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Derby Junction to Ansonia 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild

Frequently Asked Questions About Our Derby Junction to Ansonia 115-kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Why is UI proposing this Project now?

To maintain the reliability of the transmission grid in conformance with the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), UI proposes to rebuild the existing 115-kilovolt (kV) overhead transmission lines located along an approximately 4.1-mile right-of-way (ROW). These existing 115-kV lines were originally built in 1924 and constructed to operate at 13.8 kV in a double circuit (DCT) configuration. The lines, which are supported on lattice steel towers, were upgraded to 69 kV in the 1930s and then to 115-kV in 1967-1968. After uprading structure foundations in 2008-2009 and approximately 10 years of engineering studies, UI determined that these lines needed to be completely replaced.

What is the purpose of this Project?

To continue to provide our community with safe and reliable electricity for their homes and business, UI proposes to rebuild the existing 115-kV overhead transmission lines located from Derby Junction in the City of Shelton (Fairfield County), across the Housatonic River to Indian Well Substation and through the City of Derby, to Ansonia Substation in the City of Ansonia (New Haven County).

When will construction start?

Construction is planned to begin early-2024. The planned in service date for the rebuilt 115-kV lines is the fourth quarter of 2025.

Where will the Project be located?

The Project will be located along UI's existing Derby Junction-Ansonia Substation transmission line ROW and will involve construction in Shelton (1.25 miles), Derby (1.42 miles), and Ansonia (1.47 miles).

What will the construction work hours be?

Standard work hours will be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday; however, some construction tasks will require work outside standard daily work hours.

What can we expect during construction?

Construction will take place in two phases along approximately 4 miles of transmission corridor between Derby Junction to Indian Well substation and Indian Well substation to Ansonia substation. It will take an expected 24 months to complete the construction. During this time, new steel monopole structures and wires will be installed. Construction will include drilled pier foundations, erecting monopoles and stringing new transmission lines. Access roads and work pads will be built for the contractors to get to the existing structures to carry out new construction and remove old lattice tower structures.

What facilities are proposed for the Project?

A total of approximately 40 new steel monopole structures of which there are approximately 24 double-circuit monopoles, and 16 single-circuit monopoles.

What kind of construction equipment will be involved in these projects?

Equipment may include vacuum trucks, drill rigs, cranes, excavators, bucket trucks, tri-axle dump trucks, cement mixer trucks, and other vehicles.

Will these transmission line rebuilds help serve the region's electricity needs for the foreseeable future?

While the planned improvements to these lines are expected to last at least 40 years, load growth and/or other unforeseen circumstances may require the company to make future upgrades to supply community demand.

FAQs

Transmission Line Rebuild

How many people will be working here?

It is anticipated that approximately 35 people will be working on this Project, at various locations, at any time. Actual numbers may vary by location and operations being performed.

What is UI doing to protect neighboring property owners?

UI approaches all of its projects with the community in mind. We've been working with the municipalities and properry owners to mitigate impacts as we continue to design our facilities. UI encourages two-way communication with our communities to limit disruptions to neighboring properties.

Will you be cutting down trees?

In order to facilitate efficient construction, the removal of certain trees and vegetation will be necessary.

Will trees be replanted?

Within the transmission ROW, trees will not be replanted in accordance with the Transmission Vegetation Management Protocol.

What are the existing environmental characteristics of the Project corridor and what are the anticipated environmental impacts?

Because the Project relies on utilizing the existing corridor, although the ROW will be expanded in certain areas, overall environmental impacts should be minimal. UI conducted both research and field investigations to define the environmental resources along the Project ROW, as well as to identify appropriate measures to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. The land along and in the viciinity of the Project ROW consists of a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses, as well as varying environmental features, including a crossing of the Housatonic River.

Will the Project affect the visual environment?

The visual environment along and in the vicinity of UI's long-established transmission line right-of-way will change as a result of the Project. For example, compared to the 100-year old lattice steel structures, the new monopoles will, in certain locations, be taller. However, overall, the new modern-design monopoles will have a smaller footprint and will be generally less obtrusive than the existing lattice towers.

Will the Project increase noise levels?

The construction of the Project will result in minor and localized increases in noise associated with construction activities, such as the operation of equipment. However, the Project construction will be performed during day time. As a result, Project-related noise is expected to represent only a potential short-term inconvenience.

