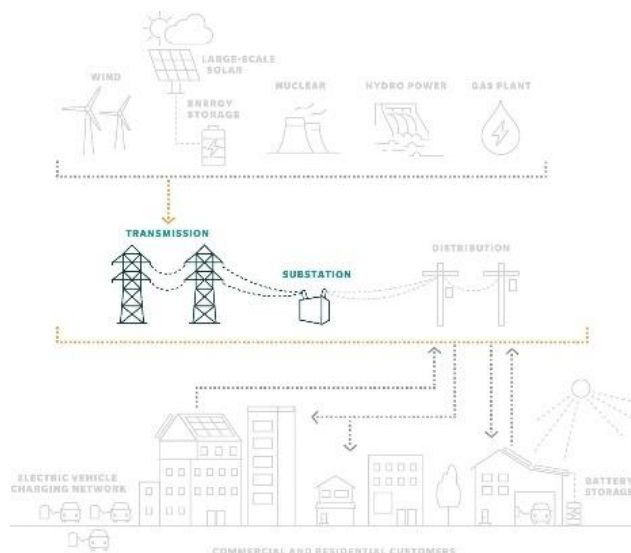
### Stakeholder Question & Answers

This Document is Subject to Change

Cape Cod Solution ([Cape Cod Solution \(eversource.com\)](https://www.eversource.com)) is a multi-phase transmission program designed to improve electric reliability on Cape Cod and allow for the integration of offshore wind energy. Phase I, also known as the Mid-Cape Reliability Project, is a new 12.5-mile 115-kV transmission line built to 345-kV specifications that connects the Bourne Switching Station to the West Barnstable Substation. This new transmission line is currently under construction within an existing Eversource right of way. Phase II intends to expand both substations to enable the new transmission line to operate at a higher voltage and add additional facilities to interconnect offshore wind projects. Phase II is currently in the adjudicatory process with the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB). Below are responses to questions we received from stakeholders over the last several months as Eversource has engaged the community about the project.

**How does Cape Cod Solution benefit Cape Cod's residents?** Residents will receive a stronger, more resilient transmission system, an important benefit given the Cape's increased vulnerability to power outages due to challenging weather and increasingly severe storms stemming from climate change.

**What is the transmission system?** The transmission system is a critical component of the electric grid that delivers high-voltage power from where it is generated over long distances to substations, where the voltage is reduced so that the electricity can be delivered to customers via Eversource's distribution system.



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**What are the benefits of the transmission system?** Eversource invests in the transmission system to address pockets of load growth, improve reliability and resiliency, integrate clean energy and enable electrification.

**What is Eversource's responsibility regarding the transmission system, including interconnection?**

As a transmission owner, Eversource is responsible for maintaining and upgrading the power grid, and ensuring it is ready to meet future demands from electrification and the clean energy transition. This also includes interconnecting any power source approved and, in a manner, determined by the system operator, ISO New England. Eversource must comply with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rules and regulations. Eversource is not responsible for determining who or what type of power generators interconnect to the electric grid. Ultimately, Eversource is responsible for keeping its customers' lights on and building and maintaining the infrastructure needed to ensure it provides safe and reliable energy to its customers.

**How committed is Eversource to clean energy?** Eversource is proud to be recognized as one of the most sustainable and responsible energy companies in the nation and is fortunate to be part of a region that shares our concern for the impacts of climate change. Eversource is putting more attention than ever before into adapting to these changes and doing what it can to mitigate its impact on the climate. Eversource is also focused on supporting New England states' climate goals by serving as a catalyst for clean energy in the Northeast, which includes supporting Massachusetts' clean energy goals. Eversource has also set an industry-leading goal to become carbon neutral in its own operations by 2030.

**How is the Cape Cod Solution funded?** Since Phase I (also known as the Mid-Cape Reliability Project) is a regional reliability project, all New England customers will pay for the Phase I 115-kV project. The offshore wind developer (Avangrid) will pay the incremental cost for building the transmission line at a higher voltage (345-kV) and associated infrastructure associated with Phase II of the Cape Cod Solution.

**What is the environmental impact of construction at the substations?** The environmental impacts during construction will be modest at the Bourne Switching Station and West Barnstable Substation. For example, the new Bourne Switching Station will be constructed predominantly within the footprint of the existing station that is scheduled to be demolished prior to the start of construction. The related transmission line work will occur within the maintained right-of-way. Work at the West Barnstable Substation site will require some grading and vegetation removal to accommodate the expanded station footprint and related transmission line work. In addition, regulated materials that are used and stored at the West Barnstable Substation facility will be managed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**Does the West Barnstable Substation have containment for dielectric fluid?** Yes, the West Barnstable substation has containment. While containment at this facility is not required by Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure regulations, Eversource will include 110% containment structures as added protection for the proposed transformer that will contain dielectric fluid.

**I live in West Barnstable and am concerned about the dielectric fluid leaking from the West Barnstable Substation and contaminating the drinking water. How is Eversource protecting me?**

Eversource prioritizes safety and environmental protection for its customers, abutters, contractors and employees. Eversource will include 110% containment structure as added protection for the proposed transformer that will contain dielectric fluid. In the unlikely event of leak, Eversource has established strong environmental response plans that comply with federal regulations under Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) planning and state environmental regulations under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan. Eversource is committed to immediate response and cleanup of all environmental spill events. This immediate response helps to eliminate the migration of dielectric fluid into soils and where fluid could come in contact with groundwater.

**When is Phase I scheduled to be complete?** Phase I's projected in-service date is anticipated for May 2024 and restoration will continue through fall of 2024.

**When is construction for Phase II scheduled to start?** To be determined. Eversource's petition for permission to construct Phase II is currently under review at the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB).

**How can I stay updated on the project?** To stay updated with both Phase I and Phase II of Cape Cod Solution, please visit our webpage ([Cape Cod Solution \(eversource.com\)](https://www.eversource.com)) and sign up for our weekly email.