

What is the Edmond Street-Lake Road-Alabama Street project?

Evergy is preparing to build a new 3.3-mile 161 kV electrical transmission line to connect the existing Edmond Street substation, located at the southwest corner of Felix and Second streets, to the existing Lake Road substation, located southwest of Lower Lake Road and Highway 759. We will also build a new 1.3-mile 161 kV electrical transmission line to connect the existing Lake Road substation to the existing Alabama Street substation, located south of State Highway U.

The project will replace an existing 161 kV transmission line connecting the substations. We are unable to rebuild the existing transmission line in its current location due to current United States Army Corps of Engineers requirements and the electrical transmission lines being too close to the Missouri River levee. During construction of the new transmission line, the existing transmission lines will be removed.

Why is this line needed?

The existing power system was built in the 1960-1970s and is nearing the end of its service life. The improvements will enhance reliability and allow us to serve current and future customers well into the future, as well as strengthen the regional power grid.

Who will benefit from the project?

This project will benefit residents and businesses in St. Joseph and beyond by strengthening the regional power grid and enhancing electric reliability. It also will provide tax revenue, construction jobs, local expenditures and will expand capabilities for future investment in area industry.

Who is responsible for this project?

Evergy will construct and own the new transmission line. The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) operates the transmission system in the region for this transmission line. SPP will direct Evergy to operate the new transmission line.

When will the line be built?

The project is scheduled to be completed and in-service by 2028. We expect construction work to begin in 2027.

With completion dates in the distant future, why are projects discussed so early?

Transmission projects require many years to permit, design, procure materials and construct. Almost all the major components are custom built and require long lead times.

What will the line look like?

Structure types and heights will be determined during the transmission line design period after the final route has been determined, but the new structures will be steel. Steel poles are utilized for additional reliability and resiliency with the harsh weather conditions our communities can face.

What process will be used to determine a preferred route for the new line?

Evergy has contracted with a consultant to perform an evaluation of the area between the three existing substations addressing land uses, environmental features (including the occurrence of protected plants and animals), historic and cultural resources and other criteria considered pertinent to the construction of an overhead electric transmission line. The intent of this evaluation is to minimize adverse impacts to residents, their land and the natural environment while providing a technically viable and cost-effective transmission line route.

What criteria was used to identify and evaluate the potential line routes?

Preliminary alternatives were developed by defining technically and environmentally feasible segments providing economical routes with minimal adverse social and environmental impacts based upon:

- Maximizing the distance of the line to residences, businesses, public facilities, parks, cemeteries and communication towers.

- Paralleling existing utilities, roads or railroads when practical, accounting for existing rights of way.
- Avoiding wetlands, riparian areas, conservation lands, protected species and their habitats for both transmission line corridor and access for construction and maintenance.
- Avoiding placing the line directly over tanks and oil, gas or water wells.
- Maintaining a reasonable length with as few angles as possible to minimize costs.
- Avoiding Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controlled areas which would restrict structure height or proximity to navigational aids.

How many routes will be evaluated?

The consultant will evaluate many proposed routes using a mathematical model that will score each route. The final route will be chosen from the group of routes with the best scores.

Will property owners and other stakeholders have input into the preferred route?

As part of the transparent review and input process, Evergy will seek input from all stakeholders including state and local officials, landowners, business owners, residents and environmental organizations to discuss the project, review proposed routes and answer any questions. The routes will be presented to potentially affected stakeholders during an in-person open house. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to review the routes and provide input to Evergy. Evergy will consider input from all stakeholders in selecting the final route.

How will right-of-way be acquired for this project?

Evergy is committed to timely and transparent communications with landowners. When the final route is determined, we will contact landowners who have property on the final line route and begin discussions with them about purchasing the easements necessary to build the line. This will allow landowners to continue most uses of their property. We provide one-time payments, typically negotiated up-front, based on determination of the market property values in the local area. We will work respectfully with landowners throughout the siting, design and construction process to minimize impacts to their properties. It is our goal to reach mutually beneficial negotiated agreements with all landowners.

What if Evergy can't come to an agreement with landowners?

We will make every effort to reach mutually beneficial negotiated agreements. We will exercise the right of eminent domain only as a last resort after exhausting every attempt to obtain an easement through individual negotiations with a landowner.

Who will build the lines and manage the construction?

Evergy will design and construct the transmission line using both Evergy resources and subcontractors depending on the task. Evergy will provide project management services and coordination during construction of the project.

What environmental impacts will be considered with the siting of the project?

Evergy believes the environment is an important factor when planning and designing transmission line projects. We work closely with appropriate organizations, including but not limited to the Missouri Departments of Conservation, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Parks and Tourism, Missouri Historical Society, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Nature Conservancy, from the beginning of the project to make sure any direct environmental impact is appropriately identified and addressed. We believe this kind of collaboration leads to developing a transmission line route that aligns with federal and state energy and environmental policy objectives. We adhere to all state and federal regulations to protect native plants, threatened or endangered species, wetlands, water and air quality.

Participants

Missouri Public Service Commission (MPSC)

The MPSC regulates and has the responsibility of ensuring Missourians receive safe and reliable utility services at just, reasonable and affordable rates.

Southwest Power Pool (SPP)

The SPP is a Regional Transmission Organization (RTO), mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission infrastructure and competitive wholesale prices of electricity. SPP operates subject to a tariff filed with and governed by FERC. This tariff contains over 2,100 pages of rates, terms and conditions for providing transmission service to SPP's customers to move wholesale electric power within and across SPP's nine-state footprint.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

FERC regulates the transmission and wholesale sales of electricity in interstate commerce and ensures the reliability of high-voltage interstate transmission systems.

Evergy, Inc. (Evergy)

Evergy, Inc. (NYSE: EVRG) serves approximately 1.6 million customers in Kansas and Missouri. We generate nearly half the power we provide to homes and businesses with emission-free sources. We support our local communities where we live and work and strive to meet the needs of customers through energy savings and innovative solutions.