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An Exelon Company

December 6, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: Request for a Waiver of CPCN Requirement for a PJM Project to Modify an Existing Overhead Transmission Line in Baltimore and Harford Counties

Dear Mr. Johnston:

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company ("BGE") respectfully requests that the Maryland Public Service Commission (the "Commission") waive the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") pursuant to Section 7-207(b)(4) of the Public Utilities Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland in connection with the specific work described below on ***existing*** 230 kV overhead transmission lines located in Baltimore and Harford Counties (the "Project").

BGE is responsible for maintaining the safety and reliability of its electric transmission system and ensuring that the regional transmission organization, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. ("PJM"), can properly and reliably operate the interconnected system within the PJM region. As part of the PJM Regional Transmission Expansion Plan ("RTEP"), PJM has directed BGE to execute Project b2992 (also referred to as Market Efficiency Project 5E).

BGE has completed its evaluation of existing structure design, proposed conductor replacement, and off-right-of-way and in-right-of-way access and equipment staging, and in December 2019 plans to conduct individualized outreach with adjacent property owners that may be directly affected during the Project to provide awareness and information about the expected conductor replacement access and work activities.

A. Description of the Need for the Project and Scope of Work

As reported in PJM's annual RTEP Report, the RTEP identifies transmission system additions and improvements needed to keep electricity flowing properly and reliably to the millions of people throughout PJM's region. As part of the RTEP, PJM has directed BGE to execute b2992 Project 5E which consists of three distinct transmission scopes of work within the bundle to address market efficiency and reliability concerns. The three scopes of work are:

- b2992.1 – Conastone to Graceton Reconductor
- b2992.2 – Graceton to Bagley to Raphael Rd
- b2992.4 – Raphael Rd to Northeast Reconductor

Each distinct scope is outlined in the following sections.

1. Conastone to Graceton Reconductor

This project requires BGE to reconductor Circuits 2323 and 2324 connecting Conastone Substation in White Hall, Harford County, MD to Graceton Substation in Pylesville, Harford County, MD. Each circuit is approximately 8.5 miles long.

BGE plans to commence the construction work on the Project in September 2020 with completion in June 2021. The estimated cost to complete the Project is $ 20.79 million. BGE will seek cost recovery through its formula transmission rate contained in PJM's Open Access Transmission Tariff on file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Project area is in a lightly populated section of Harford County. The land use adjacent to the Project is rural and light residential. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is an aerial diagram showing the Project area.

BGE will begin the line work on this portion by replacing two towers with weathering steel monopoles on concrete caisson foundations. These two poles will not be taller than the existing towers they replace and will have a substantially smaller footprint. BGE will then remove the existing 1272kcm 45/7 ACSR "Bittern" conductor from all three phases of Circuit 2323 from Conastone Substation to Graceton Substation. It will be replaced with new 1927-T13 42/19 ACCR-TW "Cumberland". BGE will then replace the conductor in the same manner on the Circuit 2324. As a result of these replacements, the conductor diameter will be increased to 1.551" OD compared to the existing installations of Bittern at 1.345" OD.

2. Graceton to Bagley to Raphael Rd

This project requires BGE to install a second wire per phase on Circuits 2305 and 2313 which run from Raphael Road Substation in Kingsville, Baltimore County, MD to Bagley Substation and then to Graceton Substation in Pylesville, Harford County, MD. Each circuit is approximately 19.9 miles long.

BGE plans to commence the construction work on the Project in March 2020 with completion in June 2021. The estimated cost to complete the Project is $24.48 million. BGE will seek cost recovery through its formula transmission rate contained in PJM's Open Access Transmission Tariff on file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Project area is in a lightly populated section of Harford County. The land use adjacent to the Project is rural and light residential. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** is an aerial diagram showing the Project area.

Both Circuits 2305 and 2313 are currently installed with 1590kcmil 54/19 ACSR Falcon conductor in a single conductor per phase arrangement. In order to achieve the capacity requirement dictated by PJM, a second 1590kcmil 54/19 ACSR "Falcon" conductor will be installed parallel to each phase to create a 2-conductor per phase arrangement. In the last few years, BGE completed the rebuild of these circuits as part of the NETSI project (see Case 9323), at which time the structures had been designed to accommodate the additional conductor per phase. This capability was identified in BGE's filing of the CPCN application for that case. There is no structural work required in order to complete this new project.

