

From: [Mona R Livingston](#)
To: [David Bunte](#)
Subject: Transmission project update
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024 4:27:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[NewBuffalo-Bridgman Map with Concern Areas.pdf](#)

Hi David,

Thank you for the opportunity to address your collective comments, concerns, and questions. We would like to provide you with an update on the items you identified following the Chickaming Township Q&A Forum.

Following that meeting, you requested we continue to address the following items:

1. Confirm the specific details regarding tree replacement, reimbursements, and methods of restoration available to all property owners including right-of-way impact to shrubs and other vegetation.

I&M representatives will offer reimbursement for the removal of vegetation on private property within the proposed easement. I&M representatives will work with individual property owners to discuss the necessary vegetation removals and reimbursement based on the 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.

2. Confirm locations of wood poles in Chickaming Township and extend the use of wood poles from the Township Center and Harbert Community Park along Red Arrow Highway north to exit 16 of I-94. This would include Warren Dunes State Park and enhance the natural state that currently exists.
 - a. Continue to pursue options of a wood finish or patina for the metal poles required along Three Oaks Road or utilize wood poles along that route as well.

The project team will use 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. However, 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.

3. Continue to pursue an alternate route for the transmission line that now runs along East Road.

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, 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.(The segment that looks like the green railroad track is us trying to show a line running parallel to the rail roads.)

I would like to extend the opportunity to have a virtual meeting with our siting team to go over all the alternate routes that we considered and some of the challenges we faced that resulted in our final route selection. Please let me know if this is something you or the board is interested in. As next steps, company representatives plan to continue field studies and discuss right-of-way easements with landowners along the proposed transmission line route.

Best,
Mona



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