

CVE Project Advances

State Water Permit Approved

In January, Cricket Valley Energy (CVE) Center, a highly efficient, low-impact 1,000 megawatt (MW) energy generation facility approved for construction in Dover, NY, received approval for an important environmental-use permit from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

Following the successful completion of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), CVE applied for a Water Withdrawal Permit to allow the Energy Center to use on-site, bedrock water supply wells, in December 2014. The existing well network for the facility comprises four bedrock wells for both operating process and potable water. Each well is between 600 feet and 800 feet in depth.

CVE's state-of-the-art design will make it one of the most water efficient electric power generation facilities in the country and includes air-cooling technology to reduce water use by up to 98 percent.

"This important approval brings us another step closer to breaking ground," said CVE Project Manager Bob De Meyere. "We have been diligent in the permitting process, and we have worked hard to ensure that our project's design reflects the values of the Dover community and a commitment to low-impact, environmentally responsible design. We look forward to generating jobs and energy for our neighbors in Dover, Dutchess County, and the Hudson Valley Region."



SWAMP RIVER, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NY

CVE Puts Advisory Working Group Idea into Action

As the CVE project progresses from design to construction, the Water, Wetlands & Wildlife Advisory Working Group's suggestion for a stream gauging station will also move forward at an upcoming meeting with local environmental groups. Funded by CVE, a water-level gauge is being considered for the decommissioned U.S. Geological Service (USGS) water monitoring site located at the Route 22 Bridge over the Swamp River between Wingdale and Dover Plains.



PLEASANT VALLEY ADVISORY WORKING GROUP (AWG), OCTOBER 2014. SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2.

Re-establishing a gauging station in this area has several advantages, including a relatively stable river bed for the measurement of water flow including depth and speed, with the added benefit of having extensive USGS historical records available for comparison.

"This project will benefit from existing historical data on water depth and flow to ensure that the area's very important aquifer remains healthy," says Russell Urban-Mead, who serves as a senior hydro-geologist with Hudson Valley's Chazen Companies and consultant to CVE.

CVE is collaborating with Urban-Mead and local environmental organizations to plan and install the station as part of its ongoing commitment to the protection of Dover's natural resources.

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Advisory Working Groups Expand Public Outreach

CVE Encourages Community Input on Project Plans

CVE has been required by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) to increase transmission capacity, redundancy, and operational capabilities to the New York State grid by funding and installing an electric power transmission line in the existing Consolidated Edison, Inc., (Con Edison) right-of-way (ROW) between the Town of Dover and the Con Edison substation in the Town of Pleasant Valley. As part of this project, CVE will also re-conductor the 3.4-mile segment of the existing transmission line in the same ROW in the Town of Dover between the CVE substation and the New York-Connecticut state line.

Since August 2014, CVE has conducted three sets of Advisory Working Groups (AWG) at convenient locations in the project area. Nearly 150 attendees have met with project experts, shared their ideas, and set agenda topics for meetings. AWGs provide an informal setting for the exchange of information and are an expansion by CVE of the public involvement process required by the State.

Participants at past meetings have discussed:

-  **Visual Impact** – AWG attendees asked that CVE assess ways to reduce pole height. See “*CVE Reduces Pole Heights*,” page 3.
-  **Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF)** – CVE’s electro-magnetic field design reduces the average EMF on the new transmission line by nearly half of the New York State Public Service Commission (NYSpsc) standard at the edge of the ROW.
-  **Underground Construction** – Burying the lines underground is not considered a viable alternative, based on the likely negative environmental and other disruptive impacts, including the need for blasting, excavation, and additional construction.
-  **Noise & Safety** – Noise from construction activity will be limited to standard daylight working hours. Construction will occur in short, two-week intervals along the ROW over a total schedule of 24 months.

Just the Facts

Important Info About the CVE Transmission Upgrade

Because there are other, larger transmission line projects currently under discussion in the State, there is bound to be some confusion about what the CVE transmission project is—and isn’t! Here are five things you should know:

1. The CVE project is NOT part of any of the following transmission line projects: NY Transco Edic to Pleasant Valley; NEXTERA New Scotland to Pleasant Valley; North American Transmission; or Boundless Energy Transmission.
2. Construction of the project, which has been required by the New York Independent System Operator, will enhance the strength, reliability, safety, and transfer capability of the power grid, as well as increase the availability of energy generation to the local area.
3. Underground construction was studied as an alternative. It was rejected because of its likely significant negative impact to wetlands and streams and to Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE) species habitats, its requirement for significant excavation and blasting, and the construction of large transition structures throughout the ROW.
4. The CVE transmission project will be constructed entirely within the existing ROW—no property takings are required, therefore eminent domain is not relevant.
5. Because the new transmission line will be placed along an existing ROW, the impact to local communities, wildlife, and wetlands will be minimal.

