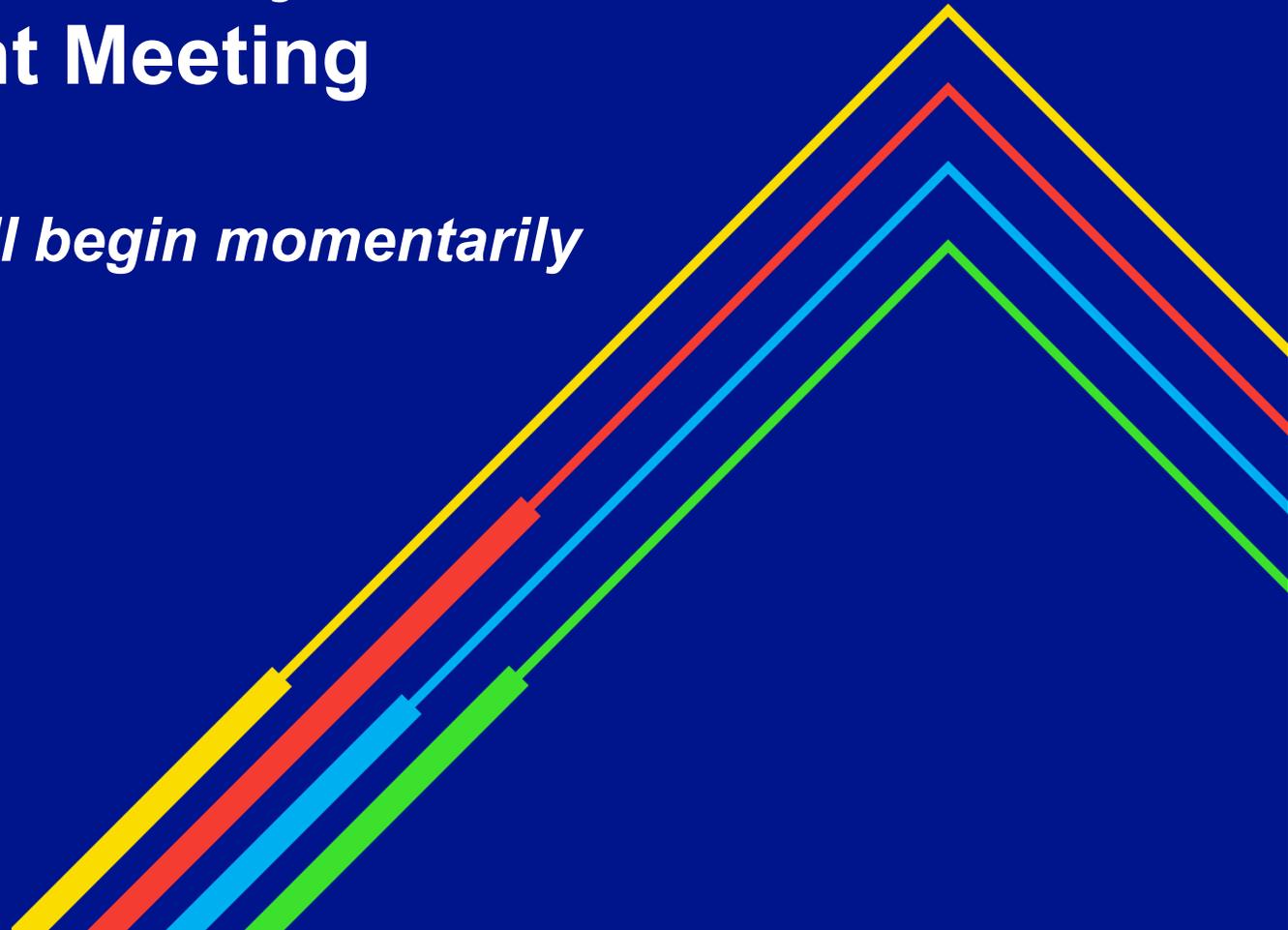


# Welcome to the E131 Asset Condition Refurbishment Project Virtual Event Meeting

*The meeting will begin momentarily*

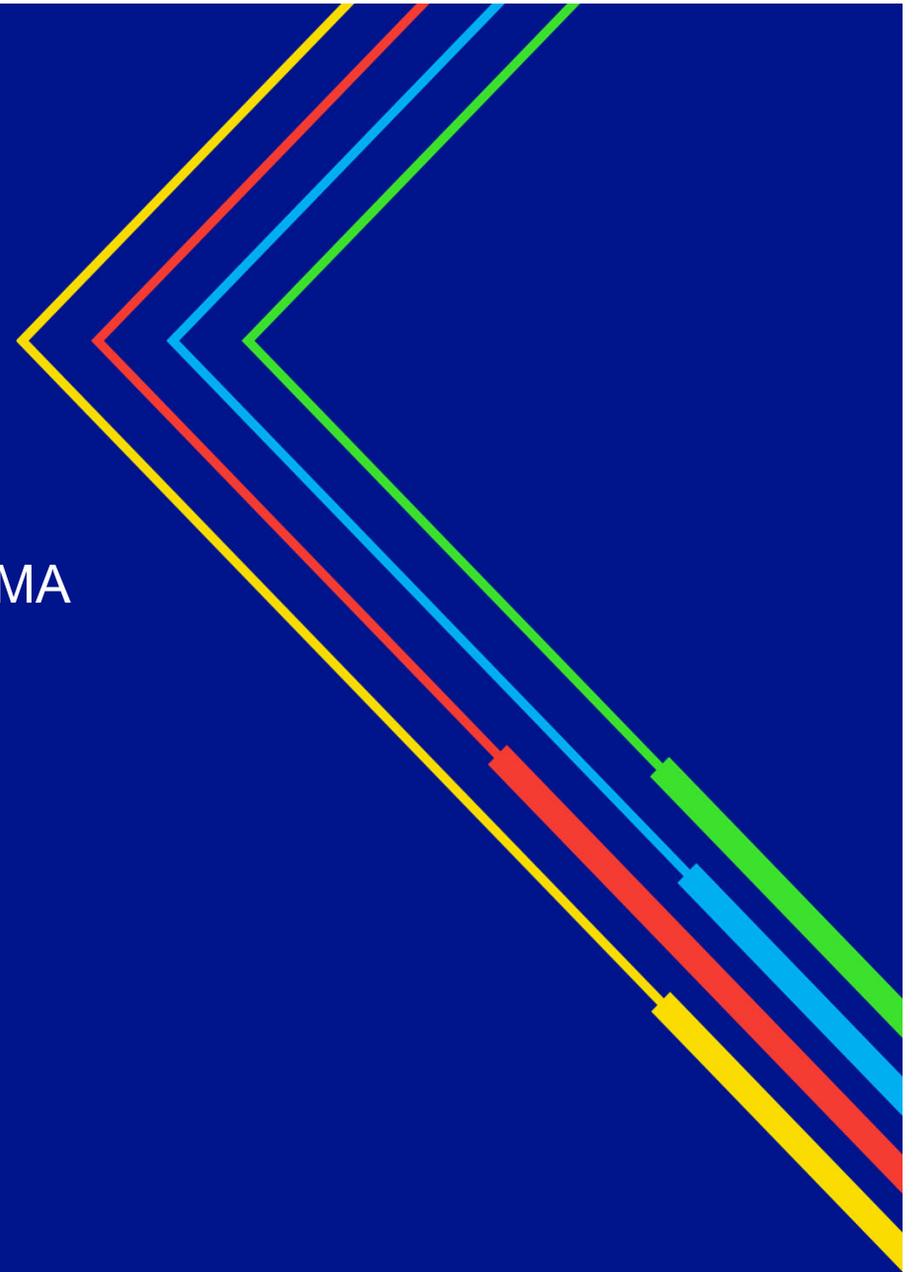


# E131 Asset Condition Refurbishment (ACR) Project

Adams, North Adams, Florida, Monroe, MA  
and Readsboro, VT

**Virtual Public Meeting**  
August 10, 2022

New England Power Company  
**nationalgrid**



# Tonight's Agenda

- **Environmental Justice and the MEPA Process**
- **E131 ACR Project Overview**
- **Project Status and Anticipated Schedule**

