

QUICK FACTS about the Solution

- Long-standing, committed community partners, WHICH MEANS we're fully invested and accountable
- A quarter of a billion dollars less expensive than the alternate proposal, WHICH MEANS less cost to customers
- Fewer permits and a more streamlined approval process than the alternative, WHICH MEANS faster in-service dates
- Proven and accessible solutions, WHICH MEANS quicker, less expensive repairs, maintenance, and expansion
- Regional economic benefits, WHICH MEANS increased jobs and tax base in Massachusetts and New Hampshire

BACKGROUND

A strong electrical transmission system or grid is vital to our region's safety, security, and economic prosperity. The 2008 ISO New England "Greater Boston Study" revealed inadequate transmission resources to serve the needs of Greater Boston and southern New Hampshire. Simply put, the current transmission system cannot meet current demand—which is why Eversource and National Grid are putting our decades of experience to work toward making our Solution a reality for the region's 4.7 million residents.

ABOUT THE SOLUTION

To address identified weaknesses and growing demands for electricity, Eversource and National Grid will develop a series of projects in Greater Boston and southern New Hampshire to improve power grid reliability now and for years to come. These include a series of upgrades to existing regional transmission lines and substations, as well as the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, a new overhead 345-kV line in existing rights-of-way (in service 2017); a new underground 345-kV line from Woburn to Wakefield, MA (in service 2018); and a new underground 115-kV line from Everett to Woburn, MA (in service 2018). Our solution will allow us to better serve the region with reliable, affordable, and efficient energy solutions.

BENEFITS OF THE SOLUTION

- Improves power system reliability
- Builds in additional transmission capacity
- Creates an estimated 1,000 jobs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire during peak construction
- Invests over \$740 million in local and regional infrastructure improvements
- Offers quicker, less expensive repairs and maintenance compared to the alternative
- Enables future expansion of the existing system
- Requires a simpler, more streamlined permitting process than the competing proposal
- Generates substantial local property-tax benefits in core communities
- Supports the region's economic health and demand for electricity for years to come

As the projects progress, Eversource and National Grid will continue our ongoing commitment to keeping residents and other stakeholders informed about these projects and opportunities for participation in the permitting and siting processes.



The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Securing Windham's Future

What is the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project (MVRP)?

A strong electrical transmission system or grid is vital to our region's safety, security, and economic prosperity. To meet current demand and future needs, National Grid and Eversource propose installing a new 345-kV overhead transmission line along 24.6 miles of existing transmission rights-of-way corridor in the Merrimack Valley. This line is a critical component of our overall regional reliability Solution.

Where will it be constructed?

The proposed line will run within an existing right-of-way from Londonderry, NH to Tewksbury, MA—over 18 miles in Londonderry, Hudson, Windham, and Pelham, NH, and 6.5 miles through Dracut, Andover, and Tewksbury, MA. In Windham, the line will run for 2.12 miles through the existing route.

How does this benefit Windham?

The new line will increase system reliability and flexibility throughout the Merrimack Valley—critical to Windham's residents and businesses. This project is estimated to create about \$82 million in investment in the local economy and once complete will provide approximately \$235,800 in tax revenues annually to Windham. During peak construction, it is estimated the project will create about 1,000 jobs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Why do we need a new transmission line?

The Greater Boston and southern New Hampshire area comprises the largest and most concentrated electric "demand" in New England. ISO-NE, New England's independent power system operator, determined that there was not enough transmission supply to meet this growing demand. The MVRP is one piece of our broader Solution for the region.

Why is the MVRP an effective solution?

Staying within the rights-of-way, this new overhead 345-kV line is an efficient way to transmit energy over great distances and, during peak times, can typically carry up enough power for 400,000 homes. National Grid's 345-kV lines have had strong historical performance and proven reliability, boasting a 99.9 percent reliability/availability rate during recent major weather events, including Hurricane Irene, the October 2011 snowstorm, Superstorm Sandy, and Blizzard Nemo.

When does all of this start?

National Grid plans to file an application in 2015 with the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. Construction is anticipated to begin upon approval, with an estimated in-service date of 2017. We'll conduct extensive outreach to communities along the route and project area to inform and elicit feedback. We will be conducting outreach to direct abutters in Windham in early 2015. Throughout the process, National Grid will make every effort to keep public officials, residents, businesses, and community groups informed and engaged. To learn more, join us at our next Community Meeting in Windham on Wednesday, March 11 from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Windham Town Hall (3 North Lowell Road).

