

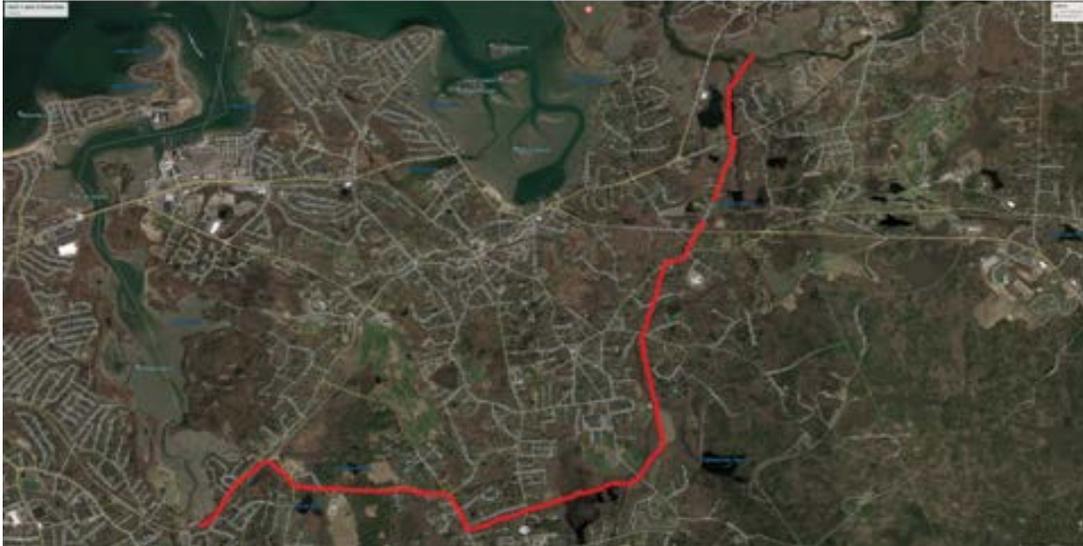


WHY DO HULL LIGHTS GO OUT WHEN A TREE FALLS IN HINGHAM?

Hull's power is provided by National Grid. There are two lines that run from a power sub-station in Weymouth through Hingham to the Hull Landfill. Once in Hull our line crews maintain the system.

These lines are old and fragile. Hull Town Officials and State Representatives have for several years have been meeting and urging National Grid representatives to upgrade the lines. In, fact as a result of these meetings that began in 2015, National Grid has invested over \$1.5 million dollars in upgrades. There is still much that can be done and we will continue to press for a complete re-build of the lines. They are quite old and there are newer construction methods that would reduce the number of outages. We have presented this information to National Grid on a number of occasions.

Hull 1 and Hull 2 Overview from East Weymouth to Hull Landfill



Our Light Department staff meets with National Grid Staff regularly to walk the line and advocate for more aggressive tree trimming and removal within the maintenance easement held by National Grid. The tree that fell last night (3-23-20) was on Hobart lane and not within the easement area that gives National Grid the right to trim. However, if the line was constructed using current best practice it is likely the lights would have stayed on.

What Happens When A Tree Falls on These Lines?

When Hull Light becomes aware of an outage outside of Hull, our staff works with Hingham Light staff and National Grid staff to identify the exact location of the problem. National Grid will begin to mobilize their response and assemble the right crews to repair the problem. The two lines that power Hull run through heavily wooded areas both cross country as well adjacent to roadways. In the event of a tree fall, National Grid will call in a tree services to help with removal; this adds time to any response. Again, better construction would help immensely.

Only on very minor situations can Hull or Hingham line crews work on these lines. Any break in service such as a large tree fall or a broken pole or snapped line requires National Grid to respond. This adds time to how long it will be before service can be restored.

Examples of where the line runs

**Cross Street towards Hull
(cross country)**



**French Street Towards Weymouth
(adjacent to a public road)**



Last night's incident (3-23-20) is a good example, Hull, Hingham and National Grid crews arrived on scene at approximately 9:00 pm, 20 minutes or so after the first report of an outage. Once on scene National Grid's contractor made several attempts to resolve the situation. When it became apparent that there was no quick or safe fix it was determined that a crane was needed to remove the tree before repairs could be made. The crane arrived on scene at 8:00 am and the tree was lifted of the lines by 9:00 am. With the tree gone repairs were made and electricity restored to Hull at approximately 11:30 am

Tree Fall March 23 -24, 2020



How Do We Communicate

When we are confronted with an event like a power outage or a storm Chief Russo, our Emergency Management Director will begin assembling information. Chief Russo is evaluating risk and duration and is in constant contact with key staff members so we can all work to mitigate the impact of an event, such as a power outage. Chief Russo provides the public with information on the Town's Emergency Management Facebook page. If the event is going to last for a longer period or creates a substantial threat other communication methods are used including our reverse 911 system

We purposefully want to have one voice communicating during a defined shorter term event such as an outage or storm so we do not create confusion regarding critical information. Many other members of our staff are involved in various roles during an event. We want staff focused on their core missions leaving the communication role on short term events to Chief Russo.

What is Next

We will continue to engage with Nation Grid to upgrade the line. We will continue working with our state legislators to leverage their influence to push National Grid to replace these two lines. I have instructed Town Counsel to consult with outside legal counsel that specializes in utility law to examine the Town's options to file actions with the DPU and any other appropriate authority.

In addition staff has been exploring installing a generator station that would power the Town in the event of these types of outages. Panos Tokadjian, Hull Light Operation Manager is leading this effort. This is something that would be costly and will take several years to accomplish due to permitting and engineering considerations. As this project comes into focus it will be discussed at Hull Light Board meetings in greater detail.

As always, we all recognize and are concerned whenever there is a power outage. This particular outage came at one of the worst times possible. People are already on edge and concerned about their health. Please be assured that every member of our Town staff works as quickly as possible to restore power. We push National Grid in the field as hard as we can and their staff members want to see the power restored quickly as well. However until National Grid steps up and make a meaningful investment in this line we are vulnerable. We will continue demanding that they would accept their responsibility do the right thing. Thank You.

Phil Lemnios
Town Manager