



Frequently asked questions — Brookwood to St. Mary's transmission project

Project questions

Q: What is the Brookwood to St. Mary's transmission project?

The Brookwood to St. Mary's transmission project is one part of the multi-year Hillsboro Reliability Project, aimed to improve reliability and add the electrical capacity needed to support Hillsboro's growth and prosperity.

This part of the project will replace an existing 6.9-mile distribution line running from the Brookwood Substation to the St. Mary's Substation with a new, 115 kV transmission line with distribution underbuild. This work is an upgrade to the existing lines in the neighborhood with some additional new equipment. We will raise the lines higher, so there is additional clearance and the wires are more out of your line of sight.

Q: Why is PGE doing this project?

This upgraded line will provide a new power source to the upgraded substation, with a higher voltage that will provide more electrical capacity to the surrounding community.

Q: What is involved in this project?

The line will be built using self-supporting steel poles and steel poles with foundations. This ensures our work complements the other existing utilities in the area, so customers continue to get all the services they need. Construction will start in summer 2021 and continue through mid-2022.

Q: Is this line being built specifically for a single customer?

No. This project is the result of both residential and commercial growth over the past few years. The line will support the overall stability, reliability and capacity of electricity in Hillsboro. It will also add room for continued growth in the area.

Vegetation questions

Q: What trees will need to be trimmed or removed?

This route already has existing electrical equipment, which limits the amount of vegetation that needs to be removed. In a few instances, some trees will need to be trimmed or removed for safety. PGE arborists are working directly with these homeowners and will replace any removed trees as needed.

Q: Are there any environmental or wildlife concerns?

No. We consider avian protection in all designs and provide bird guards and other covers to protect wildlife when needed.





Safety questions

Q: What about EMF?

Your safety comes first in everything we do. We include an electric and magnetic fields (EMF) study for all proposed transmission lines. You can find more information on EMFs at portlandgeneral.com/safety/electric-magnetic-fields.

Q. Will the new lines affect pacemakers or other medical devices?

There is no known or expected impact to pacemakers or similar medical devices.

Q: What happens when a line falls?

All transmission lines are built to survive severe weather events in the area. If a line is damaged, there are protective relays and back-up systems to keep the line safe. 115 kV transmission lines are common throughout PGE's service territory and are used by other utilities across the country.

Q: Can people climb the towers or climb a tree to reach lines?

These structures are not easy to climb. They have safety features designed to keep non-approved personnel from climbing the poles. These are single poles, not the lattice towers you might see around Highway 26. Trees will be trimmed to prevent any safety hazards below the transmission lines.

Additional questions

Q: Will this affect my property value?

There is no data that shows transmission lines significantly affect property values. In addition, we consulted a local appraiser who has confirmed this finding.

