



Friends of the Cheat

**A Resource Booklet
for Landowners
Concerned about MARL**



Friends of the Cheat

1343 North Preston Highway
Kingwood, WV 26537
304-329-3621
foc@cheat.org

Front Cover:

Preston County farm field under consideration
for development in the proposed MARL route.

Who is FOC?

Friends of the Cheat (FOC) is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to restoring, preserving, and promoting the natural resources of the Cheat River watershed.



Cheat River Canyon, 1988.
Photo: Ben Faulkner

FOC was founded in 1994 in response to a major acid mine drainage (AMD) pollution event in Muddy Creek in Albright, WV, that severely impacted the Cheat River. Since then, FOC has worked with partners, landowners, and agencies to improve water quality, restore pollution-impacted streams, and protect the region's natural resources.

FOC's role in this project is to provide informational support to landowners to help them understand how the proposed MARL transmission line may affect their property and guide them to what resources are available.

FOC's "Dream Mountain" acid mine drainage treatment site, fully revamped in 2024. Treated water flows into Muddy Creek near Woolen Mill Road.



What is MARL?

MARL stands for the Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link, a proposed electric transmission project developed by NextEraEnergy, a transmission and energy infrastructure company headquartered in Juno Beach, Florida, operating across North America.

The project proposes construction of a new 107.5-mile, 500-kilovolt bidirectional transmission line connecting a substation

in Dunkard Township, Pennsylvania, near the West Virginia border, to a connection point near Gore, Virginia. The project also includes multiple substations that would connect to local distribution networks across Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia.

The stated purpose of MARL is to increase transmission capacity and improve regional grid connectivity.

High voltage transmission line,
Quarter Pine Tree Farm,
Smithfield, PA



NextEra's Proposed Timeline for the MARL project



Early 2026 - **State utility application filings**

NextEra will submit project applications to state utility regulatory agencies in PA, WV, MD, and VA for review and approval. In WV, this agency is the WV Public Service Commission (WVPSC).



2027 - **State & Federal Permitting**

If the MARL project is approved by the WVPSC, the next phase will require NextEra to apply for state and/or federal permits. Some of these permit processes could involve public meetings and public comment periods.



Early 2028 - **State utility approvals anticipated**

State regulators are expected to make final decisions on whether to approve, modify, or deny the project following environmental review and public input.



Late 2029 - **Construction begins**

Construction activities are expected to begin if all required approvals are obtained.

