

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE PROJECTS

N12/M13 Transmission Line Upgrade Project

FAQ

Project Overview

**Q: What is the N12/M13 Double Circuit Tower Separation Project?**

**A:** The N12/M13 DCT Separation Project is a proposed reliability project to separate two transmission lines currently carried on one set of transmission structures, placing each line onto its own set of structures. Separating the lines will reduce the chances of an outage affecting both lines. The wires will also be upgraded to support additional electric current. The 1.8-mile segment of overhead power lines to be reconstructed begins on the west shore of the Taunton River in Somerset (Riverside Avenue at Pottersville Switching Station), crosses the river to Fall River, and continues east in an existing transmission corridor to the Sykes Road Substation. The existing red and white river crossing towers – one in Somerset and one in Fall River - will stay in place for the N12 line. Next to each of those a Y-frame structure will be installed for the M13 line. In most of the remaining right-of-way, each existing green lattice structure will be replaced with two steel monopoles. One set of monopoles will support the N12 line, and one set will carry the M13 line.

**Q: What will the new transmission lines look like?**

**A:** Two Y-frame structures will be placed by the existing red and white river crossing towers – one in Somerset and one in Fall River. In most of the remaining right-of-way, each existing green lattice structure will be replaced with two steel monopoles. Please refer to project simulations located on the project [website](#) to view simulations of the new transmission lines.

**Q: What will happen to the old transmission structures?**

**A:** The existing red and white river crossing towers – one in Somerset and one in Fall River - will stay in place. Next to each of those a Y-frame structure will be installed. In most of the remaining right-of-way, each existing green lattice structure will be removed and replaced with two steel monopoles.

**Q: Why is this Project necessary?**

**A:** This project is one of a number of projects approved by the Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-New England) to improve transmission system reliability in Southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island (SEMA-RI). To address the need for improved reliability, National Grid is investing in the electrical infrastructure in the greater Somerset and Fall River region through new construction and upgrades of substation and transmission lines.

**Q: What is the expected timeline for completion?**

**A:** Pending regulatory approvals, construction would begin in 2026, and the project would be placed in service in 2027. The project will undergo a rigorous approval process with the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, as well as other federal, state, and local agencies.

**Q: Where is this Transmission Line?**

**A:** The 1.85-mile segment of overhead power lines to be separated begins on the west shore of the Taunton River in Somerset (Riverside Avenue at Pottersville Switching Station), crosses the river to Fall River, and continues east in an existing transmission corridor to the Sykes Road Substation. To view this on the map click this [link](#).

## Construction and New Structures

**Q: How much taller will the new structures be compared to what already exist?**

**A:** Other than the structures being added adjacent the Taunton River, the new monopole structures will be approximately 5-10 feet taller than what currently exist. Please be aware that the terrain at the base of the structure may not be perfectly level; therefore the new structures may appear to be slightly taller or shorter than the current structure due to their positioning on the slope. The reasoning behind the slight increase in structure heights is due to the change in configuration of the structure.

**Q: What type of equipment will I see from my home?**

**A:** For the installation of new structures there will be large construction equipment near and around the base of where the structure will be. Equipment will include concrete trucks, excavators, cranes, and dozers. This equipment will only be visible for a temporary period of time. To install the transmission line (wire) a tall crane will be used. More information on the equipment and stage of construction may be seen on the Project specific [video](#).

**Q: How long does it take to install a new structure?**

**A:** Depending on the subsurface material, each structure will take just under a month to be set and installed. Workers will first excavate and set the base of the structure, which will take two to three weeks, and then install the structure itself on the base using a crane. Installing a single structure will take a few days to a week to occur. Once all structures are in

place on the line the transmission wire will be pulled between each structure. Wire-pulling is expected to take several weeks.

## Customer Benefits/Impacts

**Q: Who will benefit from the N12/M13 DCT Separation Project?**

**A:** This Project will help strengthen Southeastern Massachusetts's electric system and will maintain the electric reliability in this area. The N12/M13 Transmission Line Upgrade Project will also result in additional tax revenue to the City of Fall River and the Town of Somerset beginning the first year after the transmission lines are in service.

