

April 19, 2013

2100 East Exchange Place
Tucker, GA 30085-2088
Phone: 770-270-7400

Mr. Bob Schwartz
City Manager
City of Oxford
110 W Clark St
Oxford, GA 30054-2274



Dear Mr. Schwartz:

We understand that communities are affected when we construct new high-voltage power lines. That's why we take our responsibility to find the best route with the least effect on people and the environment very seriously. As a community leader, you may be familiar with the steps we take – outlined on the enclosed – to identify routes for these new power lines.

We're often asked why new lines are needed, and you may have the same question. Georgia Transmission and the state's other utilities build new electric transmission facilities for a number of reasons, including:

1. **Maintaining reliability:** We monitor our systems to ensure the grid can handle power demand and build new facilities to maintain reliable power when needed. If lines aren't built, more frequent and longer outages will occur in some areas, along with increased risks of system-wide brownouts and blackouts.
2. **Reinforcing aging infrastructure:** Outages can happen anywhere, but states with outdated infrastructure and maintenance practices are more susceptible. Increased power usage often requires additional lines be constructed to prevent outages during times of peak energy use.
3. **Preparing for future growth:** In addition to meeting today's power demands, the state's electric utilities must plan and build new facilities to prepare for future growth. Using models that forecast population growth, economic factors and industry indicators, the need for high-voltage lines are planned on a 10-year horizon.
4. **Attracting industry to the state:** We partner with Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives (EMCs) to deliver the reliable power that is needed to attract new businesses and jobs to their communities. We work to ensure a robust electric grid is available to strengthen the efforts of Georgia's state-wide and local economic development associations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information on how we build and maintain the statewide power grid to provide reliable energy for your community.

Sincerely,



Tom Parker
Vice President, External Affairs and Member Relations
Georgia Transmission Corporation

