

## Milvon to West River Railroad Transmission Line 115 kV Rebuild Project Overview Video

## MILVON TO WEST RIVER Railroad TRANSMISSION LINE 115-kV REBUILD PROJECT

CITY OF MILFORD, TOWN OF ORANGE, CITY OF WEST HAVEN, CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## The United Illuminating Company (UI), in conjunction with its parent company AVANGRID, is making a significant investment to upgrade the electric transmission system in New Haven County.

In 2012, UI began comprehensive engineering studies to assess the condition of the existing 115-kilovolt (KV) transmission line infrastructure that is located on top of steel catenary structures that span the CTDOT/Metro North Railroad corridor in southern New Haven County. These railroad catenary structures were originally built between 1912 and 1914 to support signal and feeder wires for the electric operation of the trains. In the 1940s, UI attached transmission lines, via supports referred to as "bonnets", to the tops of the catenary structures. The railroad tracks, operated by Metro-North, as well as UI's 115-kV lines, are located on property owned by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CT DOT).

As a result of the studies, UI found that the portions of the catenary structures that support the existing transmission lines exhibit agerelated physical limitations. To maintain the reliability of the bulk transmission grid and to assure continued reliable electricity service to our customers, UI concluded that the 115-kV lines must be rebuilt to meet current National Electrical Safety Codes (NESC) and UI standards, as well as to withstand extreme weather conditions.

UI proposes to rebuild 9.5 miles of its 115-kV transmission lines from the Milvon Substation in the City of Milford, CT, extending through the Town of Orange and City of West Haven to the West River Substation in the City of New Haven, CT. This Milvon to West River Transmission Line 115-kV Rebuild Project will remove the transmission lines from the existing railroad catenary bonnets and install new 115-kV lines on independent monopoles with new insulators, hardware, and conductors. The new double-circuit monopoles will be located primarily on CT DOT property north of the Metro North tracks and will be connected to five existing UI substations, all located adjacent to the CT DOT railroad corridor.

The Milvon to West River Railroad Transmission Line 115 kV Rebuild Project construction will also include the construction of temporary and permanent access roads and work pads as well as vegetation removal. The project design will minimize environmental and land use impacts by installing the rebuilt lines, as much as possible, within the CT DOTowned railroad corridor. In some locations, UI will have to acquire new permanent easements from the owners of properties that abut the CT DOT railroad corridor to meet transmission line clearance requirements.

To mitigate impacts associated with construction, UI will adhere to the conditions and approvals from federal and state regulatory agencies, including the Connecticut Siting Council, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Connecticut State Historic

Preservation Office. UI will continue to consult with the CT DOT and Metro North to plan the Project to minimize impacts to railroad operations.

Additional measures to avoid or minimize environmental effects may be identified as part of the ongoing engineering design and constructability reviews and consultations with the municipalities and regulatory agencies.

United Illuminating has been part of the southern New Haven-Fairfield County community for 122 years, and presently serves approximately 341,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the greater New Haven and Bridgeport areas. UI's service territory includes 17 Connecticut towns and cities in an area totaling 335 square miles along or near the shoreline of Long Island Sound.

The Milvon to West River Railroad Transmission Line 115 kV Rebuild Project demonstrates UI and Avangrid's commitment to continuing to deliver safe, reliable energy, with excellence, to all of our customers for generations to come.