



NORTHERN PORTAGE RELIABILITY PROJECT – 69-KV ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE CONSTRUCTION

New 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to enhance service reliability for Ohio Edison customers and accommodate continued economic development in Summit and Portage counties.

American Transmission Systems, Incorporated (ATSI), a FirstEnergy company, is building a new 69-kilovolt transmission line to strengthen the local electric system in Aurora and surrounding areas.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

More than 9,700 customers in the Aurora area are served by a single 69-kilovolt transmission line. If service to the line is disrupted, there is the potential for a lengthy outage because no alternate power sources are available. Sustained outages in both June and November of 2017 demonstrate the need for new electricity transmission infrastructure to support reliable electric service.

The new line will improve reliability and resiliency, adding much-needed redundancy and operational flexibility for serving customers. The new line also will provide additional voltage support and help accommodate future growth and economic development.



PROJECT SITING

FirstEnergy engineers have studied multiple route alternatives to determine the best location for the new transmission line and have shared routing options at a public open house in January 2019. The route the Northern Portage Reliability Project line utilizes is an abandoned railway corridor that has been inactive for decades. FirstEnergy has acquired this land from Norfolk Southern Railroad.

This route minimizes the impact on the community and the environment when compared to all other reasonable alternatives. It also accommodates future recreational projects, similar to the Summit Metroparks Bike & Hike Trail pictured at left along a transmission line in Hudson.

FirstEnergy also is in discussions with Aurora leadership about the feasibility of placing the line underground.

continued



CONSTRUCTION

The new line will use single wood and “wood-look” steel poles with an average height of about 60 feet placed within the existing rail corridor (identical to the pole shown to the left). The existing trees and vegetation along the wide rail corridor would provide a substantial visual barrier between the new line and nearby homes and businesses.

TIMELINE

- Engineering & Design Work February 2019
- Permitting March 2019 – December 2020
- Vegetation Management January 2021 – March 2021
- Construction Begins March 2021
- Line Energized August 2021

ABOUT ENERGIZING THE FUTURE

Through *Energizing the Future*, FirstEnergy is upgrading and strengthening the transmission grid to meet the existing and future needs of our customers and communities. Projects are focused on upgrading or replacing aging equipment to harden our transmission infrastructure, reduce outages and cut maintenance costs; enhancing performance by building a smarter, more secure transmission system; and adding flexibility by building in redundancy and allowing system operators to more swiftly react to changing grid conditions.

For more information, visit firstenergycorp.com/transmission.