About the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

The Greater Boston area comprises the largest and most concentrated electric "demand" area in New England, with 4.7 million people and demand for electricity that's growing at a faster rate than any other area in the region. The Merrimack Valley Reliability Project is just one way that we're addressing these growing, changing needs.

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Securing Windham's Future

MVRP in Windham



The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution?

A: National Grid and Eversource, long-standing and committed community partners, are teaming up to deliver a set of critical reliability projects in Greater Boston and southern New Hampshire. Our Solution comprises a set of projects, each with individual merit, which together address problems identified by ISO-NE (see below), improve the grid, and bring the region power for years to come. Costing a quarter of a billion dollars less than the alternative option and using existing rights-of-way, the Solution combines our decades of experience and commitment to customers, offering the most cost-effective and readily implementable projects to benefit residents and businesses in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Q: What is ISO-NE?

A: Created in 1997 and regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, ISO New England Inc. (ISO-NE) is the area's independent power system operator. ISO-NE oversees the bulk electric power system including power plants and the transmission system throughout New England and helps set the prices, terms, and conditions of our region's energy supply.

ISO-NE has three essential roles: 1) coordinating and directing the operation of electricity, 2) designing and overseeing the market for electricity, and 3) planning for the region's energy future. The third role is especially relevant for the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution; in this case, ISO-NE has conducted assessments and identified specific reliability issues in New Hampshire and Greater Boston that must be addressed promptly.

Q: What other projects have been proposed to address this need?

A: New Hampshire Transmission, a subsidiary of Florida-based NextEra Energy, Inc., has proposed the SeaLink Project, which includes two High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) terminals, one in Seabrook, NH and one in Everett, MA; an underground line from Seabrook, NH to Salisbury, MA; a 68-mile underwater sea cable from Salisbury, MA to Lynn, MA; and an underground line from Lynn to Everett, MA. Regardless of which proposal is selected, National Grid and Eversource will undertake a core set of work, including reconductoring and refurbishing existing transmission lines and performing other regional upgrades. National Grid and Eversource, as the region's experienced and long-standing utilities, have taken great care to assemble a Solution that meets the region's electric transmission needs, while balancing consumer cost and environmental impact.

Q: What are the benefits of the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution?

A: There are multiple tangible benefits from our proposed Solution. It costs a quarter of a billion less than the alternative and provides the following additional benefits:

- Builds in additional transmission capacity and improves power system reliability
- Invests over \$740 million in local and regional infrastructure improvements
- Generates substantial local property-tax benefits in core communities
- Creates significant new, local jobs in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts
- Projected to raise real personal income by \$89 million in both states
- Offers quicker, less expensive repairs and maintenance compared to the competition and the opportunity to expand the network as needed
- Requires a simpler, more streamlined permitting process than the competing proposal, putting the projects in service faster
- Provides opportunities for future expansion and upgrades to the existing grid
- Contains costs and minimizes environmental impact by working in existing right of way and along existing corridors
- Supports the region's economic health and demand growth for years to come

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What benefits will this project provide to New Hampshire and Greater Boston electricity customers?

A: Our proposed Solution improves the reliability of New England's power system, builds in additional capacity to move power freely to where it is needed, and supports the region's economic health and demand for electricity for many years to come. These efforts are in immediate response to a critical need in New Hampshire and Greater Boston; however, because all of New England functions as a single regional power grid, consumers throughout the region will benefit from the upgraded system. In short, the projects address a specific need that supports the greater good. The construction of these projects is expected to result in substantial local property-tax benefits to core communities. During peak construction, it is estimated the project will create about 1,000 jobs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Q: What technical benefits does the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution provide?

A: The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution offers the opportunity to expand the system to accommodate future regional needs; the SeaLink option would be extremely costly and technically difficult to expand. Additionally, the types of transmission lines in our Solution are an efficient and effective way to transmit energy over great distances. The overhead 345-kV lines proposed in the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project and the underground Woburn to Wakefield line are typically capable of carrying the power to support 400,000 homes.

Q: How much do these projects cost?

A: According to an independent study requested by ISO-NE, the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution is a quarter of a billion dollars less expensive than the SeaLink project. It has significantly lower capital costs (\$520 million versus SeaLink's \$804 million), resulting in lower costs for consumers. These savings also extend beyond capital costs, The Solution will have less expensive siting and permitting, and, in the future, it will be operated and maintained by qualified personnel already responsible for similar company equipment in the existing systems (instead of having to hire and train an entirely new workforce (for the HVDC terminals)). Additionally, maintenance and repair costs are significantly less expensive and easier to implement than SeaLink's.

