

Improvement Project to Increase Reliability in Blackstone Valley

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A three-part transmission and distribution system improvement project is planned for the Whitins Pond substation to boost electric delivery service in five Blackstone Valley towns in Massachusetts. Over the past nine years, the Blackstone Valley area that includes Northbridge, Uxbridge, Douglas, Upton and Sutton has the second-highest increase (24 percent) in electricity use in National Grid's New England service territory.

"We're investing in the communities by providing the residents and businesses improved, quality reliable service," said Ron Gillooly, municipal project manager. "This project will allow for greater capacity and improved reliability for those customers."

The upgrade on the 26-year-old substation, located in Northbridge, includes installing new transformers, replacing outdoor switchgear equipment that will be housed inside a new 38 x 48 foot single story enclosure and removing the existing 20 x 20 foot control house.

"We also will install an additional transmission tap line that will bring a second supply of power directly to the substation and improve reliability for those customers served by the station," said David Beron, project manager, U.S. Transmission Regulation.

Construction will begin in summer 2006 and should be completed by Spring 2007.