

nationalgrid

# The Interstate Reliability Project Massachusetts Updates



**Project Update No. 13      November 14, 2014**

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You may also visit us at [www.interstatereliabilityproject.com](http://www.interstatereliabilityproject.com) or on [Facebook](#) or call us at (800) 506-0815.

Project information for the communities of Millbury, Sutton, Northbridge, Uxbridge and Millville, Massachusetts

## **Current and Future Activity**

### **Weeks of November 17 and November 24, 2014**

*The above photo shows a view of the preparations being made for wire and cable pulling just outside the Millbury #3 Substation. The photo below shows the type of equipment used to operate the cable reels for the cable pulling activity.*



### **STRUCTURE INSTALLATION AND CABLE PULLING**

The installation of structures for the new line has been completed along the route from the Millbury #3 Substation across the Blackstone River, crossing Providence Street (Route 122A) and continuing towards the Sutton town line. Cable pulling activity is underway at the completed structures.

### **TREE CLEARING IN MASSACHUSETTS**

Tree clearing for the Massachusetts portion of the Interstate Reliability Project has now been essentially completed with the exception of a few areas where environmental restrictions have limited the work. The work at these sites is scheduled to be finished by the end of November.

### **CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AND LOOK AHEAD**

A half-dozen drilling crews will continue to prepare the structure sites for the foundation crews at various sites along the route of the transmission corridor.

Some structure installation activity will occur in the right-of-way behind Heritage Road, Atlas Box, Boston Road, Central Pike and Smith Road, all the way to the intersection of Route 146.

Foundation crews will be in the areas of Smith Road, Mendon Road, Lackey Pond, West Hartford, High Street, Central Pike, Landry Lane and Richardson Street.

Drilling continues at various points from the Millbury #3 Switching Station to the Rhode Island border.



*The above photo shows a drill rig crew working on a foundation hole off Stone School Road in Sutton. One of the safety precautions at the drill site requires that anyone within six feet of the edge of the foundation hole wear a safety harness, as can be seen on the worker in the photo above.*



*The above photo serves as a stark reminder of why the safety harness rule is in place at all of the drilling sites. This photo, shot off Stone School Road in Sutton, shows a typical foundation hole which can be up to 10 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep. All holes are securely covered with heavy swamp mats when unattended until the structure is set into place.*

Work is underway at the Millbury #3 Switching Station, located off Cross Street in Millbury. National Grid's contractor is performing various equipment upgrades and additions within the existing fence line of the

station. This work will continue over the coming months. On occasion, due to electric system constraints, it will be necessary to perform some of this work on Saturdays and Sundays.



*The above photo shows continuing construction at the Millbury #3 Substation. Works continues at a steady pace to build the infrastructure needed to accommodate the new transmission line.*

## Environmental Considerations

Throughout the planning and design process of the Project, wetland and water resource impacts were minimized to the extent practicable by aligning the new transmission lines along existing rights-of-way, using existing access roads and avoiding the placement of structures, construction work pads and access roads in wetlands and water resources where practicable.

To compensate for unavoidable impacts, National Grid committed to several enhancement activities including leaving felled trees and snags to allow them to decompose in place rather than to disturb soft organic substrates. A snag is a standing, dead or dying tree which is typically missing its top or most of the smaller branches.

Snags provide a number of benefits, including:

- Important forest structure
- Habitat for cavity nesters
- Feeding habitat for insectivorous species
- Perches for hunting raptors in open areas

National Grid has created over 135 snags along the project right-of-way between Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

## Hunting Season and the Safety of Our Workers

During the hunting seasons in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, we ask hunters to refrain from hunting on and around the Interstate Reliability Project rights-of-way and access corridors. The Project areas are active work zones for well over 100 workers through 2015.

**The safety of our workers is paramount, and we ask for your cooperation and consideration as you make your hunting plans.**

## Public Safety

**To ensure public safety during construction of this project, access to the right-of-way will be restricted to National Grid, its contractors and authorized personnel only. Unauthorized use of the right-of-way is prohibited at all times.**

- **All National Grid employees will have IDs and subcontractors will have contractor cards and IDs**
- **Signs and traffic controls will be in place to minimize any disruption and to protect public safety**
- **Please keep well away from active work areas and equipment**
- **If you have questions, please call (800) 506-0815**

## Our Continued Commitment To You

We continue to meet with abutters along the right-of-way. If you would like to meet with one of our stakeholder relations field representatives, please email or call us. You may also visit us at [www.interstatereliabilityproject.com](http://www.interstatereliabilityproject.com) or on [Facebook](#)



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