



NEWS from Indiana Michigan Power

MEDIA CONTACT:

Michael Bianski
Communications Representative
Indiana Michigan Power
260-249-5419
mfbianski@aep.com

I&M to Improve Reliability in Southern Fort Wayne Starting in 2022

\$93 million investment will help ensure the reliable and safe delivery of electricity to customers

May 14, 2021

FORT WAYNE, Ind. – [Indiana Michigan Power](#) (I&M) is committed to providing safe and reliable energy service to its customers. That’s why I&M plans to upgrade the electric transmission network in southern Fort Wayne starting in late 2022 and concluding in late 2027.

I&M will invest \$93 million on the Fort Wayne-Bluffton Transmission Line Rebuild Project, which involves:

- Updating about 30 miles of 69-kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line between Fort Wayne and Bluffton
- Building the Baer Substation in Fort Wayne near the intersection of Baer Road and Baer Field Thruway

The project is expected to enhance electrical service for I&M customers for decades to come. Plans call for replacing deteriorating wooden poles along the 30-mile power line with modern steel poles, reducing the need for frequent maintenance and improving the line’s performance. The new substation will also reduce the likelihood of larger, sustained outages in the community.

Beginning in late 2022, I&M plans to rebuild some sections of the power line in the existing right-of-way. Some sections of the line may need re-routed. I&M representatives are seeking input from area landowners on multiple route options.

The I&M project team invites landowners to visit IndianaMichiganPower.com/FortWayneBluffton to learn more about the project, view an interactive map, enter a virtual open house and submit comments through the “Contact Us” link by June 18.

The online open house enables I&M to gather input from the community while also ensuring the public’s safety during COVID-19. The project team plans to use landowner feedback to help determine a power line route that minimizes impact to the community and environment.

#

ABOUT INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER: Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) is headquartered in Fort Wayne, and its approximately 2,100 employees serve more than 600,000 customers. More than 85 percent of its energy delivered in 2020 was emission-free. I&M has at its availability various sources of generation including 2,278 MW of nuclear generation in Michigan, 450 MW of purchased wind generation from Indiana, more than 22 MW of hydro generation in both states and approximately 35 MW of large-scale solar generation in both states. The company’s generation portfolio also includes 2,620 MW of coal-fueled generation in Indiana.

American Electric Power, based in Columbus, Ohio, is focused on building a smarter energy infrastructure and delivering new technologies and custom energy solutions to our customers. AEP’s more than 17,400 employees

operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 221,000 miles of distribution lines to efficiently deliver safe, reliable power to nearly 5.5 million regulated customers in 11 states. AEP also is one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 30,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including more than 5,300 megawatts of renewable energy. AEP's family of companies includes utilities AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana and east Texas). AEP also owns AEP Energy, AEP Energy Partners, AEP OnSite Partners and AEP Renewables, which provide innovative competitive energy solutions nationwide. For more information, visit aep.com.