

## National Grid Aerial Transmission Line Inspections Underway

Helicopter surveys used to detect potential problems before outages occur

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WALTHAM, MASS. – National Grid is beginning its summer aerial inspections of approximately 3,000 miles of electric transmission lines in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont. Over the next three weeks, the helicopter flyovers will identify any potential problems in the transmission lines. National Grid transmission line crews will be dispatched to address any issues discovered during the inspections before they impact service for customers. These semi-annual aerial patrols complement ground-level inspections by quickly and efficiently covering National Grid's transmission system, especially across rugged and isolated terrain.

Transmission lines serve as the backbone of the power grid. They typically deliver power from generating plants to local electric companies, which in turn serve their customers.

"At National Grid, we believe in the old adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, especially when it comes to reducing service interruptions for our customers. Regular inspections of our transmission system are a critical component in providing safe and reliable power to our more than 1.7 million electricity customers across New England," said Fred Raymond, vice president, Electric Project Management and Complex Construction, National Grid.

"Transmission lines can be damaged by severe weather, such as thunderstorms, making now an ideal time to have an up-close look and make sure customers have the reliable service they deserve and expect from us."

The helicopter inspections are conducted by experienced personnel using high-power gyroscopic binoculars. They are particularly interested in any signs of wear on power lines conductors and lightning protection devices; damaged or leaning transmission structures; loose or broken guy wires; broken, chipped or cracked insulator equipment; and trees leaning toward the lines or into the transmission corridors.

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## NATIONAL GRID AERIAL INSPECTIONS HELP POWER SYSTEM RELIABILITY 2/

The flights are also conducted to identify signs of waste disposal or unauthorized construction on transmission corridors. These could alter the clearance between the ground and the power lines and might lead to human contact with the lines that could result in severe injuries or vegetation interference that could lead to power outages. Inspectors will also look for signs of erosion, which may cause the transmission structures to become unstable.

The inspections are expected to take approximately three weeks to complete, weather permitting. Flight schedules and routes may be changed on short notice due to regional weather conditions.

### **About National Grid**

National Grid (LSE: NG; NYSE: NRG) is an electricity and natural gas delivery company that connects nearly 7 million customers to vital energy sources through its networks in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the Northeast. National Grid also operates the systems that deliver gas and electricity across Great Britain.

Through its U.S. Connect21 strategy, National Grid is transforming its electricity and natural gas networks to support the 21<sup>st</sup> century digital economy with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions. Connect21 is vital to our communities' long-term economic and environmental health and aligns with regulatory initiatives in New York (REV: Reforming the Energy Vision) and Massachusetts (Grid Modernization).

For more information please visit our website: [www.nationalgridus.com](http://www.nationalgridus.com), or our [Connecting](#) website. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#), watch us on [You Tube](#), Friend us on [Facebook](#) and find our photos on [Instagram](#).

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