valley link℠

Welcome to the Valley North Project Open House



A JOINT VENTURE OF

TRANSOURCE Dominion Energy FirstEnergy Transmission

The Valley North Project Community Information

Thank you for joining us. The Valley North Project, developed by Valley Link Transmission—a joint venture between Dominion Energy, FirstEnergy Transmission and Transource Energy (jointly owned by American Electric Power and Evergy), involves a new 765-kilovolt transmission line between Putnam County, West Virginia, and Frederick County, Maryland. The project also includes two new substations—one in Hardy County, West Virginia, and one in Frederick County, Maryland. This booklet brings together the information shared throughout the open house so you can explore the project at your own pace, find the topics that matter most to you and understand how to provide input.

Use this booklet to learn more about the Valley North Project, understand what to expect at today's open house and follow the next steps in the project's development.

Visit the virtual open house

Open House Guide

This open house uses an informal, station-based format. There is no formal presentation, so you may arrive at any time during the scheduled hours, move through the room at your own pace and speak directly with project team members.

- **Check in:** Sign in and pick up project materials.
- **Review the project:** Learn about the need, benefits, timeline, potential routes and a variety of other project-related subjects.
- **Explore potential routes:** Review maps, routing considerations and visual simulations.
- **Ask questions:** Speak one-on-one with team members about routing, engineering, environmental studies, property questions and construction.
- **Share input:** Submit a written comment or use the interactive map to identify location-specific information. You may leave your comment in one of the baskets on the comment table, at check in, with any project staff or you may mail it in by **December 18, 2026**. Your feedback will be considered in the route analysis, helping the project team determine the preferred and alternate routes which are anticipated early to mid 2027.

Scan to view interactive map

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

To help maintain a safe, respectful and productive open house for everyone, please:

- **Treat others with respect.**
- **Listen and share openly.**
- **Share access to project staff and materials.**
- **Go to the open house station that interests you.** Large banners identify each station. If you have a particular question or topic you would like to discuss, please proceed to the relevant station to discuss with staff.
- **Share your feedback with team members.**



Keep signs and literature outside the venue. Attendees may not display signs, post materials or distribute pamphlets inside the venue.



No weapons or firearms are permitted in the venue. Weapons, firearms and other dangerous items are not permitted.

The open house does not include a formal presentation. You are welcome to review materials at their own pace, speak one-on-one with project team members and remain at the open house until it concludes. Each station is marked with display banners or boards identifying its topic.

Please be aware that you may encounter a line at some stations, including the maps. We appreciate your patience as we have conversations with other attendees.

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.**

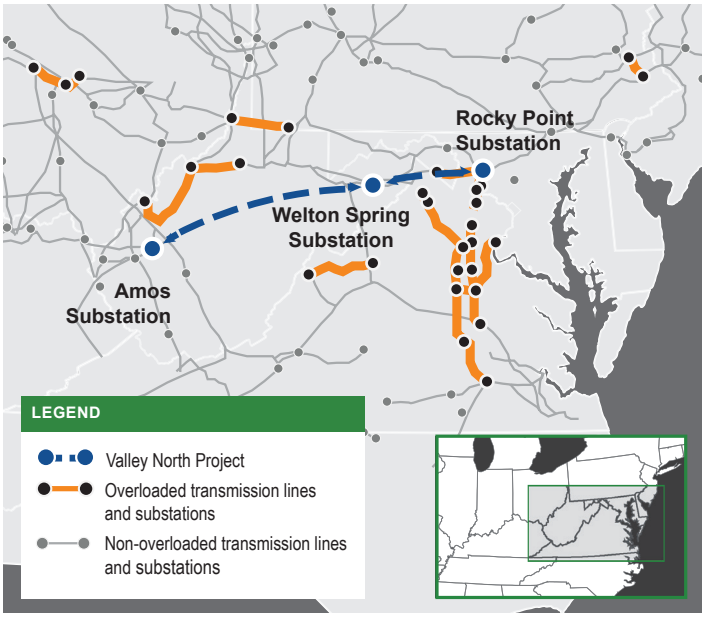
PJM's competitive process is similar to getting estimates to fix a problem at your home. Imagine you discover a leak in your roof. First, you identify the problem. Then, you ask several contractors to look at it and recommend a solution. One contractor might suggest patching the leak, another might recommend 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.



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.



Learn more:
learn.pjm.com/

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

Community Benefits

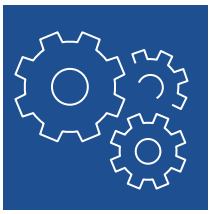
The Valley North Project strengthens the electric system that supports everything from homes and local businesses to hospitals, schools, and emergency services. It's not about sending power somewhere else or serving a single customer or industry—it's designed to maintain reliability and support future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

The Valley North Project:



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.



Provides 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.

FACT

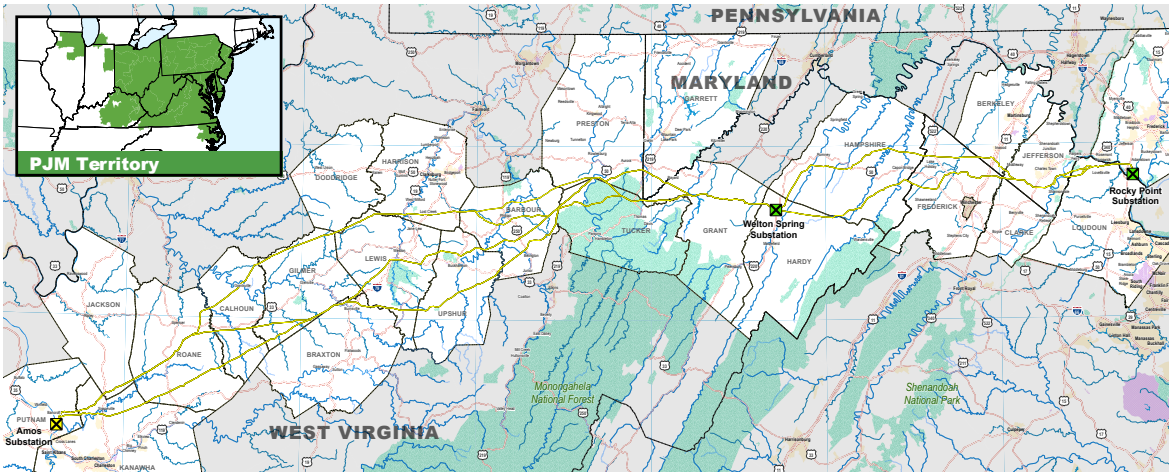
Get the Facts:

The Valley North Project is designed to benefit all the states and communities it reaches. The Valley North Project strengthens the underlying 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.

Project Map

The project map shows the potential routes, state and county boundaries, existing and proposed substations, existing transmission lines and major geographic features. Use the legend and nearby roads, waterways or landmarks to orient yourself. Detailed maps can be found at the routing station and online at **vltransmission.com/valley-north**.

Find detailed and interactive maps:
vltransmission.com/valley-north



Existing substation
Proposed substation
Potential Route
County Boundary
State Boundary
River

FACT

Get the Facts:

No final route has been selected for the Valley North Project.
Valley Link wants your input to help determine the best route.

Why not put the transmission line underground?

