



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

August 3, 2026

NOTICE OF FLOODPLAIN ACTION

for

First Energy Transmission on behalf of Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC, Johnstown–Seward 230 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Cambria, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania

The Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF), is issuing this notice of floodplain action for First Energy Transmission on behalf of Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, Inc.'s (FET-MAIT) Johnstown–Seward 230 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project Transmission Line Rebuild Project (Project) in Cambria, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania.

FET-MAIT has applied for Federal financial assistance for the Project. DOE has determined that the potential Federal financial assistance for the Project is a floodplain action; therefore, the requirements of 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1022 apply.

Pursuant to 10 CFR Part 1022, a 15-day public comment period for this proposed floodplain action commences with publication of this notice and will conclude on August 19, 2026. At the end of the public comment period, DOE will consider all substantive comments received and prepare a floodplain statement of findings.

The floodplain assessment is attached to this notice.

To submit comments, please email edf_environmental@doe.gov. Please include **“MAIT: Johnstown to Seward”** in the subject line. Comments must be received by August 19, 2026.

FLOODPLAIN ASSESSMENT

for

First Energy Transmission on behalf of Mid-Atlantic Interstate Transmission, LLC, Johnstown–
Seward 230 Kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Rebuild Project

Cambria, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania

August 3, 2026

Introduction

A portion of the 225.72-acre Johnstown–Seward 230 kV Transmission Line Rebuild Project (“Project”) study area is located within the 100-year floodplain of the Conemaugh River and associated tributaries (including FEMA-regulated floodways and floodplains mapped in Cambria, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties, Pennsylvania). The Project, a transmission line rebuild, is not considered to be a critical action, as defined at 10 CFR 1022.4. This memo describes the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) assessment of floodplains pursuant to 10 CFR 1022.

Floodplain Assessment

As defined at 10 CFR 1022.4, *Floodplain action* means any DOE action that takes place in a floodplain, including any DOE action in a wetland that is also within the floodplain. DOE has determined that the Project is a floodplain action.

Project Description

The Project consists of rebuilding and reconductoring approximately 6.7 miles of the existing Johnstown–Seward 230 kV transmission line within an existing right-of-way (ROW). The ROW is approximately 160 feet wide for the first 3.0 miles eastward from the Seward Substation, widening to approximately 320 feet for the remaining 3.7 miles to the Johnstown Substation.

The rebuild includes replacing fifty-nine (59) of the existing sixty-one (61) structures (primarily transitioning from aging wood H-Frame structures to resilient steel structures) and upgrading the existing conductor to a higher-capacity conductor to accommodate load growth and enhance system reliability.

The transmission line will aerially cross the Conemaugh River in two locations. Four (4) replacement structures currently located within wetland/floodplain areas are proposed to be replaced at or near their existing locations. To minimize temporary construction impacts, timber matting will be utilized in wet areas, and streams will be air-bridged during access. No new ROW clearing or permanent access roads are required within the regulatory floodway.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin on or about September 4, 2026, to meet an in-service target date of June 2027. The new steel structures and conductors are anticipated to be in service for at least 40 years.

MAIT has provided information regarding the Project to representatives of St. Clair Township in Westmoreland County, East Wheatfield Township in Indiana County, and Jackson Township in Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Copies of the Letter of Notification were officially served upon all state agencies, federal agencies, county agencies, municipalities, and landowners on June 4, 2026, in accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 57.72(d)(3).

Alternatives

The alternatives before DOE include: (1) to provide Federal financial assistance for the Project; or (2) not provide Federal financial assistance for the Project. No siting alternatives were considered by DOE.

Proposed Statement of Findings

The replacement steel structures are designed with profiles that will not affect base flood elevations, and the Project conforms to all applicable state, county, and local floodplain protection standards. Specifically, the Project's floodplain and wetland crossings are covered under Pennsylvania State Programmatic General Permit 6 (PASPGP-6) issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Pittsburgh District and Pennsylvania Chapter 105 General Permits.

No modifications to existing site elevations or permanent grading within the floodway are proposed. Temporary erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed and maintained in accordance with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and county conservation district regulations until work areas are fully restored and stabilized to original vegetative cover.

Attachment

Figure 1 Johnstown–Seward 230 kV Transmission Line Rebuild, Project Location Map.



FLOOD HAZARD INFORMATION

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP
FOR DRAFT FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, V, AE</i>
		With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i>
		Regulatory Floodway
		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i>
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee See Notes <i>Zone X</i>
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone D</i>
		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>

NOTES TO USERS

For information and questions about this Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), available products associated with this FIRM, including historic versions, the current map date for each FIRM panel, how to order products, or the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in general, please call the FEMA Map Information eXchange at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (1-877-336-2627) or visit the FEMA Flood Map Service Center website at <https://msc.fema.gov>. Available products may include previously issued Letters of Map Change, a Flood Insurance Study Report, and/or digital versions of this map. Many of these products can be ordered or obtained directly from the website.

Communities annexing land on adjacent FIRM panels must obtain a current copy of the adjacent panel as well as the current FIRM index. These may be ordered directly from the Flood Map Service Center at the number listed above.

For community and countywide map dates, refer to the Flood Insurance Study Report for this jurisdiction.

To determine if flood insurance is available in this community, contact your Insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-638-6620.

Basemap information shown on this FIRM was provided in digital format by USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA). This information was derived from NAIP, dated April 11, 2018.

This map was exported from FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) on 8/3/2026 7:33 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time. For additional information, please see the Flood Hazard Mapping Updates Overview Fact Sheet at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/118418>

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards. This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date.