



PPL Electric Utilities

May 2020: Hershey Underground 69kV Power Line Project Update

We are writing with a construction update for the Hershey Underground 69 kilovolt (kV) power line project in your neighborhood. The underground line is replacing an aging overhead transmission line that is nearing the end of its useful life.

Our crews placed the underground vaults between February and March. We then began construction work to build the line along the 200 block of Elm Avenue, but unfortunately hit more rock than expected, and the work is taking longer than anticipated.

Rock takes more time to dig through than soil, and we must use hammering to get through the rock. In some places, we also found that water lines to the homes were drilled through and embedded in the rock. This is rare and an obstacle we didn't know about prior to construction. In these cases, we needed to slow down and work carefully – sometimes hand chiseling around the rock – so we did not break the water lines.

We know this is a difficult time for you to have a construction project on your street, as everyone is spending much more time at home. We temporarily stopped work on Elm Avenue to give residents a break from the noise and so our team could explore other design options.

We reviewed several options and determined the best solution was to redesign the remaining work on Elm Avenue so that we do not need to dig as deep to lay the line. We will be installing the line about four feet less deep than initially planned. Using this approach, we won't have to dig through as much rock and can avoid some water lines, which will help us complete the work more quickly on the rest of Elm Avenue. It also allows us to reduce the amount of time we spend hammering rock during construction.

Crews will resume work in the 200 block of Elm Avenue on June 1, 2020. We need to resume work at the same location, since we will be adjusting the depth of the trench as we work down the street.

In order to further speed up progress, we will use two crews to complete the work. Typical work hours will be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. We anticipate spending about three weeks working on each block, although this is our best estimate based on calculations from the soil samples and other survey work we completed. We expect there to be less hammering as well since we will not have to remove as much rock.

Underground transmission line construction is hard to predict, and the schedule could change based on how much rock we continue to encounter, the weather and other factors. We will keep residents updated if a change occurs via the Derry Township e-news and our website.

It's important we get the underground line operating as quickly as possible to continue providing dependable power to you and the rest of the Hershey community.

For more information, please visit our project website at www.pplelectric.com/HersheyProject. You can also contact us through email at HersheyProject@pplweb.com or call Jonathan Scott at 817-975-7099.