When proposing grid enhancements, we conduct months, even years, of research and planning to ensure that the work provides commensurate benefits to the customer. The Valley North Project was designed to strengthen the backbone of the grid and support long-term economic vitality while impacting both ratepayers and the environment as little as possible. Burying lines of this power level (765-kV) is not realistic. There are no long-distance 765-kV transmission lines operating underground anywhere in the world. Transmission lines at this voltage level are built overhead because it is the only proven technology available today. While some transmission lines can be built underground, those systems are typically used at lower voltage levels and carry less electricity. For example, the highest voltage generally considered for long-distance underground transmission is 500-kV HVDC (high-voltage direct current). Because the Valley North Project requires a 765-kV transmission line to move a much larger amount of electricity, it must be built overhead using proven technology that can safely and reliably meet the region's future energy needs. While overhead structures are taller than lower-voltage transmission lines, a 765-kV line can reduce overall land use and environmental disturbance over time. A single 765-kV line can deliver roughly the same amount of electricity as six 345-kV lines or three 500-kV lines. By moving a significant amount of power on a single transmission corridor, the need for multiple lower-voltage lines and additional rights-of-way can be reduced as energy demand continues to grow. As a result, while a 765-kV line requires larger structures, it can represent the most efficient long-term solution that supports grid reliability while minimizing the overall footprint needed to deliver power across the region. It's also incredibly expensive—undergrounding can cost up to $10 million more per mile compared to aboveground lines, which could increase utility rates and spend taxpayer and utility customer resources irresponsibly. Underground lines are also invasive, requiring more right-of-way and construction time. Repairs generally take much longer to complete since problem areas are harder to find and the work requires digging up equipment.

Project Timeline

PJM Identifies a Need
JULY–SEPTEMBER 2024

PJM, the regional electric grid operator, identified a need to strengthen reliability in the region's electric system and opened a competitive process for transmission developers to propose solutions

Valley Link is Formed
SUMMER 2024

Dominion Energy, FirstEnergy Transmission and Transource Energy (jointly owned by American Electric Power and Evergy) formed Valley Link Transmission LLC to develop a solution to address the identified energy reliability need

Valley North Project Selected
FEBRUARY 2025

After reviewing 94 proposals, PJM selected the Valley North Project to help strengthen electric reliability in the region

Early Project Planning Begins
FEBRUARY–LATE 2025

The project team began reviewing the study area, developing engineering standards and evaluating potential opportunities and constraints

Early Stakeholder Engagement
EARLY 2026

Valley Link met with local officials, state and federal agencies to better understand community priorities, local conditions and environmental considerations

Summer Open Houses and Community Input
SUMMER 2026

Valley Link hosted 23 public open houses to share information about the project, present study segments and gather feedback from landowners, residents and community stakeholders

Feedback and Study Segments Reviewed
LATE SUMMER–EARLY FALL 2026

The project team reviewed input received during the summer open houses and evaluated study segments to develop potential route options

Fall Open Houses and Community Input
LATE 2026

Valley Link is hosting additional public open houses to share updated project information, present potential route options and continue gathering community feedback

Survey Permissions and Field Surveys
LATE FALL 2026–EARLY 2027

Right-of-way representatives will begin contacting property owners to discuss survey permissions and field surveys may begin in select areas as discussed with representatives

Preferred and Alternate Route Identification
EARLY–MID 2027

Based on engineering, environmental, regulatory and community considerations, a preferred and alternate route will be identified and submitted as part of regulatory applications in West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland

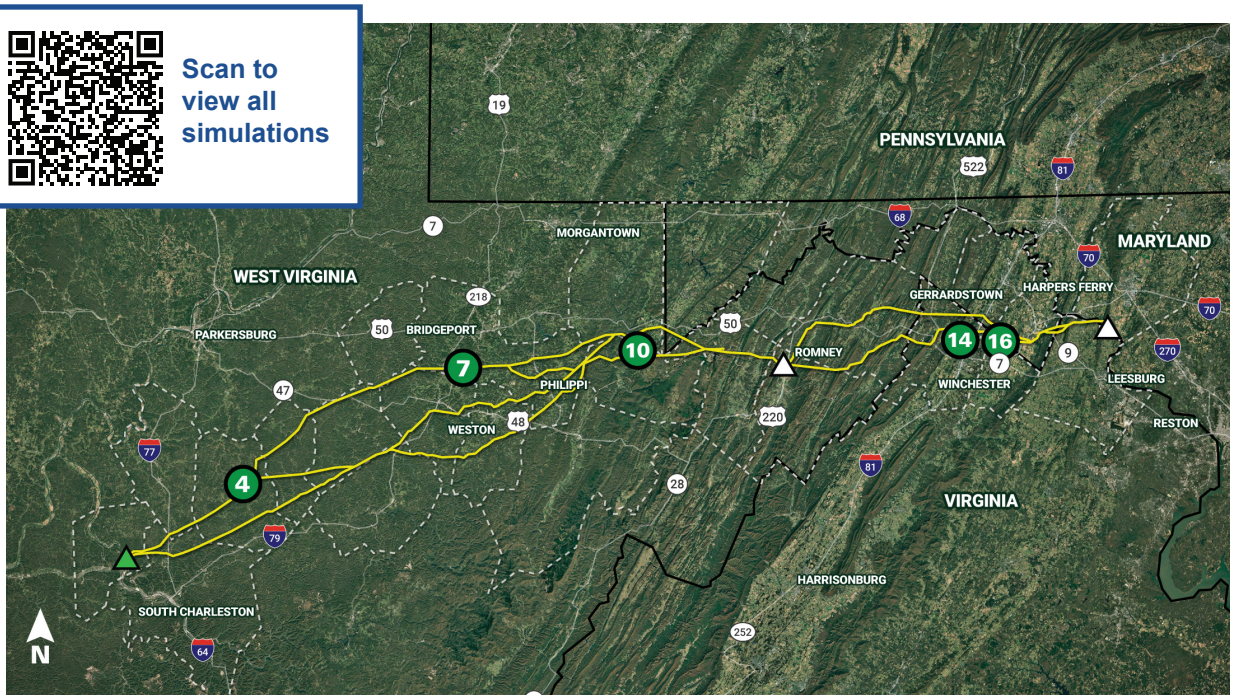
Regulatory Review, Environmental Studies and Permitting, Easement Acquisition and Construction
AFTER REGULATORY FILINGS

State regulatory reviews, environmental studies, easement acquisition and construction activities would occur after required applications are filed and reviewed

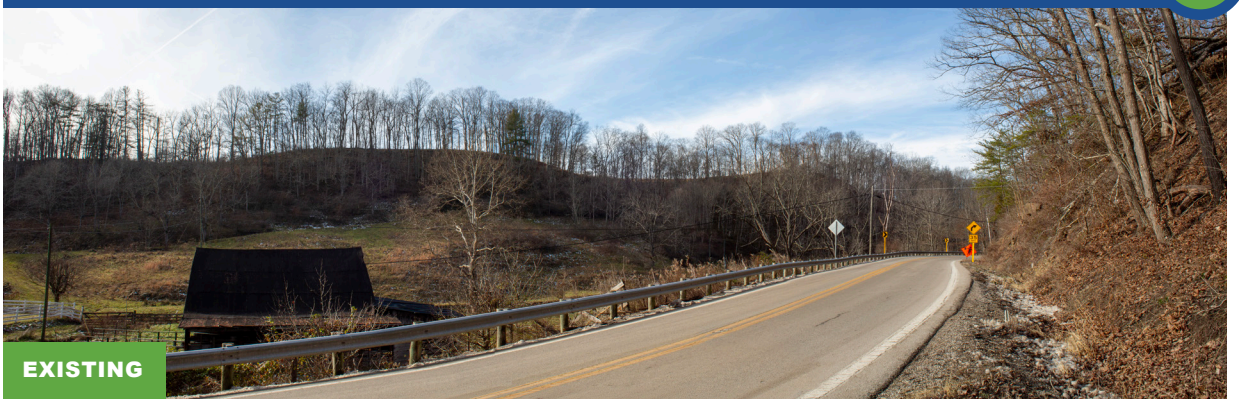
Visual Simulations

The Valley North Project area includes many different landscapes and terrain. To help community members visualize what a new 765-kV may look like in your area, photo simulations have been developed. No final route has been selected. These images are for discussion only and do not show a final route, structure location or design.

