

The Interstate Reliability Project Massachusetts Updates



Project Update Week of June 5, 2016

In This Issue

[RESTORATION WORK
OVERVIEW](#)

[OUR CONTINUED
COMMITMENT TO YOU](#)

[Project Information for the Communities of Millbury, Sutton, Northbridge, Uxbridge, and Millville, Massachusetts.](#)

Restoration Work Overview

The above photo shows regrowth of a work pad off Quaker Street in Millville.

National Grid's onsite crews are performing restoration work along the Interstate Reliability Project right-of-way. Restoration is required not only to comply with all federal, state, and local permits and approvals, but also as part of National Grid's operating procedures for transmission line construction. In addition, final restoration preserves the improvements made to access roads and work pads during this project. Proper soil and ground stabilization will protect the right-of-way and facilities from future damage due to erosion.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING AND AFTER RESTORATION

The goal of restoration is to ensure that areas impacted by project construction are returned to pre-construction conditions. However, access roads and stonework pads will in most cases remain in place. Work pads will be stabilized with a seed mixture that most closely matches pre-existing conditions (conservation seed mix, pasture seed, etc.). In wetland and river buffers, roads will be narrowed to their permitted 20-foot travel width. In certain sensitive areas, they will be further narrowed to 16-feet.

- In general, work areas located beyond the footprint of approved roads and pads will be returned to pre- construction conditions. This includes grading, site preparation and installing vegetative cover, as well as restoring rock walls, gates, agricultural fields, and other natural features.



Restoration of a wetland structure in Sutton after seeding with a wetland conservation mix.

- In wetlands, pre-construction grades must be restored to the maximum extent possible and all "fill," such as swamp mats, removed except for where previously permitted. Seeding and mulching of wetlands may be required using an approved wetland seed mix and a light cover of straw.



The above photo shows Industrial Drive along the Blackstone River in Uxbridge. The sediment controls are still in place because 70% vegetative growth has not yet been achieved.

- Sediment controls, including silt fence and wattles, must remain functional until disturbed areas have been stabilized with at least 70% vegetative cover. Sediment controls will be removed upon 70% vegetative cover and local Conservation Commission approval.



Example of a wildlife enhancement area in Sutton. A variety of native shrubs were planted in this area and trees were topped off and left as snags to provide for wildlife perching and nesting habitat.

- Wildlife Enhancement Areas are being created during the restoration phase of the project. There are ten Wildlife Enhancement Areas located along the 366 line from Millbury to Millville. In general, the creation of Wildlife Enhancement Areas involves the placement of wood and brush piles, loaming and seeding with a conservation/wildlife seed mix and native shrub plantings.
- Two wetland replication areas have been planned within the project right-of-way as a result of permitted concrete foundations in wetlands. National Grid received permission from both the Sutton and Uxbridge Conservation Commissions to complete the proposed replication areas.
- Five compensatory flood storage areas will be constructed during the restoration phase of the Interstate Reliability Project as a result of project impacts to the 100-year floodplain. These compensatory flood storage areas are located in the towns of Millbury, Uxbridge and Millville.



Restoration was completed at this structure in Millville at the end of April. Grass is starting to grow.

All restoration areas will be monitored during and post restoration activities to ensure compliance with all federal, state, and local permits and approvals, and National Grid operating procedures for

RESTORATION ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TO DATE

- **Millbury:** Most restoration activities have been completed. The environmental team continues to monitor the wildlife enhancement plantings. Sediment controls have been removed throughout project areas in Millbury where 70% or greater grass growth has been established.
- **Sutton:** Restoration activities, including the wetland replication area near Route 146, have been completed south of Mendon Road. Sediment controls have been removed along portions of the project area between Route 122A and Purgatory Road where vegetative growth has achieved 70%. The environmental team continues to monitor wildlife enhancement plantings throughout Sutton. Enhancement of rare species habitat, including the seeding of work pads with approved wildflower mixes have been completed in Sutton. Project related and non-project related debris, such as discarded tires and furniture, has been removed from the right of way.
- **Uxbridge:** Restoration activities within Uxbridge are ongoing. Most restoration activities were completed during Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. The environmental team continues to monitor these areas for proper stabilization, including vegetative growth. Enhancement of rare species habitat, including the seeding of work pads with approved wildflower mixes and the creation of nesting habitat have been completed in Uxbridge. Project related and non-project related debris has been removed from the right of way.
- **Millville:** Restoration activities within Millville have been completed. The environmental team will be monitoring these areas for proper stabilization, including vegetative growth

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