

Upstate Upgrade:

Building a smarter, stronger energy future

North Watertown Indian River Project Update Newsletter | January 2026

Dear Neighbor,

We're building a smarter, stronger energy grid to deliver a more resilient energy network for our customers.

Our work, taking place across Upstate New York, is called the Upstate Upgrade. It involves more than 70 projects through 2030 that will transform the transmission grid to meet growing demand for electricity while generating thousands of new jobs and more than \$1 billion in economic growth across the region.

We are excited to update you on the progress of the North Watertown-Indian River Project taking place in your community. In this newsletter, you will find details about the project, an update on what work we have completed, and information on any upcoming work in your community.

At National Grid, we are committed to a proactive, inclusive, and robust stakeholder engagement process. Please contact us with any questions or concerns you may have. Our team takes pride in our commitment to working with customers and the communities we serve to ensure feedback is considered and addressed in a timely and transparent manner. Thank you!

About the Project

The North Watertown-Indian River Project involves construction of 9.5 miles of new 115kV transmission line in the towns of Brownville, Pamela, and Le Ray in Jefferson County. Also included is the construction of the new North Watertown substation in Brownville and upgrades to the existing Indian River substation in Le Ray.

Project Progress

Spring 2025

- April: Access roads continued to be built across the transmission line footprint, preparing and maintaining entry points to structure locations. Electrical and civil construction began at the Indian River Substation in Le Ray.
- May: Pilots flew drones to pull transmission line ropes through structure arms to support conductor installation, also known as the stringing of conductors. The stringing process continued across structures in Brownville and Pamela. Restoration began at various site locations where structure foundations and pole assemblies were completed.

Summer 2025

- June: Crews continued structure drilling at locations in Brownville. Matting was placed, reconfigured and removed from site to site in Pamela. Plans for the installation of temporary structures and a temporary line were finalized. Restoration began at various site locations where structure foundations and pole assemblies were completed.
- July: Construction began on the new North Watertown Substation in Brownville. Civil construction commenced with excavation, followed by laying groundwork for the structural foundations. The final permits needed for construction were obtained. Restoration began at various site locations where structure foundations and pole assemblies were completed.
- August: In both Brownville and Pamela, matting modifications were made to protect the surfaces where heavy equipment would be used. Structure drilling remained an ongoing activity at locations in Brownville. The installation of temporary structures and a temporary line in Brownville was implemented. Restoration began at various site locations where structure foundations and pole assemblies were completed.

Fall 2025

- September: Foundation pouring began near LeRay and Brownville.
- October: Foundation pouring was completed near LeRay and Brownville. Equipment installation at the new North Watertown Substation in Brownville near Vaadi Road.

Winter 2025

- December: Foundation drilling and pouring in Brownville near Star School House Road. We energized the new 9-mile line located between the Indian River Substation to the new North Watertown Substation. An additional temporary bypass along the Perch River Wildlife Management Area was installed to support the construction of the final structure foundations.



Next Steps

- In spring 2026, we will remove the temporary bypass and energize the new North Watertown Substation. The temporary bypass along the Perch River Wildlife Management Area will then return to pre-construction conditions, and the new line and substation will be fully in service. Final restoration of the project corridor will continue until a sufficient amount of grass grows. We will continue to keep you updated on progress.

What You Can Expect

Moving forward, you can expect:

- Restoration of parcels where work has been completed.
- Gravel removal accompanied by trucks hauling construction materials from various structure locations.
- Vehicles entering and exiting the substation site off NYS Route 12 in Brownville.
- Traffic in and out of the laydown yard in Pamelaia.
- Construction equipment and crews in the right of way



Questions?



Call 844-324-3589



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