

# Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills Green Acres Scoping Hearing

April 24, 2019

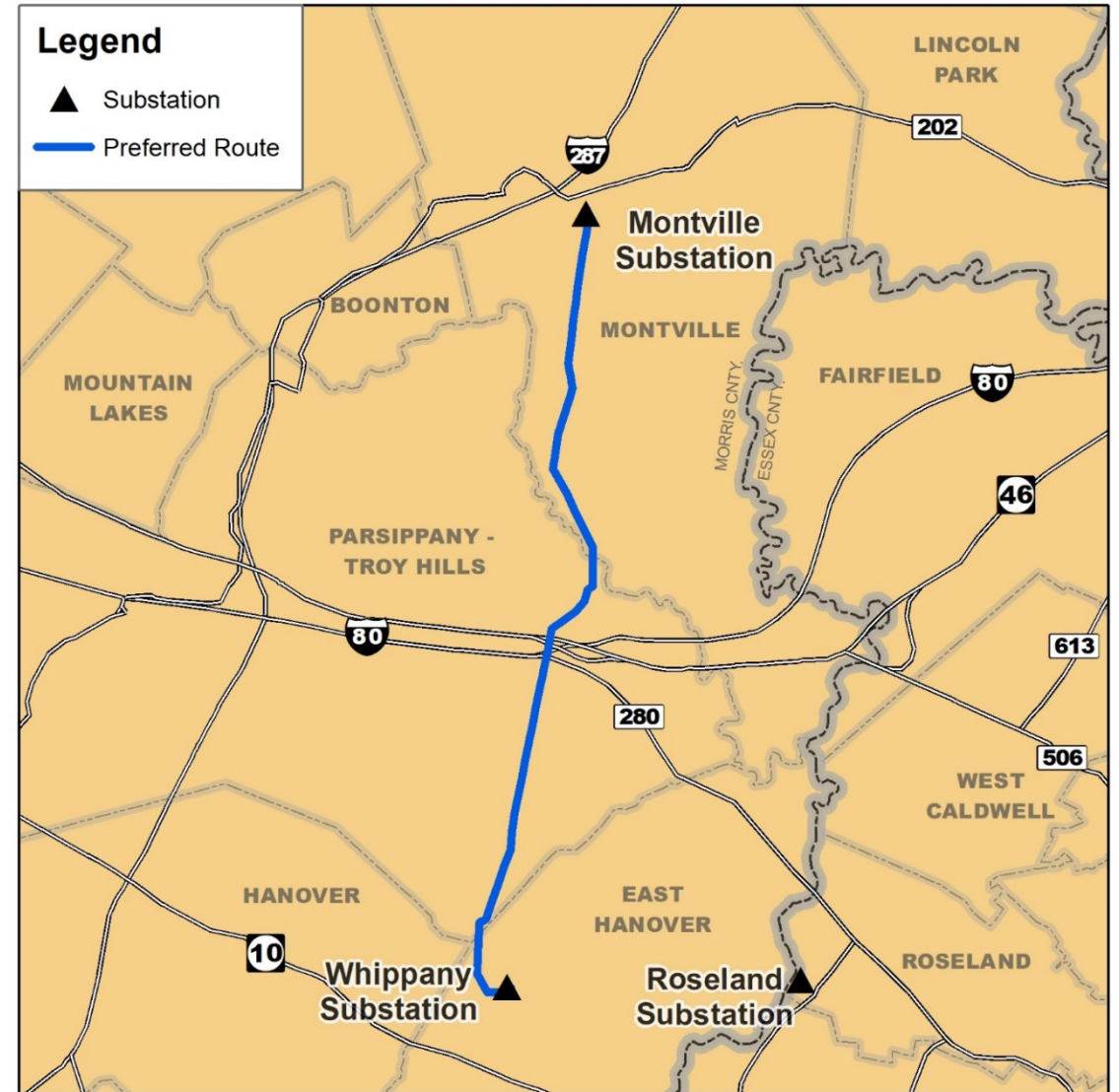


# Introductions

- **Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L, a FirstEnergy subsidiary)**
  - **Curtis F. Figgins**, Project Manager, JCP&L
  - **Andrew Horne**, Supervisor, Transmission Planning, FirstEnergy Service Company on behalf of JCP&L
  - **Tracey J. Janis**, Supervisor, Transmission Siting, FirstEnergy Service Company for JCP&L
  - **Brian McPeak**, P.P., A.I.C.P., PS&S
  - **Kirsty Cronin**, Principal Environmental Scientist, Louis Berger
  - **Christine A. Roy, Esq.**, Outside Counsel for JCP&L, Rutter and Roy, LLP

