



your lines. your lights.

your community.

MARCH 2012

Thumb Loop 345 kV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Dear Friends,

In last month's newsletter we mentioned that construction of ITC *Transmission's* Thumb Loop transmission line would begin soon. We're happy to report that the time has now arrived! We've acquired the necessary real estate rights on all of the parcels along the line route in Tuscola County and we're gearing up to start the line work in Tuscola County.

We've selected a Michigan company, M. J. Electric of Iron Mountain, to build the Phase 1 line segment, a 62-mile stretch from the Bauer substation in Tuscola County to the new Rapson substation in eastern Huron County. We are very pleased that a Michigan company with Michigan employees will be a key partner with us on this important regional transmission project.

M.J. Electric is one of our most trusted and experienced contractors. Their selection was based on a competitive bidding process as well as their history of safety and successful project completion for ITC in this very specialized field. They have completed projects for us safely, on time and on budget in the past and we're confident they will continue that high level of performance on Phase 1 of the Thumb Loop. The project will create approximately 50 positions during peak construction and require the support of ancillary businesses in the area.

Crews are now moving equipment and materials into Tuscola County and will start drilling holes and pouring pole foundations by the first week of April. Soon after, they will begin assembling and raising the structures, most of which will be steel monopoles. Then other crews will start "stringing" the conductors (wires) onto the poles. This is a "double-circuit" project, meaning there are two separate electrical circuits, one on each side of the pole, with three pairs of wires to each circuit.

One of the most important aspects of the construction process is working with landowners on items such as access points and construction schedules. We encourage you to stay in touch with the land agent from Universal Field Services (UFS) who is assigned to you. If you have any questions or concerns about construction activities, including access to your property, the agents are there to help. They are based in our field office in Bad Axe and can be reached at (989) 269-7499.

In addition to the line, the Thumb Loop includes four new substations that will provide "on-ramps" and "off-ramps" for the line and connect it to the rest of the high-voltage grid in Lower Michigan. The Bauer substation in western Tuscola County is already under construction and is expected to be completed by June of this year. At around that same time work will begin on the Rapson substation near Bad Axe. Construction of Phase 1 of the project will continue through 2012 into the second quarter of 2013 and is scheduled to be operational by the third quarter of 2013.

In the meantime, discussions with landowners have begun along Phase 3, the eastern segment from the Rapson substation through southern Huron County and Sanilac County. We have negotiated most of the right-of-entry agreements there, and easement agreement negotiations are getting underway.

The Thumb Loop project remains on schedule because of the great cooperation and coordination we're receiving from landowners, local officials and the wind energy developers that will be connecting to the line. None of this progress would be possible without all parties working together. We appreciate everyone's cooperation. ■

Sincerely,
The Thumb Loop Project Team



27175 Energy Way
Novi, MI 48377

877.ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829)
www.itctransco.com

*we're your energy
superhighway*

What to expect before, during and after construction

We're gearing up to start construction of the Phase 1 transmission line segment in Tuscola and Huron counties, and we want to give you a clear picture of the steps we'll be taking and how the process will work.



Equipment and Materials:

Our contractor will use a variety of construction equipment including augers, cranes, wire-stringing machines and concrete mixer trucks. Weight is distributed over tracks or multiple axles and wheels. The transmission line will use engineered steel monopoles and also some steel lattice towers where the line turns at sharp angles. The poles are delivered to the work site on trucks, usually in three or four sections, and assembled on the ground, along with the hardware to support the conductors, before being lifted into place. The lattice towers will be assembled and erected on site. The conductors (wires) are transported on large spools and attached to the poles and towers with specialized stringing equipment.

Construction Process:

Pre-construction. For the Bauer to Rapson segment, most of this work has already been done. It included surveying, environmental and cultural studies, permitting, soil borings and final design work. Our land agents from UFS will work with you to determine access points for equipment and materials in order to minimize damage to land and crops. Our local drainage tile expert, Gene Izydorek of Farm Land Tile Drainage Inc. in Marlette, is available to work with you to help protect drainage systems during construction.

Line construction. First, the transmission line easement area is prepared and any incompatible vegetation is removed. Then we auger foundations, which can range from six to 12 feet in diameter and 25 to 60 feet deep. For this project, concrete pier foundations will be utilized for all supporting structures. Finally, we assemble and erect the poles, and string the conductors (wires).

Clean-up/restoration. When construction is completed and all equipment and materials are removed, ITC will repair damage to land or drainage systems, if any, in accordance with the terms of the Permanent Transmission Line Easement, as near as possible to original condition, at ITC *Transmission's* expense. We also will compensate landowners for any crop loss caused by ITC *Transmission* construction.



Construction notes:

- The Thumb Loop project will use about 815 steel monopoles poles, an average of six per mile for the 140 miles of line through the Thumb.
- Each pole is engineered for its specific location. poles will range from 125 to 180 feet high. The most common height will be 150 feet. Diameter at the base averages 55 to 115 inches.
- The conductors (wires) are made of multiple strands of wire, with a steel core for strength and outer strands of aluminum to conduct the electricity.
- Safety is ITC's top priority during construction of all projects. There is frequent truck traffic in the construction areas, so we ask everyone, especially students driving to and from school, to be careful and alert for unexpected large vehicles on country roads in the area. Also, we ask that the public remain clear of construction zones so that everyone remains safe.



