River Valley Reliability Project

Fact Sheet



Overview

The River Valley Reliability Project (RVRP) proposes to complete required upgrades to an existing electric transmission line, known as the W149 Line, over a length of approximately 44.2 miles, with work to be conducted within National Grid's existing right-of-way (ROW). The RVRP will replace aging wood pole structures with modern steel structures, relocate and replace structures as needed, and reconductor approximately 39.6 miles of line. Replacing the conductor and structures will improve electric reliability throughout the region, thereby reducing future maintenance and repair costs. It will also provide the infrastructure for additional capacity that may be required to meet future electric energy needs in the area. Upgrades to the W149 Line will help National Grid continue to provide safe and reliable energy to all residents in the region.

The W149 Line originates at the Bellows Falls Switchyard in Rockingham, VT and ends at the Wilder Switchyard in Hartford, VT. In New Hampshire, the line follows the ROW between Walpole and Lebanon including the towns of Walpole, Charlestown, Claremont, Cornish, Plainfield, and Lebanon

Throughout the planning phase of this project, National Grid will be working closely with communities along the route to ensure proactive communication and information sharing with local residents and businesses. National Grid encourages all who are interested to consider signing up for the project email newsletter to receive updates.

Purpose

The RVRP will implement necessary upgrades to the W149 Line which has been in service since 1948 and was refurbished in 2008. The W149 Line experiences frequent outages due to multiple factors. The goal of the RVRP is to redesign and rebuild the structures to reduce conditions in the ROW that cause those outages.

Most of the performance issues experienced on the W149 Line are due to tree contacts. As a result, vegetation management and tree removal within the ROW will be a necessary part of this project. The project also plans to realign new structures further away from the tree line to minimize the potential for future tree contact that result in service interruptions.

The overall goal of the RVRP is to improve the structural integrity of the W149 line and minimize the potential for outages caused by damage from tree contact and other factors that can adversely impact long term reliability.

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- Replace structures on the W149 Line with a combination of engineered steel pole davit arm structures, H-frame structures, and three pole deadend structures.
- Relocate the centerline of the transmission line where possible in order to reduce tree contacts that result in outages.
- Replace 39.6 circuit miles of shield wire from the Bellows Falls Switchyard to the Wilder Switchyard with Optical Ground Wire (OPGW).
- Replace 39.6 circuit miles of 115 kV conductor from the Bellows Falls Switchyard to the Wilder Switchyard with new 115 kV conductor.
- Where necessary, vegetation management and tree removal will be needed within the ROW.

Project Timeline

• Permitting Start: Spring 2024

Construction Start: December 2026

• Construction Complete: April 2030

Project dates are all anticipated and subject to change.

Community Collaboration and Outreach

Our project team is committed to working with host communities, residents, businesses, landowners, elected officials, and community groups throughout the application, proposal, siting, and construction processes.

We also understand that communities deserve comprehensive conversations and two-way communication about our work. Through local presentations, town-based community meetings, one-on-one discussions, mailings, a comprehensive website, toll-free hotline number, and other methods we will provide timely, detailed information to individuals and groups interested in the proposal. Above all, our team is committed to ongoing, open conversations about our work every step of the way.

About National Grid

National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million customers throughout territory. National Grid is focused on building a path to a more affordable, reliable clean energy future through its fossil-free vision. National Grid is transforming electricity and natural gas networks with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