Scan to view all simulations



Simulation 4





Simulation 7

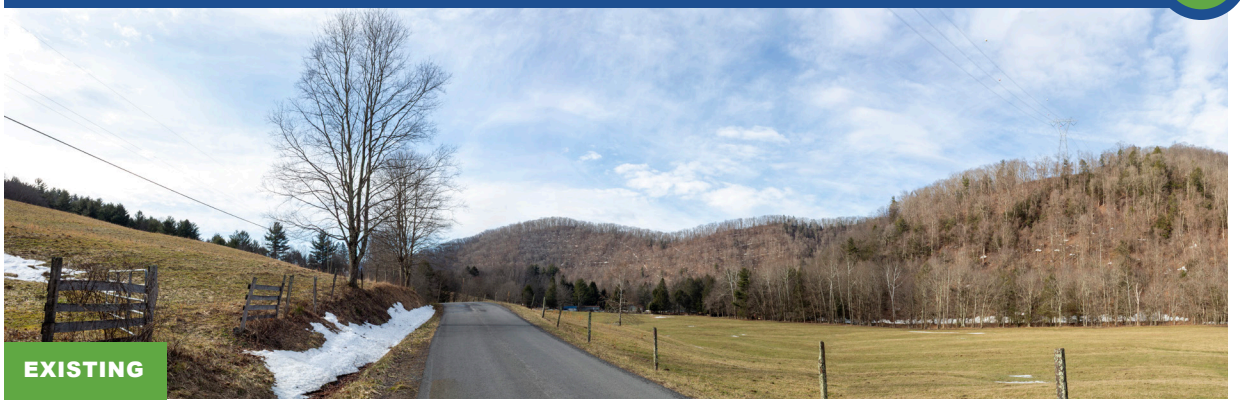


EXISTING



PROPOSED

Simulation 10

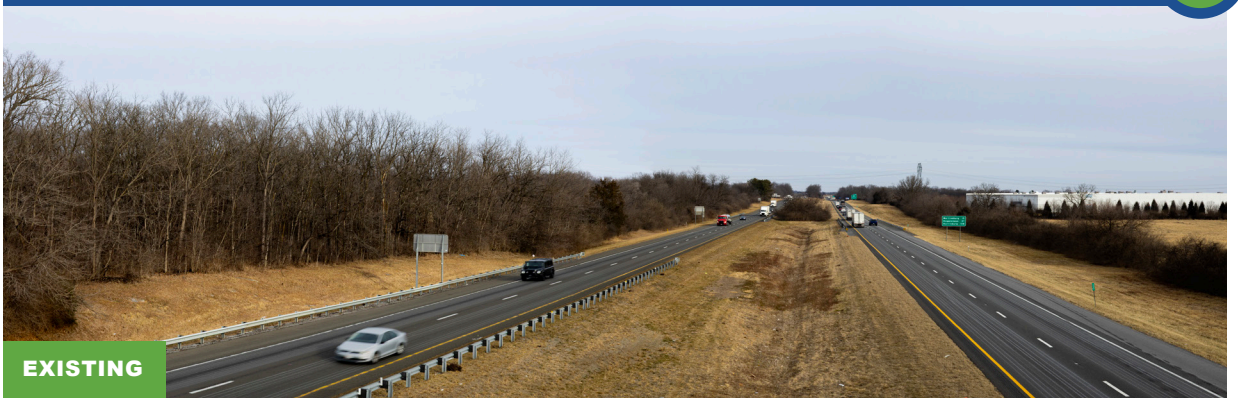


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PROPOSED

Simulation 14

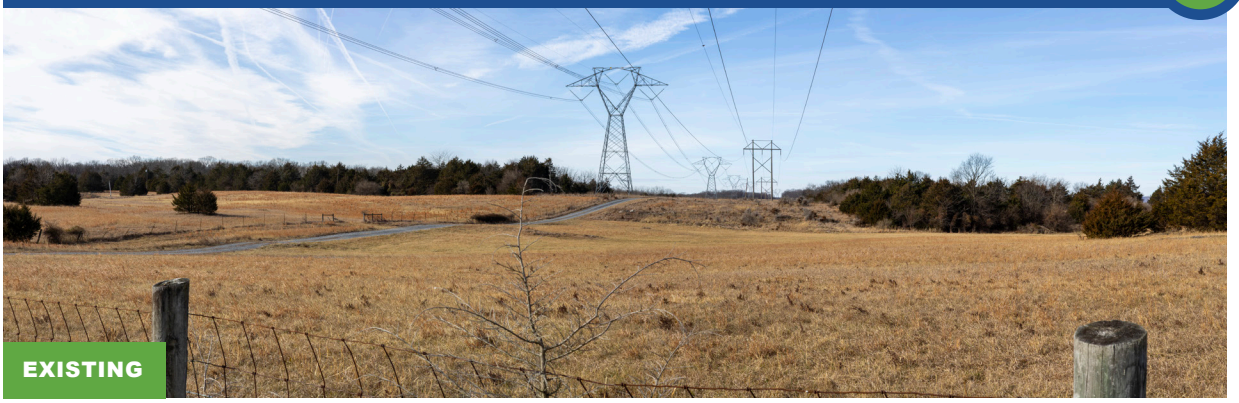


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PROPOSED

Simulation 16



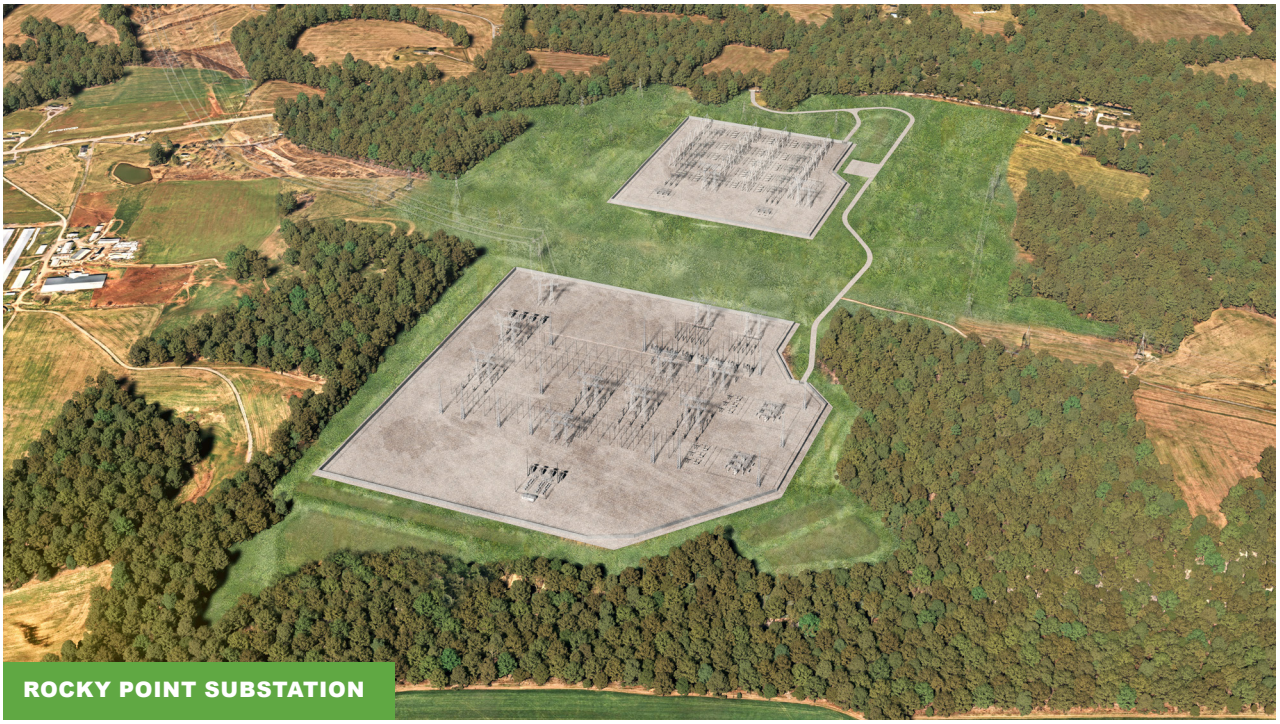
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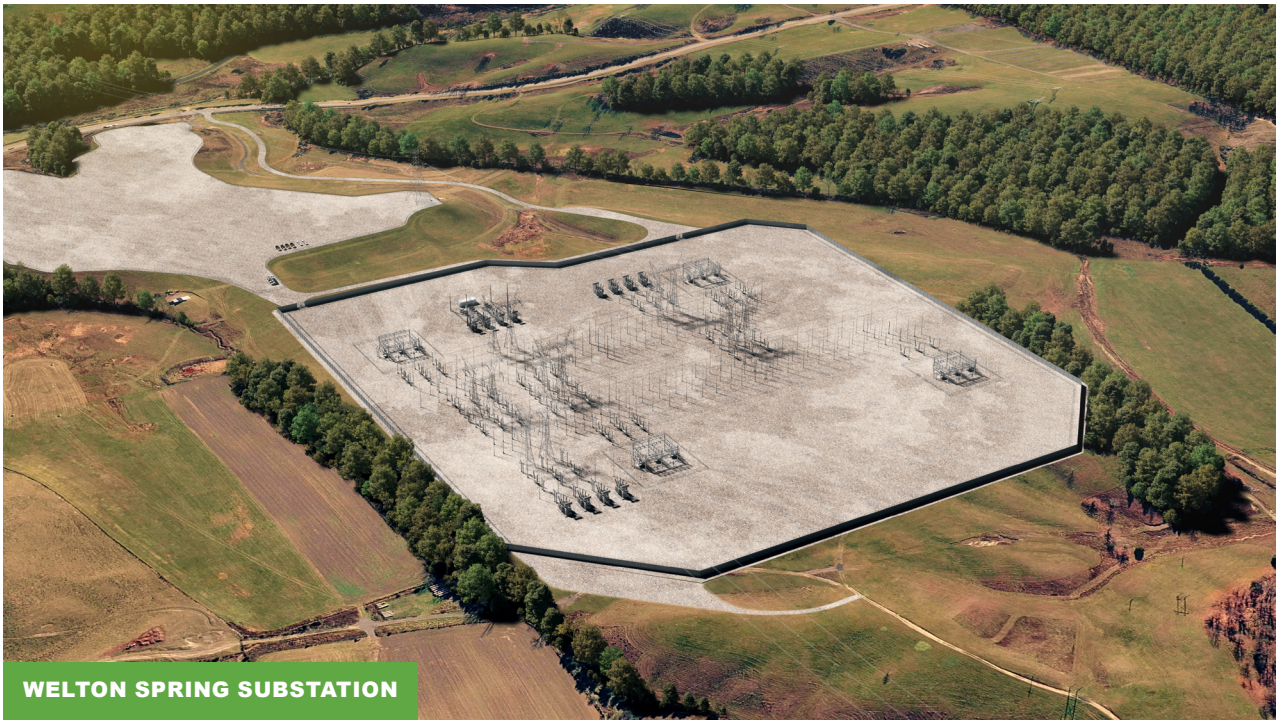
PROPOSED

Substations

The Valley North Project includes two new substations—the Welton Spring Substation in Hardy County, West Virginia and Rocky Point Substation in Frederick County, Maryland. Substations connect transmission lines and allow the electric system to control and route power