Finger Lakes Area Infrastructure Reliability (FLAIR) Project Messaging

FAQs

NYSEG
An Avangrid company

Q: What is the Finger Lakes Area Infrastructure Reliability (FLAIR) Project?

A: The Finger Lakes Area Infrastructure Reliability (FLAIR) Project is a planned electric transmission upgrade by NYSEG to modernize approximately 21 miles of existing 115 kV infrastructure between the Montour Falls substation in the Village of Montour Falls, Schuyler County, and the Coddington substation in the Town of Ithaca in Tompkins County. The project replaces aging equipment with stronger, more resilient infrastructure to improve reliability and support future energy needs across the region.

Q: Why is this project needed?

A: Much of the existing infrastructure is decades old and was not designed to meet today's energy demands. The existing line is more than 90 years old, being built before World War II. FLAIR will strengthen reliability, reduce congestion, help meet current and future energy demand, support current and future energy generation, and reduce the frequency and duration of outages due to failing equipment or severe weather.

Q: What changes were made to the project design in 2026?

A: NYSEG updated the project design to better balance reliability, community input, and environmental considerations. The revised design primarily uses steel H-frame structures instead of monopoles, maintains the existing right-of-way, and limits monopole use to just four locations in the Cayuga Inlet area to help protect sensitive resources and infrastructure.

This approach allows the project to meet modern reliability and safety standards while minimizing changes to the landscape and maintaining consistency with existing infrastructure.

Q: Has NYSEG evaluated alternative designs for this project?

A: NYSEG updated the design as part of ongoing project optimization and engineering evaluation. Using primarily steel H-frame structures allows the project to better align with the existing line profile and efficiently utilize the current right-of-way. This approach delivers required reliability and performance improvements while reflecting a balanced consideration of constructability, system needs, and stakeholder input.

Q: How will the new structure design compare to what exists today?

A: The new steel H-frame structures will have a similar overall profile to the existing wood H-frames and will be significantly shorter (on average about 25 feet shorter) than the previously proposed monopoles, while still meeting required engineering and safety standards.

Q: Why is NYSEG using Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR) conductors instead of High Temperature Low Sag (HTLS) or Aluminum Conductor Steel Supported (ACSS) conductors for this project?

A: NYSEG selected ACSR conductors based on their demonstrated performance, compatibility with existing system design standards, and cost-effectiveness. ACSR conductors meet the project's required capacity and reliability criteria without necessitating the additional costs, specialized installation practices, or system modifications associated with HTLS or ACSS conductor technologies.

Q: What does "upgrading" mean in relation to FLAIR?

A: The project includes rebuilding and reconductoring the existing 115 kV Line 982, replacing aging wood poles with durable steel structures, installing higher-capacity conductor, and adding optical ground wire (OPGW) to enhance communications, improve outage response, and provide lightning protection. The upgrades will help improve resiliency in the face of more frequent severe storms in Upstate New York.

Q: How will FLAIR benefit customers?

A: FLAIR will improve reliability, strengthen resilience during extreme weather, and help meet future energy demand by upgrading critical infrastructure across the region. That means that NYSEG customers in the region will continue to have reliable, efficient, and safe electric service now and into the future.

Q: Will this project benefit the local economy?

A: Yes. The project will support job creation during construction, increase local spending, and provide reliable infrastructure that supports long-term economic growth in the Finger Lakes region.

FAQs CONTINUED

Q: How will the project impact the community during construction?

A: NYSEG will minimize impacts by using the existing transmission corridor, coordinating with local stakeholders, and working to limit disruptions during construction.

Q: How does FLAIR improve grid reliability and resilience?

A: The project improves reliability by replacing aging infrastructure, reducing congestion, and adding modern technologies such as fiber-optic communication and enhanced lightning protection to improve outage response and system performance.

Q: What does "modernizing the grid" mean for this project?

A: For FLAIR, grid modernization means upgrading older infrastructure with stronger materials, improved design, and advanced technologies that allow the system to operate more efficiently, reliably, and flexibly to meet future energy needs.

Q: Will this project support future energy needs?

A: Yes. By expanding capacity and improving system flexibility, FLAIR will help meet growing electricity demand and support the integration of new and existing energy sources across the region.

Q: What is the Powering NY Program?

A: Powering NY is a statewide initiative encompassing numerous large-scale, multi-year electric transmission projects being undertaken by New York State Electric & Gas Corporation (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E). Together, these projects are designed to modernize and strengthen New York's electric transmission system to meet evolving reliability and energy needs.

NYSEG brings more than 170 years of experience delivering energy solutions across New York State, including the operation and maintenance of thousands of miles of transmission infrastructure. The company also has a strong track record of managing complex, multi-year infrastructure projects while maintaining a commitment to community engagement, transparency, and safety.

Through the Powering NY initiative, NYSEG continues to make strategic investments to ensure the electric grid remains reliable, resilient, and prepared for future energy demands.

For more information, visit **www.poweringny.com**.

Q: Does the new power line meet New York State EMF safety standards?

A: Yes. Transmission line design and construction are highly regulated in New York State, including standards for electromagnetic fields (EMF). NYSEG designs this project to meet all requirements established by the New York State Public Service Commission (NYSPSC), whose standards are designed to be protective of public health and safety and are based on established scientific guidance. For more information, please visit the PSC's website, where detailed guidance on EMF is available.

Q: Will my bill go up as a result of this project?

A: Funding for this project was included in our investment and rate plan that was approved by the PSC back in the fall of 2023. To be clear, there will not be a new charge on your current or future bills as a result of this project.

Where can I learn more or ask questions?

For more information about the FLAIR Project:

FLAIR Project Website:
fingerlakesareareliability.com

NYSEG Project Outreach Team

Project Information Line:
1.888.307.2320

Email:
info@fingerlakesareareliability.com

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