BGE is planning to begin the work by transferring the existing top conductor to be paired with the existing middle conductor. The existing bottom phase conductor will be removed. Two new conductors will then be installed in each of the top and bottom phase positions on the pole. BGE will alternate working on the circuits starting at Graceton substation and continue to move south to minimize the duration of construction activity in any one area.

3. Northeast to Raphael Rd

This project requires BGE to reconductor Circuits 2315 and 2337 connecting Raphael Road Substation in Kingsville, Baltimore County, MD to Northeast Substation in Middle River, Baltimore County, MD. Each circuit is approximately 3.9 miles long.

BGE plans to commence the construction work on the Project in March 2020 with completion in June 2020. The estimated cost to complete the Project is $11.65 million. BGE will seek cost recovery through its formula transmission rate contained in PJM's Open Access Transmission Tariff on file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Project area is in a moderately populated section of Baltimore County. The land use adjacent to the Project area north of Maryland Route 40 is mostly residential, changing to light commercial/industrial in the Maryland Route 40 corridor. The land use south of Maryland Route 40 is mostly forested and state highway property for Maryland Route 43. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 3** is an aerial diagram showing the Project area.

BGE will begin the work by upgrading a few specific steel members on the existing lattice towers toward the Northeast Substation end of the circuits, south of Maryland Route 43. One of those lattice towers also requires a subsurface foundation upgrade that will not be visible upon completion. Additionally, new guying is required to be installed on pole 2021. No structures will be replaced or modified in such a way as to increase their height.

BGE will then remove the existing 2167kcm 72/7 ACSR "Kiwi" conductor from all three phases of the Circuit 2337 from Northeast Substation to Raphael Road Substation. It will be replaced with new 1927-T13 42/19 ACCR-TW "Cumberland". BGE will then replace the conductor in the same manner on the Circuit 2315. As a result of this replacement, the conductor diameter will be reduced to 1.551" OD compared to the existing installation of Kiwi at 1.735" OD.

B. Additional Information on Schedule, Tasks Required to Complete the Project, Government Agency Oversight of the Project, and Environmental Impacts and Mitigation, and Customer Impact

The following is the current schedule for the overhead transmission line construction work associated with the Project:

Task/Milestone	Commencement Date	Completion Date
Planning, Engineering, and Design	September 2018	March 2020
Transmission & Substation Civil/Electrical Construction		
Northeast to Raphael Rd	March 2020	June 2020
Graceton to Bagley to Raphael Rd	March 2020	June 2021
Conastone to Graceton	September 2020	June 2021

Environmental Agency Outreach, Impacts s & Permits

BGE has evaluated available natural and historic resource Geographic Information System (GIS) data sources and mapping, and field delineated wetland and stream resources. BGE has also field evaluated opportunities to utilize existing access in the project right-of-way (ROW) and stage construction equipment that will minimize environmental impacts. Resource agency outreach has included contact with the MDE Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding species and habitat on concern and the Maryland Historic Trust regarding historic resources in the ROW. BGE anticipates resource impacts will be temporary and minimal. See **Exhibit 4** for a table of anticipated permits required for the Project.

Customer Outreach & Impacts

BGE expects zero (0) hours of customer interruption associated with the construction work necessary to complete the Project.

BGE has developed an Outreach Plan for the Project and has begun its implementation by informing local government officials about the upcoming Project. The outreach plan includes providing ongoing updates to these officials and other identified stakeholders on Project permitting activities, schedule, and abutting property outreach. BGE plans to send letters to adjacent landowners beginning the first quarter of 2020, informing them of planned

work activities, the schedule, and information on how to contact BGE should they have any questions or concerns about the Project. A draft copy of the outreach letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit 5**.

Additionally, BGE plans to hold community meetings in Baltimore and Harford Counties in early 2020 where BGE will provide information to members of the public about the project work activities, and include representative photographs of the existing structures and rights-of-way. These meetings will provide information as to why the conductor replacement project will not appreciably change the visual viewshed of the existing structures or the rights-of-way. BGE will also conduct a question and answer (Q&A) session to address public concerns for the project. In parallel, BGE will operate a public website outlining the Project information, anticipated schedule, and BGE outreach contact information, for the public to engage with BGE on questions or concerns during the conductor replacement activities.