safely and reliably. Below are aerial simulations, illustrations for discussion purposes only, showing existing conditions and proposed conditions of what the substation may look like. The final design is subject to change pending public, engineering and regulatory review.



ROCKY POINT SUBSTATION



WELTON SPRING SUBSTATION

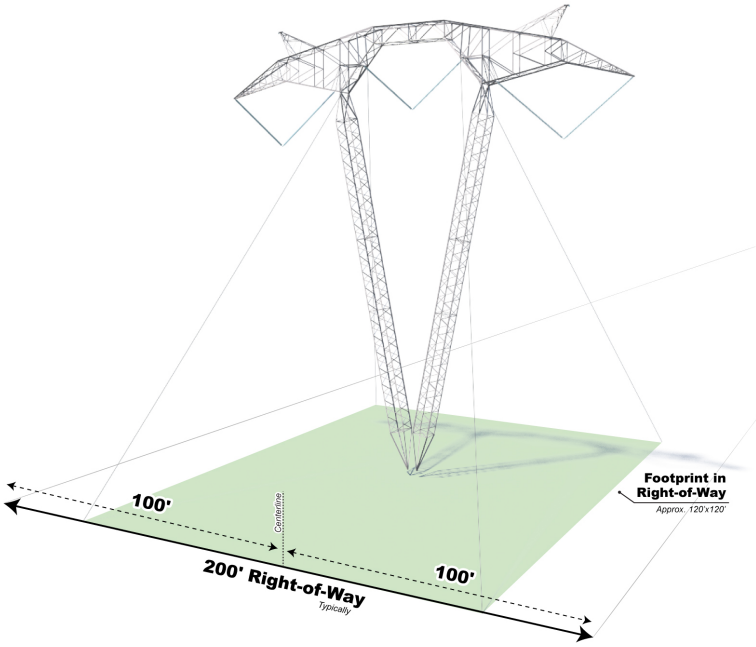
Typical Structures

A 765-kV transmission line, like the Valley North Project, may be designed using different types of structures depending on engineering and environmental factors. Below are examples of five structures that may be used in the design of the Valley North Project. These images represent typical structures for the project on flat terrain. Final design is subject to change pending public, engineering and regulatory review.

