Appendix N Public Outreach Materials

Project Communication Tools

Website Analytics

Hotline

Project Website Analytics



Hotline

A project hotline, or auto attendant and voicemail, was set up prior to collect RSVPs for the Stakeholder Workshop and then available to the public prior to the first phase engagement events. Callers were greeted with an overview of the current engagement opportunities and then directed to visit our website or leave their contact information to learn more about the project. Since the hotline was created, 125 people have used it to gain project information, and 80 of those callers left a voicemail to get in touch with the project team or ask a question.

Stakeholder Workshops: Study Corridor

Presentation

Stakeholder Invitation Letter

Stakeholder Invitation Email

Stakeholder Workshop Table of Attendees

Comments Analysis

Northland Reliability Project





Stakeholder Workshops

October 2022

Agenda

- Safety Moment
- Introductions
- Project Overview
- Question & Answer Section
- Mapping Exercise
- Wrap Up







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Today's workshop goals

- Introduce the project
- Gather community insights
- Collect data to support the routing process
- Identify questions prior to future public engagement



Northland Reliability Project | 5

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Fulfilling a need



Maintaining Reliability

Providing system support as fossilfueled baseload generation is retired



Enabling Clean Energy

Facilitating increased capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members



Creating Resiliency

Enhancing system resiliency during extreme weather events



Providing Flexibility

Planning proactively to meet changing customer and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification





Northland Reliability Project | 7

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MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan

Learn more at misoenergy.org







Our study area

How we defined our study area:

- Substation connections
- Existing corridors







Northland Reliability Project | 5

Two main project segments

- Segment one: Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation
- Segment two: Benton County Substation to Cassie's Crossing Interconnection Area





Segment one

Iron Range Substation to Riverton Substation to Benton County Substation

- New double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 130 miles
- Opportunities to route near existing transmission lines
- · Connect into new Riverton Substation





Northland Reliability Project | 11

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Segment two

Benton County Substation to Cassie's Crossing Interconnection Area

- Replace existing 230-kV transmission line to double-circuit 345-kV transmission line
- Approximately 20 miles
- Verifying existing route and right-ofway are suitable for a 345-kV line





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Docket No. E015,ET2/CN-22-416
Docket No. E015,ET2/TL-22-415

Additional project improvements

- Expanding the existing Iron Range Substation and the Benton County Substation
- Installing a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfiguring existing transmission lines in the Riverton area
- Rebuilding approximately 20 miles of existing single-circuit 345-kv line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County



Northland Reliability Project | 13

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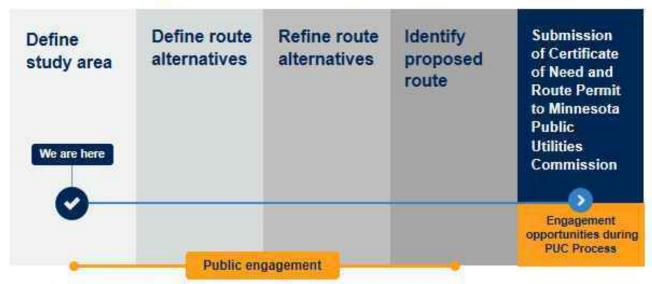
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Anticipated schedule



Appendix N Page 12 of 176 Docket No. E015,ET2/CN-22-416 Docket No. E015,ET2/TL-22-415

Our routing process & input opportunities





Northland Reliability Project 15

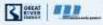
15

Routing process considerations

The criteria for route development is set by Minnesota statute and guides our routing process.

To route a project, we consider:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering and construction considerations



Typical design

Structure type factors:

- Land use/land cover
- Topography
- Water/wetlands
- Soil types

Minimum right-of-way of 150 feet

Average of 5 - 7 structures per mile

Typical height 120 - 180 feet





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Upcoming community engagement



- Website launch in 2022
- Open houses in early 2023
- In-person and virtual engagement opportunities

Communicating our path forward

Ongoing communication with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project.







19

Mapping exercise

- Break into smaller groups (3 – 4 per table)
- · Facilitator will ask questions and capture insights on opportunities and constraints within the study area



Share out

- · What did you learn?
- · What were the themes of your discussion?





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Complete the comment form





Workshop schedule

Date	County	Location	Time
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Itasca	IRA Civic Center Grand Rapids, MN	8:30 – 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 11	Aitkin	The Ripple Center Aitkin, MN	3 – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 12	Crow Wing	American Legion – Deerwood Deerwood, MN	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Sherburne	Pebble Creek Golf Club Becker, MN	8:30 – 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 18	Benton	Sauk Rapids Government Center Sauk Rapids, MN	3 – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 19	Morrison	Morrison County Government Center Little Falls, MN	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.



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Northland Reliability Project





Connect with us!



Project website – coming soon!



Call our hotline at 218-864-6059



Send us an email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

Stakeholder Workshop Letter





September 22, 2022

RE: You're invited to attend a Northland Reliability Project stakeholder workshop

Hello [Insert Name Here].

As a leader in your community, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to participate in a stakeholder workshop about the Northland Reliability Project.

About the project

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are committed to delivering reliable, affordable and cleaner energy to our customers and members. The energy resources we use to serve our customers and members are changing, and the regional power grid we use to deliver that energy needs to change, too. To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in our transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient energy grid as energy resources continue to evolve.

The Northland Reliability Project will ensure the power grid in northern and central Minnesota continues to operate safely and reliably as energy resources in Minnesota and the regional power system continue to evolve. This project is also part of a large "Long Range Transmission Plan" portfolio approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, to support grid reliability across the Midwest region.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 150-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota near Becker that will support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The transmission line will run from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation in Itasca County to Great River Energy's Benton County Substation in Benton County and then replace an existing Great River Energy transmission line from Benton County to a new substation in Sherburne County. The Sherburne County substation will be built as part of a separate project.

We have also enclosed a map that shows our preliminary study area.

Stakeholder workshop meetings

In our stakeholder workshop meetings, you'll have the opportunity to learn more, ask questions and provide your input about the preliminary study area. Public meetings will be held in early 2023, after we've gathered and analyzed more data about the study area, including your input.

These meetings will be up to 90 minutes long including a presentation, small group mapping exercise and question and answers. The dates and times for these meetings are listed in the forthcoming table with this notice. Please feel free to attend the meeting that works best for you. If you are unable to attend, please send a representative from your organization in your place. If another representative from your organization is better suited to attend, you are welcome to bring that individual with you or have them join us in your place. We look forward to connecting with each of you during the workshop.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, October 11	8:30 a.m 10:00 a.m.	IRA Civic Center 1401 NW 3rd Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Tuesday, October 11	3:00 p.m 4:30 p.m.	The Ripple Center 301 Minnesota Avenue North Aitkin, MN 56431
Wednesday, October 12	11:30 a.m 1:00 p.m.	American Legion-Deerwood 23659 Forest Rd Deerwood, MN 56444
Tuesday, October 18	8:30 a.m 10:00 a.m.	Pebble Creek Golf Club 14000 Clubhouse Lane Becker MN 55308
Tuesday, October 18	3:00 p.m 4:30 p.m.	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Avenue North Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Wednesday, October 19	11:30 a.m 1:00 p.m.	Morrison County Government Center 213 1st Avenue SE Little Falls, MN 56345

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 5 at northlandreliabilityproject.com/RSVP with your name, contact information and the meeting date and time that best aligns with your schedule.

Refreshments will be served, so please let us know in your RSVP if you have food allergies or restrictions. You can also contact us at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com or 218-864-6059 to RSVP

If you cannot make it to one of our stakeholder workshops, our team would welcome meeting with you one-on-one either in-person or virtually or we'd be happy to provide you with a copy of our presentation materials by mail or email. Please contact us via email or phone to set up a meeting with our team or if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson

Environmental and Real Estate Manager

Jame B adeium

Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights

Great River Energy

Janiel lesher

Enclosed project map



Stakeholder workshop email invitation (Sept. 30, 2022)

View this email in your browser

Northland Reliability Project





Greetings,

As a leader in your community, Minnesota Power and Great River invite you to participate in a stakeholder workshop about the Northland Reliability Project.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 150mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota near Becker that will support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest. The transmission line will run from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation in Itasca County to Great River Energy's Benton County Substation in Benton County and then replace an existing Great River Energy transmission line from Benton County to a new substation in Sherburne County. The Sherburne County substation will be built as part of a separate project.

Our team recently mailed you an invitation to attend an upcoming stakeholder workshop to be held from in mid-October 2022. Because many of us are still working remotely, we're sending you this email to verify you receive an invitation.



DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday October 11	8:30 a.m 10:00 a.m.	IRA Civic Center 1401 NW 3rd Ave Grand Rapids, MN 55/44
Tuesday October 11	5:00 p.m 4:30 p.m.	The Ripple Center 301 Minnesota Avenue North Aitkin, MN 56431
Wednesday October 12	11:30 a.m 1:00 p.m.	American Legion-Deerwood 23659 Forest Rd Deerwood, MN 56444
Tuesday October 18	8:30 a.m 10:00 a.m.	Pebble Creek Golf Club 14000 Clubhouse Lane Bocker MN 55308
Tuesday October 18	3:00 p.m 4:30 p.m.	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Avenue North Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Wednesday October 19	11:30 a.m 1:00 p.m.	Morrison County Government Center 213 - 1st Avenue SE Little Falls, MN 56345

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 5

at northlandreliabilityproject.com/RSVP with your name, contact information and the meeting date and time that best aligns with your schedule. Refreshments will be served, so please let us know in your RSVP if you have food allergies or restrictions.

RSVP

If you cannot make it to one of our stakeholder workshops, our team would welcome meeting with you one-on-one either in-person or virtually or we'd be happy to provide you with a copy of our presentation materials by mail or email.

If you have questions or need additional details, do not hesitate to contact our team by email at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com or 218-864-6059.

Email

Call

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson

Environmental and Real Estate

Manager Rights

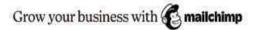
Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Great River Energy

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Stakeholder Workshop Attendees Table

Date & County	Location	# of Attendees	Title Highlights	Organization Highlights
Tues, Oct. 11 Itasca	IRA Civic Center	12	Council, supervisors, Lake Co. Pwr Engineer,	DoC, Lake Co. Pwr, Itasca Assessor's dept., Laborer's Int'l Union of N. Am., DNR
Tues, Oct. 11 Aitkin	The Ripple Center	14	Chairmen, Supervisors, Co. Engineers, Director, DNR Assessment Ecologists,, CEO (Mille Lacs)	Mille Lacs Energy Co., MnDNR, Region 5 Development Com., Lakeland Pub. TV
Weds, Oct. 12 Crow Wing	American Legion	8	PUC Brainerd, supervisors, council, Mille Lacs CEO, clerks	Ironton, Crosby, Irondale, Deerwood, Cuyuna
Tues, Oct. 18 Sherburne	Pebble Creek Golf Club	12	Admin, Pub. Works, Supervisors, Council members, planning & zoning	Clean Grid Alliance, Sherburne, DoC, DoT
Tues, Oct. 18 Benton	Sauk Rapids Gov't Ctr	18	Commissioners, supervisors, Mayor of Foley, Public Works Director of Foley	Benton Economic Partnership
Weds, Oct. 19 Morrison	Morrison Co. Gov't Ctr	14	Policy Advisor (Fresh Energy), CEO (East Central Energy), supervisors, clerks, commissioners	East Central Energy CEO, Fresh Energy,

Comments Analysis

During the workshop mapping exercises, participants were able to make known possible routing constraints for the project. These areas were tracked by staff, and there were a total of 148 comments on constraints in the study area. A summary of map comment topics are shown in **Table N-1.**

Table N-1: Summary of map comments

Type	Number
Agriculture	4
Communication	1
Cultural Resources	11
Easement Payment	1
Environmental Impacts (General)	1
General	4
Geology / Mining	23
Information Request	1
Land Use	4
Managed / Fee Lands	6
New Home	3
Planned Development	11
Proximity to Homes	4
Recreation	8
Routing	12
Safety	1
Topography / Natural Setting	2
Traffic impacts	1
Transportation	17
Utilities	28
Wetlands and Water Resources	5
Grand Total	148

Engagement Phase 1: Route Corridor

Stakeholder Letter and Mailing Affidavit

Postcard and Mailing Affidavit

Press Release

Social Media Campaigns and Analytics

Newspaper Advertisements and Affidavits

Open House Banners

Open House Boards

Comment Form

Information Packet

Fact Sheets

Overview Handout

Media Contact Card

Virtual Open House and Analytics

Comments Analysis

Stakeholder Letter and Mailing Affidavit

Jan. 3, 2023

RE: You're invited to attend a Northland Reliability Project public open house

Hello [Insert Name Here],

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to attend an upcoming Northland Reliability Project public open house. We wanted to inform you in advance of notifying your communities and constituents about these open houses to provide you an opportunity to be prepared if you are contacted with questions. Postcard notifications to residents and businesses within the route corridor should begin arriving the week of January 9, 2023.

The table below lists our open house times and dates. We have midday and evening meeting options to accommodate schedules. We will not have a formal presentation but instead encourage attendees to come to an open house anytime during listed time. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, Jan. 24	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 – 6 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St. S. Pierz, MN 56364
Wednesday, Jan. 25	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 – 6 p.m.	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Thursday, Jan. 26	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 – 6 p.m.	Pebble Creek Golf Course 14000 Clubhouse Lane Becker, MN 55308
Monday, Jan. 30	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 – 6 p.m.	Timberlake Lodge 144 SE. 17th St. Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Tuesday, Jan. 31	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 – 6 p.m.	Spang Town Hall 35402 Spang Road Hill City, MN 55748
Wednesday, Feb. 1	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Curtis Ave. Ironton, MN 56455
Thursday, Feb. 2	11 a.m. – 1 p.m. 4 – 6 p.m.	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401

If you or your constituents cannot attend a public open house, we have additional engagement opportunities:

- Explore our virtual, self-guided open house that will be available from Jan. 23 Feb. 17, 2023, at northlandreliabilityproject.com.
- Request a mailed packet by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline with your mailing address.

· Schedule a meeting with the project team by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline.

Overview

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in our transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible grid as energy resources continue to evolve. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 150-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

We've included a map of the route corridor with this letter. The project includes two segments:

- Segment one (shown in orange) involves installing approximately 130 miles of a new doublecircuit 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line corridors.
- Segment two (showing in green) involves <u>replacing approximately 20 miles of an existing 230-</u> kV transmission line with a double-circuit 345-kV transmission line.

The Northland Reliability Project will increase the reliability of our grid, enhance its resiliency during extreme weather events and make it more flexible, so any type of generation, and from more locations, could be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members.

Contact us by leaving a message on our project hotline at 218-864-6059 and or email us at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com. We'll respond to you within one to two business days.

For more information, visit our website at <u>northlandreliabilityproject com</u>. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson

Environmental and Real Estate Manager

Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights

Great River Energy

Janier lesher

Enclosure: (1) route corridor map

Jame B adline

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

NORTHLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT PROJECT TEAM

RE: Phase 1 public engagement opportunities stakeholder notification letter and enclosed map

Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Solutions' print partner, The MPX Group, being first duly sworn, disposes and says: "I am a United States Citizen, over 21 years of age, employed by Innovative Office Solutions' print partner, The MPX Group and provide printing services for the Northland Reliability Project. This affidavit is for a stakeholder notification letter and enclosed map for the phase 1 public engagement opportunities on the Northland Reliability Project. The mailing list was developed by HDR based on research of federal, state and local agencies, Tribes and tribal organizations and local community leaders with interest in the Route Corridor Area.

Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Solutions'

print partner, The MPX Group

Subscribed and sworn before me this 3 day of January, 2023

[Enter Notary Name], Notary Public

DANIEL S. VOIGT NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA

Postcard and Mailing Affidavit



Wable Grove, MN 55369 12300 Elm Creek Blvd N

Morthland Reliability Profe



Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 150-mile, double-circuit. 34-kilovolt transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

Open this notice to learn about how you can provide input to help us route this transmission line. Join us at an open house or participate in virtual engagement opportunities to provide your feedback.



Connect with us

We want to hear from you.











Northland Reliability Project



Supporting a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesola Power and Great River Energy are investing in the transmission system to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible electric grid as energy resources continue to evolve. This project is also part of a large "Long Range Transmission Plan" portfolio approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, to support grid reliability across the Midwest.

Project need

As electric generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewables, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:



Maintaining reliability Provide system support

as energy resources continue to evolve

Ü



Enabling clean energy

Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members



Creating resiliency

Providing flexibility

Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification

Anticipated schedule*

Project planning and initial stakeholder engagement

Routing, public engagemen permitting

2024 – 2026 Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, real estate and public engagement

Anticipated in-service

2027 - 2030 Construction

*The schedule is subject to change.

Join us at an open house

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, Jan. 24	11 00 am - 1 00 p.m 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St S Pierz, MN 56364
Wednesday, Jan. 25	11:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave N Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Thursday, Jan. 26	11.00 a.m 1.00 p.m. 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Pebble Creek Golf Course 14000 Ctubhouse Lane Becker, MN 55308
Monday, Jan. 30	11.00 a.m 1.00 p.m. 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Timbertake Lodge 144 SE 17th St Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Tuesday, Jan. 31	11.00 a.m 1.00 p.m. 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Spang Town Hall 35402 Spang Rd Hill City, MN 55748
Wednesday, Feb. 1	11:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Curtis Ave Ironton, MN 56455
Thursday, Feb. 2	11:00 a.m 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 Co Rd 2 Brainerd, MN 56401

We welcome your attendance at our open houses held throughout the project area. There will be no formal presentation, come anytime during the listed time. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

Additional engagement opportunities:

- Explore our virtual, self-guided open house available from Jan. 23 – Feb. 17 at northlandreliabilityproject.com.
- Request a mailed packet with more information by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline with your mailing address.
- Schedule a meeting with the project team by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline.

Interactive comment map



We need 2 your input

Visit our interactive comment map at northlandreliablityproject.com or participate in one of our engagemen opportunities to provide your input.

Route corridor map Iron Range Substation Grand Rapids Leech Lake (2) 371 Riverton McGregor Substation Brainerd Mille Lacs Lake 35 Benton County Substation 🛣 St. Cloud Big Lake

Routing process

This project requires a robust stakeholder input process. During the routing process our team will identify route alternatives built on taking advantage of opportunities while understanding constraints, while understanding constraints. The routing process will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in the Certificate of Need and Route Permit application which will be filed with the Minnescta Public Utilities Commission.

Install approximately 130 miles of a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line comidors

Replace approximately 20 miles of an existing 230-kV or an existing 230-kV transmission line with a double-circuit 43-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Big Oaks Substation (substation to be built as part of a separate project).

Expand the existing Iron Range Substation, located near Grand Rapids, and the Benton County Substation located near St. Cloud Install a new substati

Appendix No

Connect into Page 30 are 176
Big Oaks Substation

Docket No. E015,ET2/CN-22-4-16 Docker No. E015, ET2/The 22 415 in

New substation

▲ Expand existing substations

Big Oaks

Substation

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

NORTHLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT PROJECT TEAM

RE: Phase 1 public engagement opportunities stakeholder notification letter and enclosed map

Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Solutions' print partner, The MPX Group, being first duly sworn, disposes and says: "I am a United States Citizen, over 21 years of age, employed by Innovative Office Solutions' print partner, The MPX Group and provide printing services for the Northland Reliability Project. This affidavit is for a stakeholder notification letter and enclosed map for the phase 1 public engagement opportunities on the Northland Reliability Project. The mailing list was developed by HDR based on research of federal, state and local agencies, Tribes and tribal organizations and local community leaders with interest in the Route Corridor Area.

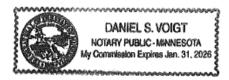
Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Solutions'

print partner, The MPX Group

Subscribed and sworn before me this 3 day of January, 2023

Enter Notary Name], Notary Public

Daniel S Vaigt



Press Release





For Release: Jan. 12, 2023

Contact: Amy Rutledge

Director Corporate Communications

Minnesota Power/ALLETE

218-348-2961

arutledge@mnpower.com

Contact: Lori Buffington

Leader, Communications Great River Energy 763-486-9266

lbuffington@grenergy.com

Public invited to learn about Northland Reliability power line project, offer feedback at open houses

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy will host a series of open houses in late January and early February where members of the public can learn more about the companies' joint Northland Reliability Project.

Minnesota Power, a utility division of ALLETE Inc. (NYSE: ALE), and Great River Energy, a wholesale electric power cooperative, plan to build an approximately 150-mile, double-circuit 345-kV electric transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker that will support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest as existing power plants cease coal operation, more low-cost renewable energy is brought online, and utilities continue to see the need for enhanced resiliency during extreme weather events.

The transmission line will run from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation in Itasca County to Great River Energy's Benton County Substation in Benton County, and then replace an existing Great River Energy transmission line from the Benton County Substation to the Big Oaks Substation in Sherburne County. The Big Oaks Substation will be built as part of a separate project.

The open houses are an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide valuable input to determine the best possible route for the project. Hearing from community members is an important part of the project's extensive planning and routing process as Minnesota Power and Great River Energy narrow down alternatives to a specific route. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy will look for opportunities to follow existing utility corridors and use land already being used for power lines whenever it makes sense.

Open house schedule

Project displays and detailed maps will be available for review at the open houses that begin on Tuesday, Jan. 24. There will not be a formal presentation but project representatives will be available to answer questions. Open house attendees are welcome to come and go as their schedules allow.

Date	Time	Location	
Tuesday, Jan. 24	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom	3
	4 – 6 p.m.	133 Main St. S	

		Pierz, MN 56364
Wednesday, Jan. 25	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Sauk Rapids Government Center
	4 – 6 p.m.	250 Summit Ave. N.
		Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Thursday, Jan. 26	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Pebble Creek Golf Course
	4 – 6 p.m.	14000 Clubhouse Lane
		Becker, MN 55308
Monday, Jan. 30	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Timberlake Lodge
	4 – 6 p.m.	144 SE 17th St.
		Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Tuesday, Jan. 31	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Spang Town Hall
	4 – 6 p.m.	35402 Spang Road
		Hill City, MN 55748
Wednesday, Feb. 1	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Taconite Canteen
	4 – 6 p.m.	240 Curtis Ave.
		Ironton, MN 56455
Thursday, Feb. 2	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Daggett Brook Town Hall
	4 – 6 p.m.	14074 County Road
		Brainerd, MN 56401

For people unable to attend one of the scheduled events, a virtual, self-guided open house will be available from Jan. 23 – Feb. 17, 2023, at <u>northlandreliabilityproject.com</u>. Individuals can also request a mailed informational packet by emailing <u>connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com</u> or leaving a message on the project hotline at (218) 864-6059.

Seeking Route Permit in late 2023

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy intend to seek a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) in late 2023. The MPUC will determine need and the final route and separately review cost recovery for Minnesota Power's share of the project. Subject to regulatory approvals, the transmission line is estimated to be in service by 2030.

This joint project is one in a portfolio of transmission projects approved July 25, 2022, by the region's grid operator, MISO, as part of the first phase of its Long Range Transmission Plan. In total, MISO approved 18 projects across its Midwest subregion with six of them, including the Minnesota Power/Great River Energy project, in the Upper Midwest.

For more information and a map of the Northland Reliability Project's route corridor, visit northlandreliabilityproject.com.

Great River Energy, Maple Grove, Minnesota, is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through its member-owners, Great River Energy serves two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin. Learn more at greatriverenergy.com.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at mnpower.com.

###

Social Media Campaigns and Analytics







Twitter, Instagram & Facebook	Total impressions	Total reach	Total engagement (Clicks, likes, etc.)
Campaign 1: General awareness	254,328	180,719	238
Campaign 2: Open house targeted posts	158,956	114,994	176
Campaign 3: Virtual open house	154,596	27,327	55

Newspaper Advertisements and Affidavits Paid Advertisement Run Dates

Newspaper	County	Run Date(s)	Circulation
Morrison County Record	Morrison	January 15, 22	20,210
Voyageur Press McGregor	Aitkin	January 17, 24	1,011
Benton County News	Benton	January 17, 24	1,342
Aitkin Independent Age	Aitkin	January 18, 25	4,948
Mille Lacs Messenger	Morrison	January 18, 25	4,646
Crosby-Ironton Courier	Crow Wing	January 18, 25	3,728
Scenic Range News Bovey	Itasca	January 19, 26	1,709
Mille Lacs Union Times	Morrison	January 19, 26	1,700
NewsHopper	Crow Wing	January 20, 27	20,000
Patriot MN	Sherburne	January 21	16,380
Sauk Rapids Herald	Benton	January 21, 28	5,306
Grand Rapids Herald	Itasca	January 22, 29	7,786
Brainerd Dispatch	Crow Wing	January 25, February 1	13,578
TOTAL			102,344

Benton County News

Northland Reliability Project





Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest

Jan. 25, 2023 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m.



Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, selfguided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback.

northlandreliabilityproject.com



218-864-6059

Benton County News

PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION STATE OF MINNESOTA)

)ss

COUNTY OF BENTON)

Gretchen Jennissen, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

- 1. I am the publisher of the Benton County News, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.
- 2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02
- 3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows: Tuesday, 1/17/2023, and was thereafter printed and published on every Tuesday, to and including Tuesday, 1/24/2023.
- 4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:
- 5. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Benton County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 3 by Gretchen Jennissen ,20 0

Pat Turner,

Notary Public

TARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 01/31/25





Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

Feb. 2, 2023

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6:00 p.m.



14074 Co Road 2, Brainerd, MN 56401

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.





Can't be there in person?

Explore the virtual, self-guided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback.

northlandreliabilityproject.com

10 218-864-6059

STATE OF MINNESOTA AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Kim Quinones publisher of the newspape knowledge of the facts sta	, being first duly sworn on oath states, or affirms that s/he is t r known as the Brainerd Dispatch, or the publisher's designated agent, and has full ted below:
A. The newspaper has con newspaper, as provided by	nplied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified Minn. Stat. 331A.02, and other applicable laws, as amended.
B. The printed notice that	is attached was published on the following dates: February 1, 2023.
By Kin &	2uinones
	Subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me
	on this 3, day of FEBRUARY, 2023.
	Notary Public Kithy Bentt
a 882	KATHY J BERNOT Notary Public
30	State of Minnesota My Commission Expires January 31, 2024

Crosby Ironton Courier



Grand Rapids Herald

Northland Reliability Project





Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

Jan. 30, 2023

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6:00 p.m.



Timberlake Lodge 144 SE. 17th St. Grand Rapids, MN 55744

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person?

Explore the virtual, selfguided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback.

northlandreliabilityproject.com



218-864-6059



Mille Lacs Union Times

Northland Reliability Project





Can't be there in person?

Explore the virtual, self-guided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback. E015,ET2/CN-22-416

Page 42 of 176

anorthlandreliabilityproject.com Decker N64E018,ET2/TL-22-415





Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

Jan. 24, 2023

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6:00 p.m.



Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St. S. Pierz, MN 56364

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, selfguided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback.

northlandreliabilityproject.com



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

UNDA BANCS , being duly sworn on an oath says that he/she is an authorized agent and employee of Adams Publishing Group, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below.

- The newspaper has complied with all the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper.
- (B) The printed display ad was printed in the following editions on the following dates:

EDITION:

S 218-864-6059

MORRISON COUNTY RELIED

JAN 15, 2023

MURASUN COMETY RECORD

JHN 22, 2023

RV.

APG-ECM PUBLICATIONS

Acknowledged before me on this 23 day of

Notary Public

Appendix N Page 43 of 176 Docket No. E015, ET2/CN-22-416 Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415



218-864-6059



Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

> Feb. 1, 2023

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m.

Taconite Canteen 240 Curtis Ave., Ironton, MN 56455

Feb. 2, 2023

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m.

Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 Co Road 2, Brainerd, MN 56401

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, self-guided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback

northlandreliabilityproject.com







Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

Jan. 26, 2023

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6:00 p.m.



Pebble Creek Golf Course 14000 Clubhouse Lane Becker, MN 55308

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, selfguided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback.

northlandreliabilityproject.com

Route corridor Iron Range Substation Grand Rapids $\binom{2}{2}$ 371 Riverton McGregor Substation Brainerd Millie Lacs Lake 169 Benton County Substation Legend St. Claud Expand existing substations Big Oaks New substation Substation Segment one Segment two

C 218-864-6059

Revised Affidavit of Publication Form

(Includes Language Required by 2015 Legislation, Chapter 14, Relating to Mortagge Foreclosure Notices)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

[FORM Rev. 6/15] STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) 55.

COUNTY OF SHERBURNE)

William Morgan, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

- 1. I am the publisher of the Patriot News MN, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.
- 2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.
- 3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:

That the printed NORTHLAND RELIABILTY PROJECT OPEN HOUSE JAN. 26, 2023 hereto attached as a part hereof was cut from the columns of said newspaper, was published therein in the English language once a week for ONE successive weeks; that it was first published on the 21 day of JANUARY 2023 and thereafter on Saturday of each week to and including the 21 day of JANUARY 2023 and that the following is a copy of the lower case alphabet which is acknowledged to have been the size and kind of type used in the publication of said NORTHLAND RELIABILTY PROJECT OPEN HOUSE JAN. 26, 2023.

- 4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$15.60 per column inch.
- 5. [NEW] Mortgage Foreclosure Notices [Effective 7/1/15]. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Sherburne County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

William Morgan, Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

this 25 day of I william

By William Morgan, Publisher

CHRISTOPHER S MEYER NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA





Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

Jan. 25, 2023

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6:00 p.m.



Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, selfguided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback.



northlandreliabilityproject.com



218-864-6059

Sauk Rapids Herald

PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION STATE OF MINNESOTA)

)ss

COUNTY OF BENTON)

Gretchen Jennissen, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

- 1. I am the publisher of the The Sauk Rapids Herald, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.
- 2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02
- 3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows: Saturday, 1/21/2023, and was thereafter printed and published on every Saturday, to and including Saturday, 1/28/2023.
- 4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:
- 5. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Benton County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

and sworn to before me on this

Pat Turner.

Notary Public





Join us at an open house

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 150-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

Jan. 30, 2023 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m.



Timberlake Lodge 144 SE. 17th St. Grand Rapids, MN 55744

See the full list of community open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person? Explore the virtual, selfguided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback.

northlandreliabilityproject.com



C 218-864-6059

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA) 55.