C. Legal Analysis of BGE's Request for a CPCN Waiver

Section 7-207(b)(4) of the Public Utility Companies Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland provides in relevant part as follows:

> [F]or construction related to an existing overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts, the Commission ***shall*** waive the requirement to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity if the Commission finds that the construction does not:
>
> 1. require the electric company to obtain new real property or additional rights-of-way through eminent domain; or
>
> 2. require larger or higher structures to accommodate:
>
> A. increased voltage; or
>
> B. larger conductors.

MD. Pub. Util. Code § 7-207(b)(4)(i) (emphasis added).

All of the above-referenced statutory requirements for obtaining a mandatory waiver of the CPCN requirements from the Commission are satisfied for each aspect of the proposed Project:

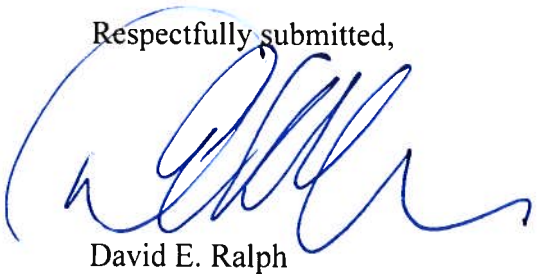
- All work involved with the Project relates to ***existing*** overhead transmission lines designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts.
- In order to construct the Project, BGE will not need to obtain any new real property or additional rights-of-way through eminent domain. All work related to the Project will take place on existing BGE transmission right of ways.

- BGE will not install any larger or higher structures to accommodate increased voltage or larger conductors. All overhead transmission lines in the scope of the Project will remain energized at 230 kV following construction.
    - For the Conastone to Graceton portion, even though the conductor size is increasing, the new structures are the same height as the existing structures but with a smaller footprint.
    - For Graceton to Raphael Rd, no structural work is taking place with the addition of the second conductor per phase.
    - In the case of Northeast to Raphael Rd, the newly installed conductors will be smaller than the existing conductors.

Accordingly, for all of the above-stated reasons, BGE respectfully requests the Commission waive the requirement to obtain a CPCN for this Project as set forth in Section 7-207(b)(4)(i) of the Public Utilities Article.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



David E. Ralph

cc: Leslie M. Romine, Staff Counsel, Maryland Public Service Commission
William F. Fields, Deputy People's Counsel, Maryland Office of People's Counsel
Steven M. Talson, Lead Counsel, Maryland Energy Administration and Maryland Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program

