

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Orlando St Cloud Resiliency Connection

### Transmission Line Project

#### General Improvements & Project Information:

##### Why is this project necessary?

OUC's decision to build a new transmission line was the result of OUC's ongoing planning studies to determine how best to meet the growing electric demands of customers in the St. Cloud regional area. The new transmission line is needed to ensure the safety, integrity, and reliability of OUC's transmission system. This line also will provide additional capacity to reinforce the Orlando metropolitan area's electrical grid and support development and integration of future renewable energy resources.

##### Where will this project be located?

The final location of the project was determined through the Transmission Line Siting Act (TLSA) with corridor certification process. Please see maps on our website at <https://www.ouc.com/resiliencyconnection>.

##### How were the alternate corridor segments developed?

To identify the best location for the project, OUC established a 168-square-mile study area in Orange and Osceola counties. Using social, geographic, engineering, and environmental data, OUC identified several potential transmission line corridors within the study area. Information obtained at project open houses were incorporated into the corridor evaluation.

##### How tall will the transmission structures be?

On average, the steel or concrete monopole structures will be approximately 85 to 140 feet tall (above ground height), depending on the terrain and spans between structures.

##### How wide will the final certified corridor be?

The final certified corridor varies in width to allow for flexibility and to address site-specific conditions. The final right-of-way within the certified corridor is typically no greater than 100 feet wide.

##### How will you ensure the accuracy of measurements taken for this project?

You may have recently seen markings on roadways in your community. These are reference points for an aerial survey of OUC's existing transmission facilities. LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is used to collect accurate topographic and locational data in reference to existing easements, infrastructure, and equipment. The goal is to ensure all measurements are correct and to prevent any unintended encroachment of a property owner's land and natural areas along

potential routes. Should a marking be seen, it does not indicate that the land, or most importantly a home, will be taken as part of the project. It is part of OUC's due diligence to validate the models of our existing infrastructure.

### **Why can't you run your transmission line side by side with an existing line or next to the highway right-of-way?**

We always look for opportunities to run adjacent to existing power lines or road corridors whenever there is not a conflict or safety concern.

### **Can you install underground transmission lines?**

Underground transmission is much more expensive to install and much harder to maintain and troubleshoot, making restoration a much longer endeavor. For the Resiliency Connection project, we are designing a small portion of the line (approximately .6999 of a mile) to be built underground per industry guidelines and physical constraints.

### **How tall will the wires be off the ground?**

The wires will have a minimum clearance of 25 feet.

### **Will there be any electromagnetic fields around this line?**

EMF, or an electromagnetic field, occurs anywhere there is electric power including power lines and household appliances. As the distance increases from an electric source, EMFs decrease, and the introduction of trees and buildings further reduce EMF contact. The project has been designed with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's EMF limitations incorporated.

### **Will you consider moving a pole because of a certain obstruction?**

OUC considers moving poles on a case-by-case basis. Moves must be reviewed by OUC engineering and determined to be acceptable from a safety and design standpoint.

### **Will there be any guy lines or anchors, and can they be moved or eliminated?**

As the monopole transmission structures will be self-supporting, OUC anticipates minimal usage of guy lines or anchors.

### **Am I liable if damage occurs on my property/to my house during the construction of the project?**

The OUC team will investigate and assess damage and discuss next steps with the landowner. If you have questions or concerns at any time, please call our dedicated Resiliency Connection hotline at 407.434.2800 or email us at [resiliencyconnection@ouc.com](mailto:resiliencyconnection@ouc.com).

### **Why do I lose power even though I have solar on my roof?**

As many roof-top solar installations are connected to the grid, electricity may be turned off as a safety precaution for line workers who may be working on the line to return energy back to the grid. A grid-tied solar system must be turned off (by National Electric Safety Code) when the grid goes down, installing rooftop solar panels doesn't guarantee that you will have power during a grid outage. However, if you combine your solar system with battery storage you can tap into stored solar power during a power failure. If you're considering purchasing battery

storage, OUC offers a rebate.

**How will this project support the City of Orlando’s goal of 100% clean energy by 2050?**

Transmission line projects support the overall grid including generation, transmission, and distribution. This project will help OUC strengthen its resiliency for future growth of multiple clean energies.

**Is the Storey Bend switchyard included in this project or is it connected to the solar farm?**

The switchyard is connected to this project as it will help provide the connection point for the planned Lake Preston solar farm (owned and operated by another utility/developer, of which OUC will receive 100% of the generated electricity), to connect to the grid.

**What is the benefit of having a solar farm if we are trying to develop rooftop solar?**

To aid OUC in reaching our goal of Net Zero Carbon Emissions by 2050, solar farms allow the utility to expand its portfolio of clean energy generation. This will continue to be a necessary development as more customers move into the OUC service area. Additionally, many customers are unable to install roof top solar due to living situations, e.g., multifamily, renter-occupied homes, heavy tree canopies.