1 765-kV Guyed Vee

150' Tall

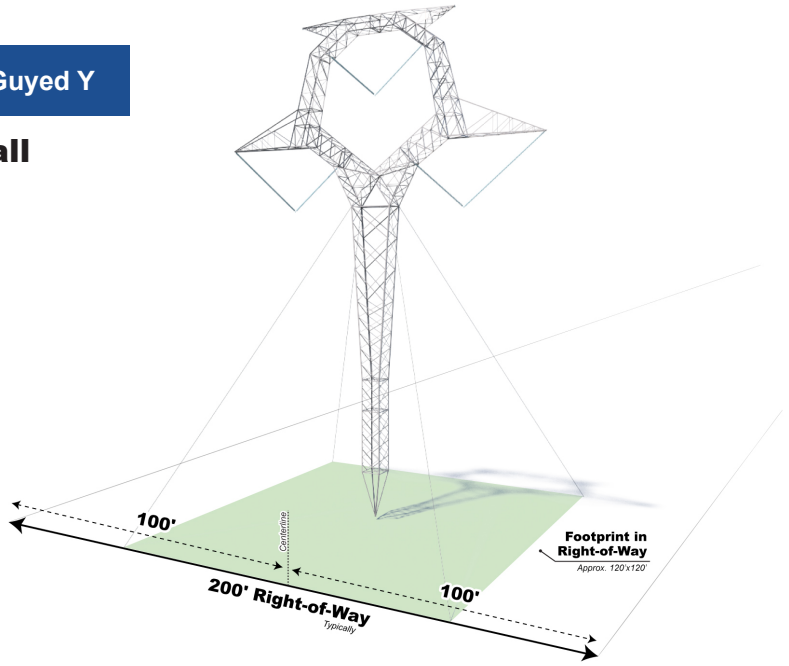
Typically



2 765-kV Guyed Y

175' Tall

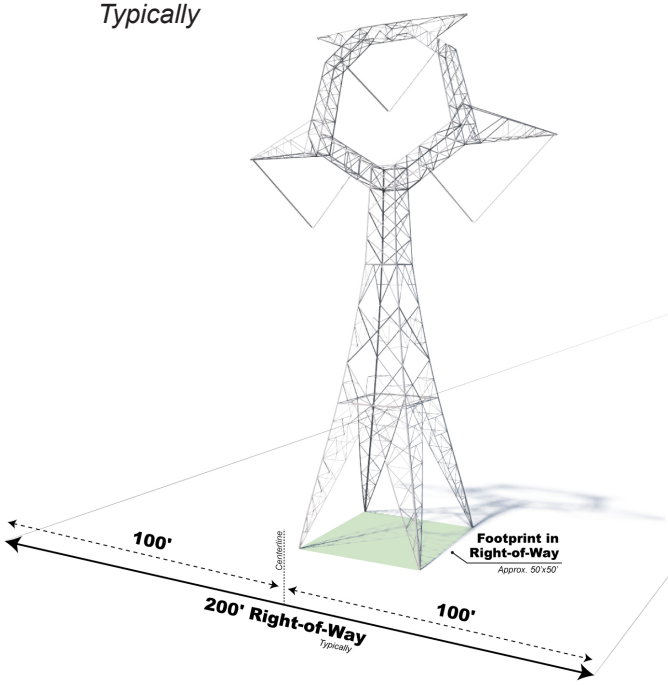
Typically



3 765-kV Self-Supporting Delta

175' Tall

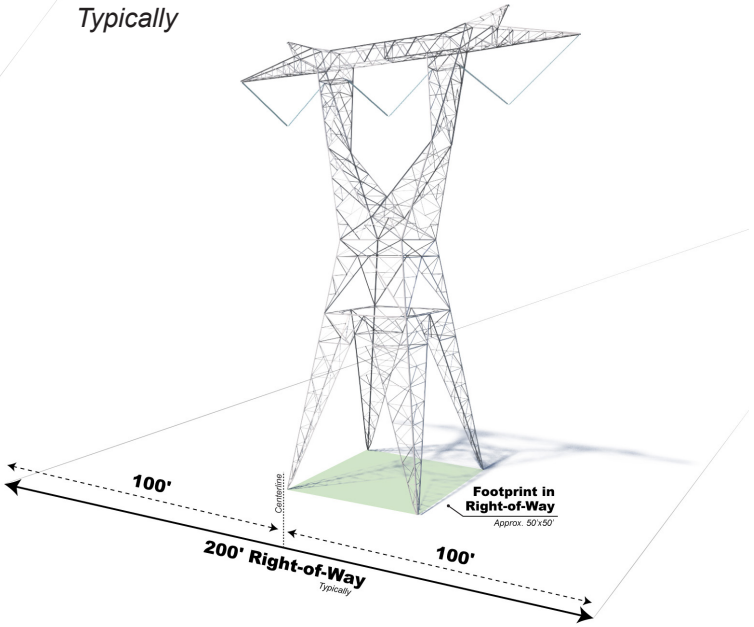
Typically



4 765-kV Self-Supporting Horizontal

150' Tall

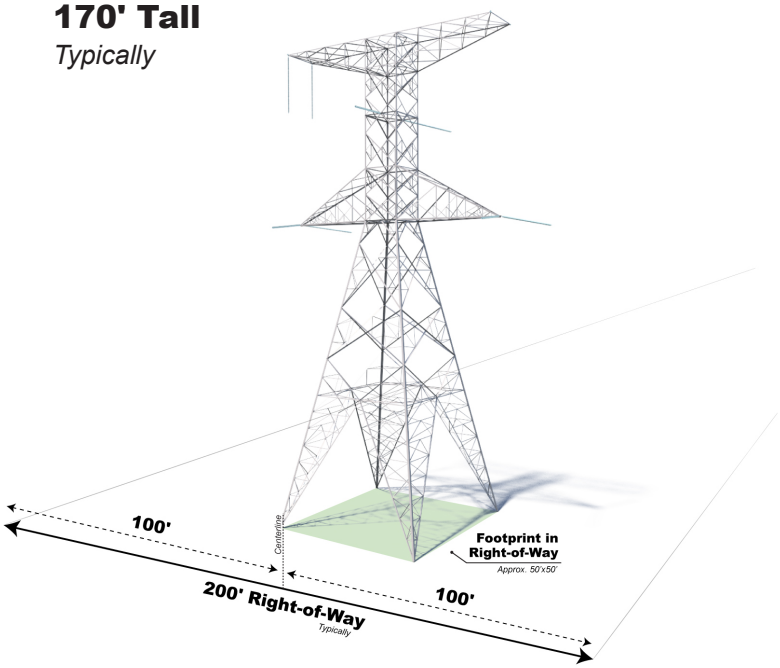
Typically

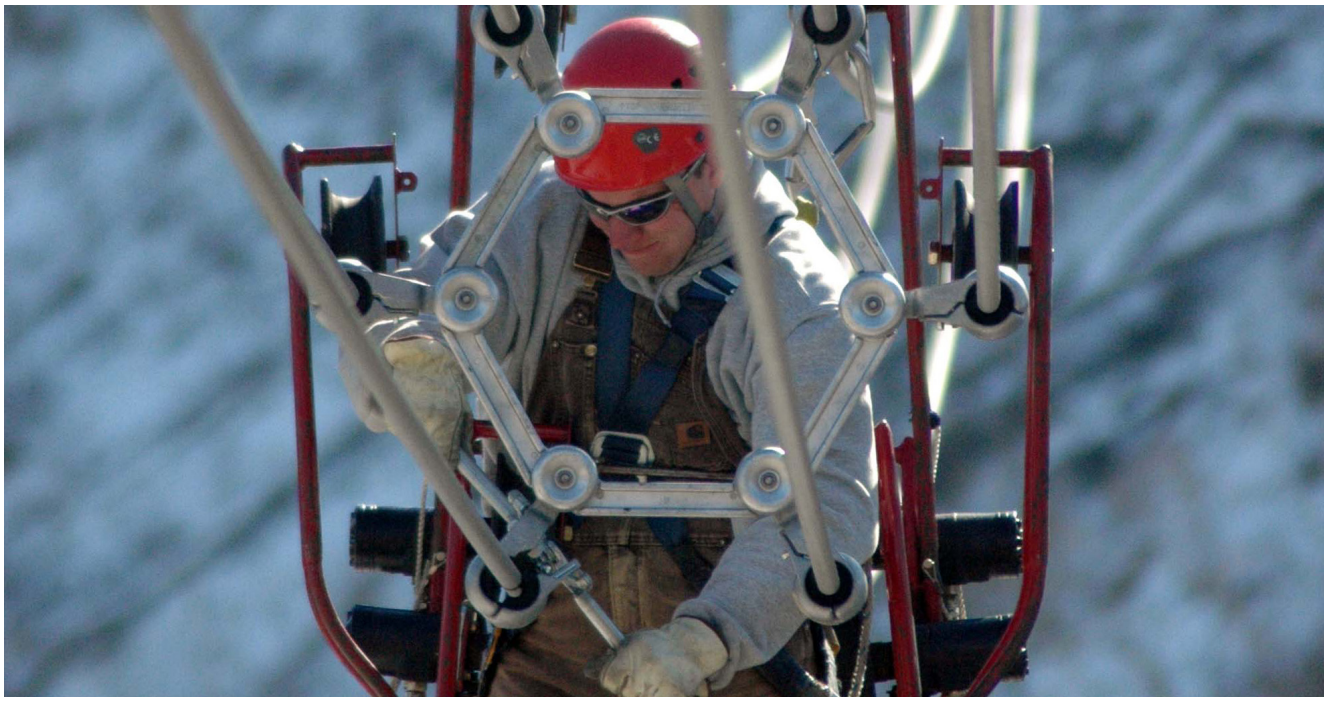


5 765-kV Self-Supporting Delta Dead End

170' Tall

Typically





Construction Considerations

- Typically construction will take place during daylight hours
- Construction will periodically pause between phases of work
- We will use existing roads to access the right-of-way where possible
- We will coordinate access to the right-of-way with property owners
- Valley Link may access the right-of-way to inspect and maintain the transmission line **after construction and for vegetation management**

Build a reliable energy future with a first-class team.
Interested in being a contractor or supplier in the future?
Share your information with us.

Visit our suppliers page

Living Near Transmission Lines

People often have questions about living near transmission lines, like those of the Valley North Project. Let's address some of the most frequently asked about topics.

Overall Health: Transmission lines are designed and operated to meet applicable standards. The Valley North Project will comply with all applicable government requirements established to protect health.

Noise: Transmission lines (including 765-kV lines) are designed to produce minimal audible noise under fair weather conditions, and any noise from the line decreases quickly with distance.

- **Wet weather conditions:** Corona noise most often occurs during inclement weather when conductors are wet, but noise levels decrease rapidly with distance from the conductors.
- **Normal weather conditions:** Under fair weather, the sound is typically far lower than when conductors are wet and can often be masked by wind, insects or rustling trees.
- **Sound levels:** Measured at the edge of the right-of-way, noise from a 765-kV line during foul weather is typically comparable to an indoor conversation.

Newer transmission line designs, like the Valley North Project, include design features that reduce noise compared to that from older 765-kV lines.

Understanding Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

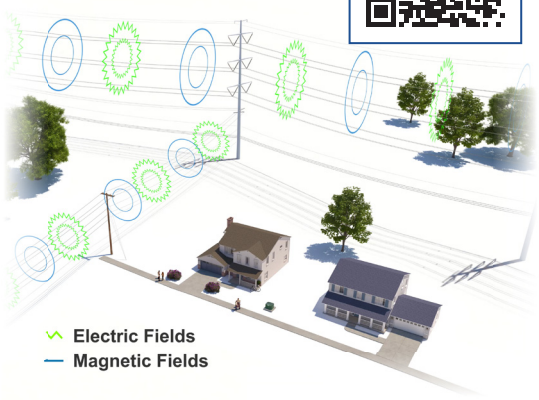
EMF are produced wherever electricity is generated, transmitted, or used, meaning we are effectively surrounded by EMF in our modern communities. The strength of both electric fields and magnetic fields from any source, including power lines, diminishes with increasing distance from the source. For nearly 50 years, scientists around the world have conducted thousands of studies looking for relationships between EMF exposure and possible adverse health effects. The large body of research on EMF and health has been evaluated in expert scientific reviews performed by numerous national and international health, scientific and governmental organizations. To date, none of these organizations have concluded that EMF exposures cause or contribute to long-term adverse health effects. To learn more, visit our online EMF learning center.

Visit our online EMF learning center

FACT

Get the Facts:

Decades of research has not found any causal link between EMF exposure from power lines and negative health impacts. Electric and magnetic fields are produced whenever electricity is used and are found in common household appliances. Decades of research has not established a cause-and-effect relationship between power line EMF exposure and adverse health effects for humans or animals like pets and livestock. Valley Link is also conducting EMF modeling for the project and plans to submit those findings during the regulatory process.