Exhibit 1: Aerial Image of Project Site

Conastone to Graceton

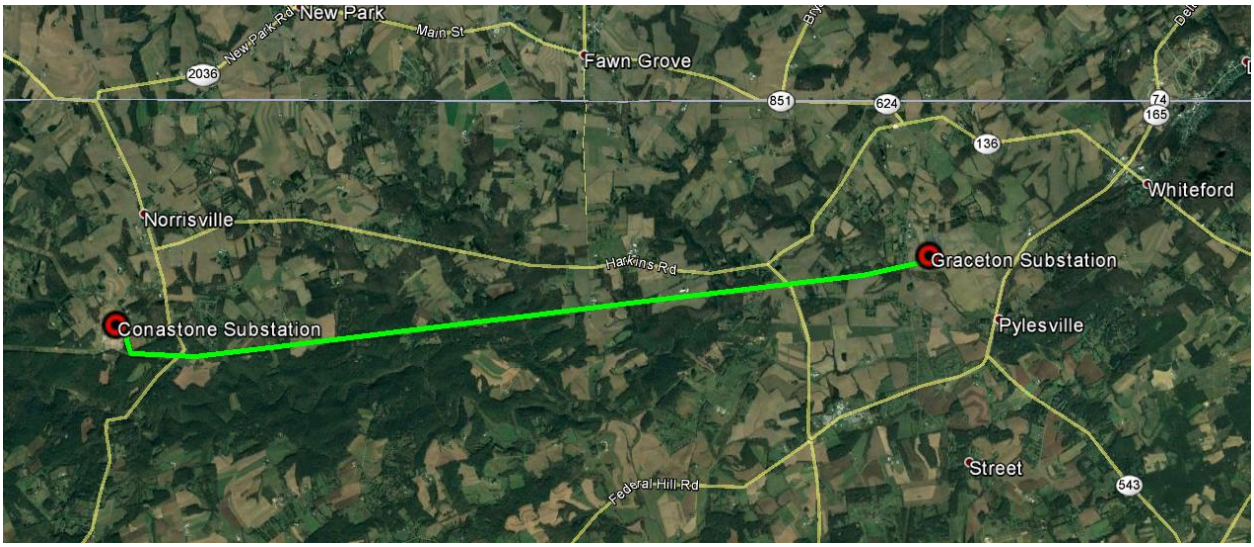


Exhibit 2: Aerial Image of Project Site

Graceton to Bagley to Raphael Rd

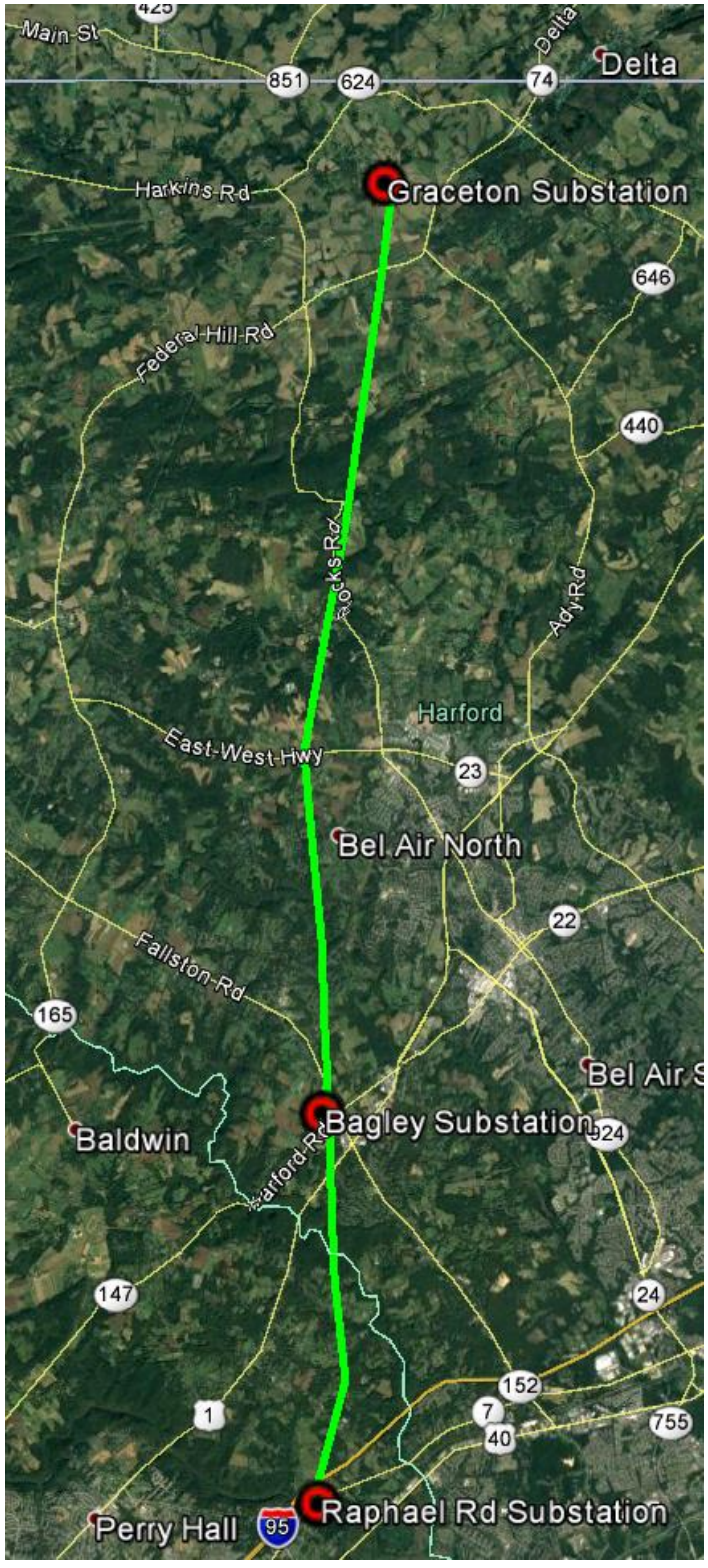


Exhibit 3: Aerial Image of Project Site

Northeast to Raphael Rd

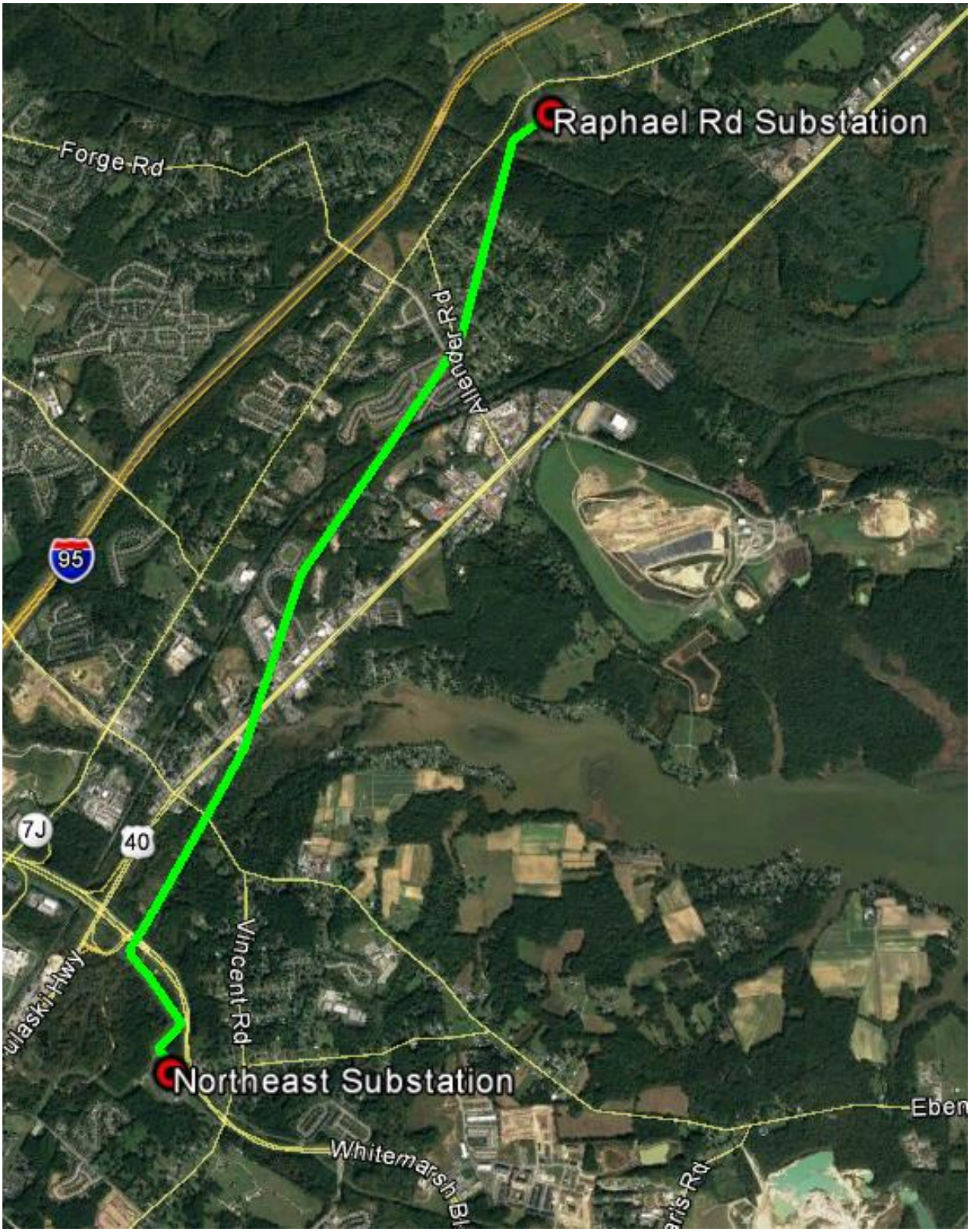


Exhibit 4

PERMITS AND AUTHORIZATIONS	
Government Agency	**Description of Review, Required Permits, Review and/or Authorizations**
Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Wetlands and Waterways Program **&** **Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch (ACOE)**	• Joint Non-Tidal Wetland Permit for temporary crossings or staging in wetlands, wetland buffers, and floodplain • MDE – Department of Natural Resource Environmental Review Coordinator Wildlife and Heritage Service • MD Historic Trust Review
Baltimore County - Department of Permits, Approvals and Inspections; Department of Environmental Protection and Resource Management; Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability	• Grading Permit – For land disturbance activities over 5,000 square feet. • Stormwater Management Approval - For land disturbance activities over 5,000 square feet. • Site Specific Erosion & Sediment Control Plan – requires Joint Review with the Soil Conservation District for disturbance activities over 20,000 square feet.
