Independence Energy Connection Project

About the Project

The Independence Energy Connection project is designed to reduce congestion on the regional transmission grid and create access to low-cost electricity for customers in power zones across the mid-Atlantic. The project solves growing reliability violations in Pennsylvania and Maryland that, if the IEC project is not built, would require a new solution before 2023.

The need for this project was identified by the regional transmission organization, PJM Interconnection. Power lines owned and operated by a number of utilities make up the grid, and PJM oversees the safety, reliability and security of the grid to make sure customer needs are met in a cost-efficient manner.

PJM reviewed solution proposals from competitive transmission companies and awarded construction of the project to Transource in August 2016.

Project construction is expected to begin in 2020, create 130 full-time jobs and support $40 million in local economic activity.

Working With the Community

In 2017, Transource hosted two rounds of open house meetings and presented hundreds of miles of route options for public input. The company worked to balance input with a variety of factors, such as existing land use, sensitive species and habitats, soils and topography, historic and cultural resources, and the opportunity to parallel existing infrastructure.

Transource announced the proposed routes and filed applications to construct the project with the Maryland Public Service Commission and Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in December 2017.

IEC included two segments, East and West, totaling approximately 45 miles of new transmission line in Pennsylvania and Maryland. The project also included construction of two new substations in Pennsylvania and upgrades to two substations in Maryland.

TRANSOURCE

Alternative IEC East Route

During the course of the regulatory proceedings, various parties, including the Power Plant Research Program in Maryland, introduced several alternatives. Transource and PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization that identified the need for this project, analyzed these alternative routes to ensure the project continued to meet the grid reliability and market efficiency requirements.

The alternative route, known as Alternative IEC East (pictured below) maximizes the use of existing rights-of-way and is supported by multiple project stakeholders, including state agencies and local landowners. The alternative will be considered along with the originally filed configuration for this segment by the Pennsylvania and Maryland commissions.

Proposed Routes

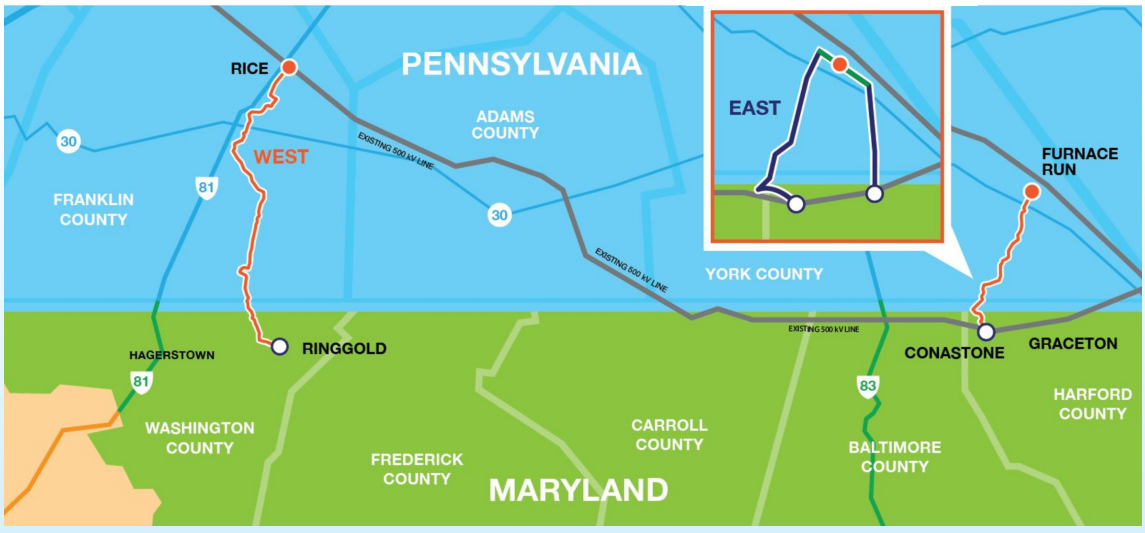
IEC Project
Filed with MD PSC and PA PUC Winter 2017

- Proposed new substation
- Proposed West route
- Proposed East route
- Proposed upgrades to existing BG&E substation

IEC Including Alternative East Route
Proposed Fall 2019

- Proposed new substation
- Proposed new transmission line
- Proposed upgrades to existing PPL and BG&E transmission lines
- Proposed upgrades to existing BG&E substation

Alternative IEC East



To learn more about this project, visit TransourceEnergy.com/Projects/Independence

Project Support

"The mid-Atlantic and New England regions have long lacked the necessary infrastructure to ensure communities on the East Coast have access to the energy they need at a reasonable cost. Even the region's grid operator, PJM Interconnection, recommended the Independence Energy Connection project as a critical improvement. The forward-thinking approach for this Pennsylvania-Maryland project is good for consumers and the environment — and it is necessary."
— **Mike Butler**, Consumer Energy Alliance

"Anytime jobs are created, it's a win. Our workers earn family-sustaining wages building the infrastructure that supports our daily lives. We're proud to build infrastructure that saves customers money and reinforces the grid against power outages in Maryland and Pennsylvania."
— **Bernie Kephart**, Business Manager for IBEW Local 126

"The Independence project will result in millions of dollars in cost savings and reinforce the reliability of the electric grid. Upon completion, PJM will have done its job in safeguarding consumer access to reliable, low-cost electricity."
— **Susan Buehler**, Chief Communications Officer, PJM Interconnection

"Alleviating congestion on the wholesale market and allowing for competition among suppliers would allow Maryland businesses and residents access to more affordable and reliable power, which is critical to our state's economic future."
– **Christine Ross**, President and CEO, Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Project Timeline and Expected Next Steps

2017
- Determined study segments
- Incorporated public input
- Submitted application to regulators

2018
- Right-of-way acquisition and permitting
- Regulatory review

2019
- Regulatory review
- Alternative IEC East route proposed

2020-21
- Regulatory review of Alternative IEC East
- Regulatory approval
- Construction

2022
- Project in service

Proposed Structure

Based on input from the public and agricultural community, Transource has updated its proposal to include the use of steel monopoles on the project. The rendering depicts a typical 230 kV double-circuit steel monopole; however, engineering standards or topography may require a variance in structure type or height along the route. The typical right-of-way is 130 feet wide for safe construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities.

Typical regional farming practices can continue within the right-of-way, right up to the structure, and landowners will be fairly compensated for easements required to build the line, as well as potential impacts or crop loss during construction and restoration.