Share Your Ideas!

New Advisory Working Group sessions have been scheduled for April. The sessions will take place in two locations and will address topics requested by attendees at the last round of meetings. April sessions will include an overview presentation and break-out sessions to focus on visualizations of pole heights along the transmission line. Project experts will be on hand to answer questions. All are welcome.

Union Vale Town Hall

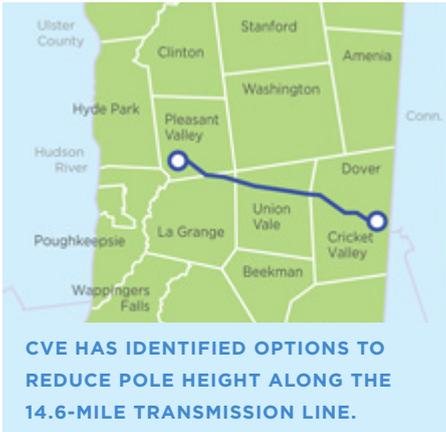
April 8, 2015; 7:00 – 8:30PM
249 Duncan Road, Lagrangeville, NY

Pleasant Valley Town Hall

April 9, 2015; 7:00 – 8:30PM
1554 Main St., Pleasant Valley, NY

To register for an AWG, call (845) 877-0596, or email: info@cricketvalley.com

Please visit www.cricketvalleytransmission.com for meeting updates.



CVE HAS IDENTIFIED OPTIONS TO REDUCE POLE HEIGHT ALONG THE 14.6-MILE TRANSMISSION LINE.

CVE Reduces Pole Heights

AWG Input Improves Design

Responding to concerns raised by participants at its Advisory Working Group (AWG) meetings, CVE’s project engineers and designers identified potential options to reduce pole height, and ensure that the project maintains high health and safety standards. The team’s creative solution combines two types of poles in various spots along the ROW.

CVE’s experts considered details of the topography of the ROW, which changes dramatically along the 14-mile span, as well as design and safety requirements to assess opportunities to reduce pole height. The modifications result in different configurations across the transmission line. In Pleasant Valley for example, the height of several poles can be reduced by as much as 40 feet by using an H-frame rather than a monopole. The H-frame design gets its name from the “H” shape of the structure. CVE has requested approval of the design modification and submitted technical requirements for review by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC), Con Edison, and New York State Department of Public Service.

Participation Is Required in the Review Process

New York State’s Article VII law makes sure the public is fully involved in the review process before a major infrastructure project is approved. Article VII law requires a full assessment of the project and provides a forum for residents to participate in the review with State and local officials.

The Article VII review process began with CVE’s application on December 30, 2013. Since then, CVE has launched an ambitious outreach program that includes the CricketValleyTransmission.com website, the *Update* newsletter, public information meetings in the Towns of Pleasant Valley, Dover, LaGrange, and Union Vale, and a continuing series of Advisory Working Group meetings in local communities.

In August 2014, interested parties participated in a Public Statement Hearing before an Administrative Law Judge in Albany. Currently, a Joint Proposal to resolve differences among interested parties is being developed with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Department of Agriculture and Markets, Con Edison, and the Department of Public Service (DPS), which regulates and oversees the electric energy industry in New York.

Next steps will include a hearing and determination by the Public Service Commission (PSC) about how the project should proceed. The process concludes with the issuance of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, which will allow construction to begin.



Our Commitment to Transparency

All Article VII application materials can be found at:
www.CricketValleyTransmission.com/maps-documents

Outreach materials from previous public meetings and Advisory Working Groups, as well as a report on public involvement activities conducted thus far, can be found at:
www.CricketValleyTransmission.com/public-involvement

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LEARN MORE

Visit

Website: www.cricketvalley.com

Attend

Advisory Working Groups (AWG) are being conducted for the Cricket Valley Transmission Upgrade. Visit www.cricketvalleytransmission.com for updates on upcoming meetings. All are welcome.

Sign Up

To subscribe to this newsletter and electronic notifications, or to join an Advisory Working Group, please email: info@cricketvalley.com and write "Subscribe" in the subject line, call (845) 877-0596, or visit the Project website at: www.cricketvalley.com.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Have you submitted your resume?



The Cricket Valley Energy Center in Dover is fully approved and permitted, and we expect to break ground sometime in 2015. During peak construction, 750 jobs will be created, with an average of 300 jobs throughout the three-year construction period. We expect to fill many of those positions with Dutchess County residents.

Construction of the transmission line is expected to begin at the same time as the plant. Approximately 40 - 60 workers will be needed for the line construction and approximately 20 workers for the re-conductoring crew.

Send a resume by visiting www.cricketvalley.com. Click on "Ask Cricket Valley" and then "Jobs and Taxes." We look forward to hearing from you!