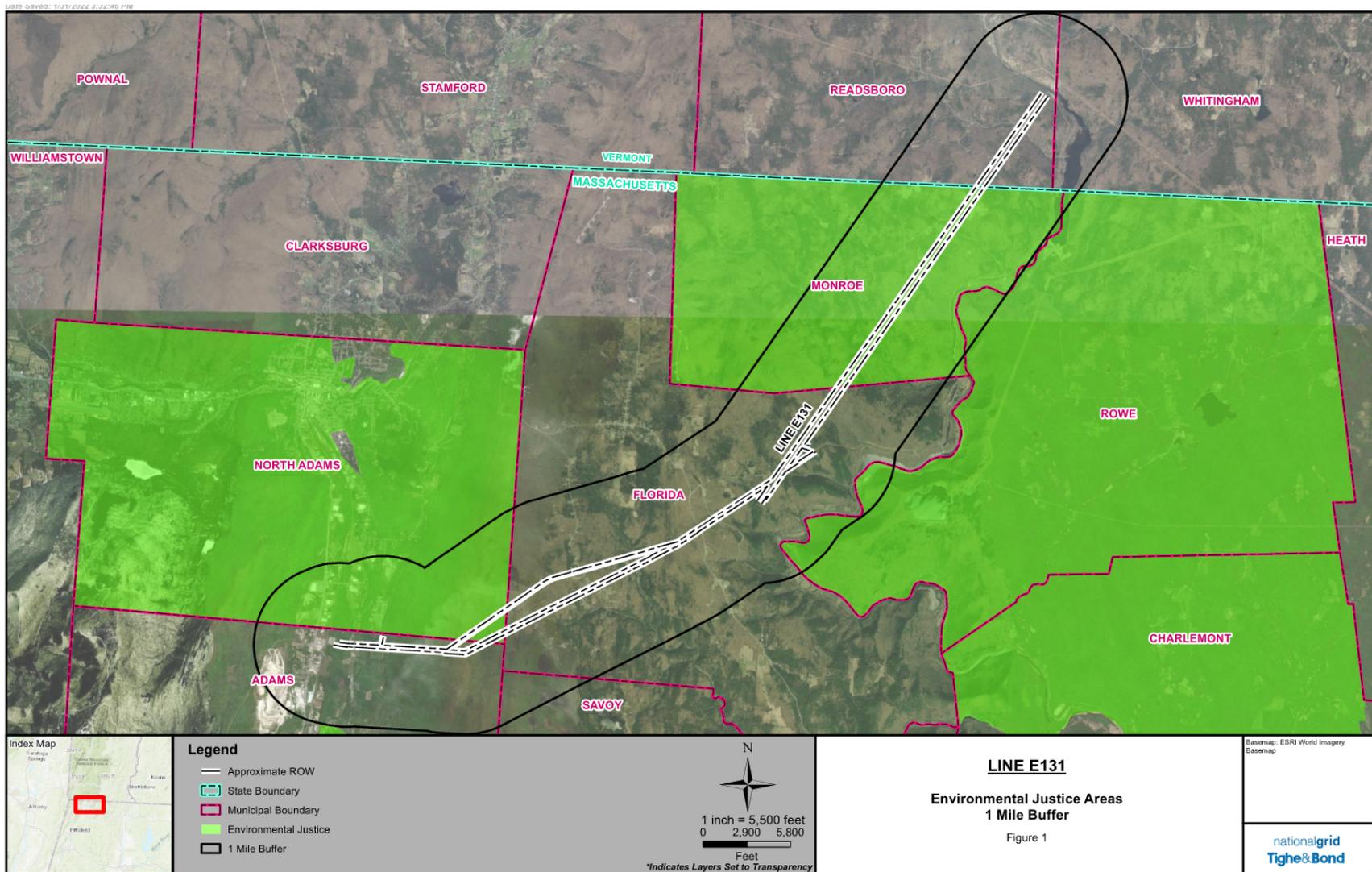
## Senate Bill 9 – An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for MA Climate Change Policy (2021)

- Recognizes significant impact of climate change – including air and other types of pollution on Environmental Justice communities and increased protections.
- Requires expanded public engagement and an impact analysis for certain projects subject to MEPA review, including this project.

