

PPL Electric Utilities to Improve Electric Service in Northeast Pennsylvania, Poconos

Six-Year Project Will Make Electric Delivery System More Reliable for 250,000 People

PPL Electric Utilities

A six-year project to improve electric service for homes and businesses in northeast Pennsylvania and the Pocono Mountains was announced Wednesday (2/9) by PPL Electric Utilities.

"Existing electrical facilities in the area are no longer adequate to serve customer needs," said Gregory N. Dudkin, senior vice president of operations for PPL Electric Utilities. "By making these improvements, we will ensure that people living and working in the region have a safe and reliable supply of power long into the future."

The project also will make electric service more reliable by reducing the number of power outages experienced by customers, and by reducing the duration of outages caused by falling trees or severe weather.

The project also is needed because of growth in the demand for electricity. Electricity use in the region has been increasing for decades, as new homes were built and existing homes used more electronic devices and appliances. This growth slowed slightly during the recent economic recession, and is likely to be partially offset by energy-saving measures being promoted by PPL Electric Utilities. But overall, demand in the region is expected to continue to increase.

The project will take place in parts of Lackawanna, Monroe, Wayne, Pike and Luzerne counties. It is part of more than \$3 billion in infrastructure improvements planned by PPL Electric Utilities to benefit customers throughout its 29-county service territory.

The largest part of the project will be the construction of about 60 miles of new 230-kilovolt power line from the Wilkes-Barre area to an area west of Hawley, Wayne County. Three new electrical substations will be built to serve customers along this line.

Also as part of the project, PPL will rebuild about 20 miles of an existing 69-kilovolt power line that runs from the Peckville area in Lackawanna County to Honesdale in Wayne County.

The location of the new 230-kilovolt power line has not yet been determined. Potential routes will be selected only after PPL Electric Utilities does a detailed study of the region and seeks public comment. Based on public input and other factors, PPL Electric Utilities will choose a preferred route and submit it to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for approval.

"As always, we will be working very hard to involve the public in this project and to consider input – where practical – to pick the proposed locations," Dudkin said. "As with all projects of this type, we are very focused on reducing, to the extent possible, impacts on people and the environment."

PPL Electric Utilities has scheduled four public open houses throughout the project area to start the process of getting public input on where the new facilities should be located. The open houses have no set agenda and no formal presentation, so people may attend anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to get more details about the project and talk with various PPL Electric Utilities experts. Open houses will be held:

Monday, March 7

Western Wayne Middle School
1970B Easton Turnpike, Lake Ariel, Pa.

For more information

[>> Click here for a downloadable fact sheet about the project](#)

[>> Click here for a downloadable project map](#)

Tuesday, March 8

Greene-Dreher Volunteer Fire Association
460 Crestmont Drive, Newfoundland, Pa.

Tuesday, March 15

Thornhurst Fire & Rescue
125 River Road, Thornhurst, Pa.

Wednesday, March 16

PPL East Mountain Business Center
1190 East Mountain Drive, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The company will continue to schedule public open houses, and to consider public input, throughout the duration of the project. For more information and a map of the project area, visit the project website at www.pplreliablepower.com/northeast-pocono or call the special toll-free public comment line at 1-888-654-0823.

PPL Electric Utilities, a subsidiary of PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL), provides electric delivery services to about 1.4 million customers in Pennsylvania and has consistently ranked among the best companies for customer service in the United States. More information is available at www.pplelectric.com.

For further information: Paul Wirth, PPL Electric Utilities, 610-774-5997

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