

April 1, 2020

## Bush River Crossing FAQs

What is the purpose and need for this upgrade and service? Who does it serve?

The proposed project, which involves rebuilding the existing transmission line (Circuits 110620/110621) at the Bush River Crossing, connects the Perryman Substation to the Edgewood and Joppatowne Substations. It is required to improve reliability for the surrounding communities and critical infrastructure it serves, including the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Edgewood facility. Inspections of the line have revealed outage and structural issues and the line has outlived its expected service life. As a result, this critical line needs to be rebuilt.

The existing transmission line (Circuits #110620/110621) was constructed in 1951 and has experienced substantial reliability and other problems:

- 9 outages were line-initiated, all 9 occurred within the Bush River Crossing
  - 8 outages were avian interference
    - 7 outages involved bird nest debris
    - 1 outages bird waste contamination
  - 1 unknown outage likely avian related
- Severe avian contamination
- Severe foundation degradation was discovered after an inspection in 1991
- History of sailboat contacts

How does this effect the environment?" Environmental safety?

As part of the permitting process, we will be required to mitigate all environmental impacts, from construction and tree clearing activities. Existing structures will be removed, and those areas will be restored. Mitigation plans will be developed with the Maryland Department of Environment and Department of Natural Resources through our permitting process. At this time, BGE is considering replanting trees within the old right-of-way (ROW) to the extent practicable once the existing structures have been removed and the line has shifted. BGE is also working with Harford County and State Critical Area Commission to determine mitigation requirements.

How visible will it be to my house?

Several new structures, one on each bank and one in the middle of the river will be approximately 240 to 255 ft high. The existing structure within the river is currently visible and the increase in height may be noticeable but will not have any adverse effects on viewshed. The structures along the riverbanks are not expected to be visible from private residences.

Are there sound waves coming from it? Noise factor.

The noise factor from the line operation will not change. There will be temporary noise associated with construction equipment. The construction noise will be kept within acceptable limits.

What are the dimensions? Height.

Several new structures, one on each bank and one in the middle of the river will be approximately 240-255 ft high. One of the reasons for this increased height, is to allow boats to pass safely underneath.

What will this do to the value of my property?

There is no expected impact on property values. This scope of work updates only a small section of the existing transmission line which is located on Harford County, APG, and Constellation property.

Has this been approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) and natural resources and United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)?

We are currently in the approval process from the state and local agencies. We are in the process of filing the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with the PSC.

How will it impact the marine life?

BGE will minimize impacts to marine life to the greatest extent possible by applying relevant and appropriate Best Management Practices during construction activities and complying with applicable environmental policies and regulations. The contractor shall submit a work plan that addresses environmental protection prior to construction taking place. Construction activities will be scheduled to minimize effects on marine life. The state of Maryland has placed calendar restrictions on water construction activities to minimize the impact to marine life. The construction schedule accommodates those restrictions.

Will construction take place via Route 159 or affect access to the other side of the bridge?

- Access to land structures on the Edgewood side of Project will occur via the existing stone access road from Fairview Point Road.
- Access to land structures on the Perryman side of Project will occur via the existing stone access road from Chelsea Road.
- Access to the soil boring location within Bush River will be completed via barge from Curtis Bay and skiff that will depart from the Willoughby Beach in Edgewood.

How long will construction take?

- Actual construction activities are expected to take 8 months
  - 4.5 months to install foundations, erect structures, and string conductor
  - 1.5 months to energize the new circuits (3-week outages for each circuit)
  - 2 months to remove existing structures
- Due to wildlife constraints, the overall calendar duration is expected to be 15 months (September 2021 thru November 2022)

Will you reschedule the community update?

The community update has been rescheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8 pm, as an audio conference call. The conference call will be supported with visual information presented on the project website:

<https://www.bge-tsrep.com/>