



An **AEP** Company

September 26, 2023

PUBLIC MEETING INFORMATION

«Owner_Name»

«Mailing_Address_MA»

«MA_City», «MA_State» «MA_Zip»

Subject: New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission Line Rebuild Project – Community Q&A Forum

Dear Neighbor,

Indiana Michigan Power representatives want to provide you with an update on the New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission Line Rebuild Project and invite you to the upcoming community Q&A forum.

Company representatives hosted an open house in June to meet with the community and share project information. After review of the community feedback, additional field studies, engineering, and environmental and community impacts, 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.

Initial plans included installing 85-foot-tall steel poles along the existing transmission line between New Buffalo and Bridgman and acquiring approximately 60-foot easements to accommodate the updated power line.

Amended project plans include:

- Installing approximately 75-foot-tall steel or wooden poles along the line route. Wooden poles are under consideration for areas in the village of Three Oaks, along East Road and in the Harbert and Shorewood Hills areas. Steel poles are planned for the remaining sections of line and at select points on the line route where necessary. Existing poles along the power line route are approximately 60 feet tall.
- Acquiring or defining easements to an approximate 40-foot width (about 20 feet on either side of the pole) to allow for the safe operation and maintenance of the line. Select areas may vary due to terrain or existing easements.
- Offering reimbursement for removal of trees on private property within the proposed easement. I&M right-of-way representatives will work with property owners to discuss the necessary tree removals and reimbursement based on the tree species and size. For every one tree removed from within the easement area, I&M representatives offer reimbursement for three trees of the same species. New tree plantings are allowed outside of the easement area.

In coordination with local officials, I&M representatives are planning to participate in a community Q&A forum. We invite you to attend one of the planned forums nearest to you. **Both presentations begin at 6:30 p.m. EST** and doors open at 5:30 p.m. EST.

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP

Date: **Monday, October 9**

Location: Chikaming Township Center
13535 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS

Date: **Tuesday, October 10**

Location: Three Oaks Elementary Gym
100 Oak Street in Three Oaks

Due to venue capacity limitations, we encourage you to join the above forums via Zoom. Attendees may join beginning at 6:15 p.m. EST.

- **Monday, October 9**
 - If joining by phone, dial **+1 305-224-1968** and enter the following access code when prompted: **861 1184 7720#**
 - If joining online, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86111847720>
- **Tuesday, October 10**
 - If joining by phone, dial **+1 646-931 3860** and enter the following access code when prompted: **318 747 6067#**
 - If joining online, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3187476067>
 - Passcode: **680409**

In-person and virtual attendees may submit questions in advance by emailing:

- **Frontdesk@chikamingtownship.org** for October 9 forum
- **Manager@threeoaksvillage.org** for October 10 forum

You may also visit IndianaMichiganPower.com/NewBuffalo-Bridgman to join in the forum and view updated project 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