# Project Overview

- Construction of a new, single-circuit, 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line source from JCP&L's Whippany substation in East Hanover to its Montville substation in Montville.
- The new line will be approximately 7 miles long, spanning East Hanover, Parsippany-Troy Hills and Montville Townships.
- The line will be constructed primarily within JCP&L's existing right-of-way (ROW).



# New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and Project Status

- **The BPU is the governing body that determines whether the Project is needed and in the public interest.**
- **On March 27, 2015, JCP&L filed a petition with the BPU seeking approval for the Project.**
- **On November 21, 2017, the BPU issued an Order determining that the Project and all facilities involved in the Project are reasonably necessary for the service, convenience or welfare of the public.**
- **JCPL has been coordinating with the NJDEP to commence the permitting process.**
- **Right of Way Negotiations have commenced. Majority of right of way from private residential landowners is for Priority Tree Rights.**
- **Construction is anticipated to begin January 2020 with ROW preparation immediately followed by line construction. The anticipated in-service date is December 2020.**

# Purpose of this Scoping Hearing

- **The scoping hearing is being held in connection with JCP&L's Montville-Whippany Transmission Project.**
- **The Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills (Township) is considering the proposed diversion of a portion of parkland identified as Block 621, Lot 24, and referred to as the "Edwards Tract."**
- **Green Acres regulations require the holding of a public scoping hearing to solicit preliminary public comment on the proposed diversion. [N.J.A.C. § 7:36-26.8](#).**

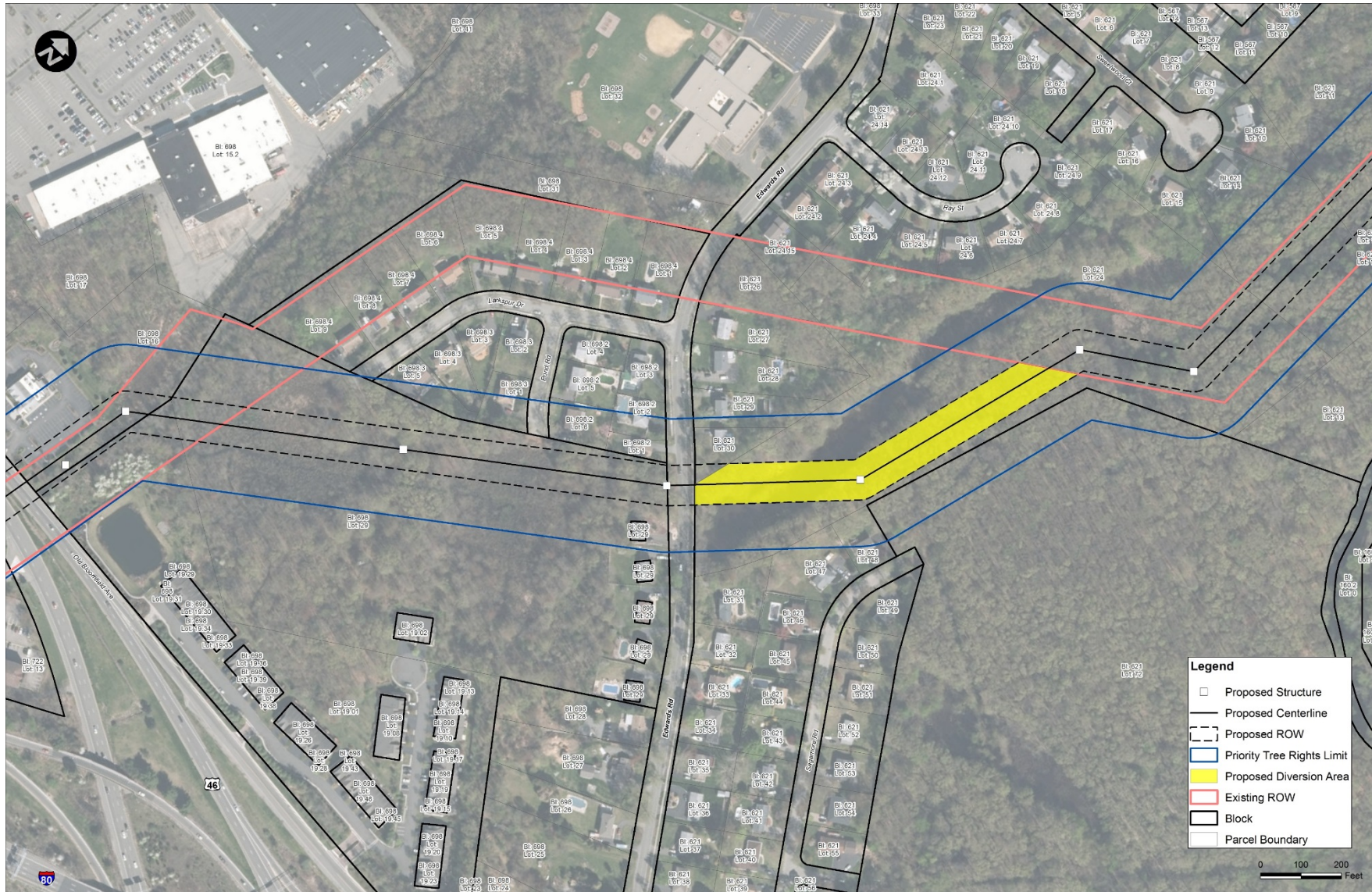
# Purpose of this Scoping Hearing (Continued)