Q: How will the projects be paid for?

A: All New England energy consumers pay for regionally beneficial transmission projects such as this one, as determined by ISO-NE. Massachusetts represents about 45 percent of the load for New England and it is expected would pay for 45 percent of the project cost in regional rates. Using the same formula, it is anticipated that New Hampshire would pay about 9 percent. If the more expensive option is chosen, past practice suggests that \$250 million in incremental costs would be passed on to only Massachusetts and New Hampshire customers.

Q: Which project can be put in service faster?

A: Given the region's immediate need for a solution, time and expediency are critical. Both projects require local, state, and federal permits. Together, National Grid and Eversource have decades of experience in siting, building and maintaining transmission projects in New England. The siting and permitting window for our projects will likely be around 12 to 24 months, which is significantly shorter than the SeaLink project's permitting timeline, according to third-party analysis. By contrast, SeaLink's underwater construction necessitates expensive federal permitting from at least seven different agencies, as well as several state-level permits in Massachusetts. These processes will be lengthier, more complex, time-consuming, and costly than the streamlined National Grid/Eversource process.

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How does the recommendation process work and how will a project be selected?

A: At ISO-NE's December meeting, National Grid and Eversource detailed the extraordinary benefits of our Solution over the alternative proposal and provided information and analysis on several key issues raised by stakeholders. The alternate plan, SeaLink, was presented by New Hampshire Transmission. ISO-NE, with information from an independent study, has already evaluated the costs of both proposals and found the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution to be \$250 million less than SeaLink.

It is expected that ISO-NE will announce its preferred solution in early 2015; however, the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Board and the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, who will evaluate and determine project implementation approvals, expect to receive both proposals for their consideration regardless of ISO-NE's noted preference. Respective siting board determinations are dependent on individual project filing dates and finalization of the siting processes. Please note the siting processes vary in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Q: Will these projects adversely impact the environment?

A: National Grid and Eversource have taken great care to identify environmental resources such as soils, water resources, wetlands, water quality, vegetation, wildlife, and threatened or endangered species. During the planning, permitting and construction stages of the project, our team will work with local, state, and federal agencies to establish work methods that minimize or eliminate the impact to these resources. Any environmental impacts will be temporary and limited to the construction phase, and, as always, we will conduct all construction in an environmentally acceptable manner that will meet all of our regulators' expectations and avoid long-term adverse impacts.

Q: SeaLink claims it will have fewer impacts, because it will not require any long-term transmission outages (which can affect wholesale power costs) to build the project. What does this mean and is it true?

A: When transmission lines are built, maintained, or repaired, the line in question or an adjacent one needs to be taken out of service so the work can be performed safely. There is no loss of service to customers when this occurs. In much the same way that closing a lane or lanes on a highway causes a traffic jam, taking a transmission line out of service can create the same type of "congestion" on the power grid. Congestion on the grid can impact wholesale power costs, so ISO-NE works very closely with transmission owners to schedule when transmission lines and power plants are allowed to be taken out of service to minimize congestion on the grid.

National Grid and Eversource have a history of building transmission projects similar to our proposed Solution, and we have been very effective at coordinating with ISO-NE in scheduling outages to minimize impact to the system. For this Solution set, we have already determined a joint construction schedule that will ensure minimal system disruption and congestion cost. Additionally, the SeaLink project is itself expected to have some element of congestion impacts.

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: SeaLink claims it will be more reliable because a part of the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution includes overhead lines that would be exposed to New England weather. Is this true?

A: No. SeaLink (New Hampshire Transmission) has overstated the performance of their system by focusing only on the undersea cable rather than the total system's reliability. The 345-kV transmission lines that are part of the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution have a proven reliability record and performance and offer much faster and less expensive repairs than an underwater cable. Even in severe storms, the 345-kV system has performed extremely well, with the vast majority of outages occurring on the local distribution lines that serve neighborhoods and businesses. The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution strategically combines overhead lines in existing transmission corridor rights-of-way and with underground lines. It also should be noted that SeaLink's proposed high-voltage, direct current (HVDC) electric power transmission system is not free from potential challenges; any system can experience failures that can cause challenges.

Q: Is this project associated with Northern Pass?

A: No. This project is responding to a system reliability need identified by ISO-NE and is not related to or affected by Northern Pass in any manner.

Q: Have non-transmission alternatives been explored to address this need?