**Right of Way Acquisition & Easements:**

**What is an easement?**

An easement, also called a right-of-way or ROW, is a legal right to use land for a specific purpose. In the case of the Resiliency Connection Project, a few landowners will be compensated for easements for the purpose of building and maintaining an electric transmission line. An easement does not transfer ownership. Our Land Acquisitions Specialist will contact landowners where an easement may be needed.

**How wide is the final certified corridor?**

The final certified corridor varies in width to allow for flexibility and to address site specific conditions. The final right-of-way within the certified corridor will not be greater than 100 feet wide.

**Can we put fencing up under the easements?**

Yes, as long as OUC maintains access to the right-of-way.

**Can farming activities continue in the easement / under the line?**

Farming of row crops can continue under the lines. There will be sufficient clearance under the transmission line to grow full-height crops (up to about 10 feet tall), not including tree crops, and to operate standard farm equipment. Ranching and grazing are totally compatible and will not be restricted.

**What can be planted in the easement area?**

Crops less than 10 feet tall may be grown safely under power lines. The easement area also can

be used for pasture and grazing lands. OUC must comply with the National Electrical Safety Code to ensure safety of the general public and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards to ensure reliable operation of the transmission line. As a result, there are restrictions on planting trees that are at, or will grow to, a certain height underneath the transmission line.

**If my business or residence is impacted, how will OUC compensate me for my financial loss? Will OUC tell me where I must live/relocate?**

If a landowner or a tenant's property is impacted, a member of our Right of Way team will contact you during the project's acquisition phase. If you have specific questions, please use the hotline phone number or email.

**When will OUC start acquiring the necessary easement rights?**

Someone from our real estate team will contact you if your property will be impacted. You can visit the project website for more information or contact the hotline number if you have specific questions.

**How much will be paid for easements?**

Compensation will be based on independent market valuations. OUC will consider the type of property being crossed and the location of the easement on the property in determining value.

**Will eminent domain be used to take the right-of-way for the transmission line?**

Florida does grant OUC eminent domain authority to acquire private property. However, this is a last resort option that we seek to avoid. Ideally, we prefer to work with you to negotiate the acquisition of the land for the needed rights-of-way.

**Environmental Resources:**

**How are environmental impacts handled?**

OUC works in partnerships with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to minimize impacts to natural resources, as well as develop successful mitigation plans for unavoidable impacts.

**What protected species are within the study area and will they be impacted?**

A field review of the project study area was conducted during the permitting phase to evaluate habitat conditions and the potential for the presence of protected species. OUC will evaluate habitats within the project limits for protected species that use the area. OUC will then coordinate with state and federal permitting agencies in determining permit conditions for the project.

**Will this project impact the Split Oak Forest?**

This project will not directly impact the Split Oak Forest. The land is west of the proposed transmission line easement and OUC is already working with adjacent property owner(s) to avoid impact.

### **What about impacts to the conservation easement?**

OUC is coordinating with managing agencies and species surveys will be conducted to determine any necessary mitigations.

### **What about contamination?**

Potentially contaminated sites were evaluated in the environmental permitting stages. OUC will continue to work within identified permit guidelines during the construction process.

### **Will there be a need for tree removal?**

Yes, there will be tree clearing; however, this corridor was selected in part because it would require minimal tree clearing compared with other options. Some tree removal will occur on the Storey Bend switchyard site.

### **Do you use herbicides?**

OUC will use a combination of trimming and herbicides based on the specific situation. The use of herbicides allows OUC to keep the right-of-way clear and minimize future clearing operations. All herbicides will be used in a manner consistent with their labeling and by certified contractors.

### **Project Schedule:**

#### **What is the time frame for the line?**

We anticipate construction to start in January 2023 and the line would be operation in July 2025.

#### **What is the project schedule?**

Please see our web site at [www.OUC.com/resiliencyconnection](http://www.OUC.com/resiliencyconnection) for the anticipated project timeline.

Public Input and Staying Connected:

#### **What input has OUC already obtained?**

OUC solicited input from 46 representatives of local, state, and other governmental agencies and will continue to incorporate public feedback from residents, landowners, local governments, regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders for evaluation of each of the corridors. The corridor has been certified through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Transmission Line Siting Act (TLSA), which obtains input from multiple regulatory agencies and stakeholders.

#### **Will the public have a say in the process?**

Public involvement is an essential part of this project. Two public information meetings were held in January 2020 and a third was held in August 2021. Additionally, OUC held a 30-day comment period after the public meetings to collect public input by phone, email, and an electronic comment form on the OUC website.

#### **How can I be kept updated on this project?**

The project website, [OUC.com/resiliencyconnection](http://OUC.com/resiliencyconnection), is the best way to stay updated on the project. There, you can review project information, as well as access ways to contact the dedicated hotline phone number.

**Who can I contact regarding my questions, concerns, and/or thoughts about the project?**

We want to hear from you. Public input is key to any of our utility project OUC completes. There are multiple options for public engagement your comments during this transmission line by contacting OUC through the information line at 407.434.2800 or email at [resiliencyconnection@ouc.com](mailto:resiliencyconnection@ouc.com)