valley link SM

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learn.pjm.com

PJM Identified the Need for Regional Reliability

PJM is the organization responsible for making sure electricity can move safely and reliably across 13-states, including West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. Each year, it analyzes the regional power grid to identify future needs, such as growing electricity use, new power sources, older power plants closing and power lines that may become overloaded. When PJM identifies a grid reliability problem, companies can propose solutions to fix it.

The Valley North Project was selected and approved by PJM to help address one of those needs by reducing strain on the electric system, improving reliability and helping meet the region's growing demand for electricity. To learn more about PJM, visit their website at **learn.pjm.com.**

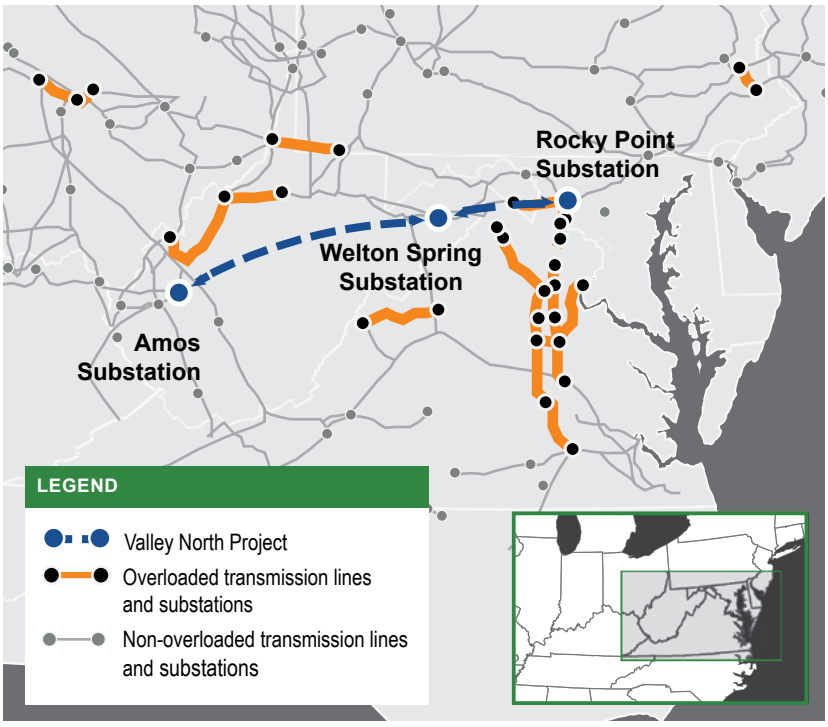
PJM's competitive process is similar to getting estimates to fix a problem at your home. Imagine you discover a leak in your roof. First, you identify the problem. Then, you ask several contractors to look at it and recommend a solution. One contractor might suggest patching the leak, another might recommend replacing part of the roof and a third might propose a different fix that prevents water from reaching that area altogether.

After reviewing the options, you would choose the solution that best solves the problem, provides long-term value and is cost-effective. PJM follows a similar process when it comes to addressing grid concerns. After identifying a need on the electric grid, it invites transmission companies to propose solutions, and then selects the option that best addresses the issue while balancing reliability, cost and long-term benefits for customers.

PJM analyzes regional transmission system → **Identifies needs to ensure reliability** → **Releases findings and concerns** → **PJM opens competitive window for proposals to solve need**

Valley Link Proposed a Solution

Valley Link Transmission LLC proposed a solution to address the long-term reliability need in this region—approximately 260 miles of new 765-kV transmission lines connecting the existing Amos substation in Putnam County, West Virginia, to a new Welton Spring substation in Hardy County, West Virginia, to a new Rocky Point substation in Frederick County, Maryland. A new 765-kV line will deliver large amounts of electricity across the southern PJM system, reducing the existing burden on existing transmission facilities by distributing power across the electric grid. Many of the 500-kV and 765-kV transmission lines in this region are already overloaded[1]—meaning the power lines are carrying more electricity than they are designed to carry. This reduces the flexibility needed to reroute power when needed, like severe weather events, during maintenance activities, and equipment outages. The new 765-kV transmission lines that are part of the Valley North Project is the solution needed to relieve the existing overloaded transmission grid to reliably deliver electricity across the region, that will ultimately be delivered to our local communities.



[1]https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/committees-groups/committees/teac/2024/20241203/20241203-item-11---reliability-analysis-update.pdf



Community Benefits

The Valley North Project strengthens the electric system that supports everything from homes and local businesses to hospitals, schools, and emergency services. It's not about sending power somewhere else or serving a single customer or industry—it's designed to maintain reliability and support future energy demand growth across the board.



Adds capacity

A new 765-kV transmission line helps move more electricity across the regional grid and addresses our changing energy needs and the region's power demand, which is expected to double over the next decade.

Reduces system stress

The project helps ease the burden on existing overloaded transmission facilities. Much of our region's infrastructure was built for lower, more stable demand. As usage increases and equipment ages, lines and substations can become constrained—especially during peak periods—putting reliable service at risk.

Supports reliable service

By adding capacity to the electric system and reducing its stress, the Valley North Project ensures energy is reliably transmitted when it's needed, where it's needed, for whoever it's needed—including you.

Provide long-term economic benefits

This project will:

- Create jobs during construction and those contractors, tradespeople, and workers frequenting local businesses.
- Make the region more attractive to businesses due to the improved infrastructure and strengthened energy reliability.
- Expand tax bases that can provide additional resources to the local community.