- **Describe proposed diversion of parkland, including the land affected, total acreage affected and project requiring diversion.**
- **Explain the compelling public need the project would fulfill.**
- **Discuss efforts to identify alternatives to the proposed diversion, reasons for not using alternatives, and compensation for the diversion.**
- **Accept public comments on alternative sites or alternative methods of achieving the project objectives without the diversion.**

# What Property Is Proposed To Be Diverted?

- **Following an in-depth review, the BPU found that the proposed route, which crosses a portion of Green Acres-encumbered property known as the “Edwards Tract”, “is reasonable, and that no alternative would be less intrusive to the environment or community.”**
- **The use of Green Acres-encumbered property for other than recreation and conservation purposes is considered a diversion under the Green Acres regulations.**
- **A diversion is required for approximately 2.13 Acres of new, permanent ROW that is needed for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project on the Edwards Tract.**
- **JCP&L acquired an easement across the Edwards Tract in 1962 that predates the Township’s acquisition of the property in 1981 and the Green Acres restriction.**
- **The portion of the Project within the existing ROW on the Edwards Tract is not subject to Green Acres restrictions, and therefore, is not part of the diversion.**

# What Property Is Proposed To Be Diverted?





# What Property Is Proposed To Be Diverted?

- **A 230 kV monopole is proposed to be constructed on the Edwards Tract within the area of the diversion.**
- **The monopole is anticipated to be placed within the center of the 100-ft.-wide ROW.**
- **Approximately 115 ft. high.**



# Montville-Whippany Project Public Need

- **JCP&L serves 1.1 million customers in central and northern New Jersey.**
- **The need for the Project is based on a potential voltage collapse risk in the region, impacting service to over 86,000 customers (over 21,000 in Parsippany-Troy Hills).**
- **Construction and energization of the Project will enhance the reliability and resiliency of JCP&L's transmission and distribution system in Morris and Sussex Counties.**
- **The public need has been established by the BPU's issuance of the Order finding that the Project is reasonably necessary for the service, convenience or welfare of the public.**
- **Accordingly, the Project would fulfill a compelling public need as required by the Green Acres regulations.**

# Montville-Whippany Project: Route Alternatives



# Montville-Whippany Project: Route Alternatives

Route Alternatives*			
	Proposed Route	Parcel 50 Route	Existing ROW
Acres of Existing ROW Utilized**	1.42	0.71	6.93
Acres of New ROW Required**	5.21	5.94	0.00
Acres of NJDEP Mapped Wetlands	6.30	6.30	4.75
Acres of NJDEP Mapped T&E Habitat (Rank 3-5)	6.30	6.30	5.46
Residential Impacts***			
Residences within 50 Feet	3	3	10
Residences between 50 and 75 Feet	1	1	2
Residences between 75 and 100 Feet	3	2	3

\* Route alternatives compared from where existing ROW and new ROW meet.  
 \*\* All ROW acreage figures are subject to change pending completion of land survey efforts.  
 \*\*\* Residences along alternative alignments in the vicinity of the Edwards Tract.

