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## **Route set for EKPC electric transmission line to maintain reliable electric service in southern Madison County**

East Kentucky Power Cooperative (EKPC) has determined a route for a planned new electric transmission line in southern Madison County and northern Jackson County.

The project will help to maintain reliable electric service for Blue Grass Energy cooperative members in the vicinity.

“This new power line and substation are necessary to ensure continued reliable electric service for thousands of electric cooperative members in southeastern Madison County,” said Nick Comer, External Affairs Manager for EKPC. “The existing substation serving those members is close to becoming overloaded, so EKPC is taking steps to prevent that from happening.”

Currently, most electric cooperative members in southeastern Madison County, including the areas east and southeast of Berea, are served from a substation that feeds electricity to 4,100 meters, more than any other substation in EKPC’s system.

The new Big Hill substation will serve approximately 1,500 meters in the vicinity of the Red Lick, Big Hill and Pilot Knob communities from a new segment of transmission line feeding electricity from the south. This will provide more flexibility to serve these homes with electricity from either the south or the north, reducing the risk of outages.

In September, EKPC hosted a public meeting to share information about the project and collect public feedback. EKPC is taking steps to minimize impact to the public.

- Rather than galvanized steel, EKPC plans to use weathered-steel poles, which have the appearance of wood.
- The transmission line will be approximately 1 mile from the closest overlook at the Pinnacles hiking trails. Much of the view of the line from the Pinnacle will be screened by Pilot Knob.
- EKPC has acquired a site for the substation. It will be located approximately 1,000 feet off of Red Lick Road. EKPC plans to plant trees around the perimeter of the substation to screen the view.
- EKPC will work with property owners concerned about the use of herbicides used to prevent woody vegetation from growing into the transmission line, which can cause safety and reliability issues.

Learn more about the project at <https://www.ekpc.coop/big-hill-three-links>

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*East Kentucky Power Cooperative is a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative providing wholesale electricity to 16 owner-member distribution cooperatives that serve 1.1 million Kentucky residents at 565,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries across 89 counties. EKPC provides power through coal-fueled plants located in Mason and Pulaski counties; natural gas-fueled plants in Clark and Oldham counties; renewable energy plants in Barren, Boone, Clark, Laurel, Greenup, Hardin and Pendleton counties; and nearly 3,000 miles of transmission lines. Together, EKPC and its 16 owner-member cooperatives are known as Kentucky's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Visit EKPC at [www.ekpc.coop](http://www.ekpc.coop).*

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