



An **AEP** Company

January 26, 2024

PROJECT UPDATE INFORMATION

«Owner_Name»

«Mailing_Address_MA»

«MA_City», «MA_State» «MA_Zip»

Subject: New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission Line Rebuild Project – Project Update

Dear Neighbor,

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) representatives want to provide you with an update on the New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission Line Rebuild Project.

Company representatives hosted public forums in October to meet with the community and share updated project information. After review of the community feedback, the project team identified opportunities to adjust the plan to rebuild the aging 69-kilovolt transmission line that provides power to communities in the area.

Amended project plans include:

- Commitment to working with Harbor Country Rotary Club representatives and discussing opportunities to contribute to the community's regeneration program.
- Reimbursing impacted landowners for removal of vegetation on private property within the easement area. I&M representatives plan to work with property owners to discuss the necessary vegetation removals and reimbursement based on the species and size.
- Relocating about a mile of transmission line along Hickory Street, Butternut Street and Cherry Street to the agricultural fields east of the Village of Three Oaks. The existing distribution poles along the roadway would remain, as they directly serve homes.
- Utilizing wooden poles in the Village of Three Oaks, along Three Oaks Road and East Road, and from Lakeside Substation north along Red Arrow Highway to include Warren Dunes State Park. There may be specific areas where we will need to use steel, such as for interstate crossings or where the strength and height requirements exceed what is available in wood.

Based on community feedback, the project team explored conceptual route alternatives near East Road, U.S. 12, the railroad corridor and Red Arrow Highway. I&M representatives considered and reviewed suggested routes and determined the use of the existing corridor is still the best solution for the project. Relocating the transmission line from its current location requires acquiring and clearing a new 60-foot right-of-way, creating a second utility corridor where one does not currently exist. Additional areas of concern include impacts to conservation

easements, tree clearing in undeveloped forested areas, insufficient access for construction and future maintenance, and incompatible land use, requiring the removal of residential and commercial structures. Areas with excessive environmental, engineering and constructability concerns were not considered. Please see the enclosed map.

As next steps, I&M representatives wanted to let you know about upcoming field survey work along the power line route, so you may see crews walking or driving in the right-of-way. Additional surveys involve using equipment to collect soil samples at select locations along the power line route. This helps to determine the types of poles and power line to use during construction.

The surveys are scheduled to start on or after Monday, February 12th and continue through April, depending on weather and other factors.

Crews conducting the surveys plan to use existing roads or lanes, whenever possible, to access the power line route. I&M employees and contractors wear hard hats and high-visibility vests, carry an ID badge and clearly display identification on vehicle dashboards.

You may also visit IndianaMichiganPower.com/NewBuffalo-Bridgman to view updated information.

Please contact me at 833-441-2260 or IM_Outreach@aep.com if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Eric Giffey
Project Outreach Specialist
Indiana Michigan Power