Central New York Reliability (CNYR) Project

FAQs

NYSEG
An Avangrid company

Q: What is the Central New York Reliability Project (CNYR)?

A: The Central New York Reliability Project (CNYR) is a proposed electric transmission project by NYSEG under the broader Powering NY initiative. The project is designed to modernize and strengthen the electric grid serving Yates, Ontario, Livingston, and Steuben counties by replacing aging infrastructure, increasing system capacity, and improving reliability and resilience.

Q: Why is this project needed?

A: Much of the existing transmission infrastructure serving the region is more than 50 years old and was not designed to meet today's growing energy demands. Aging equipment increases the risk of outages and limits the system's ability to support future growth. CNYR will replace and upgrade key infrastructure to improve reliability, strengthen the system against severe weather, and ensure the grid can meet current and future electricity needs.

Q: What construction work will be done as part of CNYR?

A: The project will rebuild approximately 30 miles of existing transmission line and upgrade existing substations, replacing aging structures and conductors with modern steel monopoles and larger, higher-capacity wire. The work is planned to take place within the existing transmission corridor to minimize impacts, while also upgrading the system to improve reliability and enable more efficient transmission of electricity.

Q: How will the CNYR project improve the existing transmission system?

A: As part of the effort to modernize and strengthen the electric grid in Central New York, CNYR will upgrade approximately 38 miles of existing transmission lines. This includes rebuilding 23.3 miles of transmission line between the Flat Street Substation in Yates County and the Eelpot Substation in Ontario County, as well as another 14.7 miles continuing from the Eelpot Substation to the Meyer Substation in Livingston County. The project also includes improvements at the Flat Street Substation to support current system needs and prepare for future demand. Existing H-frame structures will be replaced with more durable steel structures that are similar in appearance and only slightly taller to meet current reliability and engineering standards. Wherever possible, the project will remain within the existing transmission right-of-way to minimize new land disturbance and reduce impacts to surrounding communities.

Q: How will CNYR benefit customers?

A: CNYR will improve reliability by reducing outage risks associated with aging infrastructure and improving system performance during periods of peak demand and severe weather. The project will increase the amount of electricity that can be delivered to homes and businesses, strengthen the grid's resilience, and help ensure customers have access to safe and reliable power now and in the future.

Q: Will this project benefit the local economy?

A: Yes. CNYR is expected to support local jobs and area businesses during construction while strengthening the infrastructure needed for long-term economic growth throughout the region. Reliable electric infrastructure also helps support major employers, healthcare facilities, agricultural operations, and future business development.

Q: How 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 planning and construction process. The project has been designed to remain within the existing transmission right-of-way, which helps limit land disturbance and reduce impacts to nearby residents and landowners. 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 CNYR improve grid reliability and resilience?

A: CNYR improves reliability and resilience by replacing aging infrastructure with modern equipment designed to meet today's engineering and reliability standards. The project will strengthen the transmission system, increase capacity to help prevent overloads, and improve the grid's ability to withstand severe weather and recover more quickly from disruptions.

FAQs CONTINUED

Q: What experience does NYSEG have building transmission projects like CNYR?

A: NYSEG has more than 170 years of experience delivering energy solutions across New York State and operates more than 4,500 miles of transmission infrastructure across Upstate New York. The company has extensive experience managing complex infrastructure projects while maintaining a strong commitment to safety, environmental responsibility, community engagement, and transparency.

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

A: CNYR is part of NYSEG's broader Powering NY initiative, which is focused on modernizing the electric grid, improving reliability and resilience, increasing system capacity, and supporting economic growth across New York State. Through Powering NY, NYSEG is upgrading transmission lines and substations statewide to help ensure communities have reliable energy service for decades to come.

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

A: Modernizing the grid means replacing older infrastructure with newer technology that is more efficient, reliable, and capable of supporting current and future energy demands. For CNYR, this includes upgrading transmission lines, strengthening transmission structures, and improving substations with modern equipment designed to operate more efficiently and support a more resilient electric system.

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

A: Newer equipment is designed to support the evolving way electricity is produced and used. CNYR will increase the grid's capacity and flexibility, making it easier to support growing electricity demand from homes, businesses, agriculture, and new technologies. The upgraded infrastructure will provide a stronger foundation for future energy needs and economic growth across the region.

Q: Will the CNYR project affect my property?

A: NYSEG plans to complete work within the existing transmission right-of-way to minimize impacts to private property. If temporary access, easements, or additional agreements are needed, the company will contact landowners directly, provide clear information, and work collaboratively to reach fair and appropriate agreements.

Q: How were project locations and routes selected?

A: Project planning considers system reliability needs, existing infrastructure, environmental factors, engineering requirements, and community input. Using the existing transmission corridor helps minimize environmental impacts, reduce community disruption, and make efficient use of existing utility infrastructure.

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

A: Yes. One of the key benefits of CNYR is increasing the transmission system's capacity and flexibility, which will help support future energy needs and make it easier to connect new energy resources as demand grows. By strengthening the grid and increasing deliverability, the project helps ensure electricity can be efficiently delivered to customers across the region.

Q: Will this project affect my electric bill?

A: Projects like CNYR are reviewed and approved by regulators to ensure costs are fair and reasonable for all customers. CNYR will replace and upgrade aging infrastructure and improve system efficiency, which will help avoid costly repairs in the future and support long-term cost stability for customers. Investing in modern infrastructure today helps reduce outage risks, avoid more costly emergency repairs in the future, and support long-term system reliability.

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

A: Electric demand has changed significantly over time as homes, businesses, and industries rely on more technology and electricity-intensive equipment. Planning ahead and investing in modern infrastructure now helps ensure the electric system can meet future demand, avoid more disruptive and expensive upgrades later, and support continued economic development across New York State.

Q: How is electricity demand changing?

A: Fifty years ago, most homes used electricity for a limited number of everyday needs. Today, homes and businesses rely on electricity for nearly every part of daily life, including appliances, internet-connected devices, heating and cooling systems, electric vehicles, and advanced technologies. Modern homes often require significantly more electric capacity than in previous decades, making grid upgrades like CNYR increasingly important.

FAQs CONTINUED

Q: Why are the new structures slightly taller?

A: The new steel transmission structures are designed to meet current engineering, safety, and reliability standards while improving long-term durability and system performance. Although the structures may be slightly taller than the existing H-frame structures, they are designed to maintain a similar overall appearance while providing stronger and more resilient infrastructure.

Q: How is NYSEG minimizing environmental and community impacts?

A: NYSEG designed the project to stay within the existing transmission right-of-way, helping minimize new land disturbance and reduce impacts to surrounding communities and natural resources. The company will continue coordinating with regulatory agencies and stakeholders throughout the project to ensure responsible development and environmental stewardship.

Where can I learn more or ask questions?

For more information or to contact the project team:

Project Website:
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Project Information Line:
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Email:
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https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=26-01726

Scan to view the Project Website:
cnyr-ny.com

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