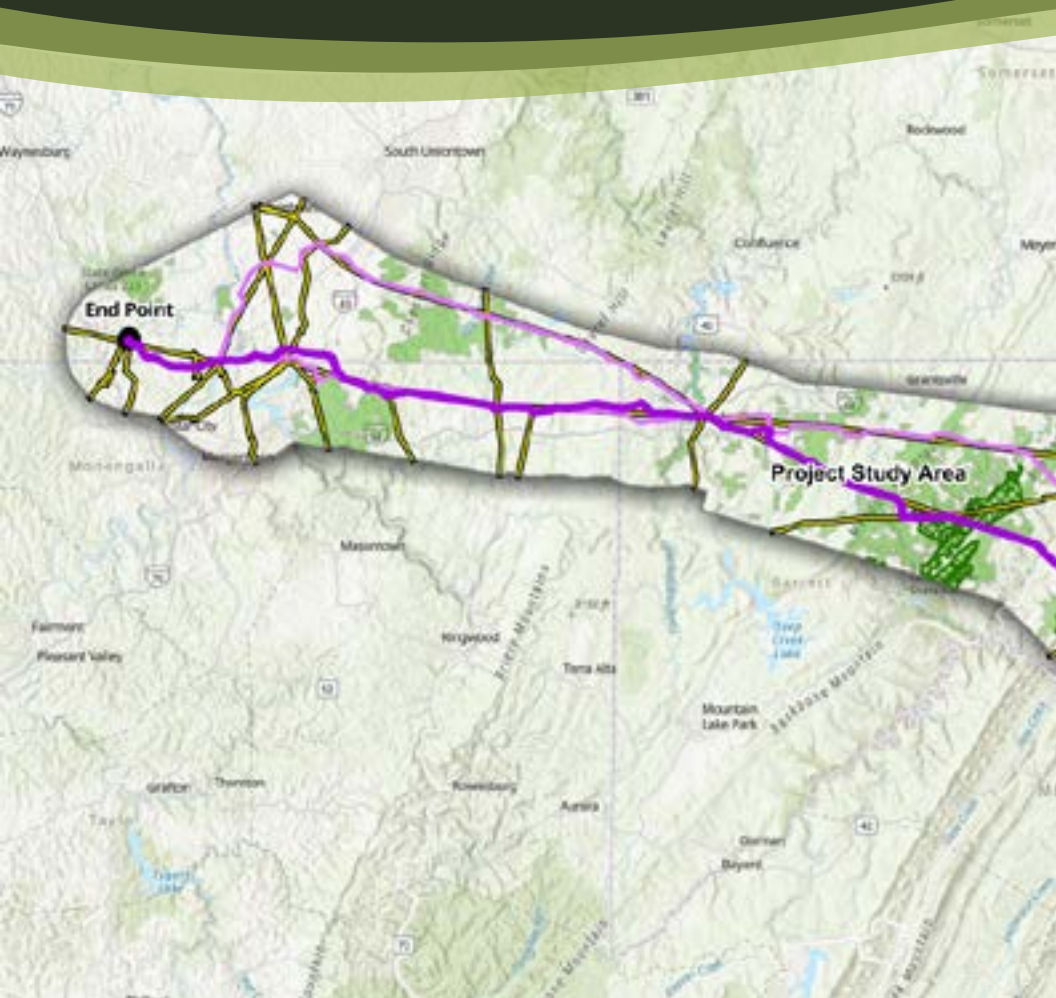


Late 2031 - **Construction completed and project placed into service**

Where is the MARL Being Proposed?

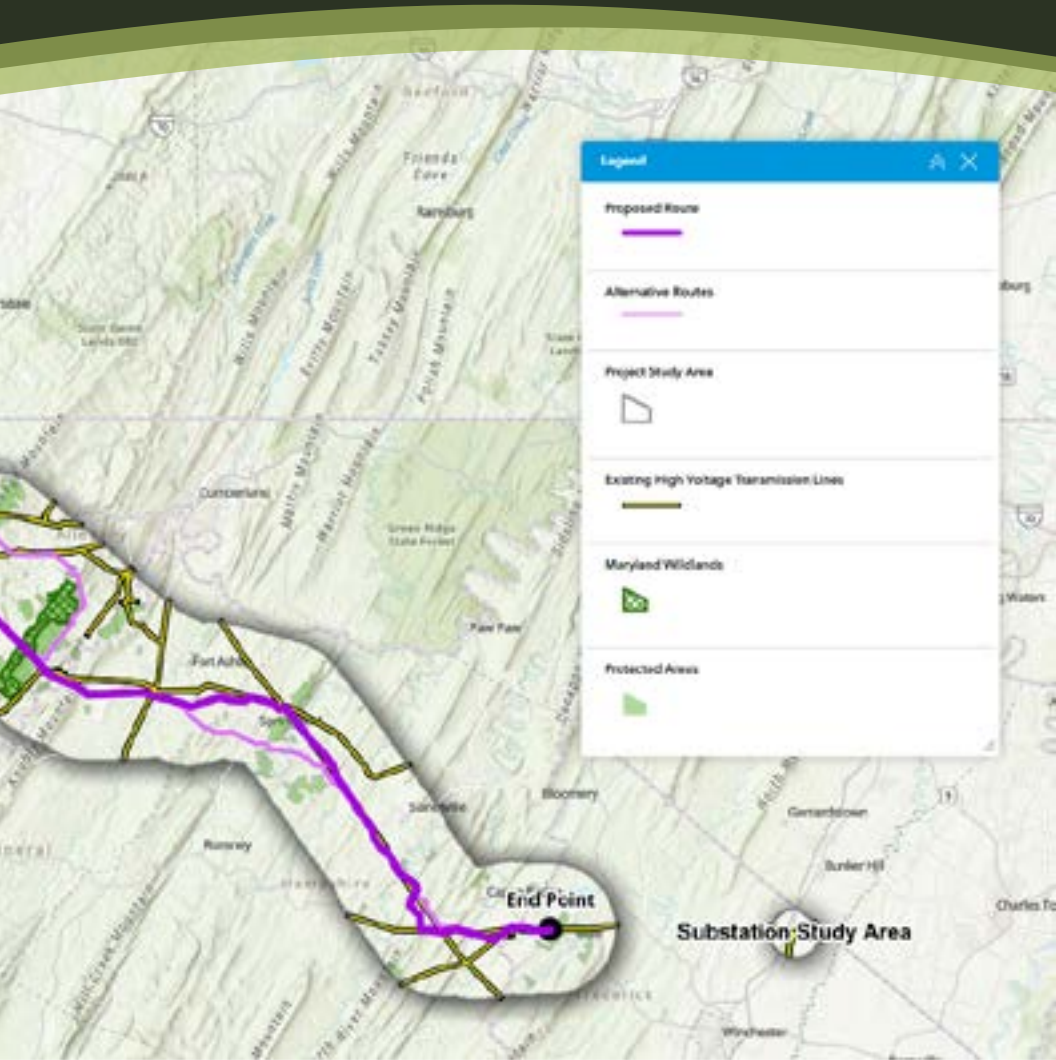
The map below shows the currently proposed route corridor for the MARL transmission line based on their website.

