

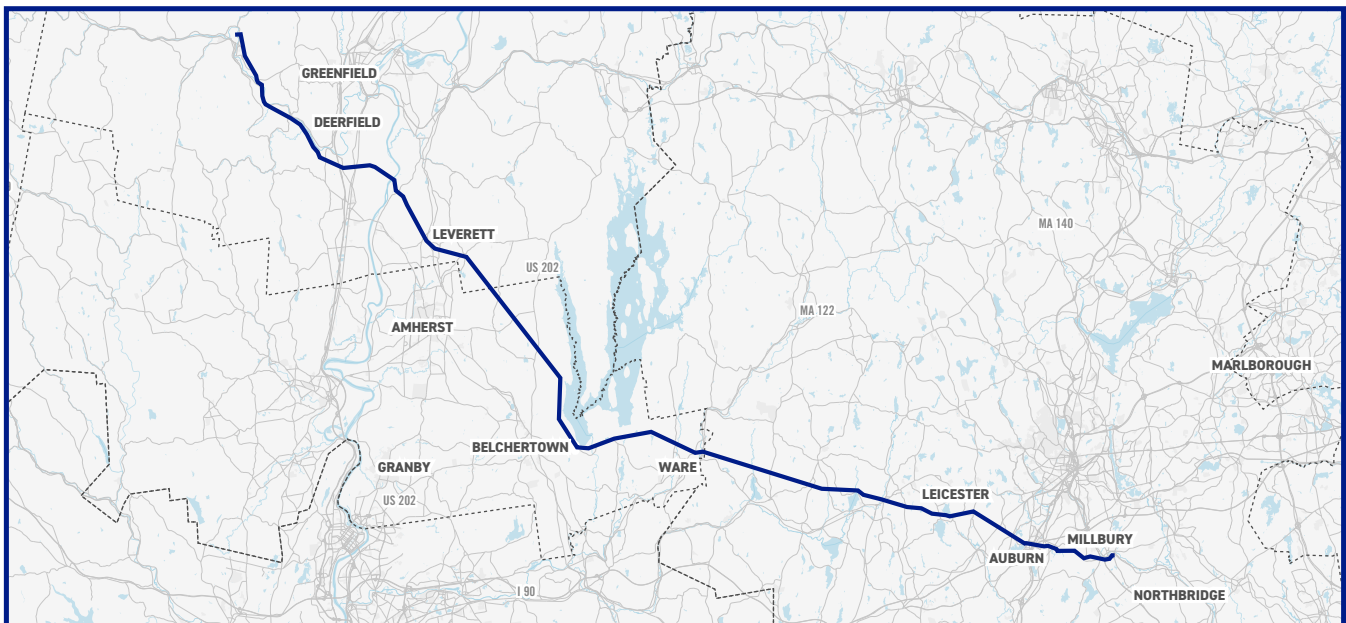
Project Overview

Central to Western Mass Energy Improvement Project

The Central to Western Mass Energy Improvement Project (Project) is proposed to rebuild the existing National Grid E5/F6 circuit lines throughout Central and Western Massachusetts as they are approaching the end of their asset life. The Project is located along the existing National Grid right-of-way (ROW), spanning approximately 70 miles within the towns of Shelburne, Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland, Leverett, Shutesbury, Pelham, Belchertown, Ware, West Brookfield, North Brookfield, East Brookfield, Spencer, Leicester, Auburn, and Millbury, Massachusetts.

The Project includes replacing existing steel double-circuit lattice structures, and 69 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, with double-circuit steel monopole structures and transmission lines designed to operate at 115kV standards. The transmission lines will continue to operate at 69kV until future needs arise. The Project also includes the installation of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW), a type of cable used to transmit data via optical fiber, while providing an additional layer of protection from lightning strikes and other electrical disturbances.

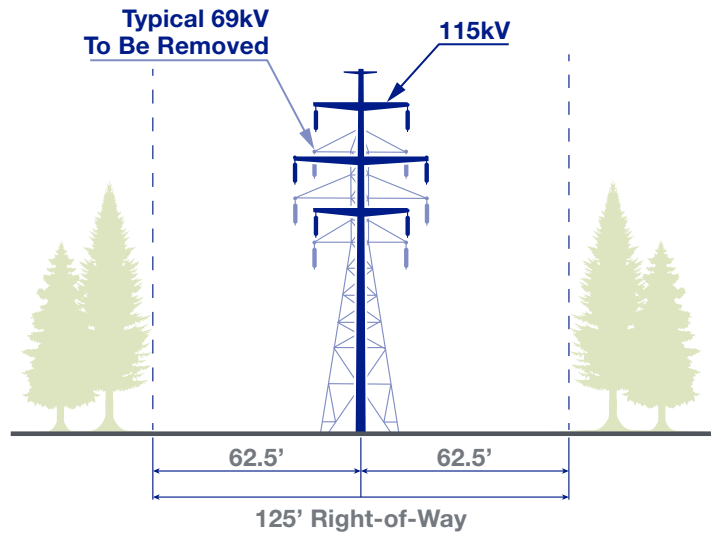
These upgrades will allow for additional transmission capacity for future needs, including improving the reliability of the system within the Project area.