Harford County Sediment Control & Soil Conservation District	• Site Specific Erosion & Sediment Control Plan – review with Soil Conservation District
Maryland Department of the Environment – Technical Services & Permitting	• General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities Notice of Intent (NOI), which is required for earth disturbances associated with construction that are equal to or greater than one acre.
State Hwy Admin. District 4	• Overhead or Aerial Wire pull crossings of state roads, including: SR 23 (Norrisville Rd), SR 24 (Rocks Rd), and SR 624 (Graceton Rd) in Harford County; Construction Entrance upgrades and/or access for temporary Guard structures require a Utility Access permit.

Exhibit 4

Baltimore & Harford County Dept. of Public Works - Highways	• Overhead or Aerial Wire pull crossing over county road, including potential aerial lift truck staging in some locations TBD in the ROW; and, Construction Access entrances to ROW.
CSX Transportation Inc	• Railroad Utility Permit for overhead crossing in Baltimore County
Maryland Department of Natural Resource - Park Service	• Access Notification - Maintenance

Exhibit 5

An Exelon Company

P.O. Box 1475
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

www.bge.com

January 2020

Dear Neighbor,

As part of BGE's ongoing commitment to the safe and reliable delivery of energy to our customers, we will be upgrading the transmission infrastructure located on the BGE transmission corridor between the Conastone Substation in White Hall, Harford County and Graceton Substation in Pylesville, Harford County. The project will improve the overall electric system reliability for all customers.

BGE will replace two existing towers located at **Clermont Mill Rd (Tower 1411) and Urey Rd (Tower 1436).** In addition, we will replace all 8.5 miles of overhead electrical wires (conductors) on both transmission lines.

Project construction is targeted to begin in September 2020 and will continue until the summer of 2021. To prepare for this work, BGE will soon perform routine maintenance on stone access roads that reside on BGE easements or rights-of-way which will include laying new stone and/or tree trimming. Most of this work will occur during the work week during normal business hours.

If you have any questions, **please contact us at BGEProject@bge.com or 800.685.0123 and reference the Conastone to Graceton project.** BGE will hold a community meeting to share more details about this project and will share scheduling and location information once it is available.

BGE will do everything we can to minimize disturbances and will return any property that is altered to its original state once work is complete. I thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we complete this important safety and reliability project.