COUNTY OF ITASCA

Tony Fragnito or Kristina Westerberg, being first duly sworn, on oath states ns follows: 1. I am the publisher of the Scenic Range NewsForum, or the publisher's

designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this

Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes \$331.A.07. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those

requirements found in Minnesota Setutes §331 A.02.

- 3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied was published in the newspaper are as followe:
- The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$10.00 per column inch.
- Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesote Statutes §580.093 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Basca County. The newspaper compiles with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

Tony Fragnito, Publisher Kristina Westerberg

Subscribed and swom to before me by Tony Pragnito or Kristina Westerberg on this

(Notary Public)

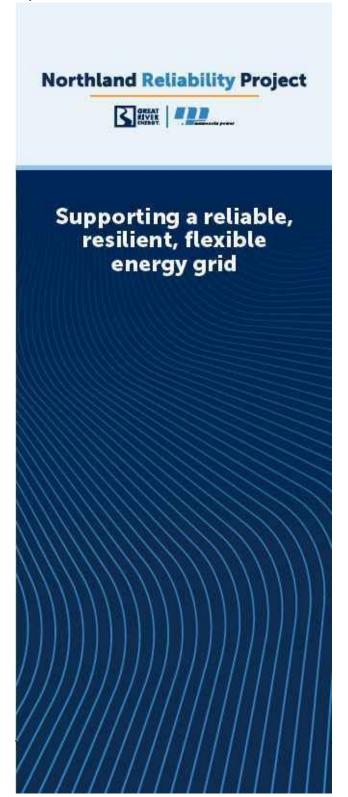
ANNETTE MARIE FAULKNER NOTARY PUBLIC - MINNESOTA My Commission Expires Jan 31, 2028



Voyageur Press McGregor



Open House Banners





Who we are

Minnesota Power is a utility company that provides, affordable, reliable energy to 145,000 residential customers and business customers in NE MN and 14 municipalities and some of the nation's largest industrial customers in Minnesota.

mnpower.com



Great River Energy is a wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through our member-owners, we serve two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin.

greatriverenergy.com



Northland Reliability Project



Part of a regional plan for energy reliability

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are working together to build the Northland Reliability Project.

The project includes new and replaced transmission lines, upgrades to existing substations and a new substation. When in service, the transmission grid will be more reliable, resilient and flexible to support the delivery of cleaner energy to our customers and members.





Northland Reliability Project Fulfilling a need Provide system support Provide support to the energy grid as more renewable energy is brought online and coal operations cease at existing power plants Increase capacity Safely and reliably deliver more



Safely and reliably deliver more clean energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed by utility customers and power cooperative members



Strengthen resiliency

Improve ability to withstand more frequent extreme weather events



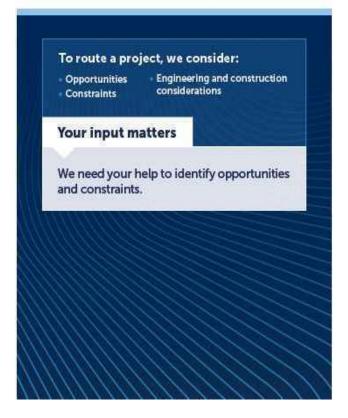
Enhance flexibility

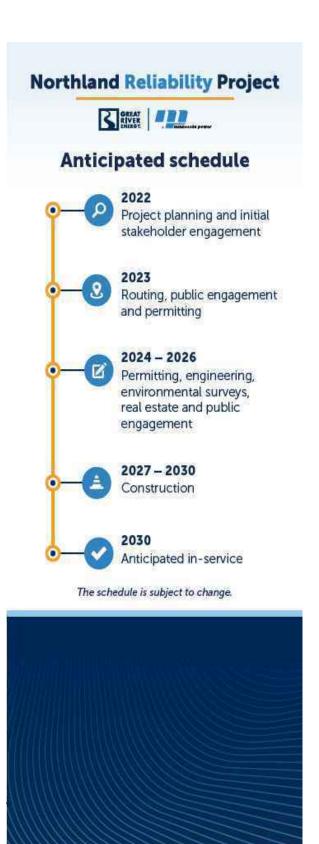
Meet future energy needs by enabling transfer of many types of power generation from many locations to meet the long-term needs of our customers and members



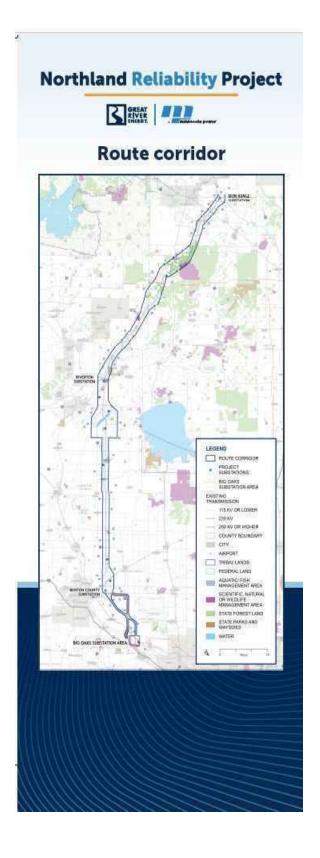
















What are the top three constraints we should be aware of?

Agricultural uses, including organic farms	
Airports/air navigation facilities	
Cemeteries	
Communication towers	
Conservation areas	
Cultural/archaeological resources	
Floodplains	
Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands	
Levees/dams	
Mines/quarries	
Pipelines	
Potentially contaminated sites	-1
Railroads	
Religious facilities	**
Residences	
Scenic highways	
Schools	
Sensitive crops	
Sensitive plant/animal species	
State/regional/local parks and trails	
Wells	Ap

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Docket No. E015,ET2/CN-22-416

Docket No. E015,ET2/TL-22-415





Right-of-way acquisition

What is right-of-way?

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

A document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on your property.

Our right-of-way acquisition process:

Project representatives will hold individual meetings with **affected landowners** to discuss right-of-way needs.



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An ofter based on fair market value is presented.



We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.



The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

Additional right-of-way needs may include:

- Construction staging areas
- Substation expansions
- Temporary access roads

Northland Reliability Project GREAT FIVER ENERGY. Right-of-way needs: Segment one Overlap up to 30 - 40 feet 110 feet

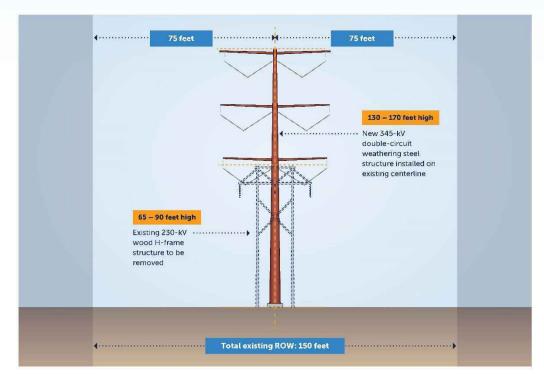
Existing 230-kV Proposed double-circuit 345-kV







Right-of-way needs: Segment two









Typical preconstruction and construction activities



 Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes



 Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed



▲ Foundation installation

Foundation type may vary

depending on structure



Assemble and set structures



Wire installation



▲ Cleanup and restoration

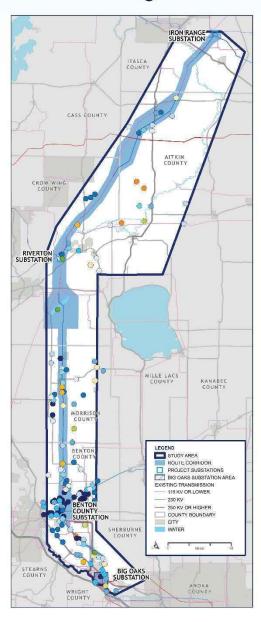
Typical preconstruction survey types

- Field surveys
- Wildlife surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Wetland and stream surveys
- Soil surveys





Initial study area: What we heard



Stakeholder workshop stats

- Fall 2022
- 6 in-person meetings
- 1 virtual meeting
- 90+ participants
- Agencies and local leaders

Comments received by type



Comment Form

Northland Reliability Project



Comment Form

Thank you for providing feedback on the Northland Reliability Project. Please use the comment form below to submit a comment or join the email list to receive project updates.

Name:			
Organization (if any):			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Phone number:	Email:	Email:	
Are you the owner of the property listed Would you like to join our email list? Comment:			
Please provide any additional information	on about your property tha	nt you would like our project team to be aware of:	
Would you like a response back to your	comments? O Yes O No	How to submit comment form:	
If you answer yes, please fill out your email, phone	and/or malling address above.	Drop in the comment box at the open house Mail it back to our project team (see back side) Email connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com	





Packet overview

Thank you for your interest in the Northland Reliability Project. We appreciate you reviewing this packet to learn about the project and provide input to help us route this transmission line.

Please read the materials and send us the comment form to share your valuable input with us. You can:

- Mail the comment form and map back to our team using the prepaid return envelope
- Scan and email it to us at: connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com
- · Visit the project website to visit our online comment map and complete the online comment form at northlandreliabilityproject.com
- Call the project team if you have any questions at 218-864-6059

Comments will be accepted through Feb. 17, 2023.

Packet materials

This packet of information includes the information on the following:

- · About the project
- · Frequently asked questions
- · Routing process and criteria
- · Additional engagement
- · Feedback opportunities
- · Prepaid return envelope

Connect with us

We want to hear from you.

- northlandreliabilityproject.com
- connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com
- 218-864-6059







Supporting a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible electric grid as energy resources continue to evolve. The energy resources we use to serve our customers and members are changing, and the regional power grid we use to deliver that energy needs to change, too.

Project needs

The Northland Reliability Project will ensure the power grid in northern and central Minnesota continues to operate safely and reliably as energy resources in Minnesota and the regional power system continue to evolve. This project is also part of a large "Long Range Transmission Plan" portfolio approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, to support grid reliability across the Midwest region. As generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewables, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:



Provide support to the energy grid as more renewable energy is brought online and coal operations cease at existing power plants



Improve ability to withstand more frequent extreme weather events



Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver more clean energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed by utility customers and power cooperative members



Meet future energy needs by enabling transfer of many types of power generation to many locations to meet the long-term needs of our customers and members

About

The project consists of two major segments and some additional improvements:

- Segment one: Install approximately 130 miles of a new double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line corridors
- Segment two: Replace approximately 20 miles of an existing 230-kV transmission line with a double-circuit 345-kV transmission line from the Benton County Substation to the Big Oaks Substation (substation to be built as part of a separate project)

January 2023

- Additional project improvements:
 - Expand the existing Iron Range Substation, located near Grand Rapids, and the Benton County Substation, located near St. Cloud
 - Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfigure existing transmission lines in the Riverton area
 - Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing single-circuit 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County

Schedule

We'll undertake a robust stakeholder process as we prepare to apply for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission



Minnesota Power and Great River Energy have a successful history of joint development and ownership of projects that support the reliability of our electric grid to meet the needs of our communities.

GREAT BE **Northland Reliability Project** Route corridor map Routing process During the routing process, our team will identify route alternatives built Expand existing substation Iron Range on taking advantage of opportunities while understanding constraints. We'll be relying on feedback from the Substation Grand Rapids public, local leaders, agencies and our own expertise to develop alternatives Leech within the route corridor. Lake Segment one 2 371 Install approximately 130 miles of a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing 210 Riverton transmission line corridors. McGregor Substation Segment two Replace approximately 20 miles of an existing 230-kV Brainerd, Mille Lacs transmission line to a double-Lake circuit 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation Install new substation to the Big Oaks Substation 35 and reconfigure existing (substation to be built as part of transmission lines a separate project). **Expand existing substation** Benton Additional project 94 **Improvements:** County Expand the existing Iron Range Substation Rebuild approximately Substation, located near Grand 20 miles of existing Rapids, and the Benton County single-circuit 345-kV line St. Cloud Substation, located near St. Cloud Sherco Substation Big Lake Install a new substation and reconfigure existing **Big Oaks** transmission lines in the Connect Into Substation Riverton area **Big Oaks Substation** Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing single-circuit 345-kV line from the Benton County ▲ Expand existing substations Segment one Substation to the Sherco New substation Segment two Substation in Sherburne County Connect with us Questions? We want to hear from you. northlandreliabilityproject.com connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com 218-864-6059 January 2023

Frequently asked questions

Why is the Northland Reliability Project needed?

The Northland Reliability Project will ensure the power grid in northern and central Minnesota continues to operate safely and reliably as energy resources in Minnesota and the regional power system continue to evolve. As generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewable energy like wind and solar, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:

- Provide system support as the use of fossil-fueled baseload generators continues to evolve.
- Facilitate increased capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it is produced to where it is needed by our customers and members.
- · Enhance system resiliency during extreme weather events.
- Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification.

How will I benefit from this project? Why is this project important to the electric grid in Minnesota?

The Northland Reliability Project will allow Minnesota Power and Great River Energy to continue delivering reliable, cleaner energy to our customers and members. This project will enhance the stability of our regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid so any type of generation, and from more locations, could be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members. The Northland Reliability Project is part of a large portfolio of regional transmission projects approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, in the summer of 2022. All of the projects in that portfolio work together to provide broad regional benefits in addition to local reliability benefits. While the Northland Reliability Project will directly support reliability in northern and central Minnesota, it supports reliability well beyond Minnesota, as well.

What are transmission lines and substations and what do they do?

Electricity is generated at power plants, wind or solar facilities and other generation sites before it is delivered across a complex, interconnected system of power lines and substations to electric customers and cooperative members. Think of transmission lines as the interstates, or the super

highways of the electric system. Transmission lines carry large amounts of high-voltage electricity from generation sites to substations, where it is "stepped down" to lower voltages so it can be delivered across the electric distribution system, and can be safely used at homes, farms and businesses.

What is the routing study area?

The study area is the geographic area in consideration for the route of the power line. We developed the study area based on where the new transmission line will need to connect into existing infrastructure. We'll narrow down potential routes based on the state of Minnesota's requirements, as well as public input, engineering, permitting and construction feasibility. We will look for opportunities to follow existing utility corridors and use land already being used for power lines whenever it makes sense.

O How much will this project cost and how will it be paid for?

The Northland Reliability Project is one of 18 regional transmission projects approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, in the summer of 2022. Because the entire region benefits from the Northland Reliability Project, the cost is spread across all of the utilities who are members of MISO in the region. The Northland Reliability Project's estimated overall cost is approximately \$970 million and ultimately, everyone who uses electricity in the MISO region will pay a share through their electric bills as costs flow through to electric utility customers and electric cooperative members. While there is cost associated with new transmission, transmission makes up a small portion of electric bills and the value of this project is high. The project is one of many that will ensure reliability in our region as our generation resources evolve. MISO estimates the benefit of bringing on more low-cost renewable energy, along with other benefits, outweighs the cost of these projects by two to four times.

What is this schedule for this project?

