

Upstate Upgrade:

Building a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy future

North Watertown-Indian River

Project Update Newsletter | Spring 2025

Dear Neighbor,

We're building a smarter, stronger, cleaner energy grid to deliver a more resilient energy network for our customers.

Our work, taking place across Upstate New York, is called the **Upstate Upgrade**. It involves more than 70 projects through 2030 that will transform the transmission grid to meet growing demand for electricity while generating thousands of new jobs and more than \$1 billion in economic growth across the region.

We are excited to update you on the progress of the North Watertown-Indian River Project taking place in your community. In this newsletter, you will find details about the project, an update on what work we have completed, and information on any upcoming work in your community.

At National Grid, we are committed to a proactive, inclusive, and robust stakeholder engagement process. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. Our team takes pride in our commitment to working with customers and the communities we serve to ensure feedback is considered and addressed in a timely and transparent manner. Thank you!

About the Project

The North Watertown-Indian River Project involves construction of 9.5 miles of new 115kV transmission line in the towns of Brownville, Pamela, and Le Ray in Jefferson County. Also included is the construction of the new North Watertown substation in Brownville and upgrades to the existing Indian River substation in Le Ray.

Project Progress

Summer 2024

- **July:** The Project Engagement team met with stakeholders in the field during outreach efforts. The team introduced the project and provided additional information to landowners.

Fall 2024

- **September:** Project management team members held a pre-construction meeting with municipal representatives to share project design plans as a precursor to permitting applications at the federal, state, and local levels required for construction to commence. Additionally, National Grid real estate representatives began to finalize property rights negotiations, and crews continued construction of the laydown yard to store construction materials in Pamela.
- **October:** Crews cleared the transmission line corridor by mowing along the right of way and survey teams used flagged stakes to outline project boundaries.
- **November:** The primary environmental permits needed for the project to proceed were received and construction of the new transmission line began.

Winter 2024/2025

- **December:** Crews started installing surface matting to protect the ground from heavy equipment and built gravel roads for access to the right of way.
- **January:** Construction of the new North Watertown substation and upgrades to the existing Indian River substation began.
- **February:** A planned, temporary outage at the Indian River substation needed to replace old structures interrupted service for customers for approximately 30 minutes. We provided advance service alerts to help impacted customers plan for the outage.

Spring 2025

- **March:** The first phase of wire pulling, also known as the stringing of conductor, launched for the project. This activity will take place in segments along the transmission line. The first set of pulls started at the Indian River substation to the new structures off Rogers Road in Le Ray.



What You Can Expect

Moving forward, you can expect:

- Trucks hauling construction materials from various structure locations.
- Vehicles entering and exiting access roads along the project.
- Traffic in and out of the laydown yard in Pamelaia.
- Construction equipment and crews in the right of way.
- Mowing along the right of way.

Crews will proceed with the construction of structures along the right of way in stages. Wire pulling will follow those efforts. Transmission line work is anticipated to be complete in spring 2026. Construction of the new North Watertown substation and upgrades to the Indian River substation are tentatively scheduled to be completed in winter 2026. Commissioning (testing and certification of equipment installed) for each site will then occur in spring 2026.

Additional updates will be mailed directly to you and available on our project website, ngrid.com/northwatertownindianriver. For more information contact us at **844-324-3589** or UpstateUpgradeCNY@nationalgrid.com. Thank you for being our valued customer.

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Questions?



Call 844-324-3589



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