Sincerely,

Lauren McKee
Senior Project Manager
BGE

Conastone – Graceton Transmission Project

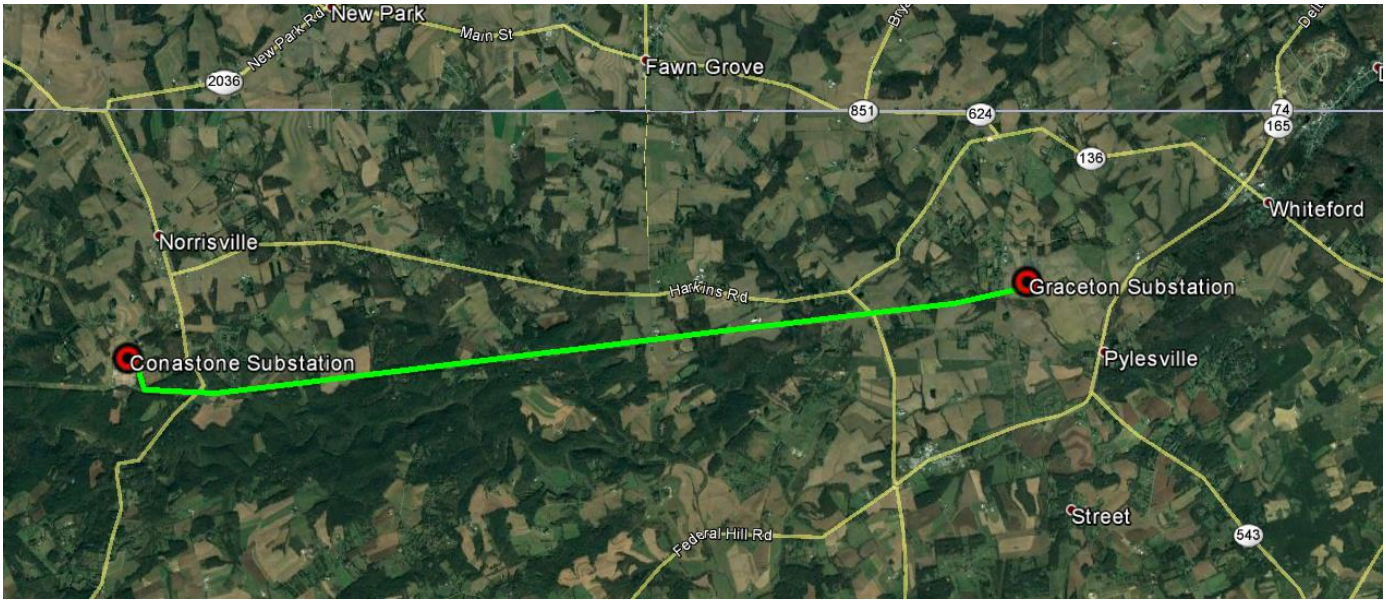


Exhibit 5

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Baltimore, Maryland 21203

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January 2020

Dear Neighbor,

As part of BGE's ongoing commitment to the safe and reliable delivery of energy to our customers, we will be upgrading the transmission infrastructure located on the BGE transmission corridor between the Graceton Substation in Pylesville, Harford County, Bagley Substation in Harford County and Raphael Road Substation in Kingsville, Baltimore County. The project will improve the overall electric system reliability for all customers.

You may recall BGE recently replaced the lattice towers with steel poles along this transmission corridor as part of our NETSI project. This next project will involve installing a second set of overhead electrical wires ("conductors") per phase on our existing poles. We do not foresee the need to install any new towers as part of this project.

Project construction is targeted to begin in March 2020 and will continue until the summer of 2021. To prepare for this work, BGE will soon perform routine maintenance on stone access roads that reside on BGE easements or rights-of-way which will include laying new stone and/or tree trimming. Most of this work will occur during the work week during normal business hours.

If you have any questions, **please contact us at BGEProject@bge.com or 800.685.0123 and reference the Graceton to Bagley to Raphael Road project.** BGE will hold a community meeting to share more details about this project and will share scheduling and location information once it is available.

BGE will do everything we can to minimize disturbances and will return any property that is altered to its original state once work is complete. I thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we complete this important safety and reliability project.

