

COOL SPRING TO INDIAN RIVER TRANSMISSION LINE REBUILD



Delmarva Power is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable service for our customers and communities. As part of this effort, we are planning a \$21.5-million project to rebuild and upgrade existing transmission and distribution lines between the Cool Spring substation and the Indian River substation near Millsboro.

Maintaining the safe and reliable service our customers expect requires ongoing work to modernize the local energy grid. These efforts are part of a broader reliability improvement plan to further reduce the frequency and duration of power outages for Delaware customers.



WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

- **Enhances service reliability** for 75,800 Delmarva Power customers in Sussex County.
- **Delivers energy more efficiently** by creating a smarter energy grid with greater automation between local substations.
- **Modernizes and increases the resiliency** of the infrastructure delivering energy for local customers.

Key Project Details

- Located in Sussex County, Del.
- More than 11 miles of transmission line and optical ground wiring (OPGW) will be rebuilt
- Eighty-eight wood structures will be replaced with 89 galvanized steel poles
- Over \$21-million investment in energy service reliability for local customers
- Benefits 75,800 Delmarva Power customers in Sussex County.
- OPGW provides both a communications function and protective support barrier for transmission lines
- Construction expected to begin January 2020 and completed by November 2020
- New poles will range in height from 87 ft. to 196 ft.

About the Rebuild

We conducted a comprehensive review of potential options to enhance service reliability and determined that rebuilding the existing transmission line would be the most cost-effective and least impactful option.

Replacing existing utility poles with new galvanized steel poles helps strengthen the local energy grid. These more reliable structures are designed to withstand severe weather conditions, such as 120 mph winds and other storm related events. Steel poles offer significant improvements in reliability, longevity, and uniformity when compared to equivalent wood poles. They have a much longer service life than wood poles and require much less maintenance over time.

In addition to adding steel poles, we will also upgrade the existing transmission line with new wire and other modern electric devices, such as OPGW lines. OPGW lines sit above the transmission line providing communications functionality between substations, as well as a protective barrier for the transmission line—protecting it from obstructions and weather-related events, such as lightning.

Together these important upgrades will prevent outages and enhance overall reliability for the residents of Sussex County.

About the Construction Process

Safety for our customers, communities, and employees is our top priority. We are committed to minimizing impacts to the local community throughout the construction of the project. Construction is expected to begin in January 2020 and the project will be in-service by November 2020—weather permitting. We will continue to keep the community informed throughout the entire process.

We will perform all work within the times identified in the construction permits and keep noise levels from construction activities within established thresholds. We will also confine project activities to the utility right-of-way of our transmission line and restore all areas affected by construction.



This photo rendering shows what the new galvanized steel poles are expected to look like along the rebuilt transmission line in Sussex County.

Enhancing Reliability in Delaware

At Delmarva Power, we analyze and evaluate the local energy grid on an ongoing basis to identify infrastructure projects that will help us continue to provide reliable service and meet our customers' needs.

Over the last five years, Delmarva Power has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in Delaware modernizing the local energy grid and enhancing reliability for customers. Because of this, our customers continue to experience record electric service reliability. Over the last five years, our continued focus on infrastructure improvements drove a 34 percent decrease in the frequency of electric outages our customers have experienced. In fact, Delmarva Power customers experienced the lowest frequency of electric outages ever in 2018.