To see the map digitally, go to www.nexteraenergytransmission.com/midatlantic-resiliency-link/map.html



If the WVPSC approves a route for MARL, FOC will review related environmental permit applications and submit fact driven comments based on the latest science and studies. FOC will share our comments with the public so that anyone may incorporate them into their own comments.

To stay in the loop regarding comment periods and FOC’s draft comments, scan the QR code to join our email listserv at cheat.org and enter your email in the box at the bottom right of the FOC homepage.



What to Look Out For

If this project moves to the construction phase, there are some impacts landowners should be on the look out for. Construction projects like transmission lines can temporarily affect land, streams, and access areas.

The following activities are typical for construction of infrastructure and are regularly permitted by regulatory agencies:

Commonly Permitted Construction Activities

- Clearing of trees or vegetation along the right-of-way
- Heavy equipment accessing the site
- Installation of poles or structures
- Temporary access roads or stream crossings/culverts
- Soil disturbance and grading

The following impacts may occur during construction:

Potential Land Impacts

- Exposed soil and disturbed ground
- Rutting or compaction from equipment
- Changes to drainage patterns
- Temporary increases in dust or noise

Potential Stream Impacts

- Cloudy or muddy water
- Temporary stream crossings/culverts
- Disturbed stream banks or nearby vegetation
- Increased sediment moving downstream

What to Keep an Eye On

While some temporary disturbance is expected during construction, erosion and sediment controls are intended to reduce impacts to nearby land and waterways. These controls should generally be installed, maintained, and functioning throughout active construction. Landowners may want to monitor for the following conditions:

Erosion and Sediment Controls (E&S)

- Missing, damaged, collapsed, or poorly maintained silt fences
- Silt fences that are buried, overtopped, torn, or allowing muddy water to flow around them
- Straw mulch, erosion control matting, or seeding that is not being applied to exposed soil over time
- Sediment traps or basins that appear full and are not being cleaned out

- Large areas of exposed soil left unstabilized for extended periods

Stormwater and Runoff

- Muddy runoff visibly leaving the construction area and entering streams, wetlands, ponds, or roadside ditches
- Water flowing through channels or down slopes without erosion protection
- Gullies, washouts, or active erosion forming on disturbed slopes or access roads
- Persistent muddy water long after rainfall or construction activity has stopped

Stream and Wetland Areas

- Stream banks collapsing or excessive disturbance along stream edges
- Temporary stream crossings that appear undersized, blocked,

or are causing excessive sediment downstream

- Construction materials, soil, or debris being pushed directly into streams or wetlands
- Wetland or stream impacts occurring outside the marked or approved work area

General Site Conditions

- Damage to areas outside the construction limits or easement area
- Fuel, concrete washout, or other materials entering waterways or low-lying areas
- Construction entrances tracking excessive mud onto public roads without cleanup
- Erosion controls that appear abandoned or ineffective for long periods of time



During construction, if you see any of these impacts it is very important that you take pictures of the activity and the impact. Concerns with lack of proper E&S controls or sediment being discharged into the stream can be sent to the WVDEP's Environmental Advocate office at:

WVDEP Environmental Advocate

601 57th Street SE, Charleston, WV 25304

Phone: (304) 926-0441

Email: depadvocate@wv.gov

For major accidental spills or emergencies, use the WVDEP spill hotline:
1-800-642-3074

Tips:
How to Get
Good Photos



How FOC Can Support You

If your property is proposed to be impacted by the development of the MARL transmission line, FOC can:

- Meet with you on your property to walk the proposed route
- Describe what to expect with proposed impacts
- Take baseline site photographs and water quality measurements
- Explain what changes to look for during construction
- Provide guidance on how to document and report concerns
- Connect you with additional community contacts and resources that focus specifically on legal rights of landowners and permitting compliance

While FOC can provide information and support, there are some things outside of our role such as:

- Provide legal advice or assist with litigation
- Enforce regulations or stop construction activities
- Determine whether a project is in compliance with permits
- Intervene in disputes between landowners and the project developer
- Require changes to construction practices or project design
- Provide financial compensation or property value assessments





Getting In Touch With FOC

Contact FOC Project Coordinator Garrett Richardson at grichardson@cheat.org to set up a site consultation:

1. Provide your name, phone number, and address to ensure your property is on the route line and so a consultation meeting can be scheduled
2. Garrett or another FOC staff member will respond within 3 business days
3. Site meeting will be scheduled within a month as schedules allow
4. An FOC technician will walk your property with you to outline the proposed route and what to expect with impacts
5. With your permission, FOC can collect pre construction site photos to document current resources and baseline water chemistry (if water resources are present)
6. Provide information on what to look out for and how to report construction stormwater violations to WVDEP during construction
7. If desired, FOC can also connect landowners with other community resources regarding landowner rights and litigation



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