

# North Central Reliability Project



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What will this project do?**

PSE&G's North Central Reliability Project will ensure reliable electric power for approximately one-third of New Jersey's population in the central and northern part of the state by upgrading the transmission system and substations from 138,000-volt (138kV) to 230,000-volt (230kV) operation.

### **Why is this upgrade needed?**

People are using more electricity to power everything from big-screen televisions to computers and the latest kitchen gadgets. The existing transmission system in the project area, some of which dates back to the 1920s, was built before the popularity of computers, large televisions, iPods, cellular phones and other electric devices that have become common in our lives. Population trends indicate continued growth in the region.

The North Central Reliability Project is a 230kV upgrade designed to deliver the electric power required by New Jersey businesses and residents. The project will relieve transmission system overloads and provide better power quality in the region. Contingency analysis has shown that several outages have resulted from voltage violations near the 138kV substations in Essex, Morris, Union, Somerset and Middlesex Counties. The recommended solution to address these voltage violations is to upgrade and convert the existing overhead transmission circuits, substations and switching stations from 138kV to 230kV.

### **How was this route selected?**

The selected routes follow existing PSE&G rights-of-way for the project from the West Orange Switching Station to the Sewaren Substation, thereby minimizing the construction impact to the surrounding communities.

### **Where will it go?**

Overhead transmission wire upgrades will take place in West Orange, Livingston, Roseland, Florham Park, Chatham Borough, Chatham Township, New Providence, Berkeley Heights, Watchung, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Clark, Edison, Metuchen and Woodbridge along the existing PSE&G right of way. Also, seven PSE&G stations will be upgraded to 230kV. They are: West Orange Switching Station, Marion Drive Substation (West Orange), Laurel Avenue Substation (Livingston), Fanwood Substation, New Dover Substation (Edison), Pierson Avenue Substation

(Edison) and the Woodbridge Substation (Woodbridge). The line from Metuchen to Sewaren through Woodbridge Substation is already constructed for 230kV.

**When will it be built?**

Pending approvals, construction could begin in the first quarter of 2012 with an in- service date of June of 2014.

**How much will it cost?**

The project cost is estimated to be \$300-350 million.

**What are the benefits to the region?**

In a word, reliability. The upgrade will help the region's utilities meet the growing demand for safe, reliable electricity.

**What approvals are you seeking?**

Under its authority in New Jersey, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJ BPU) has been asked to review the North Central Reliability Project. PSE&G filed its application for approval from the BPU on May 26, 2011.

**Why doesn't PSE&G focus on energy conservation and alternative energy sources like solar and wind power?**

PSE&G is committed to initiatives already under way to reduce electric use by boosting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. But even with these alternatives, statewide electric demand is still expected to increase more than 1.4 percent annually. This upgrade is needed to meet regional demand.