

BRISTOL - DELAVAN VOLTAGE CONVERSION UPGRADE



The existing 1.5-mile transmission line through the City of Delavan between the Bristol Substation at 6396 Mound Rd. and the Delavan Substation at 602 E. Wisconsin St. will be upgraded from 69 kilovolts to 138 kilovolts. This work is part of a larger, multi-year, multi-phase project to reinforce the transmission system through Rock and Walworth counties in order to ensure reliable electricity for the growing communities throughout the counties.

Why does this portion need to be converted to 138 kV?

Although the existing line does not extend to another substation from the Delavan Substation and today serves only a limited number of homes and businesses, the Bristol Substation will ultimately be a critical 138-kilovolt connection to Darien and Elkhorn and beyond. Because the Bristol Substation is small and cannot be expanded to accommodate both 69-kV and 138-kV equipment, it will house only 138-kV equipment. Therefore, any transmission lines entering or leaving the substation, including the line to the Delavan Substation, must operate at 138 kV.

What is the benefit of a 138-kV system?

It is common for electric systems in growing communities—like those in Rock and Walworth counties—to be upgraded to higher voltages to accommodate the increased electrical usage. The existing 69 kV system can no longer adequately meet the demand for power usage in the area without compromising reliability. A 138-kV system allows the local distribution utilities some flexibility in adding new homes and businesses to their systems, which translates to improved reliability and less risk of power interruptions.

What work will be done through town to convert the line to 138 kV?

We will be replacing the existing wood poles with new ones and moving the existing conductors (wires) to the new wood poles. We have selected a pole design that will place all of the wires on the south side of the poles toward the railroad tracks in order to minimize the width of the easement required of landowners north of the line.



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How much easement will be needed by landowners?

Because the existing easements are very old and don't apply to 138-kV facilities, we are negotiating new easements for all impacted landowners that will extend 24 feet north from the railroad/landowner property line. A real estate representative will meet with affected property owners to explain the entire easement acquisition process and negotiate compensation based on fair market value.

Will trees be removed within the easement?

Trees represent a risk to safety and reliability, and in recent years, the federal government has directed utilities to take a more aggressive approach to keeping rights-of-way clear of vegetation that could threaten reliability. It is our policy to remove all vegetation and trees within the easement that are 15 feet or taller, or have the potential to grow to 15 feet or taller. The area directly below the wires and around the poles will be completely cleared of all vegetation regardless of size. The removal of trees and vegetation will be discussed prior to the beginning of construction.

What about sheds, swing sets and other items located in the easement?

Although we discourage the placement of anything in the easement, items that do not have the potential to interfere with the operation of the transmission line are usually not a concern. In situations where a pole or line needs to be accessed, these items may be removed under the terms of the easement. Our real estate representatives will discuss these situations with property owners on a case-by-case basis.

What kind of equipment will be used to replace the poles?

Typical transmission line construction equipment and vehicles will be used on this project. This includes line and bucket trucks, light-duty cranes, tracked backhoes and pressure diggers.

Will you be driving vehicles on to my property?

We intend to access the right-of-way from roadways or other public access points.

When will the work begin and end?

With easement negotiation taking place during fall 2008 and into early 2009, we plan to schedule tree clearing and transmission line construction beginning in spring 2009. We expect to complete the construction work by summer 2009.

If there is damage to my property from the construction activities, will ATC clean it up?

Yes. Following construction, we will work with property owners to perform any necessary restoration work that may be needed as a result of construction.



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