

Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project, Western Segment Phases I & II Sandwich, Massachusetts

Overview

Q: What is the Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project?

A: The Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project is a gas infrastructure project being undertaken by National Grid to maintain reliability and meet Cape Cod's growing demand for gas. The project is multi-year with three segments totaling 13.1 miles – the Western Segment in Sandwich and Barnstable; the Middle Segment in Yarmouth, Dennis and Harwich; and the Eastern Segment in Harwich. Within each segment, a new gas main will be installed parallel to and tied back into the Company's existing natural gas pipeline. This project began in 2005 and the Middle Segment was put into service in 2010.

Q: What will National Grid be doing in Sandwich?

A: National Grid will be installing phases 1 and 2 of the Western Segment of the project. This includes installing a 20-inch gas transmission main for approx. 4.4 miles on the north side of Service Road in Sandwich, MA between Route 130 and Chase Road. Phase I will go from Route 130, east to Quaker Meeting House Road, and Phase II will go from Quaker Meeting House Road, east to Chase Road.

Q: Why is this project necessary?

A: The project is necessary to improve the reliability of the natural gas system on Cape Cod and to provide additional capacity to meet growing gas demand.

Q: What approvals has this project received?

A: The project has been reviewed and approved by the MA Energy Facilities Siting Board and the Cape Cod Commission. It has received necessary approvals and permits from the Town of Sandwich, as well as all environmental permits.

Q: What is project route?

A: Please refer to the maps available for details on the project location. The project will span approx. 4.4 miles on the north side of Service Road in Sandwich, MA between Route 130 and Chase Road. The project work will be broken down into phases. Phase I will go from Route 130, east to Quaker Meeting House Road, and Phase II will go from Quaker Meeting House Road, east to Chase Road.

Q: Why was this route in Sandwich selected?

A: This route was determined to be have the least environmental impacts, lowest costs, and best reliability when compared to the other routes considered.

Q: Were alternative routes examined?

A: Yes. Several alternative routes were evaluated, but these were ruled out because they either did not meet the project need, were technically infeasible, were less reliable, more expensive or involved greater environmental impacts than the selected route.

Q: What caused the delay in the project start date?

A: Several factors contributed to the construction start delay. Largely the delays were attributed to finalizing engineering plans and readjusting construction schedules to best comply with various federal, state and local requirements. Our team continues to work closely with the Town of Sandwich, as well as federal and state agencies to ensure a successful construction kick-off.

Q: When will the project start?

A: The project is scheduled to begin the first phase of construction, which includes tree removal, this Fall. The earliest work will begin is mid- to late-September. It is anticipated construction will be completed in Fall/Winter 2016.

Q: What are the approved work hours for the project?

A: In the peak summer season, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, construction work will be done Monday through Thursday from 7am to 5pm, and Friday from 7am to 1pm. All other times of year, construction work will occur during the weekdays from 7am to 5pm. Work will not occur on the weekends unless granted by the Town of Sandwich.

Q: What is the basic construction process?

A: Construction will be done in phases, but essentially the following basic process will be undertaken to build the pipeline.

1. Survey, mark location of existing utilities, mark extent of clearing, establish erosion and sedimentation controls, and institute the traffic management plan
2. Vegetation clearing along northern edge of Service Road
3. Preliminary grading
4. Excavate trench (approximately 4 feet wide, 5 to 6 feet deep)
5. Deliver pipe sections, place and weld
6. Radiographic inspection of each weld
7. Backfill trench, finish grading
8. Work proceeds at ~150 to 200 feet per day
9. Pipe cleaning, hydrostatic testing, pipe drying, begin operation
10. Seed area; once stabilized, remove erosion controls

Q: How much vegetation will be cleared to construct the pipeline?

A: Approximately 10-15 foot strip of trees will be removed along the north edge of Service Road, with some potential brush removal in the area. Almost 90% of vegetation between Service Road and Route 6 will remain. There will be no change to existing vegetation along the south side of Service Road.

Natural Gas & Pipelines

Q: Are pipelines safe? Should I be concerned with any safety issues during and after its built?

A: Natural gas pipelines make up the safest of all energy transportation systems. In fact, more than 2.2 million miles of pipelines and mains quietly, reliably and efficiently deliver natural gas everyday for use by residential, commercial and industrial customers throughout the United States.

National Grid currently operates natural gas pipelines in the Northeast, serving approximately 3.2 million customers. Public safety and the safety of our employees is our top priority. The pipeline will adhere to National Grid's stringent construction and materials standards, which exceed state and federal requirements. From fabrication to installation and for years to come, the pipeline will be monitored using the most rigorous examination techniques.