A: To date, no viable non-transmission alternative has come forward to address the reliability need.

Q: Is this project associated with the Kinder Morgan Gas Pipe Line?

A: No. They are separate, unrelated projects. We are proposing an electric transmission project. Kinder Morgan is proposing a gas pipeline. Kinder Morgan's route does propose to run adjacent to the same utility right-of-way.

Q: How can I learn more?

A: Visit our website at www.MA-NHSolution.com for information and the latest news on the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution. Call our toll-free hotline at 844-646-8427 or email us at info@MA-NHSolution.com with any questions!

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Myth vs. Fact

A strong electrical transmission system is vital to our region's safety and economic prosperity. ISO-NE, New England's independent power system operator, has identified urgent electric system reliability needs for the Greater Boston and southern New Hampshire area. National Grid and Eversource are combining our decades of experience and commitment to customers to bring the most cost-effective and readily implementable Solution that meets reliability needs and bolsters the region's current and future economic growth. Florida-based NextEra Energy/New Hampshire Transmission (NHT) is offering SeaLink, an undersea cable with various land connections, as a potential alternative. *This document addresses several myths that NHT has put forth about its project and ours, and sets the record straight with facts.*

Myth: The New Hampshire Transmission/NextEra (SeaLink) project is the most cost-effective solution to meet the reliability needs in the Greater Boston and surrounding area.

Fact: According to an independent analysis commissioned by ISO-NE, the independent system operator, SeaLink is significantly more expensive—by at least \$250 million—than the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution.

Myth: SeaLink will have lower maintenance and repair costs.

Fact: The source of undersea cable failures are difficult to identify and typically take at least 1–3 months to repair, at significantly higher cost than that of land-based transmission lines. The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution expands the existing, resilient backbone of the regional power grid, enabling rapid troubleshooting at lower costs in the unlikely event that repairs are needed.

Myth: SeaLink construction has the least amount of system congestion and related costs.

Fact: Both projects will need to have multiple, planned transmission “outages,” where lines are taken out of service so that construction can be done safely—which does not result in any service interruptions for customers. The SeaLink option will require more and longer outages, which will likely result in higher congestion costs. Unlike SeaLink, National Grid and Eversource have extensive experience managing and mitigating outages through the ISO-NE outage coordination process.

Myth: SeaLink can be put into service faster due to a streamlined permitting/siting process.

Fact: Both projects require siting approvals in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, along with other federal, state, and local approvals; however, the SeaLink proposal has the additional permitting burden for offshore facilities and state and federal waters from at least five additional regulatory agencies. Historically, the permitting and siting of off-shore transmission is more time-consuming than land-based facilities, and this intensive and complex process will take significantly more time than the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution's expected 21-month window, as evidenced by the Neptune HVDC Cable, which took 45 months to obtain federal and state permits.

Myth: Because it's an undersea cable, SeaLink will not have any impacts within communities in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Fact: SeaLink is NOT just an undersea sea cable; it comes with several necessary on-land components for upgrading and connection. The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution will work within existing transmission corridors or along existing roads. No new rights-of-way will be required.

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Myth vs. Fact

Myth: SeaLink is protected from weather and related damage, unlike the alternative.

Fact: The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution will be just as reliable as SeaLink for \$250 million less, utilizing both underground and overhead designs to maximize the benefits of each. The overhead lines have 99-plus percent availability rating, even during recent historic named storms. Additionally, in the unlikely event that a line needs repair, it is much easier and less expensive to detect, locate, and repair than an undersea cable, where restoration times are measured in months. Undersea cables rely heavily on land-based electronic control stations, which are susceptible to failures, as are the cables themselves, and replacements are expensive and difficult to acquire.

Myth: National Grid and Eversource's Merrimack Valley Reliability Project (MVRP) will expand the existing rights-of-way and "take" people's homes.

Fact: This is the most blatant of SeaLink's inaccuracies. The proposed MVRP will **NOT** expand the existing rights-of-way or "take" any homes. All of the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution projects, including MVRP, are being built within an existing transmission corridors or roadways.

Myth: SeaLink provides more direct economic benefit to communities in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Fact: Both project sets will provide economic benefits to the region, including jobs and increased tax revenue. There are some clear differences, however: National Grid and Eversource are longtime supporters of the region's economy, and, during peak construction, the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project is estimated to create about 1,000 jobs in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, about \$41 million in investment in the local Massachusetts economy, and about \$82 million in New Hampshire.