Drainage Consultant

Gene Izydorek of Marlette, Mich., is ITC *Transmission's* drainage tile consultant on the Thumb Loop project. He's working with farmers along the transmission line route to help address their concerns about how the project will affect their tile systems. Gene has worked with agricultural drainage systems since the early 1980s. He co-founded Farm Land Tile Drainage Inc. in Marlette in 1985. Not long afterward he took sole ownership of the company and has been helping Michigan farmers manage their drainage needs ever since. Gene offers a full range of drainage system services including design, installation, maintenance and troubleshooting. He's familiar with all types of systems from clay and concrete tiles to the latest vented plastic pipe.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Will ITC compensate me for damage to my land during construction?

A. ITC *Transmission* is committed to working with you throughout the construction process to attempt to minimize impacts to your property. We will work with you to establish favorable points of ingress and egress to the right of way during construction. Because of the weight of equipment and materials used in construction, there may be impacts on property such as soil disturbance and compaction. After construction is completed, we will compensate landowners for crop damage and lost production due to our construction activities and return your property as near as possible to its pre-existing condition.

Q. Will the transmission lines adversely affect the operation of GPS-guided agriculture equipment?

A. Normal reception of GPS signals are not affected by transmission lines. However, some GPS equipment itself may not be shielded adequately for its electronics to always function properly in the electrical environment directly under the line. This is rare, and no action is warranted in anticipation of a problem. If, at any point, you have some evidence that GPS-guided precision agriculture is not working properly under a transmission line, please contact ITC *Transmission* for advice.

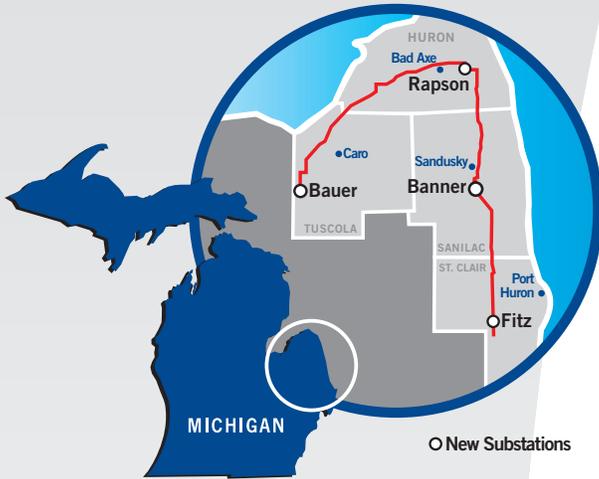
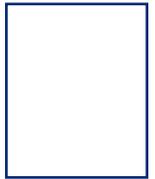
Q. Will the line interfere with aerial application operations?

A. Aerial application techniques are not precluded by the presence of the transmission line. Skilled aerial application contractors are experienced in techniques compatible with the proposed line, similar to what is required by many other natural terrain features and above-ground obstructions. No special mitigation is required. ■



222 Park Avenue, Suite 1
Bad Axe, MI 48413

Return Service Requested



Thumb Loop 345 kV

TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

FAST FACTS:

- Line length:** Approximately 140 miles
- Line route:** Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac and St. Clair counties
- Voltage:** 345,000 (345 kV)
- Right-of-way width:** Approximately 200 feet
- Structure type:** Steel monopole, double circuit
- Structure height:** 130-180 feet. Majority are 150 feet.
- Distance between structures:** Approximately 800 to 1,100 feet
- Structures per mile:** Typically six
- Substations:** Bauer (Tuscola County), Rapson (Huron County), Banner (Sandusky County), Fitz (St. Clair County).

KEY DATES & TIMELINE:

- Feb. 25, 2011:** Michigan Public Service Commission issued expedited siting certificate.
- Second Quarter 2011:** Right-of-way discussions with landowners began.
- Fourth Quarter 2011:** Construction begins on Bauer substation.
- First Quarter 2012:** Construction begins on first line segment (Tuscola County to Huron County).
- Fourth Quarter 2013:** Target in-service date for first segment.
- Fourth Quarter 2015:** Complete line enters service.

About ITC Transmission

International Transmission Company (d/b/a ITC Transmission) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ITC Holdings Corp., the nation's largest independent electricity transmission company. Based in Novi, Michigan, ITC Transmission owns, operates and maintains approximately 2,800 circuit miles of transmission line in southeast Michigan, serving a population of 5.1 million. For more information, please visit <http://www.itctransco.com>. ■



Thumb Loop 345 kV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

If you have questions about the Thumb Loop project:

- Visit <http://www.itctransco.com/projects/current/itctransmission.html>
- Email thumbloop@itctransco.com
- Call 877.ITC.ITC9 (877.482.4829)

*we're your energy
superhighway*