Smithburg-Larrabee Collector Station (LCS) Upgrade Project

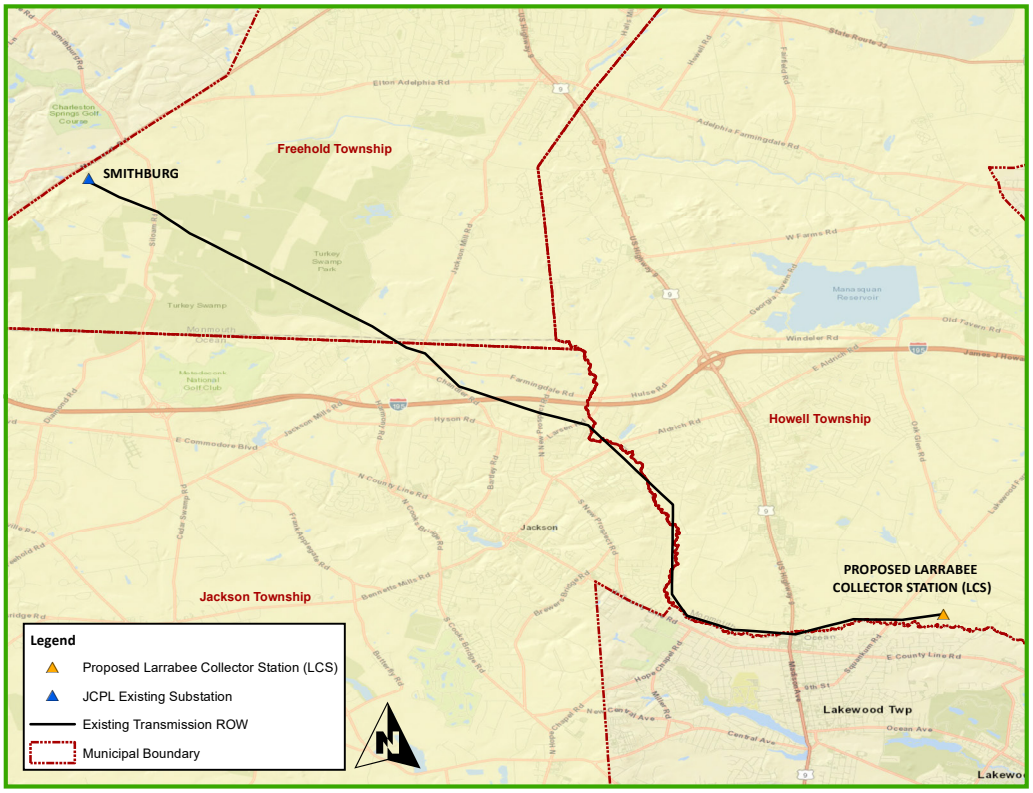
Jersey Central Power & Light
A FirstEnergy Company

Through a competitive solicitation process, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU), in coordination with regional grid operator PJM Interconnection (PJM), awarded Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) several onshore transmission upgrade projects utilizing existing rights-of-way (ROW). These projects are collectively referred to as the New Jersey Clean Energy Corridor (NJCEC) by JCP&L.

The projects were carefully designed to maximize existing grid infrastructure and minimize disruption to the way New Jersey residents live and enjoy their communities. JCP&L will use approximately 40 miles of existing power line corridors for the upgrades, and the projects will not require any new construction on undeveloped land outside of JCP&L's owned property or existing ROW.

Through its NJCEC projects, JCP&L is helping modernize New Jersey's energy grid by upgrading existing high-voltage transmission infrastructure and enabling the state to handle the growing demand for electricity now and for years to come. The work will enhance JCP&L's ability to deliver power efficiently and reliably and connect new sources of clean, renewable energy to the grid.

As part of the NJCEC projects, JCP&L will be upgrading the Atlantic-Smithburg 230-kV transmission line to a double-circuit line accommodating new 500-kV and 230-kV wires. The existing ROW for the project is approximately 12 miles in length with a typical easement width of between 260 and 340 feet and is located in the townships of Freehold, Jackson, Lakewood and Howell.



Engineering

To help develop the detailed engineering design, JCP&L is performing ground, environmental and geotechnical surveys and consultations with local and state agencies. The location of structures, access roads and construction staging areas are being identified with a focus on minimizing physical and environmental impacts. We anticipate filing for all necessary permits for this project in 2024.

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Land Use

Impact to land use, including natural areas, regulated areas and private conservation easements, will be minimized with the use of existing ROW. Temporary rights such as access roads and construction staging areas will avoid sensitive land use areas, where practicable. If unavoidable, JCP&L will work with the appropriate state agencies and local townships to address and mitigate impact.

Tree Rights

While the transmission lines are within JCP&L's existing right-of-way, the company may require priority tree rights for the project. Priority trees are those that are dead, dying, diseased or structurally defective, or those that lean toward or encroach on JCP&L's transmission facilities and could cause damage if they grew into or fell on the transmission lines and structures. These rights will be sought from owners of property adjacent to the transmission line as necessary.

Construction

As part of this project, the existing lattice towers and wires will be removed and replaced with new steel monopoles, wire and hardware within the existing right-of-way. Steel poles are often used for high-voltage transmission lines and are durable, reliable and environmentally friendly.

Crews will perform vegetation maintenance and clearing where needed within the existing ROW to accommodate the new facilities in accordance with existing easement and property rights.

Residents will see JCP&L and/or their contractors performing a variety of activities within the right-of-way to facilitate construction efforts. Field representatives will be in contact with property owners to discuss any temporary access rights needed to support construction.

Preliminary Project Timeline

Construction start..... August 2025

Project complete and placed in service .....May 2027

Contact

Please visit the project website for additional information or reach out to our dedicated hotline with questions.

- Website: firstenergycorp.com/NJCEC
- Hotline: 844-206-2033

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