

Frequently Asked Questions

Who owns and operates the transmission lines?

National Grid will own the transmission line in Wakefield while Eversource will own the transmission line in Woburn, Winchester, and Stoneham. The Independent System Operator for New England (“ISO-NE”), coordinates the operation of the lines through the designated Local Control Centers (LCC). ISO-NE is an independent, not-for-profit corporation regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) responsible for keeping the lights on in the six New England states and ensuring that the region has access to reliable, competitively priced wholesale electricity.

When and how are abutters notified about the project?

Our project teams are committed to keeping abutters in host communities informed throughout each phase of the project. From permitting to final restoration, our team executes a proactive communication program with the goal of consistently sharing project information, so that project neighbors have every opportunity to engage our team members with questions or concerns. These efforts include: local open houses, public meetings, direct mail, one-on-one meetings, door-to-door outreach and digital communications.

What is the regional transmission network?

The regional transmission network is an integrated series of 345-kV, 230-kV, 115-kV and 69-kV transmission lines, interconnecting substations, and switching stations throughout New England. It serves as the “backbone” of the electric system, carrying bulk supply of electricity that is then “stepped down” in voltage at the substations to the distribution lines, which carry power to local businesses and homes.

Why is the additional transmission line needed?

The Woburn to Wakefield Line Project is needed to meet the reliability standards set forth by NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation), NPCC (Northeast Power Coordinating Council) and ISO-NE. ISO-NE identified inadequate transmission resources to serve the Greater Boston area, including potential overloads to the existing 345-kV and 115kV systems serving the area. It is important to note that the proposed Projects are system reliability improvements serving an essential public need and are not discretionary private projects.

How will the line benefit the region?

The Woburn to Wakefield Line is part of a suite of projects designed to improve system reliability, meet projected customer demand and load growth in the Greater Boston and surrounding area. The line is designed to provide the needed capacity to maintain the network system under contingency conditions. Without the project, potential overloads to the existing system serving the area could occur under certain operating conditions.

In addition to the system reliability benefits, the suite of the Greater Boston Solution projects is forecasted to save hundreds of millions of dollars per year in congestion costs for customers in the Greater Boston and surrounding area.

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How long will construction be in front of my home or business?

Daily trenching activities are typically conducted in approximately 50- to 100-foot segments. Due to the complexities of underground construction, we are currently unable to say with specificity how long it will take to complete duct bank installation in a certain location. That said, as we get closer to the start of construction in a given area will be able to provide more exact timelines for this work. We encourage you to sign up for our email newsletter to receive future updates:

www.wakefieldnationalgridnewsletter.com

Will my street be partially closed or fully closed?

At this time, we do not plan to completely close any street during construction; however, partial closures and the use of alternating traffic patterns are likely to occur during active construction periods on some streets. We continue to work closely with municipal officials to develop an effective Traffic Management Plan to minimize construction impacts on local traffic.

Will construction block access to my home or business and driveway?

Every effort will be made to maintain continuous access to homes and businesses. Should access be required to any home or business during construction activities, the contractor will have steel plates available to cover in-street construction activities. Please note that open excavations will be plated so that overnight access is not impacted.

How will traffic congestion affect commuting, school activities, police and fire emergency trips?

We continue to work closely with municipal officials, schools, fire and police to coordinate traffic and timing of construction activities.

Will Eversource and National Grid cover the cost to the Town for police traffic management details?

Yes. Details on police traffic management will be included in the Host Community Agreements to be negotiated with the host communities.

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What impact will the project have on taxes?

The Projects will produce significant new annual property tax revenue for the towns in which the new facilities are located.

What improvements will be made along the routes after the lines are in place?

In Wakefield, National Grid will restore affected areas to previous or better condition, including sidewalks, roadways, pavement, etc., impacted by Project construction activities.

Will roadways, sidewalks, intersections, traffic signs, etc., be rebuilt?

In Wakefield, National Grid will restore anything impacted by our construction activities to its previous or better condition.