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APPALACHIAN POWER PLANS TRANSMISSION LINE IMPROVEMENTS IN SMYTH AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

ROANOKE, Va., Aug. 17, 2021 – Appalachian Power representatives plan upgrades to the electric transmission system serving customers in Smyth and Washington counties.

The Hillman Highway – Saltville Transmission Line Rebuild Project involves rebuilding approximately 20 miles of transmission line in or near the existing right-of-way. Upgrades include replacing wooden poles from the 1950s with steel poles to strengthen the transmission system.

“These upgrades help ensure reliable electric service for customers,” said George Porter, Appalachian Power spokesperson. “The existing line is almost 75 years old, and the risk of equipment failing and causing outages continues to rise with each passing year.”

The rebuild begins at a substation located off Hillman Highway in Abingdon. The line route travels northeast along Hillman Highway, passing through Meadowview and Glade Spring before turning north toward state highway VA-107. The rebuild ends at a substation located off East Main Street in Saltville.

Company representatives invite landowners to a virtual open house at **[AppalachianPower.com/HillmanHighway](https://www.appalachianpower.com/HillmanHighway)** to learn more about the project and provide feedback to the project team. Landowners are encouraged to provide input by **Friday, September 17**.

Landowners within the project area can expect to receive a packet in the mail that includes additional project details and a comment card they can return by mail with their feedback.

Company representatives expect construction to start fall 2024 and last approximately two years. Visit the website for additional information about the project.

Appalachian Power has 1 million customers in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee (as AEP Appalachian Power). It is part of American Electric Power, which is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions. AEP’s approximately 16,800 employees operate and maintain the nation’s largest electricity transmission system and more than 223,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million customers in 11 states. AEP is also one of the nation’s largest electricity producers with approximately 30,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including 5,500 megawatts of renewable energy.

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