

Easing the Energy Traffic Jam

Listen to the daily drive-time highway report in New Jersey and you are likely to hear words like “congestion,” “bottleneck,” and “traffic jam”-- which in turn conjure up other words that should not appear in print.

New Jerseyans know all too well how jam-packed roads affect their daily lives – delaying trips to the shore on a sweltering summer weekend, increasing the cost of goods and services, and driving down productivity.

Like it or not, New Jersey’s energy transportation system is facing similar bottlenecks if new transmission highways are not added to the power grid.

Even with efforts to promote energy conservation to address climate change, the demand for safe and reliable electricity is steadily increasing in our region. And, energy derived from renewable sources like wind and solar will need a dependable way to get to customers...as yet another step to help reduce New Jersey’s carbon footprint.

PJM Interconnection, which operates the electricity grid in 13 states and the District of Columbia, warns that existing transmission lines in eastern Pennsylvania and northern New Jersey will become overloaded by as early as 2012 if new power lines are not built. Brownouts and blackouts could result.

To assure the long-term reliability of our region’s electric system, PJM has mandated the addition of a 500,000-volt power line between Berwick, Pennsylvania and the Roseland area of New Jersey. The new line,

scheduled for service by the summer of 2012, will provide a much-needed super-highway for electricity to travel, relieving bottlenecks and overloads on existing 230,000-volt lines that currently bring power to people in our entire region.

PSE&G is building the New Jersey portion, while PPL Electric Utilities is handling the Pennsylvania construction. Earlier this week, both companies announced the selected route, which will

follow an existing transmission right of way that already contains a 230,000-volt line.

While the need for the line is critical, there is no reason it cannot be constructed in a way that minimizes its impact on people and their surrounding environment. PSE&G intends to do just that.

The selected route

does not require additional property, crosses the least amount of wooded wetlands and forested lands, and has the least potential to permanently alter these important habitats.

We recognize that residents along the route will have concerns, and we are committed to keeping them informed as the project proceeds to alleviate the energy traffic jam we all are facing.

What’s your view? Please let us know at Opinion@PSEG.com



New Jersey’s power grid faces bottlenecks without new transmission



PSEG

We make things work for you.