Georgia Power

Effingham County 500 kV Area Transmission Project

Project Information

- Georgia Power is making long-term investments to strengthen the transmission system and support Georgia's growing energy needs, helping ensure safe, reliable, and resilient electric service for decades to come. As part of this effort, the company is developing the Effingham County 500 kV Area Transmission Project.
- The project is being planned to provide the transmission infrastructure needed to support significant growth and increasing energy demand in the region, including the energy needs of a large-load customer. These investments will add transmission capacity, strengthen the local and regional electric grid, and provide broader reliability benefits for homes, businesses, and industries across the area.
- The project is expected to include a new 500/230 kV substation, two new 500 kV transmission lines, with planning and route evaluation currently underway, as well as additional infrastructure on the customer site and across the transmission system.
- Georgia Power has requirements in place to help protect residential and small business customers from costs directly associated with serving large-energy users. Large-energy users are responsible for the infrastructure costs needed to serve their facilities and are subject to long-term contractual and financial-assurance requirements.
- As planning progresses and transmission line routes are further refined, property owners whose land may be affected will be contacted directly by a Georgia Power representative. Georgia Power is committed to keeping communities informed and minimizing impacts throughout the planning process.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this project needed?
Georgia is experiencing rapid growth, including large-load customers such as data centers, which require significant new electric capacity and long-term infrastructure planning. Transmission projects like this are planned in advance to ensure the electric grid can reliably meet both new and existing energy demands while supporting continued growth in the region.

Will this project benefit the local community?
Yes. The project will add needed transmission capacity to support significant growth and increasing energy demand in the area. This additional infrastructure will strengthen the local and regional electric grid, improve reliability, and enhance Georgia Power's ability to reliably serve homes, businesses, and industries as the community continues to grow.

Effingham County 500 kV Area Transmission Project

Frequently Asked Questions Continued

Will this increase my electric bill?
Rates are influenced by many factors. Georgia Power has financial and contractual requirements for large-energy users that are designed to help protect residential and small business customers from costs associated with serving those customers as new energy needs are added to the system.

How are project locations and transmission line routes selected?
Georgia Power evaluates potential substation sites and transmission line routes based on factors such as existing land uses and infrastructure, environmental conditions, engineering and reliability requirements, opportunities to follow existing utility and road corridors, and construction and maintenance considerations. The goal is to identify solutions that meet system needs while minimizing impacts to the surrounding community and environment.

What should property owners expect if their property may be affected by the project?
Property owners whose property may be affected will be contacted directly by Georgia Power representatives. As planning progresses, Georgia Power will provide information about surveys, engineering activities, potential right-of-way needs, and the land acquisition process. Georgia Power representatives will work directly with affected property owners and be available to discuss property-specific questions throughout the process.

What is an easement, and how does it affect property ownership?
An easement is a legal right that allows Georgia Power to use a portion of a property for a specific purpose, such as constructing, operating, accessing, and maintaining transmission facilities. The property owner retains ownership of the land, while Georgia Power has the right to use the easement area as specified in the easement agreement.

How will Georgia Power keep the community informed about the project?
Georgia Power is committed to keeping the community informed throughout the planning and construction process. Information will be shared through direct mail, one-on-one engagement, project overview meetings, public information meetings, and other outreach efforts including a project webpage.

What if I have more questions?
We will continue to share updates as the project progresses. If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at gpcprojects4@southernco.com.

For additional information about transmission expansion and upgrades, visit georgiapower.com/effingham or scan the QR code below.