# PROJECT UPDATE



Transource Energy announced its proposed routes for the Independence Energy Connection in mid-October. The company plans to file applications with state regulators before the end of year seeking to build the project along these routes. The applications initiate a state-level review of the need for the project and the routes. Throughout our process, public input and involvement have been highly valued and appreciated. Project team members thoroughly considered all comments and information to help determine the proposed routes.

Independence Energy Connection

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Where can I view the proposed routes?

The project website has been updated and includes a searchable map feature as well as overview maps.

#### Why are you building the project?

PJM, the regional transmission organization for the area, identified the need for the \$320 million upgrade to alleviate congestion on the high-voltage electric grid and benefit customers in the region, including parts of Pennsylvania and Maryland.

## What are some of the factors that went into choosing the routes? Did you consider alternative routes?

Transource identified study areas with geographic proximity to the system limitations identified by PJM Interconnection and presented all viable options as study segments at the first round of open houses in June.

Transource hosted two rounds of open house meetings this summer and presented more than 250 miles of route options for review. The 10 events provided landowners and community members the opportunity to give detailed input to the project team.

Transource looked to parallel existing infrastructure where possible, reduce the number of residences impacted and avoid environmental disturbances. An explanation of the siting considerations utilized to determine the proposed route will be filed in the application with the Public Utility Commission and Public Service Commission.

#### Why aren't the lines being buried?

Transource understands there are situations that require transmission lines be placed underground, however safety considerations and the higher cost of constructing, as well as the environmental impact of repairing and maintaining underground transmission lines effectively prohibit their routine use for a high-voltage transmission line.

### How will directly-involved landowners be compensated for an easement on their properties?

Transource treats landowners with respect. We believe property owners should be treated fairly and made whole for property encumbered by a transmission line project. This simple premise helps us successfully negotiate the property and easements required for our projects.

Agents will review the fair market value for property in your area and extend an offer of a one-time payment. There also can be compensation for crop loss or damages during construction. This will be handled during one-on-one discussions with involved landowners.

Landowners along the proposed routes will receive a notification letter and then be contacted by a right-of-way agent to start negotiations. If you are a directly-involved landowner, please direct future questions and communications to the contact provided in your notification letter.

#### How do I confirm that I am not a directly-involved landowner?

The project website includes a map feature to input your address and view your property in proximity to a proposed route. If the line does not cross your property or come within 200 feet of your property, you would not have received a personalized letter. You can also confirm by leaving a comment on the project website.

#### Is there compensation for property owners indirectly affected by the visual and perceived impacts of the power lines and how is that determined?

Similar to other linear infrastructure projects, Transource's right-of-way agents will work with landowners directly impacted by the proposed 130' wide easement corridor to obtain the necessary land rights needed for the project. There is no mechanism for compensation outside the corridor for adjacent landowners or other members of the community.

#### What type of structure will be used?

In addition to routing options, Transource also solicited input on two structure types – self-supporting lattice and monopole. The majority of comments the company received supported the monopole option, and that is what Transource will use, except in areas where engineering or construction needs dictate another structure type.



The photograph depicts a typical double-circuit steel monopole. Actual structure type and height may vary along the route. While the structure type may vary, the typical right-of-way is 130 feet wide for safe construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities.

#### What happens next?

Transource's next step is to file a formal application to Pennsylvania's Public Utility Commission and Maryland's Public Service Commission by the end of the year. This will begin the formal regulatory review process, which can include public hearings for landowners and community members to provide comments.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Maryland Public Service Commission will be conducting thorough reviews of PJM's assessment of the need for this project, as well as Transource's selection of the proposed routes. Construction will proceed after the states' review and determination that the improvement is prudent.

# ADDITIONAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **About the Project Need and Benefit**

#### Who is Transource?

Transource Energy is responsible for the siting, safe construction and maintenance of the project.

#### Who is PJM Interconnection?

PJM Interconnection does not have customers and is not a utility. Acting as a neutral, independent party, PJM operates a competitive wholesale electricity market and manages the high-voltage electric grid to ensure reliability for more than 65 million people in parts of 13 states, including Pennsylvania and Maryland.

PJM's long-term regional planning process provides a broad, regional perspective that identifies the most effective and cost-efficient improvements to the grid to ensure reliability and economic benefits on a system-wide basis.

#### Why is this project needed?

Through its regional transmission expansion planning, PJM identified concerns with the delivery of electricity on the high-voltage grid into the region. Using a competitive model, PJM reviewed solution proposals from transmission companies and chose Transource's solution to alleviate the electric congestion that was identified. The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Maryland Public Service Commission will be conducting thorough reviews of PJM's assessment of the need for this project, as well as Transource's selection of the proposed routes. Construction will proceed after the states' review and determination that the improvement is prudent.

#### What is electric congestion?

Heavy use of the electric grid produces congestion, a situation in which an available supply of the lowest-priced electricity can't flow freely to consumers in a specific area.

### Who pays for electric congestion?

Payments for higher-priced generation are typically passed on to the customer.

### **Siting and Routing Process**

# Why were Franklin and York counties, Pa., and Washington and Harford Counties, Md., selected to build the project?

PJM selected Transource's solution to address the congestion issues and awarded construction of the project in August 2016. Transource chose the study area based on the geographic proximity to the system limitations that were identified by PJM Interconnection.

#### Why can't this project run on the existing towers?

The existing infrastructure does not have the available capacity because the project solution necessitates a 230 kV double-circuit structure fully utilized with high capacity wires. The new lines proposed for our project are meant to supplement the existing transmission facilities rather than to replace them.

### **Safety Information**

#### What are the effects of electric and magnetic fields?

Transource's top priority is safety. All electrical equipment carrying a current generates electric and magnetic fields (EMF). This pertains as much to the electrical appliances in our homes as it does to power lines, substations and related equipment.

In the past, questions have been raised about a possible link between exposure to EMF and certain health effects. Numerous studies have been conducted and, as a body of work, are inconclusive that EMF produced by power lines has any causal relation to health conditions or disease in humans or animals. Transource will comply with all federal and state rules and regulations regarding EMF. Visit the project website for links to independent third-party studies and more information.

#### Will stray voltage be an issue with this project?

Stray voltage is typically not a concern for high-voltage transmission lines. These lines differ in engineering standards for the design, operation and maintenance that apply to transmission facilities than for distribution lines.

#### Who benefits from the project?

For this project, PJM projects cost savings for consumers in 10 power zones. Those zones are listed below and displayed on the map to the right. Generally speaking, when low-cost electricity is introduced into the market, it helps drive the overall competitiveness of the electric grid for all power zones.

#### Benefiting Power Zones Identified by PJM:

American Electric Power Co., Inc, Allegheny Power Systems, Baltimore Gas & Electric, ComEd, Dayton Power and Light Company, Duke Energy Ohio and Kentucky, Duquesne Light, Dominion, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Potomac Electric Power Company.

The high-voltage electric grid operates across towns, counties and state boundaries. As such, the benefit of this project is not confined to geographical boundaries. Customer-driven improvement projects in one area of the grid can benefit customers on another part of the electric grid. For example, recent improvements made in Indiana and Westmoreland counties, more than 100 miles away, improved how the grid operates in York County.

Across the project area, Transource will use local workers, services and supplies on the project, when possible. Transource prioritizes investment in the local economies where construction occurs.

