

August 2023

Dear Neighbor,

As part of our everyday effort to deliver reliable energy to our customers and communities, we are preparing to replace select transmission structures and install communication wire within the right of way (powerline corridor) in the towns of Middletown and Haddam, CT. Maintaining the infrastructure that supports the electric lines is one of the ways Eversource ensures the safe, secure transmission of electricity throughout the region.

We Are Always Working to Serve You Better

Beginning in mid-September, Eversource and its approved contractors will begin working on this project, called the **Middletown to Oxbow Junction Structure Replacement and OPGW Project**. This project includes:

- Replacing 6 existing wood transmission structures with new, more durable steel monopoles structures, with a finish that “weathers” or darkens over time.
- Replacing the existing ground wire (top-most wire) with new Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) between Middletown Substation off River Rd in Middletown down and Oxbow Junction off Oxbow Rd in Haddam. The OPGW will improve electric reliability by enabling communication between substations.
- Select vegetation removal within the right of way as needed for construction and to comply with electric code standards.

What You Can Expect

Since your property is located near these project activities, here’s important information about how we will work in your neighborhood:

- **Reliable Service:** This work will not interrupt electric service to your property.
- **Proper Identification:** All people working on this Project carry identification.
- **Where We’ll Be Working:** Construction activity will take place on Eversource-owned property or within the existing right of way in Middletown, CT off of River Road and Bartholomew Road, and in Haddam, CT off of Chamberlain Hill Road and Oxbow Road.
- **Construction Hours:** Typical construction hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Due to weather or other unexpected circumstances, crews may occasionally work longer hours or work on a Sunday. Please let us know if you would like to be notified of extended work hours near your property if they are required.
- **Construction Activities:** There will be construction vehicles on the right of way, including heavy equipment, though we will make every effort to minimize impacts to the underlying property. In addition to ground equipment, a helicopter will be utilized to efficiently complete the required work. Construction will take place in phases and will include survey, mowing/vegetation removal, building or enhancing gravel access roads and work areas, setting temporary wood construction mats, drilling and installing foundations, installing new steel monopole structures, removing the old structures, and stringing new wire. ***See page 2 for a description and typical photos of work expected in your area.***
- **Project Completion:** We expect construction activities, including restoration, to be complete by mid-2024.

Contact Us

Keeping the lines of communication open is important to us. If you have questions about this work please contact our Field Outreach Representative, **Sara Ciochetti**, At **203-626-1081** or via email at **sciochetti@burnsmcd.com**. You can also contact Eversource’s Project Information Hotline at **1-800-793-2202** or send an e-mail to **ProjectInfo@eversource.com**. We kindly ask that you provide the Project name **Middletown to Oxbow Junction Structure Replacement and OPGW Project** when contacting us. Thank you for your patience as this important project moves forward.

Sincerely,



Alex DiBella

Project Manager – Eversource Energy

The following are upcoming stages of construction associated with this transmission line project:

Work Area Preparation

Construction vehicles and equipment must be able to access each transmission structure. We will build or enhance gravel roads to provide access to structure locations. We'll also install level work pads to create a stable work area for equipment, such as drill rigs and cranes.

We use temporary wood construction mats in and around wetlands to protect these environmentally sensitive areas. Temporary soil erosion and sedimentation controls (for example, silt fences and straw bales) may be installed near the work areas during construction. We will maintain these controls as needed throughout the project. Typically, these environmental controls are removed after construction, though some may remain until the area is fully restored.



Foundation Drilling

Drilling activities usually take place for a few days at each location where new structures are being installed. Depending on soil conditions, the drilling activities may take longer. At the end of the workday, any open foundation holes will be safely covered and secured.

New Structure Installation

Once the foundations are complete, we'll begin installing the new steel structures. The structures often come in sections that are assembled on site. The structure pieces will be delivered to the right of way in advance of this installation process. A crane and bucket trucks are used to lift the structures and set them into position on the foundations. Generally, it takes one to three days to assemble and erect each new structure.



Existing Structure Removal

Once the new steel structures are in place, the old wood structures will be taken apart and removed from the site. Where needed, the old concrete foundations will be removed, and the hole filled with soil. We will recycle or properly dispose of all material removed from the site.



Wire Installation

The topmost wire on the structures will be replaced with new communication wire, called Optical Ground Wire (OPGW), which will improve electric reliability by enabling communication between substations.

Over the years, Eversource has learned that the fastest and most efficient way to install the communication wire in areas like yours is by using a helicopter. We can complete the required work in the air, using limited equipment and vehicles on the ground in the power line corridor, resulting in fewer impacts to residents and environmentally sensitive areas.

In some locations where helicopters can't fly, we will use bucket trucks set up around the base of each structure and with wire pulling equipment. Pulling sites are set up at various intervals along the right-of-way, typically one to three miles apart. The new wires are pulled through stringing blocks (pulleys) installed at the top of each structure. Once the new wire is strung, the stringing blocks are removed, and the wire is clipped into its final hardware attachment.



Photos show typical work areas and are for illustration only.