



MONMOUTH COUNTY RELIABILITY PROJECT

JCP&L's Proposal to Modernize Electrical Systems and Upgrade Transmission Lines in Monmouth County, NJ

The proposed Monmouth County Reliability Project (MCRP) is a new 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, substation enhancement and modern technology upgrade that will result in a stronger and more modern electrical system. The project is necessary to deliver reliable electrical service to nearly 214,000 JCP&L customers in Monmouth County, including those living in Aberdeen, Hazlet, Holmdel, Middletown, Red Bank, and all or portions of 40 other municipalities. JCP&L filed a formal project petition with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) on August 9, 2016.

PROJECT NEED

Transmission lines serve as major arteries on the electric system, carrying large amounts of electricity and feeding it onto the local power lines in your community. Monmouth County is currently served by two 230-kV transmission lines located on a common set of poles. In the event that electrical service is disrupted on both of those lines, 214,000 customers county-wide could lose electricity for up to several days. Significant power outages of this kind have already occurred due to unforeseeable equipment issues in 2008 and 2010.

Both JCP&L and PJM, the regional grid operator, have determined that this system design violates mandatory reliability criteria required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Failure to meet these requirements presents an unacceptable service reliability risk to customers in the area. JCP&L and PJM have concluded that construction of a third, separately-located line is necessary to prevent additional large-scale outages and provide JCP&L customers with dependable electricity service.

The electrical need for this project is outlined in detail in JCP&L's [petition to the Board of Public Utilities \(BPU\)](#). Specifically, please see exhibit JC-8, which contains the testimony of Lawrence Hozempa, Manager, Transmission Planning in the Energy Delivery Planning and Protection at FirstEnergy.

Continued on back



Project Location:
Monmouth County, NJ

ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS (EMFs)

This project is safe and meets all applicable guidelines for electric and magnetic fields (EMFs). EMFs are invisible energy waves associated with appliances and electronics such as microwaves, televisions and cell phones. The overall conclusion reached by national and international scientific and health agencies makes clear that exposures to EMF that people encounter in their daily life, including those from transmission lines like the one considered here, do not pose any recognized health risks.

The proposed levels of magnetic fields from the transmission line along the right-of-way are similar to levels associated with wood pole distribution lines that have existed throughout the country for nearly one hundred years, as well as levels found in homes, businesses, and schools near electrical wiring and appliances.

As part of JCP&L's BPU filing for this project, the company submitted a comprehensive analysis of the existing and proposed EMF levels along the project corridor. That analysis, along with the expert testimony of Kyle King, president of K&R Consulting and former director of the Electric Power Research Institute's High Voltage Research and Test Center, is available in [exhibit JC-12 of JCP&L's BPU petition](#).

PROPERTY VALUES

An independent real estate expert has found that the project will not affect area property values because they have already been impacted by the presence of the active rail line. As part of the analysis, the appraiser conducted a comprehensive review of studies on the potential impact to market values of properties adjacent to high voltage transmission lines.

For more information on the property values analysis, please review the testimony of real estate expert Jerome McHale, found in [exhibit JC-11 of JCP&L's BPU petition](#).

ROUTE SELECTION

To ensure JCP&L chose the best possible route for the new transmission line, we considered 17 alternatives, including roads such as Route 35 and the Garden State Parkway, as well as other transmission rights-of-way. The proposed route was chosen because it uses existing land already designated for public use and minimizes social, environmental and financial impacts on the community.

While we understand there is interest in building the project underground, there are many significant obstacles to burying a 230-kV transmission line. Placing the line underground along the proposed route would be impossible because of the proximity to the railroad and its underground equipment. On any other route, burying a 230-kV transmission line would require a digging a large trench, resulting in extensive traffic disruptions across multiple communities, substantial environmental considerations, and costs of at least \$500 million, which would have to be reflected in customer bills.

The complete Routing Study is available for review in the BPU testimony of Peter Spearkawk, an expert in transmission siting. The information can be found in [exhibit JC-7 of JCP&L's BPU petition](#).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FirstEnergy is committed to keeping the public informed about the project and has provided timely information through a series of open house events, social media outreach, an informational hotline and a dedicated website. We continue to share information, provide updates and answer questions from the community at: www.monmouthreliability.com. Interested stakeholders can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