# What is Environmental Justice (EJ)?

- EJ is based on the principle that all people have the right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthy environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income or English language proficiency.
- The updated Massachusetts EJ Policy helps to ensure protections from environmental pollution and promotes community involvement in planning and environmental decision-making.
- Several Commonwealth of MA identified EJ Communities are located within the E131 ACR Project area.

# EJ Communities within 1 Mile of the Project Site



# E131 Site Overview

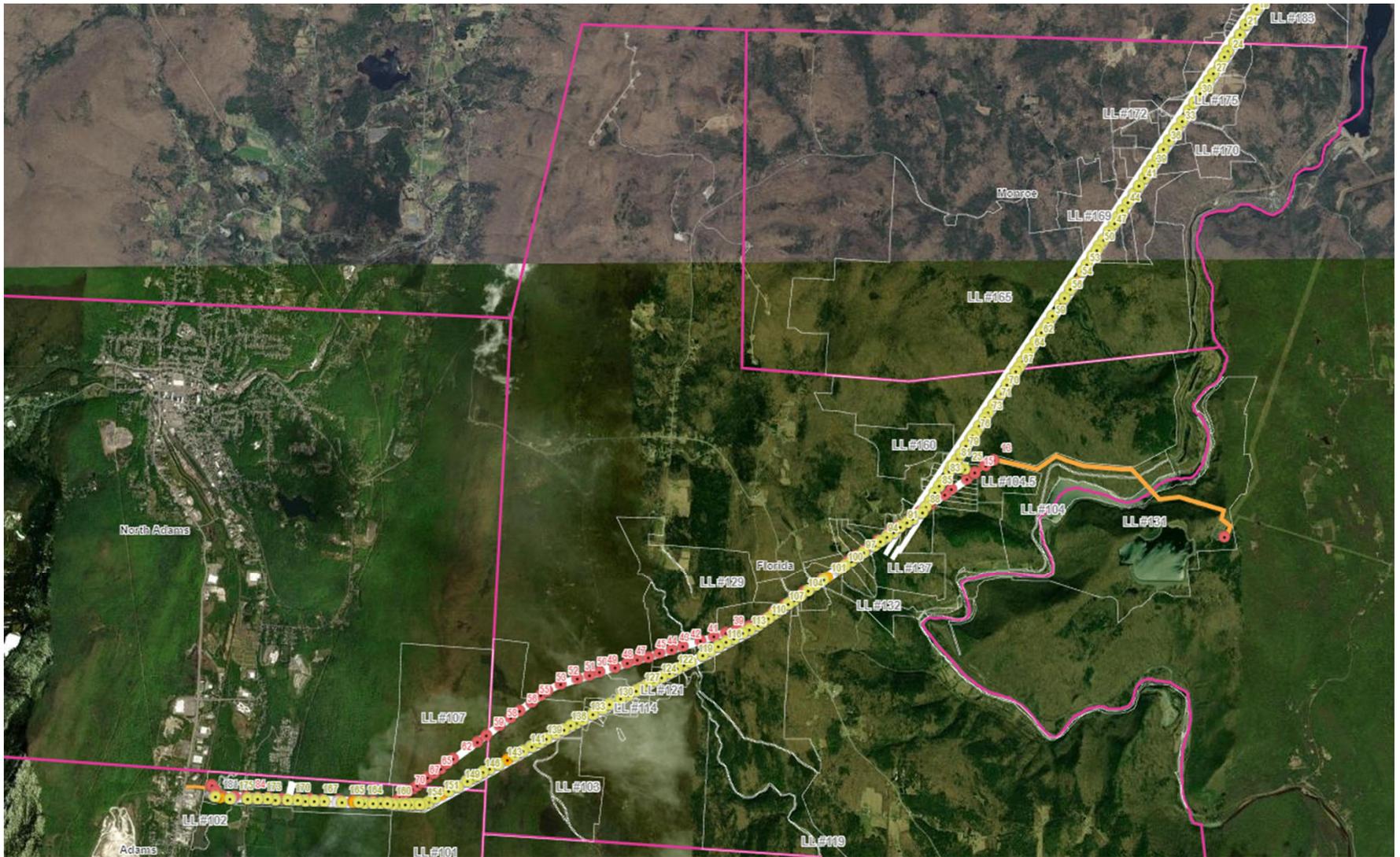
## History

- Constructed in 1925
  - Upgrades in 1971
  - Upgrades in 2004 – replacing several structures
    - Majority of the existing wooden H-Frame Structures are still in place

