



An AEP Company

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IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY

Name
Address
City, State Zip

Subject: Fort Wayne-Bluffton Transmission Line Rebuild Project - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Dear Neighbor,

You are receiving this letter because you own property or live in the area where Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) representatives plan to upgrade the local power grid.

The Fort Wayne-Bluffton Transmission Line Rebuild Project involves:

- Updating approximately 30 miles of electric transmission line between Fort Wayne and Bluffton
- Building the Baer Substation in Fort Wayne near the intersection of Baer Road and Baer Field Thruway
- This project improves electrical reliability in the region, modernizes the local electric infrastructure and supports local economic development

I&M representatives announced this project in May and gathered community feedback and concerns related to the several study segments presented as part of the potential power line route options. Many landowners had similar questions and we want to provide answers to some of the most commonly asked questions to provide clarity on the project plans and schedule.

Why can't I&M crews rebuild the power line in its current location?

The project team developed proposed study segments as part of this project to determine the least impactful power line route to the community. The current system of study segments includes new power line routes, in addition to rebuilding the existing power line.

North Main Street/State Road 1

It's necessary to consider alternatives to rebuilding the existing power line because of its current location, the age of the line and the updated power line standards required to continue safe operation and maintenance of the power line. The company originally built the existing power line along North Main Street in the 1950s. The area's growth requires a power line that provides more electric service capacity to meet future power demands. Rebuild construction of the existing power line would require significant additional right-of-way and avoidance of habitable structures to meet current construction and clearance standards.

Secondary Feed for Uniondale Substation

Other proposed study segments connecting to local substations, including Uniondale, are planned for secondary feeds. These additional feeds provide stability to the local infrastructure by providing an additional source of electricity to the substation. Secondary feeds cannot be built on the routes of the existing feeds. If the primary and secondary feeds share a path, any event that could potentially affect the line path such as a storm, would impact both feeds.

I'm concerned about Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) associated with power lines.

Included in this mailing is more information to help understand the natural occurrence of EMF and the studies associated with it. Additional resources are located on the AEP website at aeptransmission.com/property-owners/emf.php



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I am a REMC customer, why is I&M involved?

As a local electric service provider, REMC provides the electric service customers in the region. As an electric transmission service provider, I&M supplies electric power to REMC from electricity generating resources, such as power plants. The electricity generated at area power plants is delivered through American Electric Power (AEP) I&M transmission lines to REMC operated substations. The lines associated with this project are examples of local electric transmission facilities necessary to provide reliable power directly to communities.

Why wasn't a public meeting held to discuss this project?

We prefer to hold public meetings to discuss projects with communities, however due to social distancing guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the time of this project announcement, our project team was not able to host an in-person meeting. At I&M we take safety very seriously and want to ensure the safety of our customers and our employees.

The original closing date for public feedback was June 18, 2021. Does that mean that my response to this letter will not be captured?

The project team values your input, at any time. To ensure that we're gathering the community's feedback, the comment period is extended to **July 30**. We welcome your feedback, if you already provided feedback and do not wish to add anything further, we have included that in our comment review and you do not need to provide a second copy.

How can I provide my feedback?

The best way to provide your feedback is via the "Contact Us" link on the top right of the project webpage located at IndianaMichiganPower.com/FortWayneBluffton. This provides an email directly to me that I can easily share with the project team.

What are the next steps in the process?

All of the feedback collected is reviewed with the entire project team. We capture elements of landowner preference, local environmental concerns and constructability. We align this information with our engineering feasibility and associated cost to make decisions on the routing of the project. Once a proposed final line route is determined, we inform the community and affected landowners. We have extended the feedback window in order to incorporate the additional feedback received. **Our goal is to inform the community of our proposed route in September 2021.**

Supporting a growing infrastructure is never a simple task. We value and rely upon your input to help drive our decision making to be the least impactful as possible. I thank each of you who has provided feedback and asked further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Yarbrough".

Scott Yarbrough
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