This project is in the early planning stages and includes a robust stakeholder engagement process. We'll apply for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and work with

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local jurisdictions, landowners, customers, members and agencies while following permitting requirements throughout project development and construction. The proposed schedule is as follows:

- 2022 Project planning and initial stakeholder engagement
- 2023 Routing, public engagement and permitting
- 2024-2026 Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, real estate and public engagement
- 2027-2030 Construction
- 2030 Anticipated in-service*
 - *The schedule is subject to change.

Can I get involved? Will my input be taken into account during the routing process?

Yes and yes! We need your input during the routing process. You can get information and provide input by visiting us at workshops and public meetings, browsing this website and more. Property owners within the route corridor will receive information throughout project development and we are always available to discuss the project with each individual property owner. Finally, you can stay up to date on project happenings by visiting this website regularly and signing up for future email updates.

How will the routing process work?

We start by identifying a study area and through the routing process, ultimately narrow down to a specific route. Our routing process includes robust community engagement. You're the experts in your communities. and we need you to share your insights so we can have a more complete picture of opportunities and constraints in your area. We analyze and study cost, environmental impacts, engineering, constructability and more. After we receive your input and analyze everything we have heard and studied, we will select a proposed route to submit in our Route Permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For this project, we will be submitting an application for a combined Certificate of Need and Route Permit.

What if I have personal or commercial land located on the proposed route?

If you have property in the route corridor, you will receive communications about the project by mail and you will be invited to public open house meetings. If you own property on the final route that is approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, a project team member will contact you and begin the process for obtaining an easement on your property for the project's right-of-way needs. A right-of-way is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line and it is typically secured in the form of an easement. The easement is the document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to use the portion of your property for the transmission line project's needs. More information on the easement process will be made available when we have a better idea of what our proposed route will be.

What is the route corridor?

The route corridor is a narrowed area being considered for the power line. We developed the route corridor based on where the new power line will need to connect into substations, input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops and the opportunity to route near existing utility corridors and land already being used for power lines. The route corridor is narrower than the original study area, and wider than the 150-foot right of way that will be needed for the construction, operation and maintenance of the line. The next step in route development will be to define route alternatives within the route corridor.

What will the transmission line structure look like?

We are proposing 130-170 foot-high single-pole steel structures with arms on both sides of each structure to carry the lines. For this type of structure, we'd anticipate having about five to six for each mile of our line. Although this is our proposed typical design, this could change based on environmental needs, permitting requirements and engineering standards. We'll continue to share more details as they become available and we complete more engineering activities.

Who can I talk to if I have other questions on this project?

If you have questions not answered here, you can fill out the comment form, email connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com or call 218-864-6059. Each comment goes to our project team and one of our team members will get back to you.



Questions? We want to hear from you.





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January 2023





Our routing process

Routing a transmission line is no small task. The state of Minnesota has statutes and rules that guide the route development process and help minimize a project's impact to human settlement and the environment. Input from you, local leaders and agencies as well as our own expertise is critical as we develop and finalize a route.

Here's how our routing process works. We're currently in the define route corridor part of this process. Please note that at each point during this process, and even after we submit our Certificate of Need and Route Permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, there will be opportunities for public input.

Define study area

Our team started by using data from publicly available data sources and federal, state and local agencies to define a study area. We considered existing utility corridors, existing land use, resource areas and other data to help identify opportunities to eventually identify a proposed route.

We are here

Define route corridor

Our team used data collected from your local leaders and federal, state and local agencies and the categories of routing criteria—opportunities and constraints—to define a route corridor. The route corridor is a narrowed area being considered for the power line. We developed the route corridor based on where the new power line will need to connect into substations, input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops and the opportunity to route near existing utility corridors and land already being used for power lines. The route corridor is narrower than the original study area, and wider than the 150-foot right of way that will be needed for the construction, operation and maintenance of the line. The next step in route development will be to define route alternatives within the route corridor.

Define route alternatives

We will evaluate public input from Step 2 and develop route alternatives. Join our mailing list to stay updated on project milestones.

Identify proposed route to submit in the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

We will develop a proposed route that we will use to submit a Certificate of Need and Route Permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities. Join our mailing list to stay updated on project milestones.

> Appendix N Page 69 of 176 Docket No. E015, ET2/CN-22-416 Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415

Public engagement



Routing opportunities and constraints

The criteria for route selection, set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 216E.03, subdivision 7, and Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, will guide our team's route development process. Project partners will site transmission lines to minimize impacts to human settlement and the environment in accordance with Minnesota Statutes and Rules and will guide the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) selection of the final route for the project. During the routing process, our team will identify route alternatives built on taking advantage of opportunities while understanding constraints. The routing process will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in the Certificate of Need and Route Permit application which will be filed with the Minnesota PUC.

Your input matters

We need your help to identify opportunities and constraints in the project area. Use the information on this handout to help us identify opportunities and sensitivities on survey, map and/or comment form included in your packet.

Opportunities

Typical existing corridor features that are oriented in the direction of the project.

- Existing transmission line and utility corridors
- Highways and roads
- Property lines
- Field lines

Constraints

Typical area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration.

- Agricultural uses, including organic farms
- Airports/air navigation facilities
- Cemeteries
- Communication towers*
- Conservation areas/nature preserves.
- Cultural/archaeological and historic resources*
- Floodplains (more difficult construction and could have sensitive species)
- Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands*
- Levees/dams
- Mines/quarries
- Pipelines*
- Potentially contaminated sites
- · Railroads
- Religious facilities
- Residences (especially large clusters of homes)
- Scenic highways
- · Schools
- Sensitive plant/animal species*
- State/regional/local parks and trails
- Well

*Constraints with additional precautions and studies required.

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January 2023





Right-of-way acquisition

What is right-of-way?

The term right-of-way or ROW is typically a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

A document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on your property.

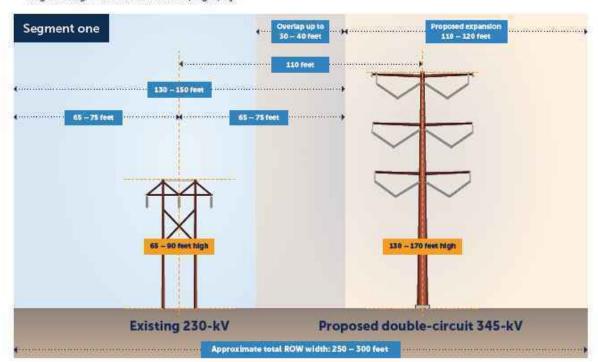
Project representatives will hold individual meetings with affected landowners to discuss right-of-way needs.



Frequently asked questions

Can this project share right-of-way in segment one with an existing line?

There may be opportunities to overlap right-of-way with an existing line. We estimate up to 30-40 feet of right-of-way may be shared between the existing structure and the new structure depending on factors like engineering, construction and topography.



(front)

O How large of an easement do you need?

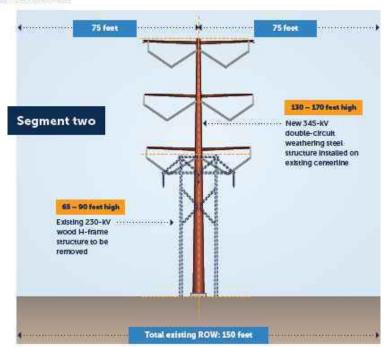
The typical right-of-way width will be at a minimum 150 feet for each transmission line (75 feet on each side of a transmission line). It is sometimes necessary to secure additional permanent right-of-way at angles or areas where we use specialty structures. It could also be necessary to secure temporary areas next to the permanent right-of-way for stringing and construction access.

Does segment two require a wider easement?

At this time, we do not anticipate requiring additional easement width for the line replacement along segment two (Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation). The replaced line is expected to be in the same ROW as the existing line.

How far will the transmission line be from by homes and businesses?

To the extent practicable, the project team will design the route to maximize separation from homes and businesses. Proximity to homes and businesses is one of the routing criteria for Minnesota Power and Great River Energy. We do not anticipate having structures within our 150-footwide right-of-way.



How does an easement affect my property?

The easement restricts the placement of buildings and structures within the easement area for safety and reliability and provides rights for access as well as clearing and removal of vegetation. Our project team will coordinate with landowners prior to construction. Additionally, easements stay with a property even if the ownership of a property changes.

What activities are allowed within the easement area?

In general, the land can continue to be used as before, provided that the use does not interfere with the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy encourage landowners on the final approved route to discuss the activities they plan to conduct in the easement area with a land agent.

Will eminent domain be used for this project?

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power intend to work with all landowners to reach voluntary agreements. In the event those agreements cannot be reached, then eminent domain proceedings may be necessary. In those instances, the Northland Reliability Project team encourages landowners to consult with their own counsel. The Northland Reliability Project team will continue to negotiate with landowners during an eminent domain proceedings and will dismiss the proceedings if an easement agreement is reached.



(back)





Construction, restoration and maintenance

Typical preconstruction survey types

- Field surveys
- Wildlife surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Wetland and stream surveys
- Soil surveys

Construction and restoration



 Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes



 Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed



Foundation installation Foundation type may vary depending on structure



Assemble and set structures



▲ Wire installation



Cleanup and restoration

A project representative will assess damages incurred during construction and contact each property owner to settle claims for any such damages. After construction is complete, damaged property will be restored as close as possible to its original condition. Landowners will be fairly reimbursed if damage occurred to crops, fences or other property during construction.





Additional engagement opportunities

In addition to this packet, there are many ways to stay connected and share your input.

Explore our virtual, selfguided open house available from Jan. 23 – Feb. 17 at northlandrellabilityproject.com.

Visit our interactive comment map at northlandreliabilityproject.com. Drop a pin on the map below to share geographically specific routing opportunities or constraints in your community.









Constraints survey

We need your input to learn as much as we can about the project area to take advantage of opportunities and have a better understanding of constraints. We need your input to help define route alternatives in the route corridor.

What are the top three constraints we should be aware of? O Agricultural uses, including organic O Pipelines farms O Potentially contaminated sites Airports/air navigation facilities O Railroads O Cemeteries O Religious facilities O Communication towers O Residences (especially large clusters O Conservation areas/nature preserves of homes) O Cultural/archaeological and historic O Scenic highways resources O Schools Floodplains O Sensitive plant/animal species Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands State/regional/local parks and trails O Levees/dams O Wells Mines/quarries





General comment form

Thank you for providing feedback on the Northland Reliability Project. Please use this comment form to provide feedback to the project team or ask a question.

	Name:		
///	Organization (if any):		
///	Address:		
//	City: State: _		Zip:
//	Phone number: Email: _		
Co	mment:		
Ple tha	ase provide any additional information about your pr It you would like our project team to be aware of:	operty	Are there any questions you would like addressed?
	ould you like a response back to your comments? O Yould you like to join the mailing list? O Yes O No	′es ○ No	If you answer yes to one or both of these questions, please fill out your email, phone and/or mailing address in the tell us about yourself section.

Don't forget to send your map, constraints survey, and general comment form form back to our project team! More information about how to send this back to our team is included on the first page of your packet.



Construction, restoration and maintenance

Typical preconstruction survey types

- Field surveys
- Wildlife surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Wetland and stream surveys
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Construction and restoration



 Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes



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Permitting and agency coordination

Environmental permitting and approvals from appropriate federal, state and local agencies will be obtained once a final route is identified and prior to construction. The project will also coordinate construction activities with local government agencies and jurisdictions and other stakeholders.

Permitting process

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issues a certificate of need and route permit. The certificate of need shows there is a need for the power produced. A route permit is required for routing and construction of a transmission line. The PUC will make the final decision on the route.

Application for a certificate of need and a route permit will be in one application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. More information at https://mn.gov/puc/ activities/energy-facilities.

Other required permits will be applied for and granted prior to construction. More information on the permitting timeline will be available as the project develops.

PUC Alternative permitting process

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy intend to submit the Route Permit application under the Alternative permitting process set forth in Minn. R.7850.2800 to 7850.3900. Under the Alternative permitting process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit is tasked with preparing an environmental assessment on behalf of the PUC, for proposed high voltage transmission line facilities. The Alternative process can be used for several types of projects, including when a proposed transmission line of 200-kV or more follows existing transmission line right-of-way for at least 80% of its length. Under the Alternative process, an applicant is only required to submit a Route Permit application with one proposed route. More information can be found at https://mn.gov/puc/ activities/energy-facilities/power-plants-transmission-lines/ alternative-process.

Agency coordination

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are working with federal, state and local agencies, Tribes, tribal organizations and nongovernmental organizations. The PUC and the Department of Commerce will lead the state permitting process. Other involved agencies include but are not limited to:

US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers

State

Minnesota Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, Office of the State Archaeologist and Pollution Control Agency

Local

Counties, cities and townships

Federally recognized Tribes and tribal organizations in Minnesota

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Oilbwe, Lower Sioux Indian Community. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Upper Sioux Community, White Earth Nation, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



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Routing opportunities and constraints

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- Railroads*
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- Wells

^{*}Constraints with additional precautions and studies required.









2

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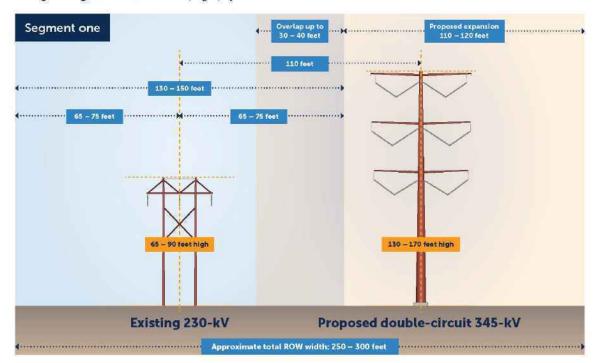
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(front)

How large of an easement do you need?

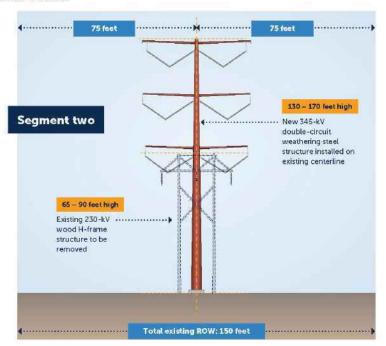
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How does an easement affect my property?

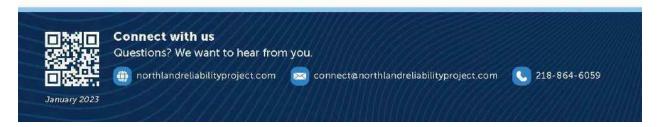
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Will eminent domain be used for this project?

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power intend to work with all landowners to reach voluntary agreements. In the event those agreements cannot be reached, then eminent domain proceedings may be necessary. In those instances, the Northland Reliability Project team encourages landowners to consult with their own counsel. The Northland Reliability Project team will continue to negotiate with landowners during an eminent domain proceedings and will dismiss the proceedings if an easement agreement is reached.



(Back)





Supporting a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible electric grid as energy resources continue to evolve. The energy resources we use to serve our customers and members are changing, and the regional power grid we use to deliver that energy needs to change, too.

