Project Summary

Southeast Louisiana (SELA) Phase III, Oakville – Alliance 230 kV Transmission Line Project

Project Description

Entergy Louisiana, LLC (ELL) is proposing to construct and operate a new 230 kV transmission line between its existing Oakville Substation on Walker Rd and Alliance Substation on Highway 23 in Plaquemines Parish, LA. The proposed transmission line will be built as a single-circuit facility on new steel structures rated to withstand windspeeds up to 150 mph. The proposed transmission line will have a typical span length of approximately 500 feet between structures and will require new right-of-way varying from 30 – 100 feet wide.

Project Purpose

The Oakville-Alliance 230 kV Transmission Line Project is part of a multi-phase project designed to provide the additional transmission capacity needed to continue to reliably serve ELL's customers located in the lower Plaquemines Parish area. The overall purpose of this project is to provide a direct 230 kV source to the Alliance area by constructing a new 230 kV transmission line from Entergy's Peters Road 230 kV substation to the Oakville Substation and continuing the new transmission line to Entergy's Alliance substation. Presently the Alliance area is served from the 115 kV transmission system in a single-source configuration from Entergy's Barataria 115 kV substation in Jefferson Parish. Loss of this 115 kV transmission line results in electrical service to the Alliance area being interrupted until the existing radial line can be repaired and placed back in service.

This new transmission line will increase the reliability of ELL's electrical service by providing both an additional electrical path that can serve to backup existing transmission lines in the event one of them fails and increase flexibility to maintain the existing transmission system. Phase I expanded the existing Peters Road Substation (now complete). Phase II of the project will provide a new source of power for area load in the vicinity of the Belle Chasse Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base and south to the Alliance Substation through the development of the Oakville Substation. Phase III of the project will provide a 230 kV transmission line from the rebuilt Oakville Substation to the expanded Alliance Substation. This will provide both substations with a redundant power supply to minimize unplanned outages to customers upon the loss of a transmission line.

Route Selection

Entergy hired an independent, third-party consultant to perform a formal study to help identify the best route for the proposed transmission line. The consultant identified a series of route alternatives and evaluated each alternative using a set of environmental, constructability, and land use criteria. Based on the criteria identified, the consultant recommended a preferred route for the proposed transmission line. The preferred route was selected in lieu of other alternate routes primarily because it largely parallels existing roads, considers landowner convenience, and affects a lesser amount of sensitive wetlands (a key environmental resource). Also, the preferred route will facilitate quicker restoration from damage caused by hurricanes and other events because it would avoid the need for access through large wetland areas far from existing infrastructure where heavy equipment operation would be cumbersome.

The locations of transmission line structures will be selected by considering land use and attempting to minimize impact to landowners. Entergy will make a reasonable effort to place structures in a manner that considers landowner convenience and will endeavor to, when possible, select locations such as near property lines that minimizes negative impacts.