WATER | ENERGY | LIFE

CITY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

POWERING OUR FUTURE

RIVERSIDE TRANSMISSION RELIABILITY PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is RTRP?

RTRP is the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project. The City of Riverside is working with Southern California Edison to establish a second power connection to the statewide power grid.

Why does Riverside need a second connection to the state grid?

Riverside is the only large city in Southern California to have only one connection at 69kV to the statewide power grid. If that one connection to the grid goes down, Riverside will have a serious and lengthy power outage. The need for this project was demonstrated clearly in 2007, when transmission lines that feed Riverside were damaged and power was out across the city for over four hours. This cannot be allowed to happen again. More recently, in summer 2018, weeks of hundred-degree temperatures and a natural gas shortage threatened Riverside's ability to meet peak summer demand. Riverside residents and businesses must be able to count on having power when needed.

Why is RTRP taking so long to be completed?

Southern California Edison was directed by the California Independent System Operator to install a second connection to the state power grid in 2006, more than 12 years ago. Since 2006, Riverside and Edison have worked to comply with this order, receiving local government approvals and prevailing in lawsuits brought against the project.

What is the next step for RTRP?

In order to move forward, RTRP requires a thorough Environmental Impact Report (EIR) approval process through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The CPUC published the final version of the Subsequent EIR on October 2, 2018. The CPUC is expected to vote on RTRP in late 2019 or early 2020. CPUC's RTRP project website, can be found here:
CPUC.CA.gov/Environment/info/panoramaenv/RTRP/index.html

Is Riverside open to undergrounding any of RTRP?

Riverside supports the legal settlement which requires Southern California Edison to support the undergrounding of a portion of the project directly adjacent to an approved residential development. This compromise is referred to as the "Hybrid Project." Further undergrounding could mean millions of dollars in additional costs.

Why does Riverside support the RTRP Hybrid Project?

The RTRP Hybrid Project is the best route for new power lines. The majority of this route in Jurupa Valley parallels existing power lines already built by Southern California Edison, and the remainder of the route consists of lines running parallel and adjacent to the I-15 freeway.

How is Riverside supporting the RTRP Hybrid Project?

The City of Riverside and its partners – businesses, schools, shopping centers, residents, hospitals, etc. – are working together to ensure Riverside has sufficient and reliable power. We are actively advocating on behalf of ratepayers to the CPUC. To join this growing coalition of supporters, visit: **RiversidePublicUtilities.com/RTRP.**

Does the environmental review of RTRP consider additional undergrounding of power lines in Jurupa Valley?

The EIR studies additional undergrounding options only north of Limonite Avenue. The CPUC will determine the ultimate configuration of RTRP among the alternatives analyzed in the Subsequent EIR, consistent with the Public Utilities Code.

Why is Riverside against undergrounding the remainder of the RTRP project?

Undergrounding the remainder of the RTRP would increase the costs compared to the RTRP Hybrid Project. Riverside has consistently supported cost-effective transmission planning, and the RTRP Hybrid Project is the most cost-effective option for all ratepayers. Riverside is committed to protecting ratepayers from any additional financial burden that could be created by additional undergrounding.

Does the RTRP environmental review consider the use of low-voltage power lines?

The alternatives analyzed in the EIR – including the Hybrid Project favored by Riverside – do NOT include low-voltage alternatives that would have increased impacts to Corona and Norco. Those low-voltage alternatives were considered and then eliminated as part of the EIR process.

Doesn't Riverside have power plants that can supply power if the single connection to the state grid does down?

Riverside has two power plants inside the city that are used primarily to offset peak demands during the summer, when Riverside's power demand typically exceeds what can be delivered through our current single connection to the state grid. These power plants, however, are a short-term fix rather than a long-term solution and cannot replace the reliability of a second connection to the statewide power grid.

I don't live in Riverside. Why should I support RTRP?

RTRP benefits the region. Riverside is home to the county seat of government, three universities and one community college, major hospitals, the county, state and federal courts, the county emergency communications center, the county jail, several dozen schools, a regional water quality control plant, and a convention center. Maintaining reliable power to these facilities is in everyone's best interest.

When will RTRP be completed?

If the CPUC approves RTRP in late 2019 or early 2020, RTRP is expected to "go live" by 2026.

What will happen if RTRP is delayed?

Any delay in approving RTRP will increase project costs and keep Riverside's residents, employees and businesses continually at risk of citywide power outages for many more years. Since 2008, Riverside ratepayers have paid a reliability charge on their electric bills. That ratepayer charge pays for the planning and construction of the portion of this much-needed project that is within Riverside's service area. The longer this project takes to complete, the longer local ratepayers will pay that reliability charge.

How can I show my support of the RTRP Hybrid Project?

To get involved, visit our website at:
RiversidePublicUtilities.com/RTRP

To speak with someone regarding RTRP, please contact:

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