Environmental Surveys and Permitting

Environmental review helps the project team understand resources along potential routes and identify opportunities to avoid and minimize effects. Valley Link will review mapping, agency information, field survey results and input from property owners and communities as planning advances. Anticipated field surveys and assessments include:

- Wetland and stream surveys
- Wildlife habitat assessments
- Bat mist net surveys
- Rare plant surveys
- Historic property assessments
- Archaeological surveys

The project team will use this information to avoid sensitive resources where practical, minimize effects that cannot be avoided and identify mitigation where required. Valley Link will coordinate with county, state and federal agencies for environmental permitting.

FACT

Get the Facts:

The Valley North Project is taking measures to protect the environment and historic sites. Valley Link will continue reviewing mapping, field survey results and information from local, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders to identify environmental features such as springs, streams, wetlands, caves, forests, wildlife habitat and protected species before construction begins. This information helps us understand site conditions, meet environmental requirements and make informed design decisions. When sensitive resources are identified we seek to avoid them where practical, reduce impacts where avoidance is not possible, and implement restoration or mitigation measures when needed. We work closely with agencies to comply with all environmental regulations and receive all necessary permits.



Vegetation Management

Valley Link will manage vegetation within and along the right-of-way to support safe construction, reliable operation and access for inspections and maintenance. Before construction, crews will remove vegetation within and along new rights-of-way. After construction, crews will routinely evaluate conditions and address vegetation that could grow into or fall onto the transmission line, which could cause power outages.

Depending on the location and vegetation, maintenance may include manual cutting, mechanical mowing or trimming and targeted herbicide application. Compatible grasses, crops and low-growing plants may remain where they do not interfere with safe operation or access. Trees, large shrubs and other incompatible woody vegetation generally cannot remain where they could threaten the line.

Our vegetation management team is committed to thoughtful and responsible use of herbicides. Herbicide use is an effective and efficient way to control undesirable or incompatible vegetation, including invasive plant species that pose a threat to native plant species. At this point in time, we do not know exactly which herbicides we would be using at each site. Herbicides would be selected on a site-by-site basis to ensure the product selected will be effective on the target vegetation and protect the specific site's natural characteristics.

Herbicides would be applied in accordance with the highest safety standards:

- All herbicides used would be applied in accordance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
- All herbicides used would be registered with the U.S. EPA and applied in accordance with the product label.
- All herbicide applications would be made by certified applicators.

Selective Low-Volume Herbicide Applications, which are targeted specifically to problematic plants, are commonly used to remove rapid growth of competitive vegetation that hinders the growth of pollinator-friendly vegetation. By controlling undesirable vegetation, we can promote early successional habitat for local wildlife. This includes herbaceous annuals and perennials like grasses, wildflowers and low growing shrubs. This habitat provides natural food and shelter for a wide variety of local wildlife species.

