

20 July 2018

## Planning permit acquired for Avelgem-Avelin connection

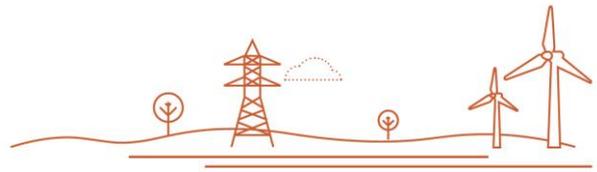
On 16 July 2018, the Wallonia Public Service Planning Officer granted planning permission for the project to upgrade the high-voltage connection linking the Avelgem and Avelin substations. In September the project team will start organising the project, which should kick off late in the year and last until 2021.

The €45 million project to upgrade the 2x380 kV high-voltage overhead connection linking the Avelgem (Belgium) and Avelin (France) substations is part of the Federal Development Plan for the period 2015-2025. The overhead line crosses five Walloon municipalities (Mont de l'Enclus, Celles, Pecq, Estaimpuis, Tournai) and comprises 49 pylons covering 21 km. As part of a larger project (the Mercator-Avelin overhead line), this is considered one of the backbones of the Belgian power grid, enabling cross-border exchanges between Belgium and France.

By way of reminder, Elia submitted its planning permit application in early February and a 30-day public consultation was conducted in February and March 2018. After considering the matter for several months, the Wallonia Public Service Planning Officer awarded Elia planning permission for the overhead line.

*We are delighted to have been awarded a permit for this important connection in the Belgian grid. The project teams will start examining the proposed work schedule in September. The work will involve strengthening foundations and reinforcing pylons, as well as replacing conductors. The works phase will start late in the year and last until late 2021. Elia would like to thank all the project stakeholders for the constructive working relationships that led to this successful conclusion,* explains Julien Madani, Infrastructure Project Communication Manager.

Right from the start, Elia has been keen to communicate proactively and transparently with the municipal authorities and local residents. This will continue during the works phase. Elia reiterates that a freephone number (0800/18 002), an e-mail address [riverains@elia.be](mailto:riverains@elia.be) and a web page ([www.elia.be](http://www.elia.be)) are at the disposal of local residents if they have any questions they want to ask about the project.



## ABOUT ELIA

Elia is Belgium's high-voltage transmission system operator (30 kV to 380 kV), employing 1,350 professionals and currently in charge of more than 8,495 km of underground cables and overhead lines. Its grid is considered one of the most reliable in Europe and plays a key role in the community since large industrial customers are connected to it and it transmits electricity from generators to distribution networks (DSOs).

For more information, please contact:

**Project Communication Manager – Julien Madani** - +32 478 63 28 39 – [julien.madani@elia.be](mailto:julien.madani@elia.be)