Q: What is National Grid's moratorium on natural gas on the Cape? How does this project affect that moratorium?

A: This moratorium on new customer connections will have no impact on Sandwich or the Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project. National Grid provides natural gas service to approximately 100,000 businesses and residences on Cape Cod. Following an inspection, the company made the decision to lower the pressure in a 21-mile stretch of natural gas main on eastern Cape Cod, as well as perform infrastructure upgrades to maintain the reliability and safety of the system. While we will continue to serve our existing customers in this area safely and reliably, we will not be able to connect new customers to the natural gas system in the communities of Dennis, Harwich, Brewster, Chatham, Orleans and Eastham. Barnstable and Yarmouth are also affected, but a limited number of new customers may be able to connect in those towns.

Customer Benefits/Impacts

Q: How will this project benefit Sandwich and National Grid's customers in the town?

A: The project provides multiple levels of short- and long-term benefits to the area. It will yield annual property tax payments to the Town (estimate ~\$185,000, first year); additional annual property tax payments for the depreciation life of the pipeline. It will also support construction and related jobs during the pipeline build.

Q: I've heard the electrical rate increase is due to natural gas supply constraints. Will this help?

A: Constraints in the natural gas transmission system have contributed to high power supply prices in New England, where half of the region's electricity is generated by natural gas. The Sagamore Line Reinforcement Project will provide natural gas to additional homes and businesses on Cape Cod, not power generators, but National Grid does support several gas transmission pipeline projects that will bring additional supply to the region and help mitigate rising electricity prices.

Q: What can I expect for road closures or traffic? Where can I learn more about these?

A: A traffic management plan has been developed and will be implemented in cooperation with Town officials and the local police department, which will provide detail officers. Our plans include considerations regarding the safety motorists, walkers/runners and bicyclists. National Grid will communicate our construction plans with town and public safety officials throughout the project. We will work with these key officials to post up-to-date information on their public websites.

Environmental/Visual Mitigation

Q: What does National Grid do to minimize environmental concerns?

A: Protecting the environment in the communities we serve is paramount. National Grid is a recognized leader in the development and operation of safe, reliable and sustainable energy infrastructure to meet the needs of its customers and communities. One of the ways we achieve this is to protect and enhance the environment, always seeking new and innovative ways to lessen the environmental impact of our past, present and future projects. In the context of this project, National Grid is committed to re-vegetating certain areas as detailed in our Visual Mitigation plan and supplemental plan.

Q: What is the visual mitigation plan? How do I know if I can participate?

A: National Grid will offer plantings to landowners within 300 feet of the project whose views toward Route 6 have been materially affected by the project. The location and extent of plantings will be established in consultation with landowners. Plantings will be done by a professional landscape firm and may include 6-8 foot evergreens, bushes and other species of trees which do well on Cape (cedars, red pines, etc.). Your eligibility will be determined if 1. You are within 300 feet of the project, 2. It is determined that your viewshed is materially affected by the project, and 3. You request to participate in the program by returning the form that was mailed to you. This will be done on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with National Grid representatives. A more detailed description of and form for the Visual Mitigation Program is available.

As part of the Company's Supplemental Visual Mitigation plan, plantings will also be done in pockets along northern side of Service Road where tree removal will occur, near abutters and street intersections. All planting efforts will be done in consultation with the Town of Sandwich Tree Warden. National Grid will consider a selection of faster growing species that will provide screening more quickly. Plantings will be done in the Spring or Fall.

Any questions related to the Visual Mitigation Program can be directed to our Visual Mitigation Hotline at 781-586-8890.

Additional Information

Q: How can I stay updated on project progress?

A: As construction progresses for the project, National Grid will be issuing a series of updates to residents via mail, advertisements in the local papers and via local websites such as the Town of Sandwich website. We also have staff available to answer questions or meet with residents and/or businesses. You can contact Shannon Baxevanis, our stakeholder relations representative at Shannon.baxevanis@nationalgrid.com or 781.907.3289. Any questions related to the Visual Mitigation Program can be directed to our Visual Mitigation Hotline at 781-586-8890.

Q: Will there be public meetings on the project?

A: We've conducted meetings with the neighbors and the town throughout the course of the project planning, including a community open house in Sandwich and multiple public hearings. National Grid has staff dedicated to answering questions, providing information and conducting one-on-one meetings as requested by nearby residents and businesses during construction.