

Note:
This summary was last updated on
March 17, 2021
For current information, follow this link:
[PSC Docket Case #9658](#)

Five Forks to Windy Edge Transmission Reliability Project (Harford and Baltimore Counties) PSC Case Number 9658 PPRP Manager: Shawn Seaman

Note:
This summary is based on information
provided in the CPCN Application
dated **January 15, 2021**, which is
subject to change and has not yet
been fully reviewed by PPRP

CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application Filed: January 15, 2021
Pre-Hearing Conference: February 22, 2021
Public Hearing (1st): May 20, 2021
PPRP Files Direct Testimony: August 25, 2021
Rebuttal Testimony Due: September 24, 2021
Public Hearing (2nd): Week of September 27, 2021 (TBD)
Surrebuttal Testimony Due: October 22, 2021
PSC Evidentiary Hearing: November 18, 2021

Project Location:

The proposed project extends approximately 20.7 miles from the Five Forks Substation in Harford County ([Google Map Link](#)) to the Windy Edge Substation in Baltimore County ([Google Map Link](#)).

Project Overview:

Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE) filed an application with the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) on January 15, 2021 for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the Five Forks to Windy Edge Transmission Reliability Project. The proposed project seeks to replace an approximately 20.7-mile long portion of two existing 115kV aboveground electric transmission lines that run in a common right-of-way (ROW) from the Five Forks Substation in Harford County to the Windy Edge Substation in Baltimore County.

The existing transmission line tower structures were built in 1910 (east) and 1918 (west) and are now over 100 years old. The existing parallel single-circuit 115 kV lines were an upgrade made in the 1960s and this configuration no longer conforms to present engineering, design and reliability standards.

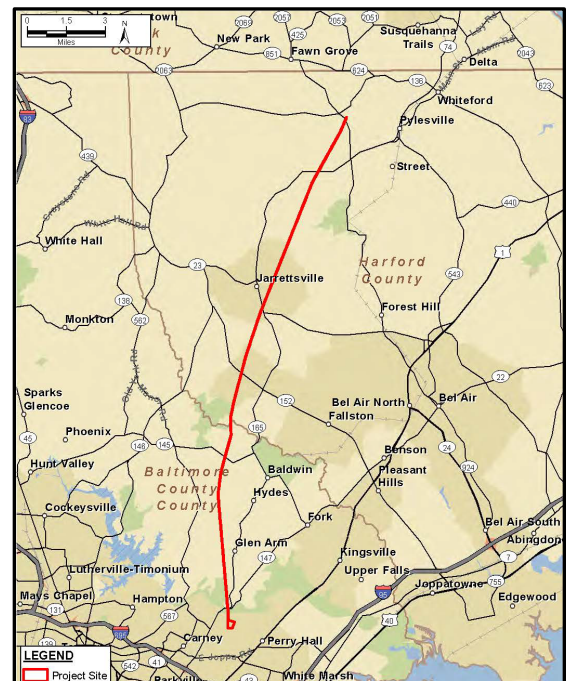
Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022 and the planned in-service date is December 31, 2025.

Major project components include:

- Removal of 419 existing tower structures and associated parallel single-circuit 115-kV transmission lines; and
- Installation of 219 new steel monopoles with new 115-kV double-circuit configuration

Site Description

With some exceptions, like the construction of access roads, all work will take place within the ROW, which is approximately 100 feet wide. Land uses along the ROW include forested and agricultural lands, low-density rural-residential properties, scattered small communities, and individual home properties. The northern portion of the Project (in Harford County) runs through lands that are designated Agricultural and Rural Residential. The southern portion of the Project (in Baltimore County) is designated as Rural, Rural Residential, Natural, and General Urban.



Impact Assessment Highlights

Biological

- The ROW crosses:
 - streams, wetlands, and a portion of Little Gunpowder Falls State Park;
 - two Tier II segments, four Tier II catchments and the Deer Creek Scenic River; and
 - sensitive species project review areas (SSPRAs), green infrastructure hubs and corridors
- No new structures or removal of existing structures within streams.
- Nine existing structures and four proposed in wetlands (all classified as bog turtle habitat).
- Two existing structures will be removed from wetland buffers.
 - one of these structures is in a buffer that is also classified as bog turtle habitat.
- Several existing structures will be removed and new structures will be located within bog turtle conservation areas that are not located within wetlands or wetland buffers (number of structures still TBD).
- Bog turtle habitat was identified in wetlands throughout the ROW and there are existing structures and proposed structures in some of these areas. The Applicant has proposed protective measures.
- Vegetation clearing within the ROW will be required as part of this reliability project, but the majority of the clearing will be in areas that are currently maintained on a periodic basis.
- Additional vegetation clearing will occur for the construction of access roads and to facilitate the installation of sediment and erosion controls.
- Invasive plant species were identified within and adjacent to the ROW.
- The ROW crosses areas where the invasive insect pests Emerald Ash Borer and Spotted Lanternfly are known to be active.
- Some access roads already exist, but others will need to be constructed and some will become permanent.

Economic and Fiscal

- The Project will create temporary construction jobs for approximately 3.5 years.
- Estimated capital cost of the Project is approximately \$116.7 million.

Transportation

- The ROW crosses multiple roads.
- Some increased traffic volumes will occur during construction.

Land Use

- The Project will have minimal impact to land use because it will be constructed within the existing ROW.

Cultural and Aesthetic

- The Project will have “no adverse effect on historic properties.”
- The closest Maryland Heritage Area to the Project is the Lower Susquehanna River Heritage Area.

Air Quality

- Earthwork activities may generate fugitive dust.
- Operation of heavy equipment will result in combustion by-product emissions.

Visual

- The height of the existing structures averages 63 feet. The proposed monopole structures will have an increased height, ranging from 80-140 feet, with an average of 100 feet.

Noise

- There will be some temporary noise and traffic impacts typical of construction projects.