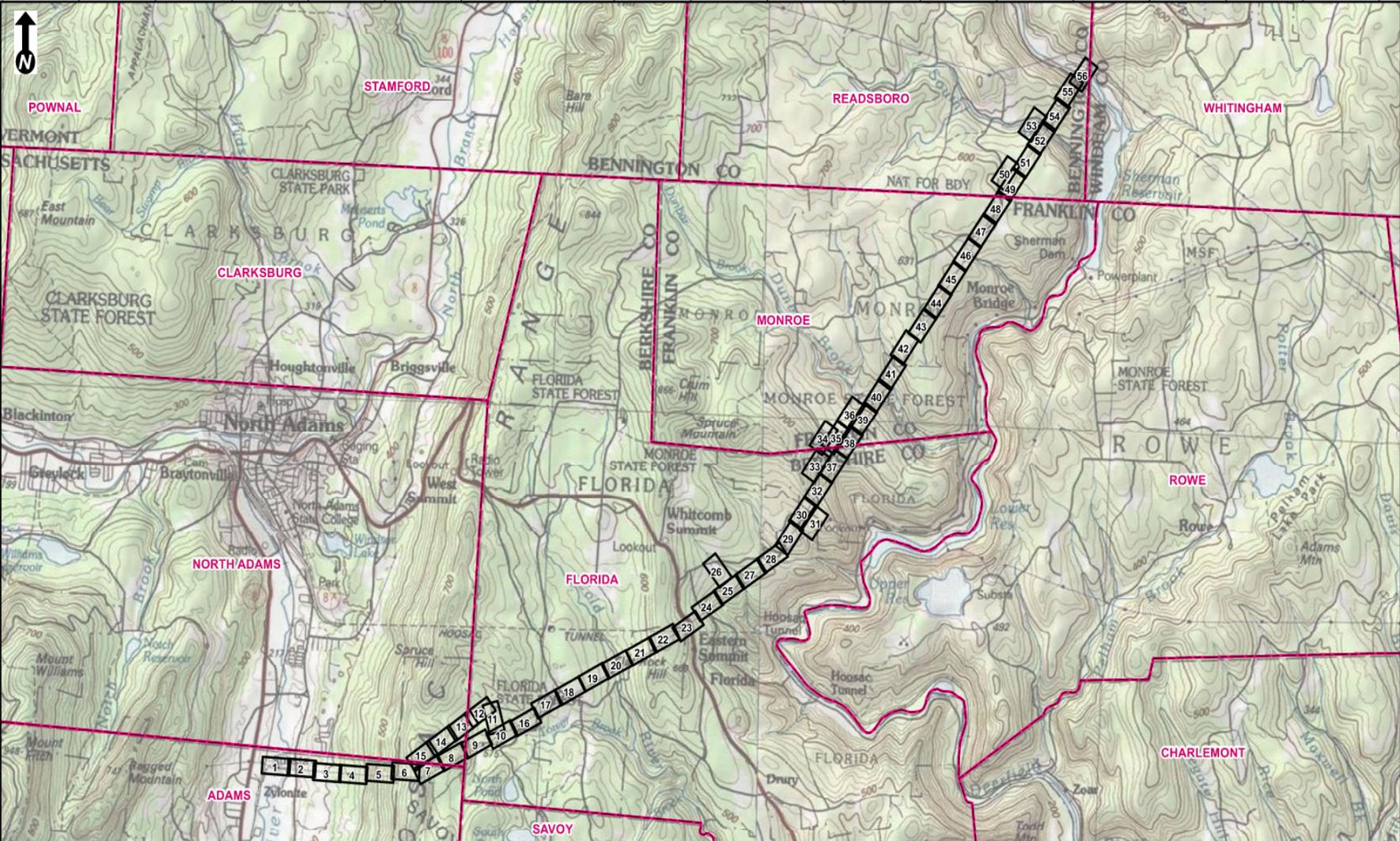
## Location

- Within the existing Right-of-Way (ROW) ~ 12.6 Miles (11.4 miles in MA)
- Adams, North Adams, Florida, Monroe and Readsboro

