SUNBURY-FRACKVILLE TRANSMISSION PROJECT

230 KV REBUILD PROJECT FAQS

PPL Electric Utilities

INTRODUCTION

We're planning to rebuild approximately 37 miles of 230 kV transmission lines in Northumberland, Schuylkill and Snyder Counties to meet today's energy needs and the growing demand for power across the region. By strengthening reliability and resiliency, we're working to deliver essential power for local communities — now and into the future. The proposed project will help create a stronger, more resilient electric grid that enables the delivery of safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity across the region.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PPL ELECTRIC UTILITIES PROJECT DETAILS

What are the specifics of this proposed project?

We're planning to rebuild approximately 37 miles of the existing Sunbury-Frackville 230 kV transmission line that runs through Northumberland, Schuylkill and Snyder Counties. As part of this effort, we'll also construct a new switchyard in Butler Township, Schuylkill County, as well as two new 230 kV transmission lines to connect a new customer facility to the proposed switchyard.

The rebuilt line will extend from the Sunbury 500/230 kV Substation in Shamokin Dam to the Frackville 230/69 kV Substation near Frackville. The line will be primarily constructed in an existing transmission corridor which will be expanded to allow for the construction of the rebuilt transmission line without taking the current line out of service. The existing structures and wires will be de-energized and removed upon the completion of the project.

Why is this project needed?

The rebuilt transmission line and new switchyard will enable us to meet the existing and growing demand for power in the surrounding area, which includes a new customer facility. In addition, this project will provide greater reliability and resiliency to local communities and the larger region.

What townships will the transmission line run through?

The rebuilt transmission lines will be constructed in Monroe Township in Snyder County;

Upper Mahanoy, Washington, Little Mahanoy, Lower Augusta and Upper Augusta Townships in Northumberland County; and Butler, New Castle, Cass, Barry and Eldred Townships in Schuylkill County.

The proposed switchyard will be built in Butler Township, Schuylkill County.

What will these new transmission poles look like?

The transmission structures will be constructed of steel monopoles with a dark-brown protective coating and are designed to be stronger and more weather-resistant. Pole heights will be determined during the engineering phase and will be communicated through a final open houses in 2026.

Will this project require additional right-of-way?

Yes. The rebuilt transmission line will require the expansion of the current right-of-way corridor by a maximum of approximately 225 feet, for a total minimum right-of-way width of 325 feet. PPL Electric began working with landowners in the area to purchase the necessary easements across each of the affected properties following public open houses on December 16 and 17, 2025.

What does the construction process include?

Construction will include installation of environmental controls and access roads, clearing of any trees in expanded right-of-way and installation of new steel transmission structures. Construction will also involve creating temporary work pads and pull pads, which will be used to install the new conductors. All disturbed areas will be restored upon completion of the project.

Why do you need such a large right-of-way area for this transmission line?

Electric demand in our region is expected to more than double over the next five to six years — a level of growth that that took over a century to reach. As your local electric distribution company, we're committed and legally obligated to serve every customer reliably, and that means planning holistically to meet future needs. Electric demand in our region is expected to more than double over the next five to six years, a level of growth that took more than a century to reach. As your local electric distribution company, we're committed and legally obligated to serve every customer reliably, and that means planning holistically to meet future needs. This project allows us to complete critical reliability work within an expanded right of way while keeping the line in service, helping minimize customer impacts today while creating the flexibility needed to support future growth.

Will my power need to be turned off for this work?

The majority of the project will not require outages on our distribution system, which provides electricity to residents and local businesses, but some routing may require limited outages. All affected residents will be notified well in advance before any planned outages.

Is this project needed to support a data center specific customer?

This project will enable us to meet the existing and growing demand for power in the surrounding area and provide greater reliability to better serve local communities and the larger region. It will also allow all new and future customers in the area to connect safely to the electric grid.

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Will this project need to be approved by the Pennsylvania PUC?

Yes. The siting of this transmission line will require Pennsylvania PUC review and approval.

When will this project be built?

We anticipate the entire construction process for the transmission lines and switchyard will begin in 2027 and conclude in 2028, taking approximately one year to complete the project.

WORKING WITH PROPERTY OWNERS

Will this project affect my property value?

We understand this is an important concern. Based on available data, projects like this have not shown long-term effects on property values.

How is the value of an easement determined?

We determine the value of an easement by obtaining a fair market value analysis from a certified third-party appraiser, and then we negotiate with the property owner to reach a mutually agreeable payment.

Is there any compensation for those property owners near the line from whom PPL Electric doesn't need to purchase right-of-way?

No.

How is PPL Electric communicating with area residents and other stakeholders?

