

nationalgrid

The Interstate Reliability Project Massachusetts Updates



Project Update No. 15 December 12, 2014

In This Issue

[CURRENT & FUTURE ACTIVITY](#)

[PUBLIC SAFETY](#)

[OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO YOU](#)

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

Current and Future Activity

Weeks of December 15 and December 22, 2014

The above photo shows a drill rig at work off Stone School Road in Sutton. There are several drill rig crews operating at different sites along the transmission corridor.

FOUNDATION DRILLING ACTIVITY

Foundation drilling activity will be underway over next few weeks in Uxbridge along the right-of-way near Lackey Pond, Williams Street, West Hartford Avenue, Taft Hill Road, High Street, Landry Lane, Mill Street, Richardson Street and Quaker Highway.

REMOVAL OF OLD STEEL LATTICE TOWERS

The removal of a total of 114 old steel lattice towers is continuing at a steady pace. To date, 83 of the old towers have been taken down.

WIRE INSTALLATION

Transmission wire has been installed almost to the Millbury/Sutton town line and will continue south towards Boston Road.



The above photo shows a view of the wire work underway crossing Providence Street (Route 122A) in Millbury. The temporary guard structure (in the foreground) protects the wires below and cars and pedestrians on the adjacent road. These guard structures are placed as safety measures in advance of pulling wire across intersecting roads and are removed once the wires are in place.

STRUCTURE INSTALLATION

Structure installation will take place in Sutton over the next two weeks at the Lackey Dam Road corridor crossroad and the section of right-of-way from Route 146 to Purgatory Road.

THE DORMANT SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND



In New England, muddy conditions can occur during the winter dormant season, as well in late winter and early spring when the snow melts. Uptake of water by plants and trees (transpiration) has a large impact on available water in the soil. As a result, soils are generally wetter longer following rain events during winter months, even in upland areas.

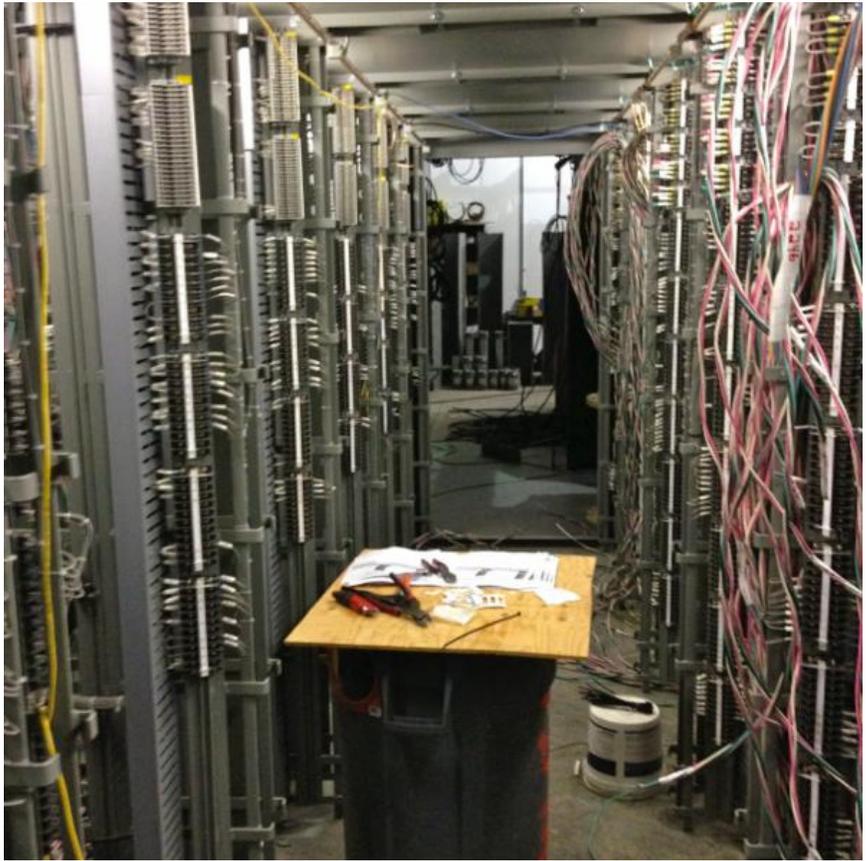
Before any road construction in the transmission right of way, contractors install stabilized construction access aprons on paved roads to minimize tracking from muddy tires onto public roads. (*See photograph above of tracking apron.*) While some tracking is inevitable, crushed stone access aprons reduce tracking by scrubbing off mud as trucks drive across them. The construction access aprons sometimes need to be refurbished as heavy soil tracking can reduce their effectiveness.

Swamp mats, which are generally comprised of 8 inch by 8 inch timbers bolted together to produce 4 foot by 16 foot panels, are commonly used to provide access to structures in or across wetlands. These mats reduce impacts to saturated wetland soils from heavy equipment. During the mud season and muddy conditions at other times of year, soils in upland areas may also be saturated. The use of swamp mats is at times preferable to gravel, e.g., in agricultural fields where the spreading of gravel would reduce crop yields. (*See photograph below of mats protecting an agriculture field.*)



MILLBURY SUBSTATION CONSTRUCTION

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, which 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 wiring underway inside the control room at the Millbury #3 Substation. Extensive work is required at the substation in preparation for the completion of the new 345-kV transmission line.

HOLIDAY WORK SCHEDULES

The foundation drilling and structure and wire installation crews will not be working during the two-week period from December 21 to January 4. However, some tree clearing and road construction will occur during this period to complete previously delayed work.

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 or on [Facebook](#).



Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season from the Interstate Reliability Project Stakeholder Relations Team.

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