Corning Regional Transmission Solution (CRTS) FAQs

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Q: What is the Corning Regional Transmission Solution (CRTS)?

A: The Corning Regional Transmission Solution (CRTS) is a proposed electric transmission rebuild project in Steuben and Chemung Counties by NYSEG that will modernize and strengthen the power grid in New York's Southern Tier. It includes building a new substation in the Town of Big Flats and upgrading several transmission lines in the Towns of Corning, Erwin, and Big Flats to improve how electricity is delivered and to help meet growing energy demand across the region.

Q: Why is this project needed?

A: Much of the existing infrastructure in the area is aging and can no longer meet today's energy demands. The current substation is more than 74 years old and is located in a floodplain. CRTS will replace this outdated equipment, relocate the substation to a new location on higher ground, increase the ability to provide more electricity to where it is needed, and minimize the risk of future outages. These improvements are part of NYSEG's broader Powering NY initiative to modernize the grid and ensure safe and reliable service for customers.

Q: What work will be done as part of CRTS?

A: The project includes building a new, modern substation in Big Flats to relocate the existing Hickling Substation, upgrading and rerouting several transmission and distribution lines to connect to the new substation, and replacing aging infrastructure with more modern, higher-capacity, and more efficient equipment to create a stronger more reliable electric system that can better serve the region.

Q: How will CRTS benefit customers?

A: CRTS will improve reliability by reducing outages caused by aging equipment and enhance resiliency during severe weather events. The upgraded system will provide greater capacity to meet the needs of homes, businesses, and essential community services, while also improving contingency options so the grid can recover more quickly from disruptions.

Q: Will this project benefit the local economy?

A: Yes, CRTS is expected to create construction jobs, increase local spending, and contribute to long-term economic development. Improved electric infrastructure will support major employers, support essential services such as hospitals, schools, and emergency services, and help attract new businesses that depend on reliable power.

Q: How much will the project impact the community during construction?

A: While all construction projects can create some temporary disruption, NYSEG is committed to minimizing disruption to local communities and the environment throughout the construction process. NYSEG carefully plans construction activities and works closely with municipalities, landowners, and regulatory agencies throughout the planning and construction process to limit inconveniences to residents and businesses during construction.

Q: How does CRTS improve grid reliability and resilience?

A: CRTS will improve reliability and resiliency by replacing aging equipment, increasing system capacity to help prevent overloads, and strengthening infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events. These upgrades are part of the Powering New York program - a broader effort by NYSEG to reduce outage frequency while increasing both capacity and reliability for our customers.

Q: What experience does NYSEG have building transmission projects?

A: NYSEG brings more than 170 years of experience delivering energy solutions across New York State, including the operation of thousands of miles of transmission infrastructure. NYSEG also has extensive experience managing complex, multi-year infrastructure projects while maintaining a strong commitment to community engagement, proactive transparency, and respect for the environment. Through the Powering NY initiative, NYSEG continues to make strategic investments to ensure the grid is reliable, resilient, and ready to meet future energy needs.

FAQs CONTINUED

Q: How does CRTS fit into the Powering NY initiative?

A: CRTS is one of several large infrastructure projects that are part of NYSEG's Powering New York program, which is focused on strengthening the electric grid, expanding system capacity to help meet growing energy demand, supporting economic growth, and delivering reliable energy for communities across New York State. Together, these investments are helping build a smarter, more modern energy system for today and tomorrow.

Q: What does "modernizing the grid" mean for CRTS?

A: Modernizing the grid means replacing older equipment with newer technology that is more efficient, reliable, and capable of supporting current and future energy needs. For CRTS, this includes upgrading transmission lines and building a new substation with advanced equipment designed to operate more efficiently, handle higher demand, and integrate with modern grid technologies.

Q: How will newer equipment make the power system more future-ready?

A: Newer equipment is designed to handle the evolving way electricity is produced and used. CRTS increases the grid's capacity and flexibility, making it easier to support growing electricity demand and integrate new technologies and energy sources. The upgraded system provides a strong foundation that can adapt as energy use continues to evolve. These improvements help ensure the system can adapt as energy needs continue to grow and change.

Q: Will this project affect my property?

A: NYSEG has selected transmission line routes and substation locations for CRTS that use existing utility corridors wherever possible in order to minimize impacts. Where access to private property or easements are required, the company will contact landowners directly, provide clear information, and work to reach fair and appropriate agreements.

Q: How were project locations and routes selected?

A: Project planning considers system reliability needs, environmental factors, existing infrastructure, cost, constructability, and community input. Multiple options are evaluated through the regulatory process to identify the most prudent and responsible solution.

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Q: How much of the project will use existing right of way and where will new right of way be needed?

A: Approximately 80% of the project will utilize existing right of way (ROW) corridors, helping to minimize land impacts and streamline construction. New ROW requirements are limited and targeted, totaling less than three miles, and are primarily needed for final connections into the proposed new substation and in locations where existing ROW is not available.

Q: Will this project make it easier to add new energy sources in the future?

A: Yes. One of the key benefits of CRTS is increasing the grid's capacity and flexibility, which makes it easier to connect new energy sources. By removing system bottlenecks and increasing deliverability, the project helps ensure that both existing and future energy generation can be efficiently delivered to customers.

Q: Will this project affect my electric bill?

A: Projects like CRTS are reviewed and approved by regulators as part of an established, standardized process designed to ensure costs are fair and reasonable to all ratepayers. By replacing and upgrading aging infrastructure and improving system efficiency, these investments help reduce outages, avoid more costly repairs in the future, and support long-term cost stability for customers. Investing in infrastructure now helps maintain reliable service and can prevent more costly issues in the future.

Q: Why is it important to invest in future-ready infrastructure now?

A: Planning ahead helps avoid more costly and disruptive upgrades later. Investing in efficient, updated, and scalable infrastructure proactively is financially prudent for our ratepayers, avoids congestion and system limitations as demand grows, and ensures the grid is ready for new technologies as they become available. This proactive approach is a key part of the Powering NY initiative, helping deliver long-term value and reliability for customers.

Where can I learn more or ask questions?

For more information or to contact the project team:

Project Information Line: 855-297-1110
Email: outreach@nyseg.com
Website: CRTS-NY.com