Bottom Line

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution has:

- Everything necessary to meet the reliability need identified by ISO-NE;
- Lower capital costs by at least \$250 million;
- Shorter construction outages, resulting in lower congestion costs;
- Shorter repair times and lower restoration costs;
- Lower overall lifecycle costs;
- Less complex and shorter siting and permitting processes; and,
- Proven industry experience and success in siting and building major transmission projects.

The FACT is that the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution is the superior option!

(N.B. A longer, more detailed version of this document is available upon request.)

The Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution

Letter of Support

[DATE]

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to express [my/our] support for the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution proposed by National Grid and Eversource for the electrical grid reliability issues identified by ISO New England.

In recent months, [I, my staff, my colleagues, etc.] have been in close contact with representatives from National Grid and Eversource. The companies have made—and continue to make—every effort to solicit, consider, and incorporate feedback from local stakeholders, elected officials, residents, and businesses, and the result is a proposal that minimizes impact on customers, local communities, and the environment while enhancing local economies and maximizing power, adaptability, and cost-effectiveness. That is the kind of energy solution our community needs and deserves now and for the future.

This project is necessary for the region's 4.7 million residents whose demand for safe, reliable power is continually growing.

Following the rigorous ISO-NE selection process, I support National Grid and Eversource's approval for their proposed solution from the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and from the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee. I urge the communities, businesses, and residents in our region to join me in securing a more reliable electric future.

Sincerely,

[NAME, TITLE]

Sunday, November 30, 2014

Proposed power line improvements would run along existing corridor in Hudson, Pelham

By DAVID BROOKS

Staff Writer

An improvement to the region's electricity grid proposed by NationalGrid and the parent company of PSNH would upgrade power lines that run through the northeast corner of Hudson and the center of Pelham, although it is competing against a competitor's plan that would run power lines on the seabed.

Northeast Utilities says its proposal, which would make use of existing rights-of-way that already carry lines and thus avoids the sort of controversy that has ensnared Northern Pass, would be much cheaper than the competing seabed proposal put forward by NextEra Energy.

Both of these roughly billion-dollar projects are designed to improve the reliability of the electric grid from southern New Hampshire to the Boston area by creating more robust connections among existing parts of the network. They would probably not start operating until 2018.

ISO-New England, which oversees the six-state power grid, has been expressing concerns about the reliability of the grid in recent years, especially since large power plants such as Vermont Yankee and the coal-fired Salem Harbor are closing down, creating potential imbalances.

Reliability-related transmission projects can be covered by electricity ratepayers in all six New England states. New Hampshire represents about 10 percent of the power used in New England, so would probably pay about 10 percent of the total cost.

The projects have nothing to do with two electricity-oriented ideas that have generated much debate: Northern Pass, which would bring down hydropower from Quebec, or the quest for to bring in more natural gas to fuel power plants.

The plan from Northeast Utilities and National Grid would build 25 miles of 345-kilovolt and 115-kilovolt overhead alternating current lines in existing power line rights of way connecting a substation in Londonderry, to facilities in Tewksbury, Mass., passing over Route 102 in the corner of Hudson and crosses diagonally through Pelham into Dracut, Mass.

A separate part of the same project would install some buried power lines between the Massachusetts communities of Everett and Wakefield, southwest of Boston.

Competing against it is SeaLink, proposed by NextEra Energy, which owns Seabrook Station nuclear power plant. It would build a high-voltage direct current line from Seabrook and then out to sea, running along the seabed around Cape Cod and returning to land and then connecting via 18 miles of buried lines to a substation in Everett, Mass.

ISO-New England is scheduled to choose one of the two options by the end of the year. The cost will be covered in the region's electric rates.

A independent analysis commissioned by ISO-New England says the overland route would cost \$510 million, whereas the sea route would cost \$770 million. Both would also required an extra \$200 million in upgrades to the network.

SeaLink claims that its route could be operating as much as a year sooner than the overland project.

David Brooks can be reached at 594-6531 or dbrooks@nashuatelegraph.com. Also, follow Brooks on Twitter (@GraniteGeek).

Massive power line project proposed

By Jayne W. Miller News Editor Jayne@YourTownCrier.com | Posted: Saturday, November 29, 2014 10:07 am

Moving lines, upgrading grid. Environmental comment period ends Dec. 15

TEWKSBURY – Two energy projects have been proposed through Tewksbury as part of electrical grid upgrades begins state and federal permitting processes. Of the two plans, one will be chosen to improve the lines.