Project needs

The Northland Reliability Project will ensure the power grid in northern and central Minnesota continues to operate safely and reliably as energy resources in Minnesota and the regional power system continue to evolve. This project is also part of a large "Long Range Transmission Plan" portfolio approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, to support grid reliability across the Midwest region. As generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewables, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:



Provide support to the energy grid as more renewable energy is brought online and coal operations cease at existing power plants



Improve ability to withstand more frequent extreme weather events



Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver more clean energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed by utility customers and power cooperative members



Meet future energy needs by enabling transfer of many types of power generation to many locations to meet the long-term needs of our customers and members

About

The project consists of two major segments and some additional improvements:

- Segment one: Install approximately 130 miles of a new double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line corridors
- Segment two: Replace approximately 20 miles of an existing 230-kV transmission line with a double-circuit 345-kV transmission line from the Benton County Substation to the Big Oaks Substation (substation to be built as part of a separate project)

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Additional project improvements:

- Expand the existing Iron Range Substation, located near Grand Rapids, and the Benton County Substation, located near St. Cloud
- Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfigure existing transmission lines in the Riverton area
- Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing single-circuit 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County

Schedule

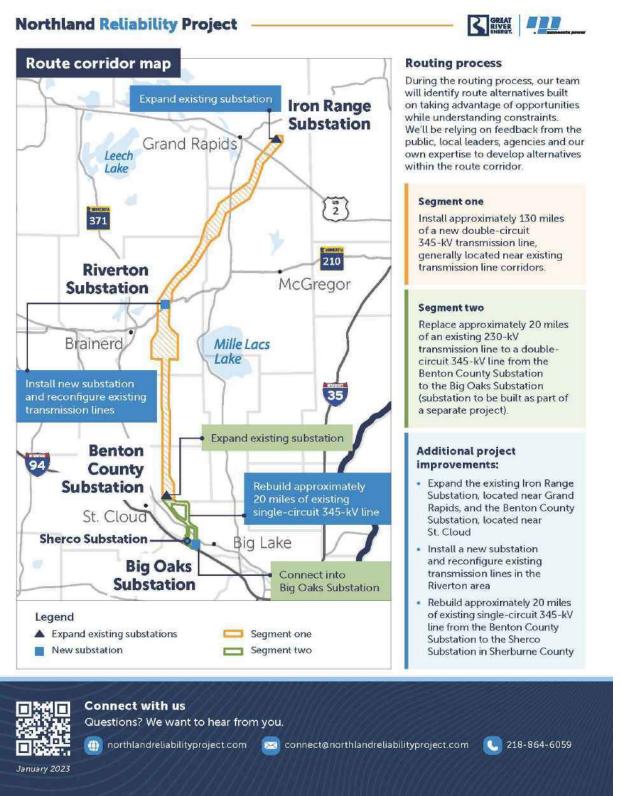
We'll undertake a robust stakeholder process as we prepare to apply for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.



*The schedule is subject to change

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy have a successful history of joint development and ownership of projects that support the reliability of our electric grid to meet the needs of our communities.

Overview Handout (back)









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Lori Buffington

Great River Energy 763.486.9266 lbuffington@grenergy.com

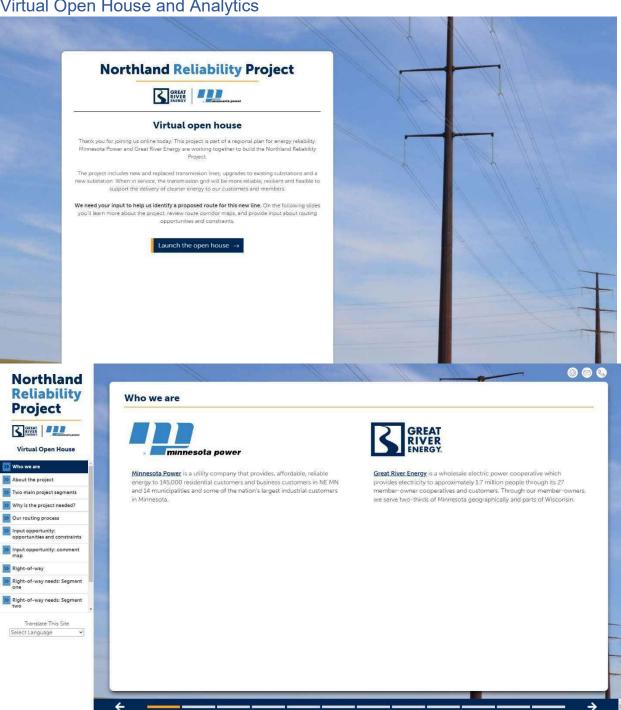
Lori Melton

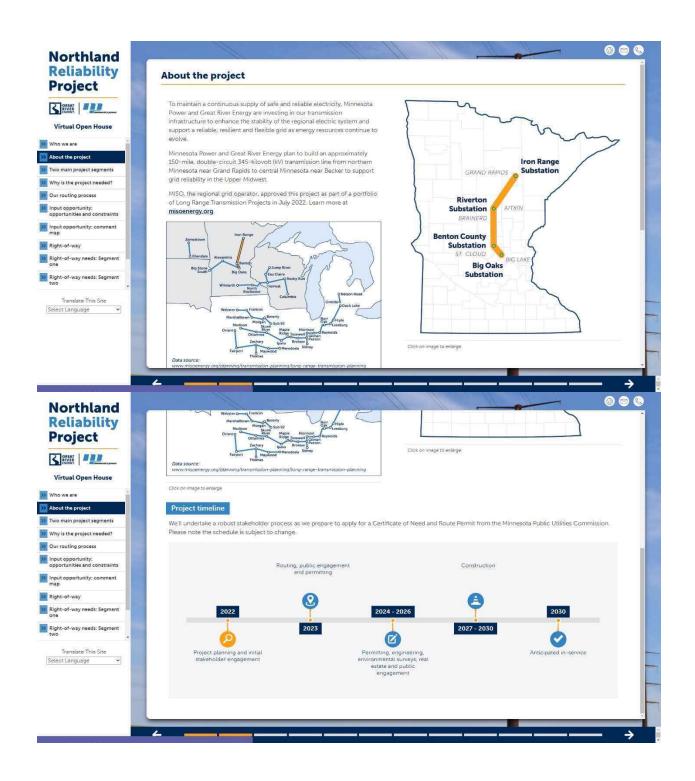
ALLETE | Minnesota Power 218.355.3155 lmelton@mnpower.com

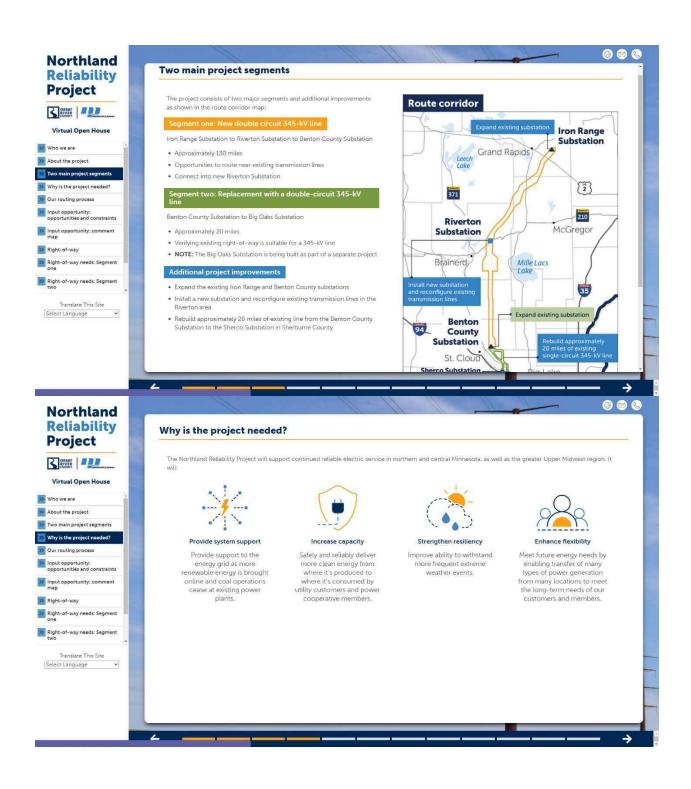
Heather Reinhart

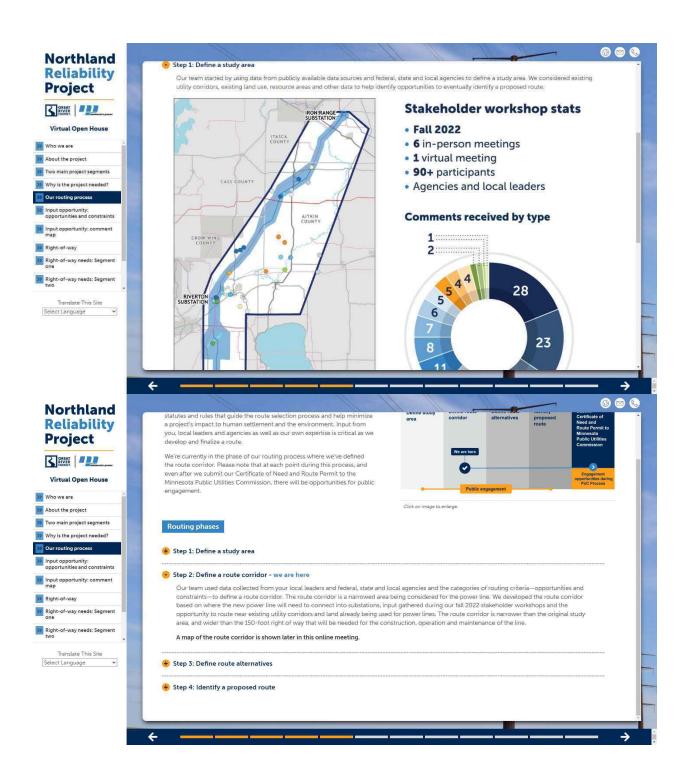
Great River Energy 763.445.5722 hreinhart@grenergy.com

