

Note:
This summary was last updated on
October 14, 2020
For current information, follow this link:
[PSC Docket Case #9642](#)

BGE Bush River Crossing Project Edgewood to Perryman (Harford County)

PSC Case Number 9642
PPRP Manager: Fred Kelley

Note:
This summary is based on information
provided in the CPCN Application
dated **April 17, 2020** which is subject
to change and has not yet been fully
reviewed by PPRP

CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on April 17, 2020
Pre-Hearing Conference: May 13, 2020
Staff, OPC, and PPRP File Direct Testimony: December 15, 2020
Rebuttal Testimony Due: January 29, 2021
Public Hearing Date: February 9, 2021
PSC Evidentiary Hearing: March 26, 2021

Project Location:

The Project is located approximately two miles southeast of Abingdon. The Project area extends across the Bush River, from Gum Point on the western bank to a location along the eastern bank that is approximately one-half mile southwest of the Perryman Power Station. [Google Map Link](#)

Project Overview:

Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) filed for a CPCN for the Bush River Crossing Project to replace a 1.3-mile long portion of an existing 115kV aboveground electric transmission line that runs from Edgewood to Perryman in Harford County. The existing transmission line was constructed in 1951, with significant repairs made to three lattice towers carrying the transmission line in 1991. At the time of the 1991 repairs, it was estimated that the remaining lifespan of the structures was 25 years (i.e., to 2016). BGE's plans call for new overhead lines to be put into service during the second quarter of 2022.

Project components include:

- Replacement of seven transmission towers with nine galvanized steel monopoles at heights ranging from 235 to 255 feet (i.e., 125 to 145 feet above the existing tower heights) to minimize interactions with sailboats;
- Use of cone-shaped pole caps on monopoles and installation of anti-collision devices on shield wires to improve avian safety and reduce the potential for future service outages;
- New easement agreements with Constellation (an Exelon Company) and the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground to allow a shift in the alignment to accommodate construction while the existing line remains in service; and
- Post-construction removal of the existing seven transmission towers and removal of foundations to at least 18 inches below grade (or 18 inches below the muck line in water).

Site Description

The site is approximately 1.3 miles in length and crosses the tidal estuary known as Bush River between Edgewood and Perryman, in Harford County. The project consists of a transmission line crossing of Bush River and land portions located along the shorelines of the river. The U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground is located on the western (Edgewood) side of Bush River, and Amtrak's Northeast Corridor rail line runs parallel several hundred feet to the north of the transmission right-of-way. The town of Abingdon lies approximately two miles northwest of the Project site.

Impact Assessment Highlights

Air Quality

- Earthwork activities at the two Project endpoints may generate fugitive dust.
- Operation of heavy equipment and watercraft will result in combustion by-product emissions.

Figure 1: Project Location



Biological

- Impacts to aquatic resources will primarily stem from sediment resuspension during pile installation in Bush River. The Application indicates that BGE anticipated filing a Wetlands and Waterways Joint Permit Application to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in April 2020.
- The Project will require permanent impacts to 0.03 acres of wetlands and 28 square feet of wetland buffers from the installation of the nine proposed monopoles, including the structure within Bush River.
- Tree clearing associated with the installation of new structures will result in approximately 1.6 acres of permanent wetland impacts. Proposed mitigation options for the permanent impacts to tidal and nontidal wetlands are currently in development by BGE.
- The Application indicates that permanent impacts to approximately 393 square feet of special flood hazard areas are anticipated from the installation of new structures.
- A May 2019 raptor survey identified a colony of cormorants and an osprey nest on existing structures that will require removal. The Application states that BGE plans to conduct a follow-up raptor nest survey prior to the start of construction to confirm what avian species may be impacted or what buffer requirements will need to be implemented during construction.
- The proposed Project includes the replacement of six structures within the Critical Area with eight structures (785 square feet of permanent impacts) within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. The Application indicates that BGE anticipated filing an application for the Project with the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission in April 2020.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Project is expected to create temporary construction jobs. Construction is expected to last approximately eight months.
- The Applicant estimates the capital cost of the Project to be approximately \$10.5 million.

Transportation

- The Application indicates that existing paths will be used on both the Edgewood and Perryman sides of the Project to access the structures.
- Amtrak's Northeast Corridor Line runs roughly parallel to the Project, located approximately 200 feet to the northwest.
- The Application indicates that the structure proposed to be constructed within the river will be set up either using a helicopter or a barge with crane.
- The Project is located approximately three nautical miles from an airfield and heliport at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Application indicates that BGE is coordinating with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the need for lights or markers on the proposed structures. At present, the FAA is not requiring lighting or markers on the proposed structures. However, BGE anticipates initiating follow-up coordination with the FAA to ensure compliance as the start of construction approaches.

Land Use

- The Application indicates that, to the extent possible, BGE will locate temporary construction access and staging areas on existing access and staging yards used for maintenance activities of the existing transmission line.
- The Project Right-of-Way (ROW) is located within the Harford County General Industrial zoning district, which is designated for industrial uses. The existing land use in the ROW will remain unchanged, and BGE has committed to ensuring that all acquired easements for the Project will comply with zoning requirements.

Cultural and Aesthetic

- The Application indicates that renderings of the proposed Project prepared by BGE indicate that it is unlikely the viewshed for nearby residences or populated vantage points will be impacted by the change in height, number, or type of structures.
- There are no properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within one mile of the Project site.
- The Application indicates that there are two nearby sites listed in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties: the Amtrak Railroad Bridge over the Bush River and the NIKE Missile Site Lauderick Creek at Aberdeen Proving Ground.
- The Application indicates that one archaeological site, an early 20th century summer cottage, and three discarded watercrafts which appear on mid-20th century nautical charts, were identified by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) in the vicinity of the proposed Project. However, MHT has indicated that none of these features exhibit the potential to contain significant archaeological deposits.