FACT

Get the Facts:

Valley Link's vegetation management practices are designed to minimize negative environmental impacts while protecting the grid. Vegetation management is an important part of keeping transmission lines safe, preventing outages and maintaining reliable service. Plus, it's required to comply with federal, state and local regulations. Valley Link will continue the vegetation stewardship practices that its constituent companies (Dominion Energy, Transource and FirstEnergy Transmission) have upheld for years. Our approach is centered around minimizing negative environmental impacts, preventing safety hazards and protecting the grid to reduce power outages.



Right-of-Way

A transmission line easement is a defined area where transmission lines are safely constructed, maintained and operated. Company representatives may access company-owned rights-of-way to access, inspect and maintain transmission lines, including vegetation maintenance. Landowners may utilize property in an easement for a variety of uses including:

- Agriculture: Planting and harvesting crops
- Access: Roads and driveways
- Other day-to-day land uses that don't interfere with safety or reliability

Right-of-way and easement

A **right-of-way** is the physical corridor where transmission facilities are built, operated and maintained. An **easement** is the legal agreement that gives Valley Link permission to use part of a property for those purposes. The property owner retains ownership and may continue compatible uses that do not interfere with safety, access, construction, operation or maintenance.

Some uses are restricted because they could jeopardize safe construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. These include:

- Permanent buildings or structures
- Swimming pools
- Woody-stemmed vegetation (e.g., trees and large shrubs)

A right-of-way field agent will work directly with landowners to discuss compatible uses as the project moves forward.

Farmland

We're designing the Valley North Project to be respectful of this area's hardworking farmers and their land. The partner companies that make up Valley Link have a strong track record of stewardship based on previous projects.

We'll continue their stewardship in the Valley North Project, planning the route to impact farmland as little as possible. Farmers may still utilize property in an easement for agriculture uses such as:

- Planting and harvesting crops
- Grazing cattle
- Accessing roads and driveways
- Other day-to-day land uses that don't interfere with safety or reliability

☑ FACT

Get the Facts:

Valley Link will not steal land. If a property is ultimately located along an approved route, Valley Link will work directly with the landowner to discuss easement requirements, property-specific considerations and fair compensation. In most cases, the process involves securing an easement that allows the transmission line to be constructed and maintained while the landowner retains ownership of the property and many of its existing uses. We aim to avoid eminent domain and consider it a last resort if no viable alternatives exist.Our goal is to be a transparent and respectful partner, providing fair compensation and working collaboratively with property owners while balancing the region's long-term energy needs.

How Routing Decisions Develop

Route selection is an iterative process. The team establishes a study area, collects and reviews data, identifies study segments, develops potential routes and then identifies a route or routes for state regulatory review. The team compares routes using factors such as homes and businesses, land use, wetlands and streams, wildlife and vegetation, historic and cultural resources, existing infrastructure, terrain, constructability and visual effects.

We are often asked about impacts to streams and other land or use features that may be crossed by the transmission line. Information regarding your property and details about how you use your land help us make better informed routing decisions. Project-specific information such as the number of residences near the project, anticipated environmental studies and other data will be included in the regulatory state filings.

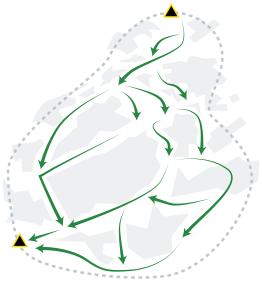
Learn more:
power-viz.com/valleylink-routing/



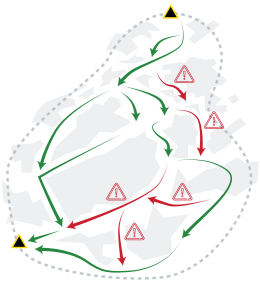
Establish Study Area



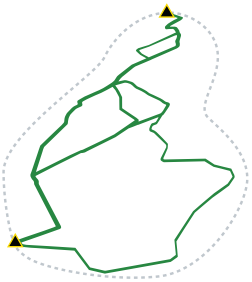
Data Collection and Review



Identify Study Segments

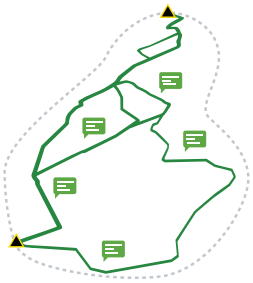


Stakeholder Input



Develop Potential Routes

WE ARE HERE



Stakeholder Input



Preferred and Alternate Routes



Regulatory Decision

Your input matters

Share information about homes, farms, barns, wells, access constraints, planned development, historic resources, environmental features and other site-specific conditions that may not appea in public datasets. Hearing from you is a critical piece of the project's development.

Regulatory Process

The Valley North Project crosses West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland, and each state follows its own regulatory process. Valley Link will file a separate application in each state. The appropriate commission in each state will establish its own schedule, provide its own opportunities for public participation, review the record under that state's laws and make an independent decision about the project proposed within its borders. Approval in one state does not mean approval in another. PJM's regional planning decision does not replace any state's review or decision.

West Virginia

The Public Service Commission of West Virginia will review the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity application for facilities proposed in West Virginia. The review may include formal notices, opportunities for public participation, technical evidence and hearings before the Commission issues a decision.

Virginia

The Virginia State Corporation Commission reviews applications filed for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. After an application is filed, the Commission establishes a case schedule, requires notice to affected parties and provides opportunities for written comments and public hearings. The Commission decides whether to approve, modify or deny the request under Virginia law.

Maryland

The Maryland Public Service Commission reviews applications for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for high-voltage transmission facilities. The proceeding may include a procedural schedule, review by state agencies, opportunities to intervene, public comment hearings, written comments and a final decision with conditions when appropriate.

FACT

Get the Facts:

No final route has been selected for the Valley North Project. After all the feedback is gathered and considered, a preferred and alternative route will be submitted to the Public Service Commissions of West Virginia and Maryland and the State Corporation Commission of Virginia. After these Commissions certify the final route and issue an Order, Valley Link will continue working with any landowners affected to find the best possible outcome for them.