**Q: What can I expect for road closures?**

**A:** We anticipate some traffic impact along the route. Traffic management plans will be instituted to ensure minimal disruptions. We will communicate any traffic disruptions via our project website ([link to the website](#)).

**Q: Will this project cause any power outages or disruptions?**

**A:** No customer power outages or disruptions are anticipated in relation to this project. Customers may experience power outages resulting from storms or other weather events, this would be an event unrelated to construction of the project.

## Environment

**Q: What type of vegetation clearing will occur to construction this new transmission line?**

**A:** Minor vegetation maintenance will need to occur within the Transmission Line right-of-way. Mowing of shrubs and herbaceous vegetation will be temporary to facilitate access and construction. Stumps, roots and seed stock will remain intact and be allowed to re-establish to provide soil stabilization. Stumps located where structures or work pads are proposed may need to be removed. If required, a mitigation plan using native species could be implemented to supplement the revegetation of plants along the affected edge of the right-of-way.

**Q: What is the environmental impact of the project?**

**A:** Environmental impacts from the project will be minor. Some tree removals will be necessary. Mowing access and work pads within the transmission line corridor will be necessary to facilitate access to the structures and will be temporary. There are no anticipated impacts to the Taunton River from activities pertaining to the design, construction, and operation of the Project. National Grid and its contractors will implement best management practices and protection measures during the construction-phase of the Project.

Additionally, National Grid has taken steps to promote climate change adaptation and resiliency in the design of the Project. The Project will result in a more climate-ready and

resilient transmission system that can (1) withstand more extreme weather events; (2) address existing system capacity shortages and increased demand; and (3) support future interconnections from renewable energy projects and offshore wind. In addition, National Grid's preferred solution uses substantial portions of existing Right-of-way, thereby minimizing alteration of new land resources to construct the Project.

**Q: Does National Grid participate in any programs to help the environment?**

**A:** National Grid works closely with federal and state agencies, environmental organizations, local communities, and other interested parties to maximize environmental protection in our operations. Please visit the [environmental section](#) on [NationalGridUS.com](http://NationalGridUS.com) for more information on how National Grid is committed to both protecting and enhancing the environment.

**Q: What impact will this have on endangered species habitat?**

**A:** No endangered species are found within the Project route. This has been confirmed with the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program. There will not be any impacts to endangered species

## **Project Communications & Outreach**

**Q: How can I stay updated on project progress?**

**A:** Our Project team is committed to ensuring that community members in Somerset and Fall River are kept up to date with the latest Project information. We have established a Project-specific webpage at [www.southcoastreliabilityprojects.com](http://www.southcoastreliabilityprojects.com) and community members can contact Project staff directly through our toll-free hotline number 1-833-233-7277 or via email at [info@southcoastreliabilityprojects.com](mailto:info@southcoastreliabilityprojects.com).

**Q: Will there be any community meetings on the project?**

**A:** Yes. We are fully committed to providing the community with the opportunity to see the plans and comment on them. Our team hosted virtual Project Open Houses on June 21, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 PM and on July 14, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 PM. Oversized post card invitations were sent via mail with details and advertisements in local newspapers also shared details. The project team will conduct another Open House before construction.

**Q: Who should I contact with questions while construction is under way?**

**A:** You can contact us in a number of ways:

- Call us on our 24/7 hotline number at 1-833-233-7277
- Email us at [info@southcoastreliabilityprojects.com](mailto:info@southcoastreliabilityprojects.com).

## General National Grid Information

**Q: How can I report a power outage?**

**A:** You can report an outage by visiting the Report an Outage page on [NationalGridUS.com](http://NationalGridUS.com) or by downloading the smart phone app. You can also call 800-465-1212.

**Q: Where can I pay my bill?**

**A:** For information about bills and payment options please visit the Bills and Payments page on [NationalGridUS.com](http://NationalGridUS.com).