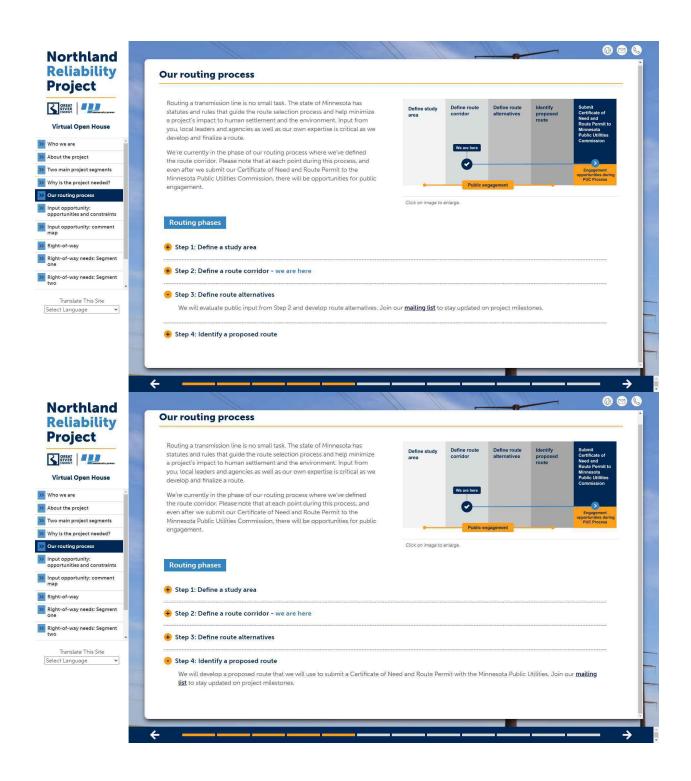
Virtual Open House and Analytics

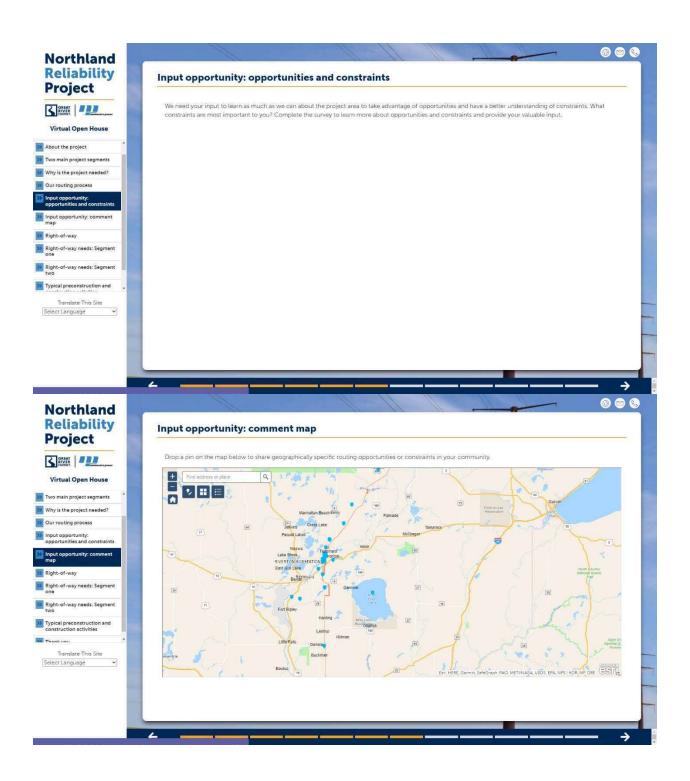


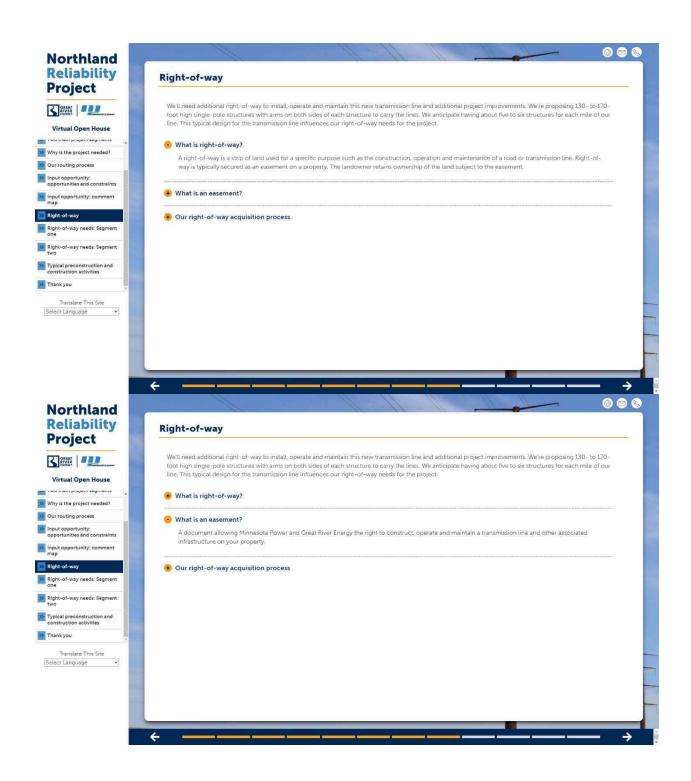


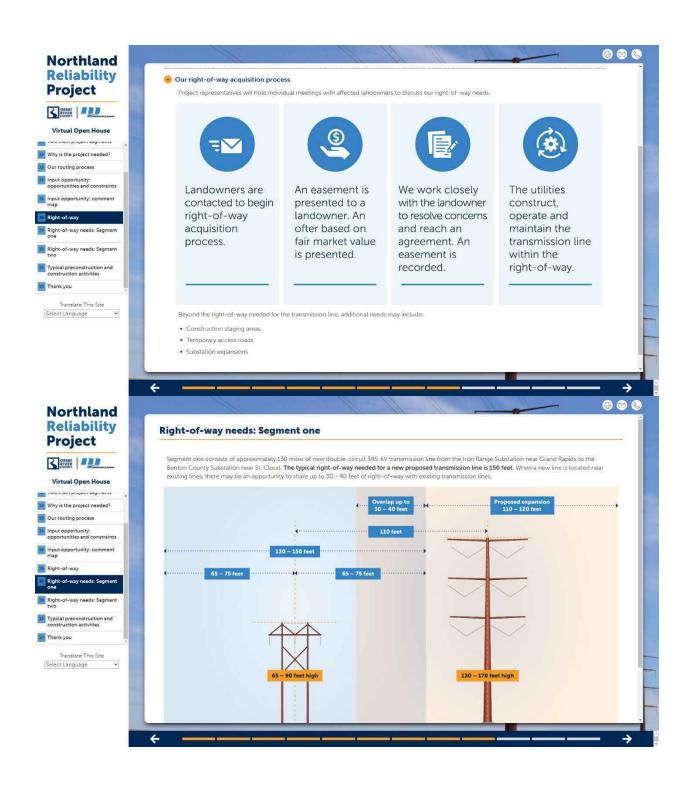


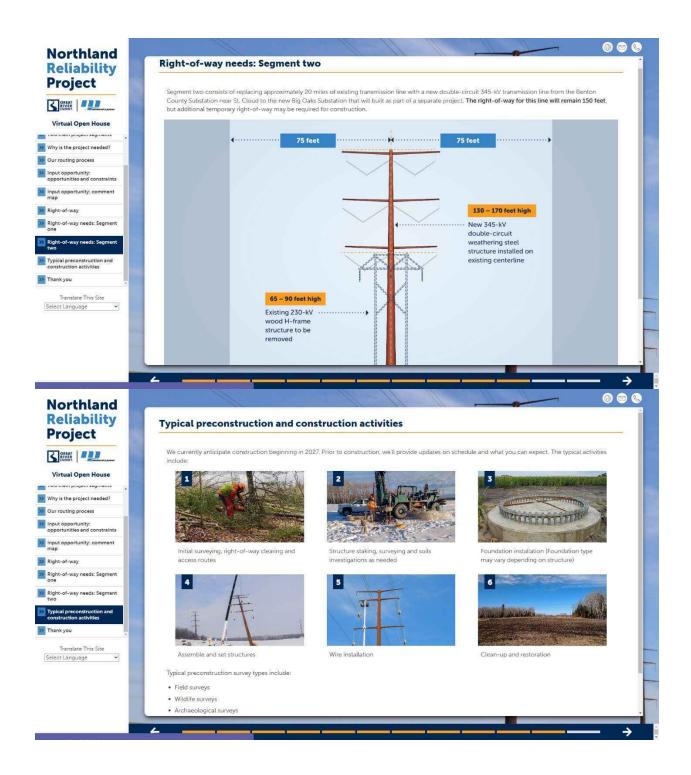


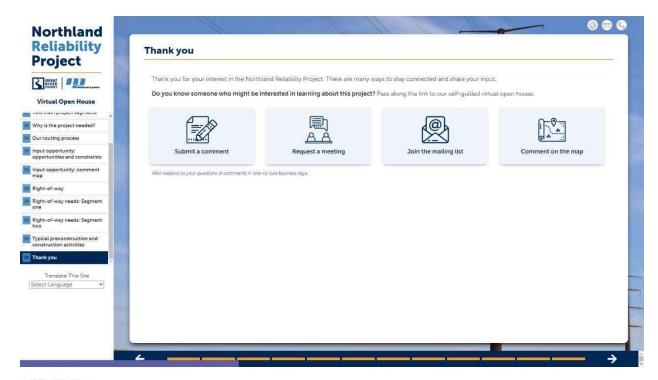








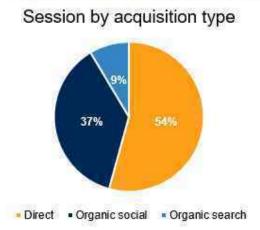


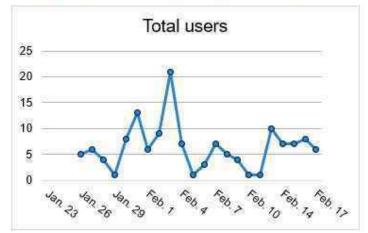


Statistics

There was a total of 171 views and 122 total users that visited the virtual open house. Figures 1 and 2 depict the engagement of the virtual open house.

Figure 1: How people got to the website Figure 2: Users during the open house period





Comments Analysis

Number of comments received

Channel	Number of Comments
Project hotline	2
Project email	1
Online comment map	2
Online comment form	13
Mailed comment form	1
Online constraints and opportunities form	11
In-person comment form	4
Information packet comment form	2
GIS station and tabletop map comments at the public open houses	315

Number of comments by category

Comment Category	Open Houses	Web, Hotline & Email with Location	Total
Aesthetics	1	4	5
	30	1	31
Agriculture Business		l l	_
	9		9
Civil	1	_	1
Communication	28	6	34
Construction	3		3
Cultural	5		5
Easement	5	1	6
Engineering	2		2
Environmental	30	3	33
Health and Safety	3	2	5
Land Use	15		15
Managed/Fee Lands	1		1
Mining	11		11
Out Buildings	24		24
Planned Development	1	1	2
Property Values	1	2	3
Recreation	24	1	25
Residence	26	1	27
Routing	20	7	27
Topography	9		9
Transportation	6	1	7
Utilities	10		10
Veg Management	3		3
Water Resources	17		17
Phase 1 Total	285	30	315

Engagement Phase 2: Preliminary Route

Stakeholder Letter and Mailing Affidavit

Stakeholder Email

Postcard and Mailing Affidavit

Press Release

Stakeholder Reminder email

Subscriber Reminder Email

Social Media Campaigns and Analytics

Newspaper Advertisements and Affidavits

Open House Banners

Open House Boards

Fact Sheets

Comment Form

Overview Handout

Information Packet

Virtual Open House and Analytics

Comments Analysis

Stakeholder Letter and Mailing Affidavit



April 6, 2023

RE: You're invited to attend out second phase of Northland Reliability Project public open houses

Attn [Insert Name Here].

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to attend our second phase of upcoming Northland Reliability Project public open houses. We wanted to inform you in advance of notifying your communities and constituents about these open houses to provide you an opportunity to be prepared if you are contacted with questions. Postcard notifications to residents and businesses within the preliminary route area should begin arriving the week of April 17, 2023.

Routing process

Based on input gathered during the first phase of public open houses, coordination with Tribes and agencies and reviewing technical data and requirements, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy narrowed the route corridor to identify a preliminary route. A second phase of open houses will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in a Certificate of Need and Route Permit application which will be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late summer 2023. The enclosed map shows our preliminary route. Detailed maps will be available on the website starting May 1.

Engagement opportunities

The table below lists our open house locations, times, and dates. We will not have a formal presentation but instead encourage attendees to come to an open house anytime during listed time. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, May 2	10 a.m. – noon	Spang Town Hall 35402 Spang Road Hill City, MN 55748
Tuesday, May 2	4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Cortis Ave. Ironton, MN 56455
Wednesday, May 3	10 a.m. – noon	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401
Wednesday, May 3	4-бр.т.	Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St. S. Pierz, MN 56364
Thursday, May 4	10 a.m. – noon	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Thursday, May 4	4 – 6 р.т.	Palmer Township Hall 4180 105 th Ave. Clear Lake, MN 55319





If you or your constituents cannot attend a public open house, we have additional engagement opportunities:

- Explore our virtual, self-guided open house that will be available from May 1 12, 2023, at northlandreliabilityproject.com.
- Request a mailed packet by emailing or leaving a message on our hotline.
- Schedule a meeting with the project team by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotling.

Project overview

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in our transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient, and flexible grid as energy resources continue to evolve. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 170-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The project includes two segments:

- Segment one (shown in orange) involves installing approximately 130 miles of a new double-circuit
 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line corridors.
- Segment two (shown in green) involves replacing two existing transmission lines:
 - Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors on double circuit 345-kV structures. The Big Oaks Substation will be built as part of a separate project.
 - Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the existing Specio Substation in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors using double-circuit 345-kV structures.

The Northland Reliability Project will increase the reliability of our grid, enhance its resiliency during extreme weather events, and make it more flexible so any type of power generation from more locations can be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members.

Contact with us at 218-864-6059 or connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com. We'll respond within two business days. For more information, visit our website at northlandreliabilityproject.com. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,

Firm Atkinson

Environmental and Real Estate Manager

Jame B action

Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights

Vanier leshor

Great River Energy

AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

NORTHLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT PROJECT TEAM

RE: Phase 2 public engagement opportunities stakeholder notification letter and enclosed map

Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Services' print partner, The MPX Group, being first duly sworn, disposes and says: "I am a United States Citizen, over 21 years of age, employed by Innovative Office Services' print partner, The MPX Group and provide printing services for the Northland Reliability Project. This affidavit is for a stakeholder notification letter and enclosed map for the phase 2 public engagement opportunities on the Northland Reliability Project. The mailing list was developed by HDR based on research of federal, state and local agencies, Tribes and tribal organizations and local community leaders with interest in the Preliminary Route.

Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Services' print partner, The MPX Group

Subscribed and sworn before me this 7 day of April, 2023

[Eli G Paylon], Notary Public

View this email in your browser

Northland Reliability Project





Greetings,

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to attend our second phase of Northland Reliability Project public open houses. Our team recently mailed you the attached letter inviting you to upcoming-open houses held May-2-4, 2023. Because many are working remotely, we're sending you this email to verify you receive this notice. We also wanted to inform you prior to notifying your communities and constituents about these open houses in case you are contacted with questions. Postcard notifications to residents and businesses within the route corridor should begin arriving later this week.

Routing process

Based on input gathered during the first phase of public open houses, coordination with Tribes and agencies and reviewing technical data and requirements, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy narrowed the route corridor to identify a preliminary route. A final route has not been determined and the second round of open houses will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in a Certificate of Need and Route Permit application which will be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late summer 2023. Detailed maps will be available on the website starting May 1.

Engagement opportunities

The table below lists our open house locations, times, and dates. We will not have a formal presentation but instead encourage attendees to come to an open house anytime during a listed time. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

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Tuesday, May 2	4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Curtis Ave. Ironton, MN 56455	
Wednesday, May 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401	
Wednesday, May 3	4 – 6 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St. 5. Pierz, MN 56364	
Thursday, May 4	10 a.m. – Noon	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379	
Thursday, May 4	4 – 6 p.m.	Palmer Township Hall 4180 105th Ave. Clear Lake, MN 55319	

If you or your constituents cannot attend a public open house, we have additional engagement opportunities:

- Explore our virtual, self-guided open house that will be available from May 1 - 12, 2023, at northlandreliabilityproject.com.
- Request a mailed packet by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline with your mailing address.
- Schedule a meeting with the project team by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline.

Project overview

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in our transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient, and flexible grid as energy resources continue to evolve. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The Northland Reliability Project will increase the reliability of our grid, enhance its resiliency during extreme weather events, and make it more flexible so any type of power generation from more locations can be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members.

Contact us by leaving a message on our project hotline at 218-864-6059 and or email us at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com. We'll respond within two business days. For more information, visit our website at northlandreliabilityproject.com. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson

Environmental and Real Estate Manager

James B adeiran

Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights

Janiel lesher

Great River Energy

Stakeholder Reminder Email (April 25, 2023)

View this email in your browser

Northland Reliability Project





Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to attend our second phase of Northland Reliability Project public open houses May 2 - 4.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, May 2	10 a.m. – Noon	Spang Town Hall 35402 Spang Road Hel City, MN 55748
Tuesday, May 2	4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Curtis Ave. Ironton, MN 56455
Wednesday, May 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401
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Engagement opportunities

The table above lists our open house locations, times, and dates. We will not have a formal presentation but instead encourage attendees to come to an open house anytime during a listed time. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

If you or your constituents cannot attend a public open house, we have additional engagement opportunities:

- Explore our virtual, self-guided open house that will be available from May 1 - 12, 2023, at <u>northlandreliabilityproject.com</u>.
- Request a mailed packet by <u>emailing us</u> or leaving a message on our <u>hotline</u> with your mailing address.
- Schedule a meeting with the project team by <u>emailing us</u> or leaving a message on our <u>hotline</u>.

Routing process

Based on input gathered during the first phase of public open houses, coordination with Tribes and agencies and reviewing technical data and requirements, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy narrowed the route corridor to identify a preliminary route. A final route has not been determined and the second round of open houses will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in a Certificate of Need and Route Permit application which will be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late summer 2023. Detailed maps will be available on the website by **May 1**.

Project overview

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in our transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient, and flexible grid as energy resources continue to evolve. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The Northland Reliability Project will increase the reliability of our grid, enhance its resiliency during extreme weather events, and make it more flexible so any type of power generation from more locations can be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members.

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Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson

Manager, Environmental and Real Estate

Jame B adeim

Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights

Vanier leshor

Great River Energy

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Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe



Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to attend our second phase of Northland Reliability Project public open houses May 2 - 4.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, May 2	10 a.m. – Noon	Spang Town Hall 55402 Spang Road Hill City, MN 55748
Tuesday, May 2	4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Curis Ave. Ironton, MN 56455
Wednesday, May 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401
Wednesday, May 3	4 – 6 p.m.	Pierz Baltroom 133 Main St. S. Pierz, MN 56364
Thursday. May 4	10 a.m. – Noon	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Thursday. May 4	4 – 6 p.m.	Palmer Township Hall 4180 105th Ave Clear Lake, MN 55319

We will not have a formal presentation but instead encourage attendees to come to an open house anytime during a listed time. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

If you cannot attend a public open house, we have additional engagement opportunities:

- Explore our virtual, self-guided open house that will be available from May 1 - 12, 2023, at northlandreliabilityproject.com
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Project overview

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in our transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient, and flexible grid as energy resources continue to evolve. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The Northland Reliability Project will increase the reliability of our grid, enhance its resiliency during extreme weather events, and make it more flexible so any type of power generation from more locations can be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members.

Contact us by leaving a message on our project hotline at 218-864-6059 and or email us at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com. We'll respond within two business days. For more information, visit our website at northlandreliabilityproject.com. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson

Manager, Environmental and Real Estate

Jame B adein

Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights

Great River Energy

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Subscriber Reminder Email (April 16, 2023)

View this email in your browser



Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to attend our second phase of Northland Reliability Project public open houses May 2 - 4.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	
Tuesday, May 2	10 a.m. – Noon	Spang Town Hall 35402 Spang Road Hill City, MN 55748	
Tuesday, May 2	4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Curtis Ave, Ironton, MN 56455	
Wednesday, May 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401	
Wednesday, May 3	4 – 6 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom 135 Main St. 5 Pierz, MN 56364	
Thursday. May 4	10 a.m. – Noon	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N Sauk Rapids, MN 56379	
Thursday, May 4	4 – 6 p.m.	Palmer Township Hall 4180 105th Ave Clear Liske, MN 55319	

We will not have a formal presentation but instead encourage attendees to come to an open house anytime during a listed time. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

If you cannot attend a public open house, we have additional engagement opportunities:

- Explore our virtual, self-guided open house that will be available from May 1 - 12, 2023, at northlandreliabilityproject.com.
- Request a mailed packet by <u>emailing us</u> or leaving a message on our <u>hotline</u> with your mailing address.
- Schedule a meeting with the project team by <u>emailing us</u> or leaving a message on our <u>hotline</u>.