National Grid/Northeast Utilities Merrimack Valley Reliability Project plan calls for upgrading and adding new power lines within existing transmission rights-of-way and corridors or underground. An independent report shows that the National Grid/NU solution will cost an estimated \$510 million. NextEra's proposal, which includes a submarine cable, underground cables, two large converter stations and additional work on National Grid and Northeast Utilities' existing transmission network, will cost nearly \$770 million – a difference of more than \$250 million.

Both proposals require an additional \$221 million of additional upgrades to the existing regional transmission in order to meet the reliability need set forth by ISO New England, with many of those improvements in Tewksbury.

National Grid and Northeast Utilities proposed a joint project that includes installation of a new power line along 24.6 miles from Londonderry, NH to Tewksbury.

The big difference between this project and the Kinder Morgan proposed high pressure transmission gas pipeline – National Grid will use existing right of way from Londonderry, through Hudson, Windham, and

Power line Project

This map from National Grid's Environmental Notification Form shows the path of changes to the transmission power lines proposed in the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project. While all the work will occur within the existing right of way, abutters may see new lines moved closer to homes and businesses. Courtesy Vanesse Hangen Brustlin, INC

Pelham in New Hampshire then into Dracut, Andover, and Tewksbury.

Upgrading the grid is essential as power demands continue to increase while infrastructure is aged and undersized.

“Our region needs this project to address growth and increasing demand for electricity. This project can be implemented in a relatively short timeframe with almost no community and/or environmental impacts, while providing added resiliency and increased flexibility on the existing power grid (for example if older generators in the region shut down in the future),” said Jackie Berry, spokesman for National Grid.

Nation Grid estimates that their portion of the project (in Massachusetts and Windham and Pelham, NH) will create 1,500 jobs annually in two states throughout planning, development, and construction.

“We and Northeast Utilities are in the process of reaching out to communities along the proposed route to discuss the project, and we will be doing extensive outreach to project neighbors,” said Berry in a statement to the Town Crier. “We also will go through rigorous state and federal siting and permitting processes that will have additional opportunities for public input. We will make every effort to keep community officials, residents, businesses and community groups informed and engaged throughout the entire process.

In fact, the companies have submitted their Environmental Notification Form to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs last week. National Grid anticipates environmental impacts to be low as the work will occur in the existing right-of-way.

“We believe this is the most cost-effective solution to address the reliability needs that have been set forth by the region's grid operator, ISO-New England.”

“We are very pleased that the independent report confirms what we have said all along – our solution will deliver the regional reliability needed at the least cost for our customers,” said Dave Boguslawski, vice president of Transmission Strategy & Operations at Northeast Utilities, in a statement to the press.

“Our solution costs less to build and maintain and provides more benefits to customers, including significantly lower maintenance and repair times versus a submarine cable. In fact, National Grid and Northeast Utilities’ overhead lines similar to the one being proposed have more than 99 percent availability – including during peak storm events over the last several years,” said Rudy Wynter, president of National Grid’s Transmission Business. “The bottom line is that our solution provides the most cost-effective, resilient, and proven system improvements.”

Comments on this ENF can be submitted to the MEPA Office at the following address:

Secretary Maeve Vallely Bartlett, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Attention:
MEPA Unit, re: Scobie Pond to Tewksbury 345 kV Transmission Project, 100 Cambridge Street,
Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

Windham Community Meeting

Join Us to Discuss the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project

National Grid invites members of the Windham community to learn more about the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Location: Windham Town Hall (Upstairs), 3 North Lowell Road
Time: 6:00–8:00 p.m.

What is the Community Meeting?

The Windham Community Meeting is an opportunity for Windham residents and other members of the community to meet with staff and experts from National Grid to learn about the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, a proposed transmission line that will be built along the existing rights-of-way in seven towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the project from staff and experts. All members of the Windham community are welcome!

What is the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project?

The Merrimack Valley Reliability Project (MVRP) is the installation of a proposed new 345-kV overhead transmission line stretching from Londonderry, NH to Tewksbury, MA. The MVRP is one component of the Greater Boston and New Hampshire Solution, a response to the growing demand for electricity in the Greater Boston and southern New Hampshire regions. This project will play a critical role in updating the region's transmission system and electrical grid to ensure increased performance and reliability, while also improving the region's safety, security, and prosperity. In addition, the MVRP will produce substantial economic benefits in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, including Windham.

For more information, please visit our project website at www.ma-nhsolution.com or call our toll-free hotline at 844-646-8427.