Design with the Community in Mind

UI – Mix Avenue Substation

The mayor of Hamden, CT raised concerns over the limited buffer remaining between the new installation and the adjacent condominiums. The project also required an easement from the complex, which included 1,200 residents. Based on customer feedback, the Project Team was able to slightly adjust the design allowing for a larger vegetative buffer, before the petition was filed.



Mix Ave Substation – Proposed Design.



Mix Ave Substation – Final Design

The Permit Process

For many projects, the permitting process can take up to a year or more to complete. Smaller projects may take less time. But all projects have the potential to impact the community and we work with neighbors and business owners proactively, to protect their interests.

- The permit application provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate that our project will not have a negative environmental impact on the surroundings, such as streams and wetlands. We also seek to show our project will not have a negative visual impact.
- We will give serious consideration to all reasonable modification requests to best CT Siting Council Application. accommodate businesses, neighbors, and the municipality. Attractive vegetation and/or low-impact lighting often improves a project.
- Before filing for a project permit, we meet with municipal leaders and state regulatory agencies to discuss steps taken to address potential community concerns. During the permit process, we also gather input from other stakeholders who may be impacted by the new facility or project.





Article Seven, NY filing.





Part of the AVANGRID Family

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DESIGN WITH THE COMMUNITY **IN MIND**

Electric utilities first priorities are safety and reliability for our customers. When it is determined that a transmission line or substation does not meet our reliability standards, and/or state or federal requirements, the first stage in undertaking a utility transmission reliability project is Design. When developing new facility projects, or system upgrades, we spend considerable time focusing on possible impacts to all stakeholders, taking into account the homes or businesses nearby as well as environmental and cultural concerns, often engaging our customers and communities to gather their input on potential project designs and routing preferences. This is what we call Designing with the Community in Mind.

The Community

How your home may be impacted by our projects:

- Your home is often your largest investment, and we strive to protect that investment.
- Electric transmission technology and infrastructure is an important part of your neighborhood.
- You may own businesses in the community and we want to make sure you continue to serve your community.
- Social media often amplifies news about our projects. We want you to know the facts.

How our commercial customers may be impacted by our projects:

- Power interruptions may impact your business operations.
- Sales may be impacted if consumers can't easily access your location/facility.

We want to be your partner. We will listen to you and update you about our projects every step of the way.

- We will work with you as a team to review the project early in the process.
- We will identify potential trouble and take steps to solve problems.
- We will always consider your point of view.
- We will create a design that mitigates impacts to the environment, neighbors and the community.
- We will avoid surprises by determining what additional work will be done at the location in the near future.



Being Agile and Designing with the Community in Mind – Examples







Before – Off Turnpike Road.

After – Off Turnpike Road.

NYSEG – Auburn Transmission Project

The initial planning for this project included a new 115-kV transmission line which would have been constructed on wooden H-framepoles adjacent to the existing power lines within the Town of Throop, NY. Shortly after initial planning, a developer built homes adjacent to the existing lines. NYSEG realized the initial plan would have an adverse impact on the new homes, so the design was changed to include self-weathering steel monopole structures and a rebuild of the existing lines. The redesign limited the need for additional right-of-way and mitigated the visual impact on the new residents.

Fox Field.

Business

RG&E – Genesee Street Duct Bank Work

This was originally considered a low-impact, small-scale project, but detours and parking restrictions were needed. RG&E worked with business owners to develop traffic patterns during construction that would ensure that deliveries could be made, customers could access shops, and that there would be available parking. We paid careful attention to pedestrian and safety concerns around the work zone.



Genesee Street duct bank work.

CMP – Section 1 Rebuild

A Maine float plane pilot who owns a small private airstrip was concerned that the planned increased pole heights of a nearby transmission line project would affect his ability to safely take off and land his plane. His concern for safety was heard. A CMP lead engineer worked with an aviation consultant, and they determined that some new poles could be reduced in height and still meet the project standards. Also, a few marker balls were placed on the wires to warn pilots.





Y-type transmission poles

RG&E – Rochester Area **Reliability Project**

RG&E considered the community at the very beginning of the RARP project, which improved reliability and improved electric service in the area. The design included undergrounding power lines near a minor league baseball field and lowering pole heights and installing landscaping in the historic Susan B. Anthony neighborhood. For a local farmer, RG&E rerouted a line through a conservation easement area; moved a substation from its original location; and installed specialized Y-type transmission poles that allowed the 115kV structures to be aligned with the existing 345kV structures, thereby minimizing agricultural impacts.



UI – Baird Substation

The original design was changed to allow for additional room between the facility and the abutting Two Roads brewery, a popular spot for public tours and tastings. Additional parking was created and landscaping was added as an additional barrier.

Baird Substation – earlier design in yellow.