Project overview

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in our transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient, and flexible grid as energy resources continue to evolve. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The Northland Reliability Project will increase the reliability of our grid, enhance its resiliency during extreme weather events, and make it more flexible so any type of power generation from more locations can be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members.

Contact us by leaving a message on our project hotline at 218-864-6059 and or email us at connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com. We'll respond within two business days. For more information, visit our website at northlandreliabilityproject.com. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson

Manager, Environmental and Real Estate

Jame B adein

Minnesota Power

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights

Great River Energy

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Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can <u>update your preferences</u> or <u>unsubscribe</u>

Postcard and Mailing Affidavit



2023 - we are here!

real estate and public

Anticipated in-service *The schedule is subject to change

Routing, public engagement and permitting

2024 - 2026 Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys,

engagement

2027 - 2030



3 mm | 1111

12300 Elm Creek Blvd N Maple Grove, MN 55369





Supporting a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in the transmission system to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible electric grid as energy resources continue to evolve. This project is part of a large "Long Range Transmission Plan" portfolio approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, to support grid reliability across the Midwest.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line from northern Minnesota near Grand Rapids to central Minnesota near Becker to support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

Open this notice to learn about how you can provide input to help us route this transmission line.



We want to hear from you. Connect with us

connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com



northlandreliabilityproject.com





Project need

As electric generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewables, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:



Maintain reliability

Provide system support as energy resources continue to evolve



Create resiliency

Enhance system resiliency during extreme weather events



Enable clean energy

Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members



Provide flexibility

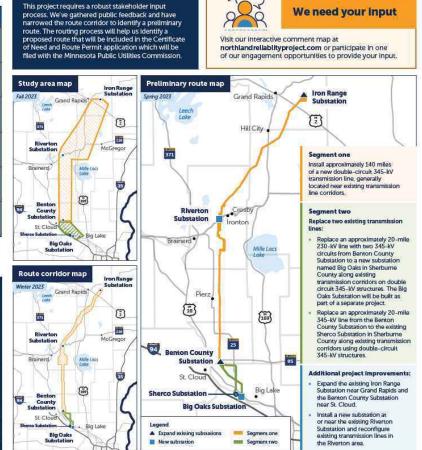
Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification

Join us at an open house

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, May 2	10 a.m. – Noon	Spang Town Hall 35402 Spang Road Hill City, MN 55748
Tuesday, May 2	4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen 240 Curtis Ave. Ironton, MN 56455
Wednesday, May 3	10 a.m. – Noon	Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401
Wednesday, May 3	4 – 6 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St. S. Pierz, MN 56364
Thursday, May 4	10 a.m. – Noon	Sauk Rapids Government Center 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Thursday, May 4	4 – 6 p.m.	Palmer Township Hall 4180 105th Ave. Clear Lake, MN 55319

We welcome your attendance at our open houses held throughout the project area. There will be no formal presentation. Come anytime during the listed time. Each open house will provide the

same information including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input. Additional engagement opportunities: Explore our virtual, self-guided open house available May 1-12 at Leave a comment on our interactive map northlandreliabilityproject.com. Request a mailed packet with more information by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline with your mailing address. Schedule a meeting with the project team by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline.



AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING

Routing process

NORTHLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT PROJECT TEAM

RE: Phase 2 public engagement opportunities postcard notification

Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Services' print partner, The MPX Group, being first duly sworn, disposes and says: "I am a United States Citizen, over 21 years of age, employed by Innovative Office Services' print partner, The MPX Group and provide printing services for the Northland Reliability Project. This affidavit is for a postcard notification for the phase 2 public engagement opportunities on the Northland Reliability Project. The mailing list was pulled from the tax listed parcel holder within the Preliminary Route.,

> Ryan Johnson, Innovative Office Services' print partner, the MPX Group

Subscribed and sworn before me this 18 day of April, 2023

ELLI G PAYTON

Appendix N NOTARY PUBLIC-MINNESOTA Page 112 of 176 Docket No. E015.ET2/CN-22-416

Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415

Eli 6 Payton, Notary Public

Press Release





For Release: April 20, 2023

Contact: Amy Rutledge

Director, Corporate Communications

Minnesota Power/ALLETE

218-348-2961

arutledge@mnpower.com

Contact: Lori Buffington

Leader, Communications Great River Energy 763-486-9266

lbuffington@grenergy.com

For Immediate Release

Northland Reliability Project open houses continue

April 20, 2023 — Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite the public to attend a second phase of open houses for their Northland Reliability Project where they can ask questions and provide input on the transmission line's preliminary route.

Minnesota Power, a utility division of ALLETE Inc. (NYSE: ALE), and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kV transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota near Becker that will support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

Based on input gathered during the first phase of public open houses in January and February, coordination with tribes and agencies, and reviewing technical data and requirements, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy narrowed the route corridor to identify a preliminary route. A final route has not been determined and the second phase of open houses will help identify the proposed route to be submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC).

Dates, times, and locations of the open houses are provided in the table below. There will not be a formal <u>presentation</u> but project representatives will be on hand to answer questions and attendees are welcome to come and go as their schedules allow. Project displays and detailed maps will be available at each open house.

Date	Time	Location
uesday, May 2 10 a.m. – noon		Spang Town Hall
		35402 Spang Road
		Hill City, MN 55748
Tuesday, May 2	4 – 6 p.m.	Taconite Canteen
		240 Curtis Ave.
		Ironton, MN 56455
Wednesday, May 3	10 a.m. – noon	Daggett Brook Town Hall
		14074 County Road 2
		Brainerd, MN 56401
Wednesday, May 3	4 – 6 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom
		133 Main St. S.
		Pierz, MN 56364

Thursday, May 4	10 a.m. – noon	Sauk Rapids Government Center
		250 Summit Ave. N.
		Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Thursday, May 4	4 – 6 p.m.	Palmer Township Hall
		4180 105 th Ave.
		Clear Lake, MN 55319

For people unable to attend an in-person open house, a virtual, self-guided open house will be available from May 1-12, 2023, at <u>northlandreliabilityproject.com</u>. Individuals can also request a mailed informational packet by emailing <u>connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com</u> or leaving a message on the project hotline at (218) 864-6059.

The Northland Reliability transmission line will run from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation in Itasca County to Great River Energy's Benton County Substation in Benton County, and then replace two existing Great River Energy transmission lines—one line will connect from the Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks Substation in Sherburne County and the second will connect to the Sherco Substation. The Big Oaks Substation will be built as part of a separate project.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy intend to seek a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the MPUC in late summer 2023. The MPUC will determine need and the final route and separately review cost recovery of the project for Minnesota Power's portion of the project. Subject to regulatory approvals, the transmission line is estimated to be in service by 2030.

This joint project is one of a portfolio of transmission projects approved July 25, 2022, by the region's grid operator, MISO, as part of the first phase of its <u>Long Range</u> Transmission Plan. In total, MISO approved 18 projects across its Midwest sub region, with six, including the Minnesota Power/Great River Energy project, in the Upper Midwest.

The Northland Reliability Project will increase the reliability of the grid, enhance its resiliency during extreme weather events, and make it more flexible so any type of power generation from more locations can be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of Minnesota Power customers and Great River Energy members. For more information and maps of the route corridor and preliminary route, visit northlandreliablityproject.com.

Great River Energy, Maple Grove, Minnesota, is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through its member-owners, Great River Energy serves two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin. Learn more at greatriverenergy.com.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security, and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com. ALE-CORP

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

###

Social Media Campaigns and Analytics

Campaign 1



Campaign 2



Twitter, Instagram & Facebook	Total impressions	Total reach	Total engagement (Clicks, likes, etc.)
Campaign 1: Open house targeted posts	47,171	14,106	202
Campaign 2: Virtual open house	7,954	13,457	250

Newspaper Advertisements

Newspaper	County	Run date(s)	Circulation
Patriot MN	Sherburne	April 15, 22	16,380
Sauk Rapids Herald	Benton	April 15, 22	5,306
Morrison County Record	Morrison	April 16, 23	20,210
Grand Rapids Herald	Itasca	April 18, 25	7,786
Voyageur Press McGregor	Aitkin	April 18, 25	1,011
Benton County News	Benton	April 18, 25	1,342
Aitkin Independent Age	Aitkin	April 19, 26	4,948
Mille Lacs Messenger	Morrison	April 19, 26	4,646
Brainerd Dispatch	Crow Wing	April 19, 26	13,578
Crosby-Ironton Courier	Crow Wing	April 19, 26	3,728
Scenic Range News Bovey	Itasca	April 20, 27	1,709
Mille Lacs Union Times	Morrison	April 20, 27	1,700
NewsHopper	Crow Wing	April 21, 28	20,000
TOTAL			102,344



Benton County News Northland Reliability Project





Join us during our second phase of open houses

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 180-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

May 4, 2023

10 a.m. - Noon

Sauk Rapids
Government Center
250 Summit Ave. N.
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

See the full list of open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



Can't be there in person?

Explore the virtual, self-guided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback. Available from May 1-12.

northlandreliabilityproject.com

S 218-864-6059



Brainerd Dispatch



Grand Rapids Herald

Northland Reliability **Project**





Join us during our second phase of open houses

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 180-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

May 2, 2023

10 a.m. - Noon



Spang Town Hall 35402 Spang Road Hill City, MN 55748

See the full list of open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MINNESOTA)

) 55.

COUNTY OF ITASCA)

Brett Holum, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

- I am the Publisher of the <u>Grand Rapids Herald Review</u>, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.
- The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.
- 3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copies below was published in the

Sunday April 23rd & 30th 2023

- 4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$2.00 per 1-col line.
- 5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes§580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Itasca County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, sub d. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

BARBARA LYNN EIESLAND NOTARY PUBLIC

on Elephon Jan. 31, 202

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this

day of May 202

Notary Public

Mille Lacs Messenger









Can't be there in person?

Explore the virtual, self-guided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback. Available from May 1-12.

O northlandreliabilityproject.com 218-864-6059



Morrison County Record

Northland Reliability **Project**





Join us during our second phase of open houses

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 180-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

May 3, 2023

4 - 6 p.m.



Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St. S. Pierz, MN 56364

See the full list of open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.

northlandreliabilityproject.com

3 218-864-6059





Can't be there in person?

Explore the virtual, self-quided open house on our website to learn more and provide feedback. Available from May 1-12.



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Northland Reliability Project





Join us during our second phase of open houses

Learn about how Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in a 180-mile transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota to support grid reliability and resilience in the Upper Midwest.

May 3, 2023

10 a.m. - Noon



Daggett Brook Town Hall 14074 County Road 2 Brainerd, MN 56401

See the full list of open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.









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Patriot MN



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May 4, 2023

4 - 6 p.m.



Palmer Township Hall 4180 105th Ave. Clear Lake, MN 55319

See the full list of open houses on our website or call our project hotline for more information.

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© 218-864-6059



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Sauk Rapids **Government Center** 250 Summit Ave. N. Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

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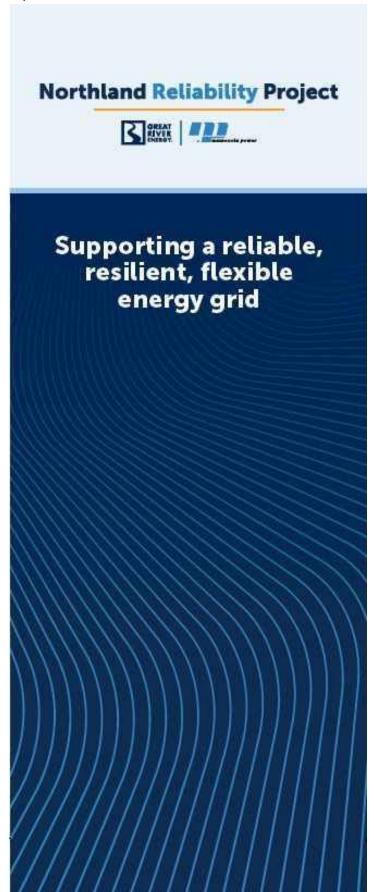




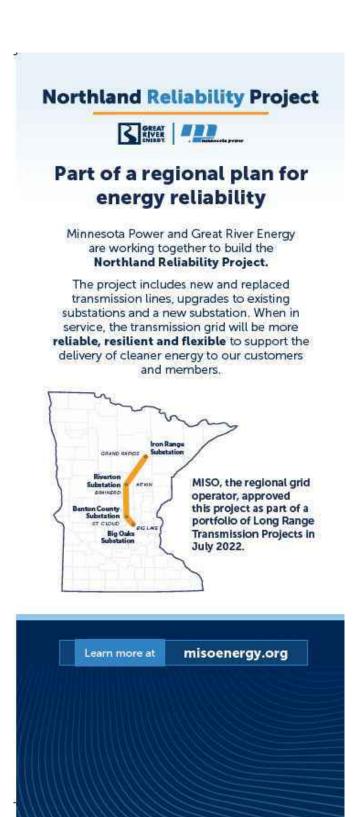


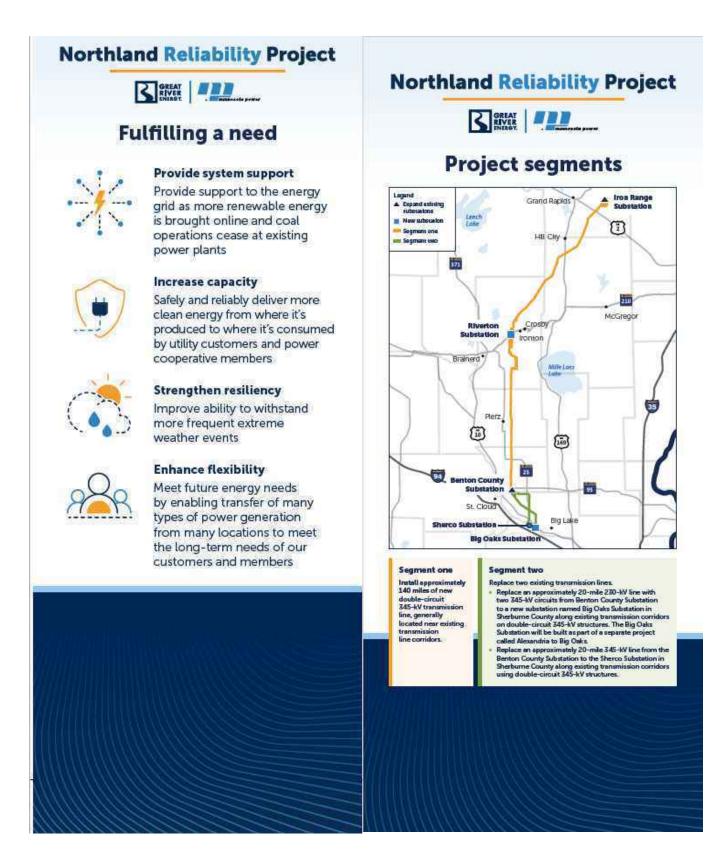


Open House Banners

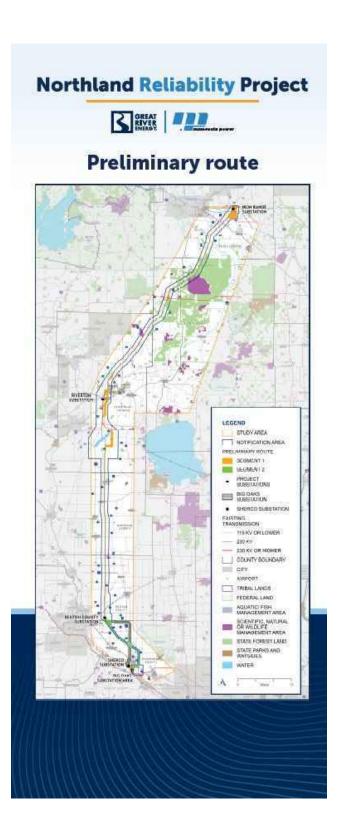


Northland Reliability Project GREAT NEW TOWNS Who we are Minnesota Power is a utility company that provides, affordable, reliable energy to 145,000 residential customers and business customers in NE MN and 14 municipalities and some of the nation's largest industrial customers in Minnesota. mnpower.com Great River Energy is a wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to approximately 1.7 million people through its 27 member-owner cooperatives and customers. Through our member-owners, we serve two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin. greatriverenergy.com













Right-of-way acquisition

What is right-of-way?