# Montville-Whippany Project: Route Alternatives

## ■ Existing ROW

- Avoids the need for a diversion as the Project would be wholly within existing ROW.
- Nonetheless results in environmental impacts to open space owned by Parsippany-Troy Hills.
- Results in ROW clearing within 50 feet of 10 residences.

## ■ Parcel 50 Route

- Similar alignment to preferred route, but requires substantial new ROW on an additional open space parcel owned by NJDEP.
- Would have similar wetlands impact as the Proposed Route.

## ■ Proposed Route

- Completely avoids new ROW on an additional open space parcel owned by NJDEP
- Reduces impacts to residences to the maximum extent practical.
- Would have similar or somewhat reduced environmental impacts as the Parcel 50 Route.

# Montville-Whippany Project: Alternatives Analysis

- **Route alternatives considered during the BPU routing study would have significantly greater overall environmental impacts.**
- **Three alternatives have been considered relative to the Edwards Tract: the Proposed Route in this area minimizes impact on residential land uses or environmental features to the maximum extent practical.**
- **There is no feasible or reasonable alternative to the proposed route that would have less impact on sensitive land uses or environmental features.**

# Montville-Whippany Project: Other Alternatives

## ■ **No-Action Alternative**

- JCP&L would not construct the Project

## ■ **System Alternatives**

- Upgrades to JCP&L's existing transmission system

## ■ **Construction Alternatives**

- Reduced permanent operational ROW
- Use of helicopters

## ■ **Route Alternatives**

# Compensation

- **If the Township decides to proceed with the diversion, it will negotiate with JCP&L for the rights needed to build the Project and will be compensated in accordance with Green Acres regulations.**
- **The Green Acres regulations set forth minimum guidelines for compensation, which can take the form of:**
  1. Land replacement at a 4:1 ratio;
  2. Monetary compensation at a 10:1 ratio; or
  3. A combination of land replacement and monetary compensation.
- **In addition, the Township received financial support from Green Acres multiple times throughout the mid-1970s to mid-1980s that was funded by the 1974 and 1978 Green Acres Bond Acts, both of which allow for park improvements as allowable compensation.**
- **The Township has provided JCP&L with a report identifying potential replacement parcels should it decide to move forward with the diversion.**



# Construction Logistics

## ■ **Construction activity to abide with local/municipal noise ordinances**

- Hours of operation in accordance to Parsippany Troy-Hills noise ordinance section 258-5.C.(3)
- Segments of new transmission line to be constructed via helicopter
  - Flight notifications to comply will Federal Aviation Administration guidelines
  - Helicopter construction to be utilized to minimize environmental impacts

## ■ **Access roads to be comprised of stone and timber matting**

- Entrances to access roads to be stoned to avoid dirt and debris on roadways
- Street sweeping will be utilized to maintain clear roadways
- Flagging will be required at access points during major equipment deliveries and construction activities
- Access roads to be restored to natural state once construction is complete
  - All areas disturbed during construction to be restored per NJDEP stipulations

# Construction Access

- **Access to right-of-way via the following:**

- Intersection of Perrine Road and Troy Road;
- Troy Meadows Road;
- Intersection of Ridgedale Avenue and Old Edwards Road;
- State Route 46 East near Longhorn Steakhouse;
- State Route 46 West near Holiday Inn;
- Edwards Road between Larkspur Drive and Sagamore Place – southbound;
- Vail Road nearing intersection of Carlson Place; and
- Kramer Road southwest toward Parsippany-Troy Hills Township.

- **Note: Permanent access to ROW to be outlined in negotiated easements with property owners**

# Scoping Period

- You may submit written comments by May 8, 2019 to Khaled Madin, Clerk, Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, 1001 Parsippany Boulevard, Parsippany-Troy Hills, New Jersey 07054.
- A copy of any written comments must also be provided by you to Adam Taylor, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Green Acres Program, Bureau of Legal Services and Stewardship, 501 East State Street, 1st Floor, Mail Code 501-01, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420.
- Information on the Project is available at [https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/about/transmission\\_projects/new\\_jersey/montville-whippany.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/about/transmission_projects/new_jersey/montville-whippany.html)

# Thank You



# QA