

PJM Board approves transmission upgrades

The PJM Interconnection Board of Directors on Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2010, approved \$1.8 billion in transmission system improvements to be included in the PJM regional transmission expansion plan.

Approved by the Board were \$1.1 billion in reliability related transmission upgrades and \$700 million for interconnection of generation and merchant transmission, PJM said. The board also approved the elimination of a \$1 billion, 500-kV project proposed by Public Service Electric and Gas — the “Branchburg to Roseland to Hudson” line. The board, acting on the recommendation of the PJM Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee, said reliability could be maintained by upgrading existing lines rather than building the new line.

“The elimination of the 500-kV line demonstrates, as we’ve always said, that our regional plan changes as needs and conditions change,” said Michael Kormos, senior vice president, Operations. “Our annual re-evaluation showed that, for this particular project, changes in demand growth and demand response reduced the number of expected overloads and that alternative upgrades could resolve the remaining problems.”

The Board also “reaffirmed its previous decision” supporting the continuing need for Pepco’s Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway, a 165-mile, \$1.2 billion line that was first authorized by PJM in 2007. In August, PJM pushed back by a year the date the line will be needed, saying it needs to be put in place by June 1, 2015, to meet reliability.

Some of the projects approved by the board include transmission improvements and upgrades, include

- \$8 million in the Atlantic City Electric zone;
- \$260 million in the Baltimore Gas & Electric zone;
- \$22 million in the Delmarva Power & Light zone;
- \$20 million in the PECO zone;
- \$700 million for Public Service Electric & Gas;
- \$68 million for PPL;
- \$12 million in the American Electric Power zone;
- \$105 million in the Allegheny Power zone, and
- \$172 million in the Commonwealth Edison zone.

Wednesday’s board action is the second set of authorizations this year for transmission upgrades, PJM said. In February, the board authorized \$848 million in upgrades and improvements. Once approved for inclusion in the transmission plan by the board, the utilities are obligated to construct the projects, PJM spokesman Ray Dotter said Wednesday.