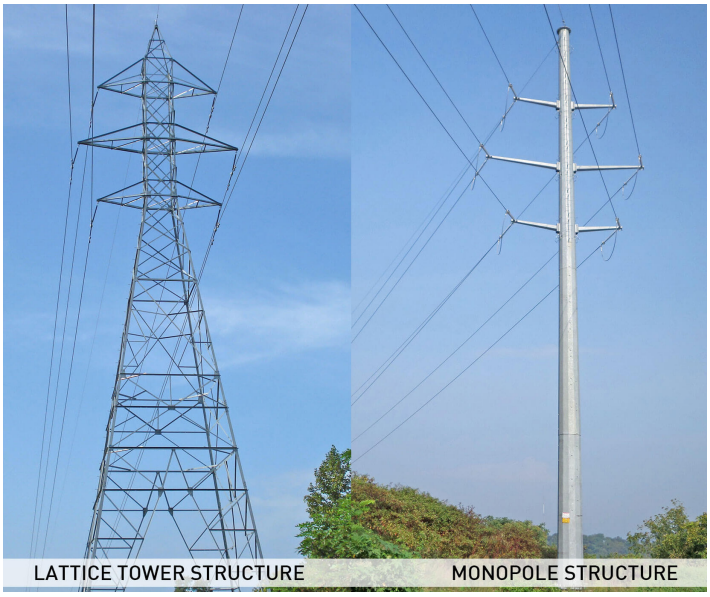
How tall will the new monopole be?

Every monopole is custom-designed for its position. Monopoles will average 120 feet in height, with the exception of those used for the Housatonic River Crossing; these monopoles will be approximately 170 feet.

Where will the new monopoles be placed?

The monopoles will be constructed in the same general area as the old lattice towers that will be removed.

What will the new monopoles look like?



Will there be power outages during construction?

We do not anticipate that customers will experience any power outages as a result of construction.

What effects will electric and magnetic fields (EMF) have on those living near the power lines?

An important part of the analysis of any transmission line Project is the understanding of potential EMF impacts. UI is advancing studies and engineering practices consistent with the highest standards of engineering design to minimize EMF impacts.

FAQs

Transmission Line Rebuild

Will you need to expand any rights of way?

It is expected based on our current design, that expansion of the current ROW will be required. UI will require additional permanent easement, adjacent to portions of the existing ROW, to maintain compliance with national electric safety standards. UI will maintain compliance with our vegetation management practices along the expanded ROW.

Will I have access to my driveway and/or business? During the construction phase there may be interruptions to normal traffic flow, however UI and its contractors will make every effort to minimize impacts to local residents and businesses.

If I live along the Project route, how long can I expect to have construction in my backyard, or adjacent to my property?

Each construction site will have specific details appropriate for the work in the area. The work will progress as quickly as possible given the scheduling and site specific parameters. Individual property owners in work areas will be notified of site specific details.

Will there be stockpiles of dirt and construction debris along the route?

Materials excavated along the route will be loaded directly into trucks and removed from the sites on a nightly basis.

How will the work zones be left at the end of the day?

Each work area will maintained throughout the Project to minimize dust and keep communities clean. All trash will be removed on a daily basis. Active work zones will be made safe at the end of each day.

How will UI be communicating to their customers throughout the construction process?

Customer communications for property owners abutting and in the vicinity of the tranmission ROW will include notification letters, as well as a section on UI's website that will contain up-to-date information on construction news, progress and potential delays. Customers may also call the Project Outreach Line at 888.848.3697 or email us at outreach@uinet.com for assistance.

Did UI evaluate other alternatives for this Project?

After multiple studies, UI and engineering experts analyzed options to maintain the reliability of the transmission grid. These options included: foundation repairs, structure repairs, equipment replacements, and select structure replacements. The most reliable and cost effective solution of a full rebuild was chosen.

What opportunities are there for public involvement in the Project? Where can the public obtain more information about the Project?

UI will file a Motion to Reopen Docket #3, United Illuminating Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for rebuild of the existing Derby Junction to Ansonia 115-kV Transmission Line. The Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) process involves varied opportunities for public input. Once the Motion has been filed, it will be accessible to the public on the CSC website (ct.gov/csc). Information about the proposed Project can be found on UI's website and questions can be directed to UI's hotline.

How will this impact my rates?

Capital improvements to the electrical system, such as this Project are part of UI's routine work to maintain and improve its electrical system, and are incorporated into the existing rate structure.

Who will pay for the Project?

Because this Project will increase the capacity and reliability for the entire New England grid system, costs will be shared across the New England region as much as possible. The final cost allocation will be determined by FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The number below is for use by any resident or business with questions regarding the Project. UI representatives will also provide property owners and businesses who will be affected by the Project with information on an individual basis as it becomes necessary and available.

Telephone hotline: 888.848.3697

Email: Outreach@uinet.com

Dedicated website:

DerbyJunctionAnsoniaTransmissionLineRebuild.com