As always, we're committed to keeping landowners and communities informed throughout each step of the project. We hosted three informational open houses as part of this process due to the overall size of this project. On Tuesday, December 16, we hosted an open house at the Schuylkill Technology Center North Campus located at 101 Technology Drive, Frackville, PA 17931. On Wednesday, December 17, we hosted a second informational open house at the Selinsgrove VFW Hall located at 940 Route 522, Selinsgrove, PA 17870. On Thursday, April 23, we hosted a third open house at the Mahantongo Fire House located at 102 Main Rd., Pitman PA 17649.

To further communicate with residents, we are holding another open house at The Mahantongo Fire House on June 11, 2026. There is no set agenda and no formal presentations for the open house. Residents can feel free to visit the open house at their convenience at any time between 6 and 8 p.m. to submit questions and learn more about the project.

More information about the project can be found on our dedicated project webpage at pplelectric.com/SunburyFrackvilleProject and we've also established a dedicated email address, SunburyFrackvilleProject@pplweb.com, for the community to provide feedback and ask any specific questions they may have.

OTHER QUESTIONS

What is a transmission line?

Transmission lines carry electricity at high voltages across long distances to efficiently connect power plants with areas where customers need the power. Transmission lines are similar to interstate highways in the interconnected electric system.

What is a switchyard?

A switchyard houses electrical infrastructure, including circuit breakers and protective devices, required to safely control the flow of high voltage power across transmission lines.

What is a substation?

A substation houses electrical infrastructure — including circuit breakers, protective devices and transformers — required to safely control and transform the flow and level of high voltage power across transmission lines.

Does EMF have any effect on health?

"EMF" is an abbreviation for "electric and magnetic fields" and "electromagnetic fields."

Current scientific evidence does not confirm the existence of any health consequences from exposure to low level electromagnetic fields. Power lines, appliances and home wiring all produce electric and magnetic fields. More information, including links to studies by outside agencies, can be seen on our website at pplelectric.com/emf.

Could this line be built underground?

The vast majority of PPL Electric's transmission system is above ground. We consider a host of factors in siting transmission lines, including costs and potential impacts to the community and the environment, which are paid for by customers. Building a transmission line underground can be up to 10 times more expensive than overhead construction. There are several reasons for this:

- It takes multiple underground lines to equal the capacity of a single overhead line.
- Underground lines require more earth disturbance for trenching.
- If damaged, underground lines can take substantially longer to repair, a delay that could seriously affect reliable electric service.
- If the underground line is placed within a roadway, there are often other underground utilities that must be avoided.

Underground lines are not invisible — they require a surface right-of-way stripped of all vegetation and trees and manholes for access. Because of these issues, underground transmission construction typically only makes sense in areas where there is no viable above-ground route.

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Some transmission lines make an audible "buzz." Will that be the case with this line?

The buzz that you may hear from the proposed transmission line is caused by small electric discharges on the surface of the wires known as "corona." This harmless phenomenon is most noticeable on humid days when water droplets form on the transmission lines. PPL Electric will make every effort to minimize any increases in audible noise during the engineering phase of the project.

OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL

Will this project have any adverse impact on the environment?

We will work very hard to minimize any impact on the natural environment. Our track record shows that we work cooperatively with regulatory agencies, obtain all required permits and meet all environmental requirements and regulations under the terms of our permits.

Will PPL Electric Utilities need to cut down trees to build this project?

Yes. Tree removal will be required within the expanded right-of-way corridor.

What happens if there are wetlands in the area where this work will be completed?

PPL Electric has an excellent record of building projects in a way that is extremely sensitive to environmental issues, and we will address wetlands in a manner consistent with all applicable regulations. This includes trying to avoid putting poles in wetlands and instead placing them on either side of a wetland and spanning it with the wires.

If you disturb any current wetlands, are you going to build new ones elsewhere?

PPL Electric plans to comply with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations that exist for conducting work in wetland areas.

Why does PPL Electric Utilities use herbicides to maintain its rights-of-way?

Herbicide use is an effective vegetation management technique that minimizes the physical impact on a power line right-of-way while enabling us to maintain safe and reliable electric service. All herbicides are applied selectively by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture certified contractors working on the ground with hand-held equipment or with all-terrain vehicles.

Compatible species are preserved as much as possible since they provide natural competition for tall-growing species of trees. This low-growing plant community also provides ideal habitat for wildlife that feeds on saplings of many of the tall-growing species. The combined effects of plant competition and wildlife activity help minimize the herbicides needed to ensure safe and reliable electric lines.

What effect will herbicide application have on wildlife and the environment?

We will apply only products that have been approved for use on utility right-of-way by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These products have undergone significant testing to ensure that, when used according to labeled instructions, they pose no threat to you, wildlife or the environment. In fact, some of the materials we use are the same as those commonly used by homeowners. There are significant, well-documented benefits resulting from the selective herbicide application techniques we use. Ideal wildlife habitat is created within these right-of-way corridors.

Other Resources

- Project Email: SunburyFrackvilleProject@pplweb.com
- Sunbury-Frackville Project Webpage