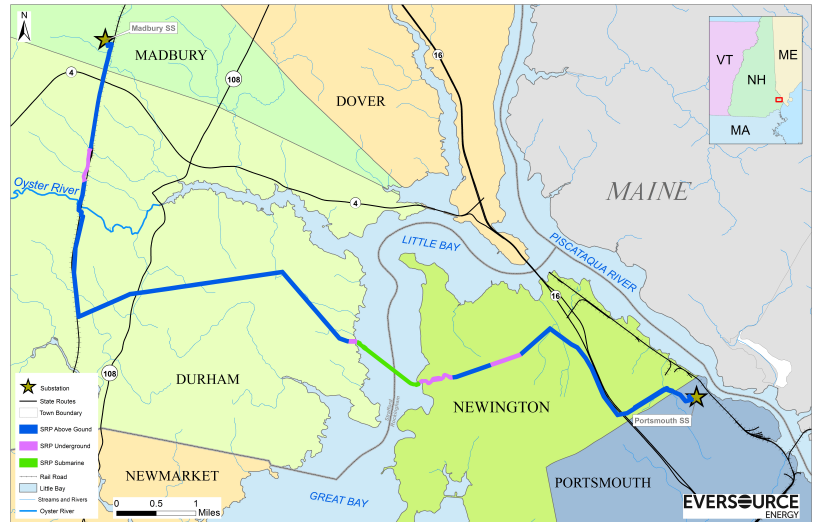


Electric demand in portions of the New Hampshire Seacoast Region is growing at twice the rate as the rest of the state. The Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE) has determined that the Seacoast area needs additional transmission capacity to support the reliable delivery of electric power to meet the region's current and future demand.

MEETING THE REGION'S GROWING ENERGY NEEDS

To help address this issue, Eversource has proposed, and ISO-NE has approved, a new 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line that will extend approximately 13 miles between two existing substations in Madbury and



Portsmouth, along with associated substation upgrades (the Seacoast Reliability Project.) The new line will cross through the towns of Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth along existing utility corridors.

The project will help improve the transmission system in the New Hampshire Seacoast area so that our customers will have reliable electric power to meet their current and growing energy needs. It will also ensure that the area's electric grid conforms to national and regional reliability standards.

SEACOAST RELIABILITY PROJECT ESTIMATED TIMETABLE:

- Application filing with SEC: April 12, 2016
- Post-application Public Information Sessions: Third quarter 2016
- Application Amendment filing with SEC: March 29, 2017
- SEC/agency joint public hearings: Third quarter 2016
- SEC decision anticipated: Fourth quarter 2017
- Start of construction (pending SEC approval): First quarter 2018
- Projected in-service date: Fourth quarter 2018

THE PROJECT'S SITING APPROVAL AND COMMUNICATIONS PROCESS

In April of 2016, Eversource filed an Application with the state's Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) for a certificate of Site and Facility for construction of the project. In advance of the filing, Eversource held public open houses and sponsored SEC-required Public Information Sessions about the project. Following these meetings, Eversource responded to community concerns about specific areas along the route by modifying the project plan. All comments received were forwarded to the SEC and became part of the SEC siting process record.

Following this Application, discussions with the communities continued, and Eversource obtained the necessary land rights to accommodate requests including underground design changes in Newington, and modifications to the overhead design in several locations. These changes were based on input received from town officials, the N.H. Department of Transportation, and property owners along the corridor. The changes are reflected in an amendment to the SRP application submitted to the SEC on March 29, 2017.

Through each phase of the Project, Eversource is committed to keeping elected and appointed officials, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders informed and engaged.

How will the project be paid for?

Electricity generated by power plants located within and outside New England is transmitted across a network of high-voltage transmission lines to substations for delivery to customers in New England. The cost of this transmission grid is shared by all electric consumers in the region, based on the level of energy consumed. For New Hampshire, that share is about 9%. For the average residential customer in New Hampshire, that 9% share would equate to approximately \$1 per year.

Were alternative project routes considered?

Yes, Eversource studied a number of potential routes within the general area between the Madbury, N.H., and Portsmouth, N.H., substations. The study area was roughly bordered by the Lee, N.H., area to the west, the Dover and Eliot, Maine, area to the north, the Kittery, Maine, and New Castle, N.H., area to the east, and the Stratham, N.H., area to the south. Eversource determined that the proposed route for the project was the preferred option because it maximizes the use of an existing electric utility corridor, minimizes impacts to environmental resources as compared to the other alternatives, and is the most timely and cost-effective solution.

Why isn't the project all underground?

Eversource follows good utility practice and the related criteria established by ISO-NE, including cost considerations. Generally, overhead line construction is less expensive than underground construction. Underground alternatives are considered when technically feasible and viable overhead options are not available. However, following this spring's open houses and Public Information Sessions, Eversource has responded to community concerns about specific areas along the route by making modifications to the Project plan. On March 29, 2017, Eversource submitted an Amendment to the SRP application to the SEC, with project modifications including underground design changes in Newington, N.H.

Will the project require trees to be removed from the right of way?

At some locations, Eversource will be required to remove vegetation within the existing right of way. Vegetation clearing will be conducted in accordance with a professionally developed harvesting plan, allowing Eversource to manage the growth of compatible species and control incompatible species that would compromise the safe operation of the electric system. During construction, no herbicides will be used. Native shrubs and ground cover will be allowed to regrow in cleared areas that were not previously landscaped. Lawns and other grassy areas will be restored to their prior condition with topsoil and seed.

Will the submarine cable installation have an adverse impact on Little Bay?

Eversource is committed to constructing the project in an acceptable manner that minimizes impacts on all environmental resources, including marine resources in Little Bay. Construction will comply with governing permits, and some work activities will be timed to occur in the fall to reduce potential impacts to certain marine life. Based on extensive studies and modeling of water, sediments and organisms, no permanent impacts to the bay are expected as a result of the project.

What other benefits does this project provide?

The Seacoast Reliability Project will also result in economic benefits to local communities, including long-term property tax revenues in host communities and the creation of local jobs during construction.

How will Eversource communicate with property owners near the proposed route?

Our communications tools include:

- Pre-construction briefings with municipalities, targeted property owners, and other stakeholders;
- A dedicated project web page with project updates, route maps, and contact information;
- A dedicated, toll-free phone number and email address for the general public to provide comments or ask questions about the project; and
- Letters or postcards periodically mailed or hand-delivered to property owners along or on the route to keep them informed of milestone construction activities.