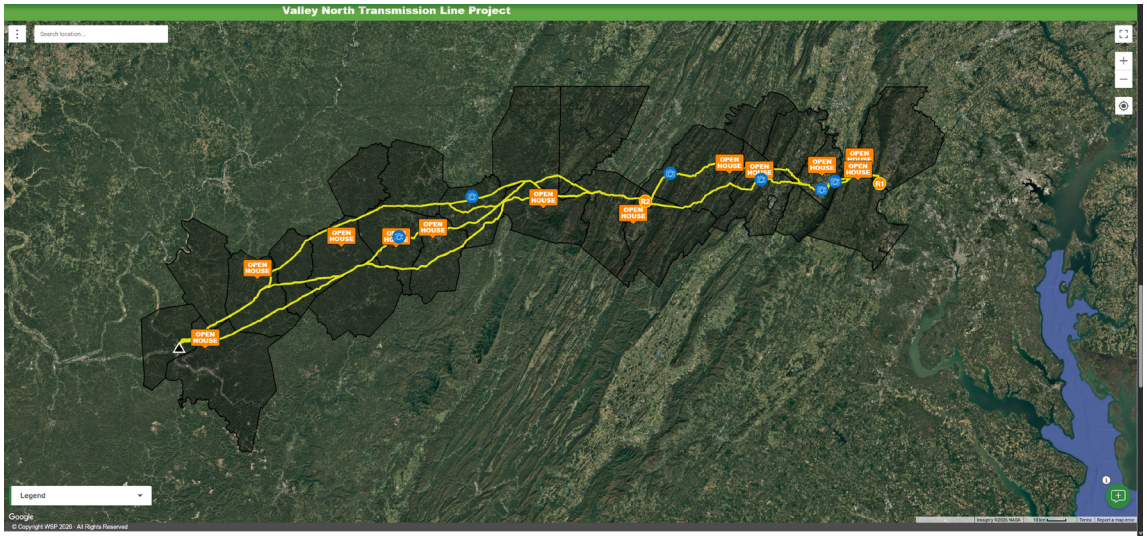
GeoVoice How To

1 Exploring the Interactive Map

Address Search

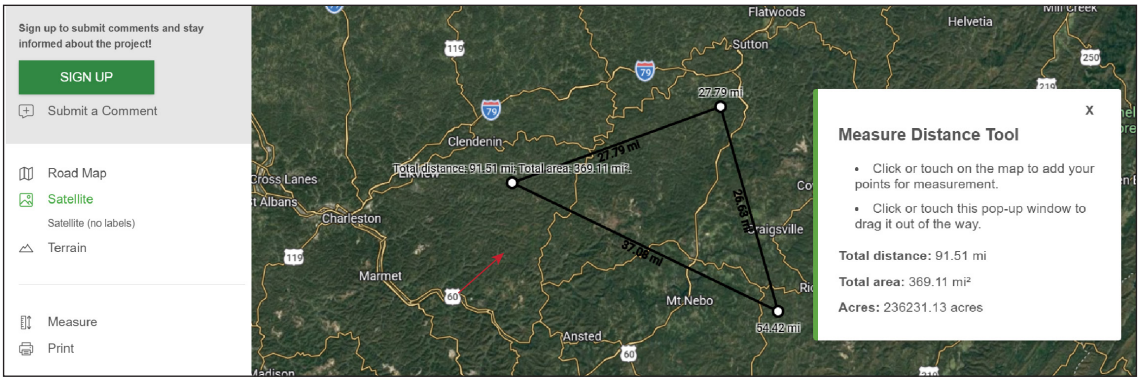
Use the address search in the top left corner to explore specific locations in the project area.

Explore GeoVoice and provide your comments



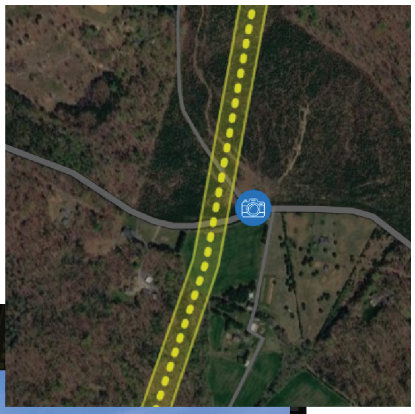
Measure

Select the Measure tool in the left toolbar and click the map to measure the distance between added points.

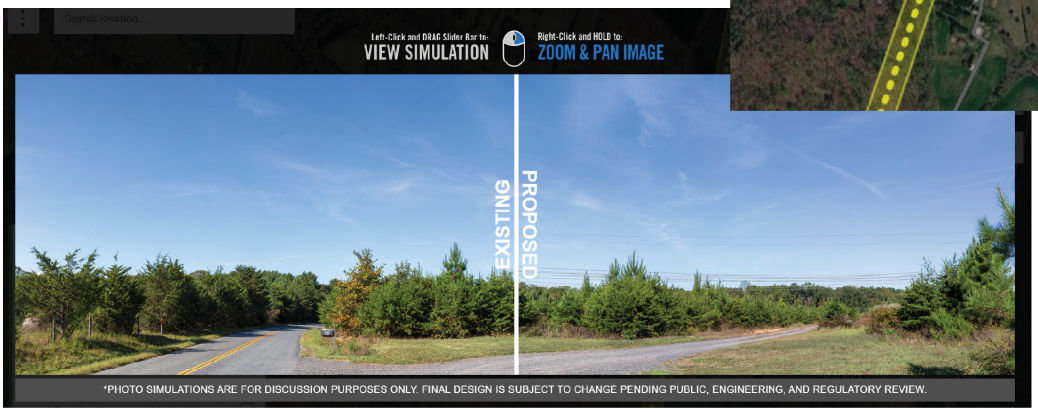


View Photo Simulations

Click on the blue camera icon to pull up a photo simulation of what the transmission line may look like once installed. While viewing the photo, you can slide back and forth between the existing and proposed views.

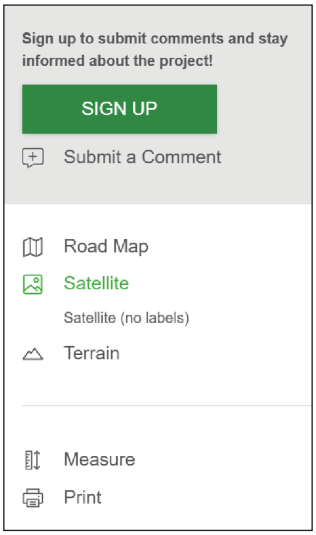


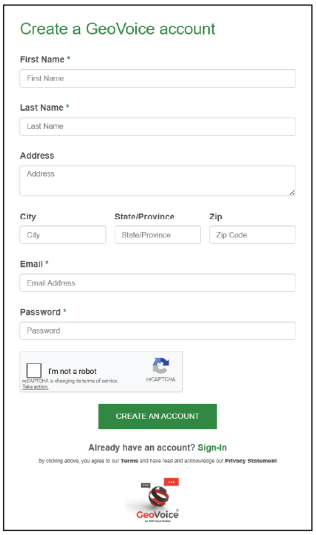
***Note:** Typical total right-of-way width is 200 feet for this project*

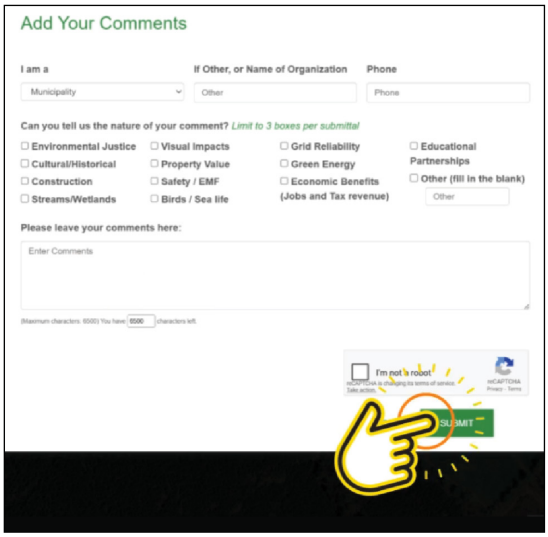


2 Submitting Comments

Sign up to provide our team with comments about the locations that matter to you. You can add details about natural or historic resources in your community or more information related to your specific property. To submit a comment, first set a location, provide information about the nature of your comment, add any important details, and then submit. A project team member may follow up for any additional details or discussion.







Contact Information and Ways to Stay Involved

Website: vltransmission.com/valley-north

Email: vlnorth@vltransmission.com

Project hotline: (304) 207-0120

Sign up for our e-newsletter on the contact us page: vltransmission.com/contact

Reminder:

If you would like your feedback considered in the routing analysis, please submit your comments by **December 18, 2026**.

valley link℠

