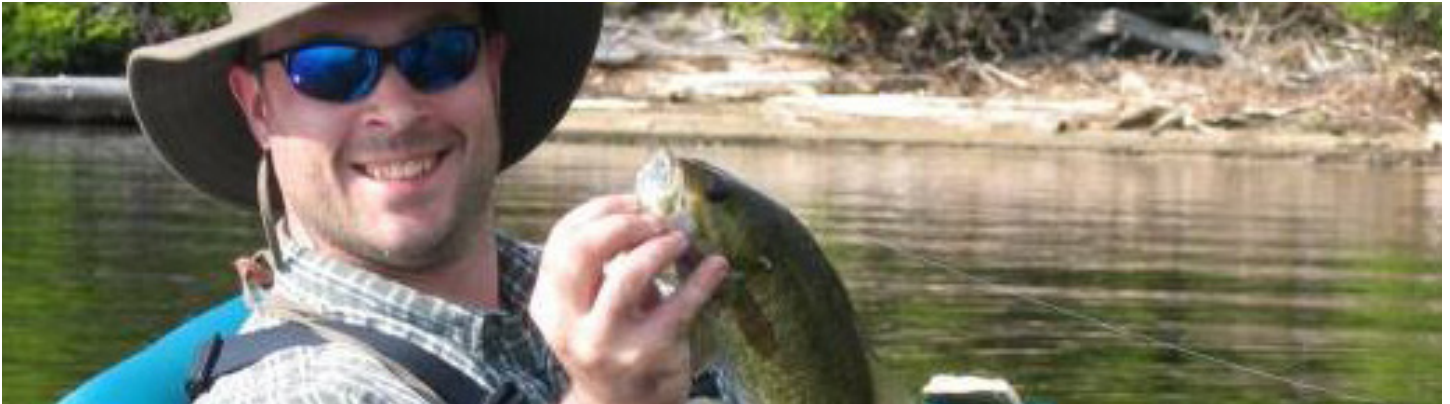


A Conversation with David Klinch, wetland scientist and fisherman

David Klinch, MS, PWS, is a Professional Wetland Scientist advising CVE on developing a low-impact design for the Cricket Valley Transmission Upgrade. David holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Massachusetts.



Q: *What kind of structures will be used to support the new transmission line? How are they different from the familiar lattice towers in the existing right-of-way?*

A: The Cricket Valley Transmission Upgrade will be carried by steel monopoles that are the next generation in energy transmission. For this Project they are somewhat taller than the lattice structures and provide benefits that lattice towers typically cannot. Specifically, they have a very slim profile, which means a reduced visual effect and reduced electric and magnetic fields at ground level in comparison to lattice work structures. The monopoles are installed more quickly than lattice towers, and therefore represent less construction-related disturbances to the community than lattice-tower installation.

Q: *Will Cricket Valley need to remove trees?*

A: Fortunately, the Project is proposed entirely within an existing transmission line right-of-way that has been maintained by Consolidated Edison for many years and is presently more than 90% free of tree growth. To ensure that the new line is safe and reliable, the Project will clear some trees along the southern edge of the right-of-way in accordance with industry standard safety requirements. This clearing will represent less than 8% of the total right-of-way area.

Q: *What about wetlands? How are they being protected?*

A: Wetlands are an exceptionally important natural resource and provide functions and values that benefit humans and flora and fauna in many ways. Cricket Valley recognizes this, and to prevent impacts to wetlands—as well as to streams and water bodies—we will use a variety of protective measures such as hay bale and silt fence barriers between the resource areas and work areas to prevent inadvertent impacts. Cricket Valley will employ highly-trained construction monitors to oversee work being advanced near sensitive areas to prevent any damage to wetlands and streams along the right-of-way.

Q: *What are some of the measures being taken to safeguard protected and sensitive species along the right-of-way during construction?*

A: Protection of threatened and endangered species starts with researching and analyzing the transmission line right-of-way and the habitats within it. In consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Cricket Valley has completed analyses of the species that may occur in the vicinity of the right-of-way and designed in-field surveys to assess habitat quality and the potential for protected species to occur there. Cricket Valley is currently in the process of preparing reports, mapping, and mitigation plans to ensure that no adverse impacts to protected and sensitive species occur during Project construction and operation. Perhaps most important, Cricket Valley has assumed the presence of sensitive species within suitable habitats on the right-of-way and will institute agency-approved protective measures to avoid adverse impacts to them—whether in-field surveys detect the presence of such species or not.