# Project Area Overview



# Overview Map



## Project Need & Benefit

- Address immediate reliability concerns
  - Aging infrastructure
  - Wood pole damage from weather and wildlife
- Improve reliability and efficiency
  - E131 Transmission line services larger populated areas of the Northern Berkshires

# E131 ACR Project Overview

- Replacement wooden H-frame structures with steel pole H-frame structures
- Remove 5 structures
- Install 3 new switch gear structures
- Replace existing shield wire with OPGW
- Construct new and/or improve access roads and work pads

# Structure Configuration



# Existing Conditions

- Easement Width – 200 to 400 feet
  - Current Maintained Width – 150 feet
  - No ROW Expansion Proposed
- DCR Owned State Park Land
  - Savoy Mountain State Forest, Florida State Forest, Monroe State Forest (6 Miles)
- Wetland Resource Areas
  - Riverfront Area, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, Isolated Vegetated Wetlands, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands
- Rare Species Habitat
- Mountainous Terrain with Limited to No Existing Access

# Existing Conditions



# Existing Conditions



# Project Schedule

- Field Assessments: 2019 – Ongoing
  - Wetland Delineation, Wildlife Habitat Evaluations, Cultural Resource Testing, Constructability Reviews, Geotechnical Soil Boring
- Stakeholder Outreach (Fall 2019-Ongoing)
- Access Road Planning/Design: Winter 2021/Summer 2022
- Pre-Permitting Agency Consultation: Spring/Summer 2022
- Permitting: Spring 2022 – June 2023
  - August 2022 EENF Submittal Target
- Construction: 2024 - 2027

# Environmental Permitting

- **Federal**
  - US Army Corps of Engineers – Section 404
    - Section 106 – Cultural Resources
    - Section 7 – Endangered Species
  - US EPA – NPDES Stormwater General Permit

# Environmental Permitting

- **State**

- Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB)
- EEA-MEPA Review
- MassDEP – Section 401 Individual Water Quality Cert.
- MassDEP – Ch. 91 Minor Modification
- Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) – Conservation and Management Permit
- MA DCR – Construction Access Permit
- MassDOT – Highway Crossing and Traffic Management Permit

- **Local**

- Order of Conditions from Conservation Commissions in the towns of Adams, North Adams, Florida, and Monroe

# Contact Information

**E131**  
ASSET CONDITION  
REFURBISHMENT PROJECT  
AND ACCESS ROAD  
PROJECT

- Project Centerline
- Substations

Final design and route are subject to change pending public, engineering, and regulatory review.

**Project Overview**

In an effort to strengthen the region's transmission system, New England Power Company (NEP) is proposing the E131 Asset Condition Refurbishment Project (ACR). Originally constructed in 1925, the Line extends approximately 12.3 miles from Adams, MA to Readsboro, VT.

**Location**

The E131 Line is located in both Massachusetts and Vermont. Within MA, the line travels through the towns of Adams, North Adams, Florida, and Monroe. From Monroe, MA the line continues into Readsboro, VT to the New England Power Company's Harriman Substation.

**Project Website:** [www.e131project.com](http://www.e131project.com)

**Toll Free:** (877) 616-3131

**Email:** [info@e131project.com](mailto:info@e131project.com)

# Questions & Discussion



# The Virtual Event has concluded

Please visit our website or contact our Project team members by the email or phone number provided below.

## Website:

<https://www.e131project.com>

## Email:

[info@e131project.com](mailto:info@e131project.com)

## Phone:

+1 (877) 616-3131

New England Power Company

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