Structures

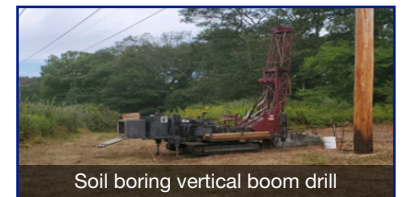
Proposed structure heights will vary. In some cases, new structures may be approximately twenty feet taller than existing structures.

In some areas, tree removals may be necessary to maintain clearance and safety requirements.



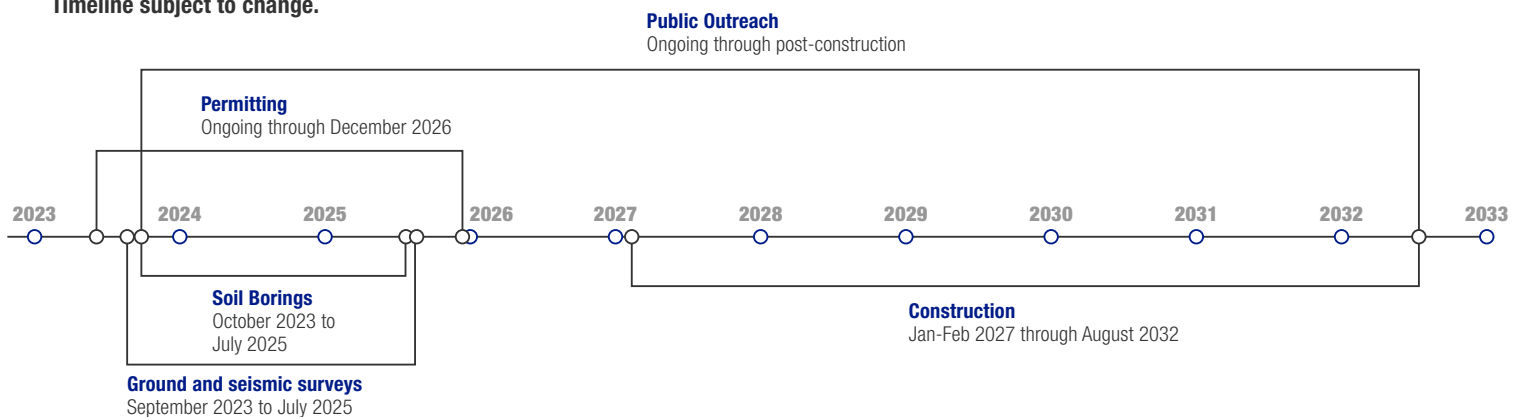
Upcoming Activities: Geotechnical, Surveys and Testing

In order to determine the soil conditions for new structures, soil testing and surveys need to be conducted. In the coming weeks, vegetation management crews will begin mowing access and work areas within the ROW as needed for crew and equipment access. Initially, soil testing crews will access the ROW either on foot or with smaller equipment for seismic and ground penetrating radar surveys. These surveys will be followed by soil borings. A soil boring is a geotechnical investigation consisting of drilling a small hole in the ground at the site of new structure foundations to determine existing soil conditions. Each boring site takes approximately one to two days to complete. During this time, larger vehicles and equipment similar to what is shown to the right will be within the ROW. In certain areas, access road improvements may need to be made. Timber mats may also be placed in specific areas such as wetlands, stream crossings, agricultural areas, or residential lawns for crew and soil boring equipment to access structures.



Schedule

Timeline subject to change.



Stay Informed

National Grid is committed to keeping residents, businesses, local officials, and community groups informed and engaged as the Project progresses. To learn more about Project scope, timeline, and ongoing activities, please visit the Project website at <https://CMAtoWMAenergy.com>. You may also contact our project outreach team at 1-888-431-3536, info@CMAtoWMAenergy.com or submit a question through CMAtoWMAenergy.com