Sincerely,

Lauren McKee
Senior Project Manager
BGE

Graceton – Bagley to Raphael Road Transmission Project

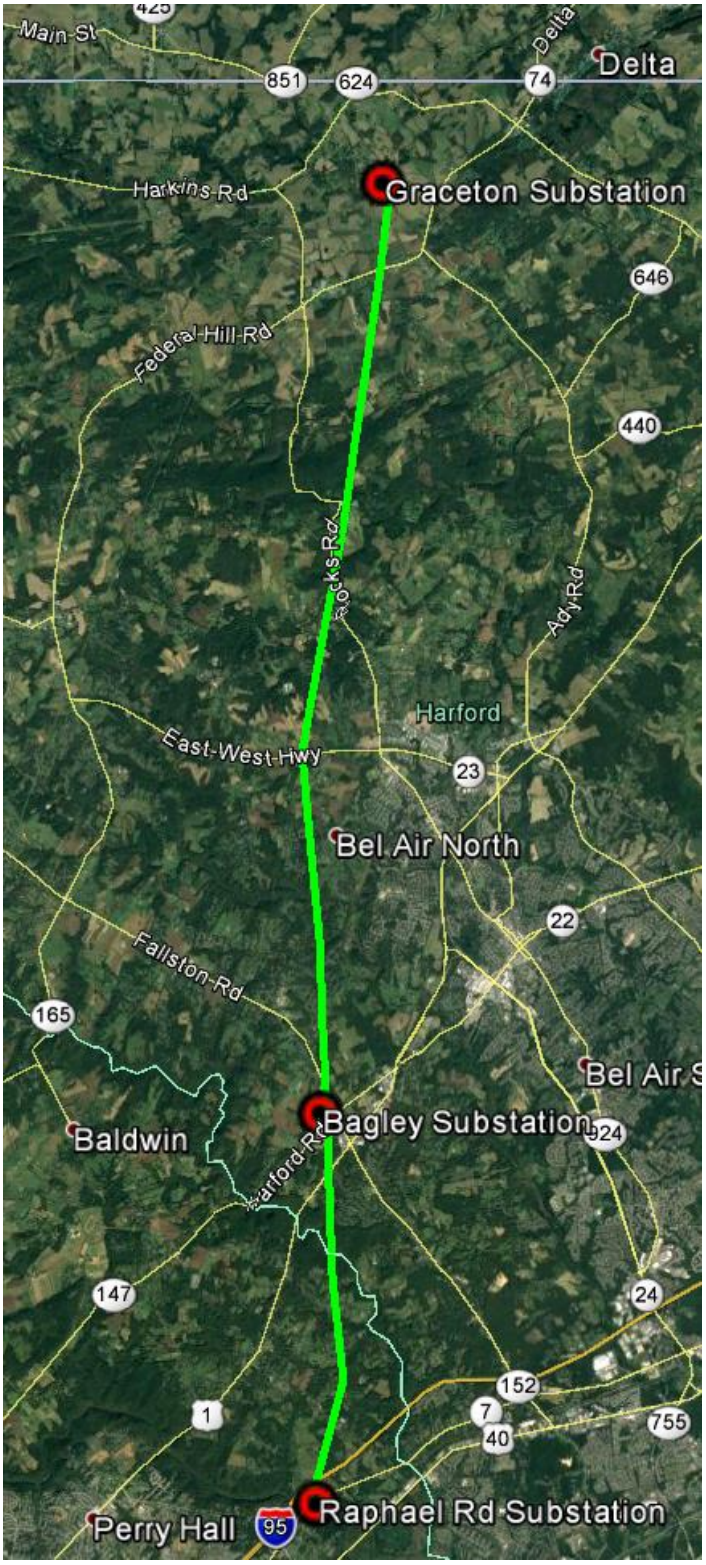

Exhibit 5

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January 2020

Dear Neighbor,

As part of BGE's ongoing commitment to the safe and reliable delivery of energy to our customers, we will be upgrading the transmission infrastructure located on the BGE transmission corridor between the Raphael Road Substation in Kingsville, Baltimore County and Northeast Substation in Middle River, Baltimore County. The project will improve the overall electric system reliability for all customers.

This project will involve reinforcing a few of the towers near Northeast Substation and replacing all 3.9 miles of the overhead electrical wires (conductors) on both circuits.

Project construction is targeted to begin in March 2020 and will continue until the summer of 2020. To prepare for this work, BGE will soon perform routine maintenance on stone access roads that reside on existing BGE easements or rights-of-way which will include laying new stone and/or tree trimming. Most of this work will occur during the work week during normal business hours.

If you have any questions, **please contact us at BGEProject@bge.com or 800.685.0123 and reference the Raphael Road to Northeast project.** BGE will hold a community meeting to share more details about this project and will share scheduling and location information once it is available.

BGE will do everything we can to minimize disturbances and will return any property that is altered to its original state once work is complete. I thank you in advance for your understanding and patience as we complete this important safety and reliability project.

Sincerely,

Lauren McKee
Senior Project Manager
BGE

Raphael Road – Northeast Transmission Project