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

A document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on a landowner's property.

Our right-of-way acquisition process:

Project representatives will hold individual meetings with affected landowners to discuss right-of-way needs.



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.



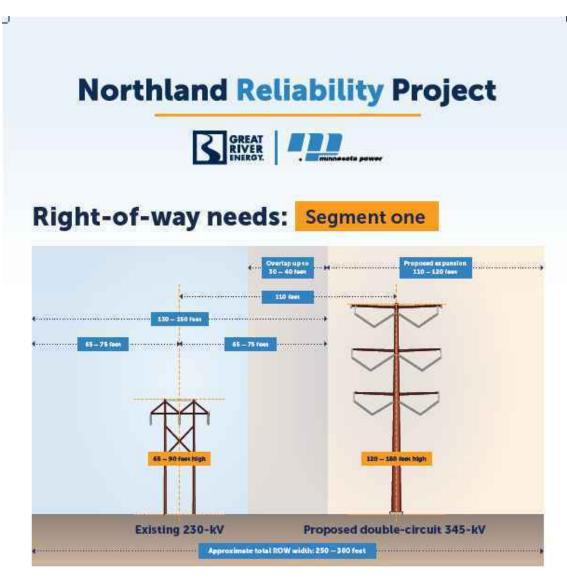
We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.



The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

Additional right-of-way needs may include:

- Construction staging areas
- Temporary access roads
- Substation expansions

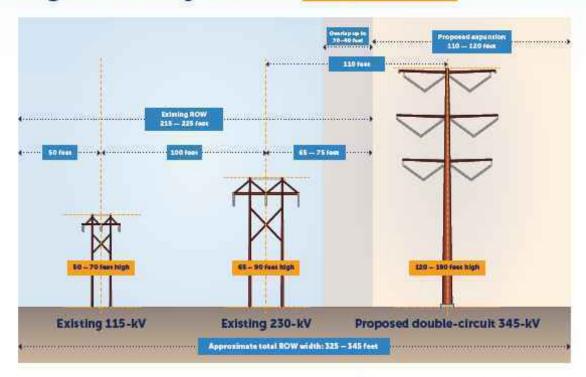


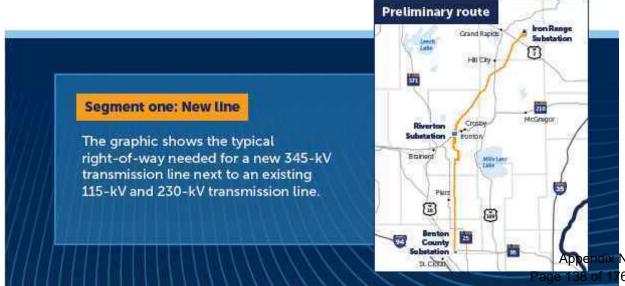






Right-of-way needs: Segment one



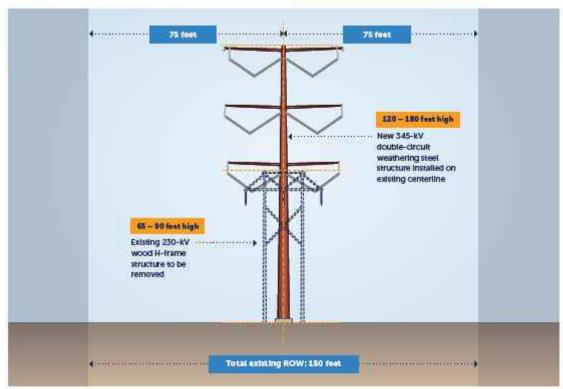






Right-of-way needs: Segment two





Segment two: Line replacement

Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks Substation in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors on double circuit 345-kV structures. The Big Oaks Substation will be builtas part of a separate project called Alexandria to Big Oaks. Approximately three miles of new 345-kV double-circuit transmission is required to route into the new Big Oaks Substation.



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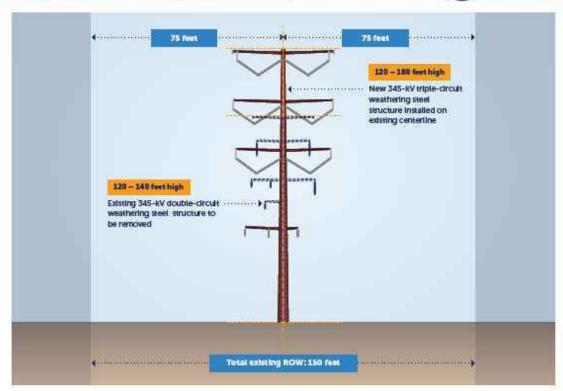
Docket No. E015, ET2/CN-22-416 Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415





Right-of-way needs: Segment two





Segment two: Line replacement

Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors using double-circuit 345-kV structures. Approximately 10 miles of this transmission line will be built to carry a 69-kV circuit on the same structures.



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Docket No. E015, ET2/CN-22-416 Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415





Three separate long-range transmission projects to connect near Big Oaks Substation, near Becker.



Northland Reliability Project

Segment two of the Northland Reliability Project proposes to replace two existing transmission lines with two double-circuit 345-kV transmission lines - one 345-kV line will connect to Big Oaks Substation and the second will connect to the Sherco Substation. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible electric grid as energy resources continue to evolve away from fossil fuels toward more renewable energy like wind and solar.

Learn more at:

northlandreliabilityproject.com connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com 218-864-6059

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket Numbers Certificate of Need: 22-416 Route Permit: 22-415





Alexandria to Big Oaks Project

Xcel Energy is planning to complete Phase 3 of the CapX2020 project, which is to add a second 345-kV circuit to the existing transmission line structures from Alexandria, Minnesota, to the Big Oaks Substation near Becker.

Learn more at:

AlexandriatoBigOaks.com AlexandriatoBigOaks@xcelenergy.com 888-231-7068

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket Numbers Certificate of Need: 22-538

Route Permit: 23-159

Minnesota Energy Connection

Xoel Energy is proposing to build a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line between the retiring Sherco coal plant near Becker and Lyon County in southwest Minnesota. The new transmission infrastructure is designed to enable more than 2,000 megawatts of renewable energy to replace the electricity produced by the coal plants.

Learn more at:

MNEnergyConnection.com MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com 888-292-4714

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: 22-131

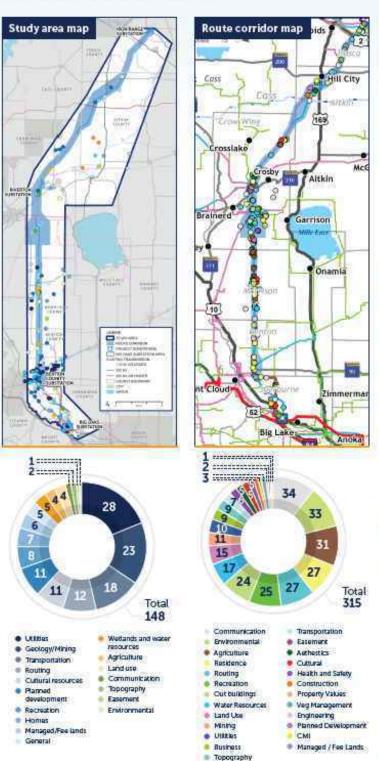


Appendix N Xcel ERage 141 of 176 Docket No. E015,ET2/CN-22-416 Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415-





What we heard





Docket No. E015, ET2/TL-22-415



Construction, restoration and maintenance

Typical preconstruction survey types

- Field surveys
- Wildlife surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Wetland and stream surveys
- Soil surveys

Construction and restoration



Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes



 Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed



▲ Foundation installation Foundation type may vary depending on structure



Assemble and set structures



▲ Wire installation



▲ Cleanup and restoration

A project representative will assess damages incurred during construction and contact each property owner to settle claims for any such damages. After construction is complete, damaged property will be restored as close as possible to its original condition. Landowners will be fairly reimbursed if damage occurred to crops, fences or other property during construction.



Permitting and agency coordination

Environmental permitting and approvals from appropriate federal, state and local agencies will be obtained once a final route is identified and prior to construction. The project will also coordinate construction activities with local government agencies and jurisdictions and other stakeholders.

Permitting process

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issues a certificate of need and route permit. The certificate of need shows there is a need for the power produced. A route permit is required for routing and construction of a transmission line. The PUC will make the final decision on the route.

Application for a certificate of need and a route permit will be in one application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. More information at https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities.

Other required permits will be applied for and granted prior to construction. More information on the permitting timeline will be available as the project develops.

PUC Alternative permitting process

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy intend to submit the Route Permit application under the Alternative permitting process set forth in Minn. R.7850.2800 to 7850.3900. Under the Alternative permitting process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit is tasked with preparing an environmental assessment on behalf of the PUC, for proposed high voltage transmission line facilities. The Alternative process can be used for several types of projects, including when a proposed transmission line of 200-kV or more follows existing transmission line right-of-way for at least 80% of its length. Under the Alternative process, an applicant is only required to submit a Route Permit application with one proposed route. More information can be found at https://mn.gov/puc/ activities/energy-facilities/power-plants-transmission-lines/ alternative-process.

Agency coordination

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are working with federal, state and local agencies, Tribes, tribal organizations and non-governmental organizations. The PUC and the Department of Commerce will lead the state permitting process. Other involved agencies include but are not limited to:

Federal

US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers

State

Minnesota Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, Office of the State Archaeologist and Pollution Control Agency

Local

Counties, cities and townships

Federally recognized Tribes and tribal organizations in Minnesota

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Upper Sioux Community, White Earth Nation, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



Connect with us

Questions? We want to hear from you.

northlandrelia bility project.com

connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

218-864-6059

January 2023



Routing opportunities and constraints

The criteria for route selection, set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 216E.03, subdivision 7, and Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, will guide our team's route development process. Project partners will site transmission lines to minimize impacts to human settlement and the environment in accordance with Minnesota Statutes and Rules and will guide the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) selection of the final route for the project. During the routing process, our team will identify route alternatives built on taking advantage of opportunities while understanding constraints. The routing process will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in the Certificate of Need and Route Permit application which will be filed with the Minnesota PUC.

Your input matters

We need your help to identify opportunities and constraints.

Opportunities

Typical existing corridor features that are oriented in the direction of the project.

- · Existing transmission line and utility corridors
- Highways and roads
- Property lines
- Field lines

Constraints

Typical area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration.

- · Agricultural uses, including organic farms
- Airports/air navigation facilities
- Cemeteries
- Communication towers*
- · Conservation areas/nature preserves
- Cultural/archaeological and historic resources*
- Floodplains (more difficult construction and could have sensitive species)
- Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands*
- Levees/dams
- Mines/quarries
- Pipelines*
- Potentially contaminated sites
- Railroads*
- · Religious facilities
- Residences (especially large clusters of homes)
- Scenic highways
- Schools
- Sensitive plant/animal species*
- · State/regional/local parks and trails
- Wells

^{*}Constraints with additional precautions and studies required.







Right-of-way acquisition

What is right-of-way?

The term right-of-way or ROW is typically a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

A document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on your property.

Project representatives will hold individual meetings with affected landowners to discuss right-of-way needs.



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An ofter based on fair market value is presented.





We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.



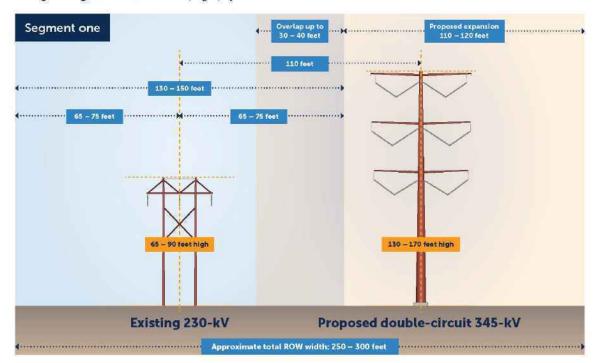
The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

4

Frequently asked questions

2 Can this project share right-of-way in segment one with an existing line?

There may be opportunities to overlap right-of-way with an existing line. We estimate up to 30-40 feet of right-of-way may be shared between the existing structure and the new structure depending on factors like engineering, construction and topography.



How large of an easement do you need?

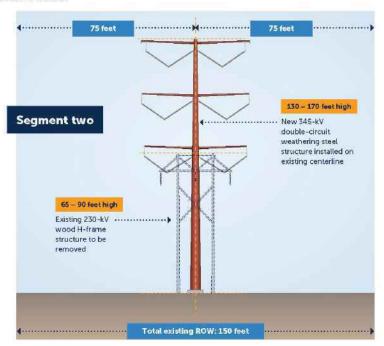
The typical right-of-way width will be at a minimum 150 feet for each transmission line (75 feet on each side of a transmission line). It is sometimes necessary to secure additional permanent right-of-way at angles or areas where we use specialty structures. It could also be necessary to secure temporary areas next to the permanent right-of-way for stringing and construction access.

Does segment two require a wider easement?

At this time, we do not anticipate requiring additional easement width for the line replacement along segment two (Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation). The replaced line is expected to be in the same ROW as the existing line.

How far will the transmission line be from by homes and businesses?

To the extent practicable, the project team will design the route to maximize separation from homes and businesses. Proximity to homes and businesses is one of the routing criteria for Minnesota Power and Great River Energy. We do not anticipate having structures within our 150-footwide right-of-way.



How does an easement affect my property?

The easement restricts the placement of buildings and structures within the easement area for safety and reliability and provides rights for access as well as clearing and removal of vegetation. Our project team will coordinate with landowners prior to construction. Additionally, easements stay with a property even if the ownership of a property changes.

What activities are allowed within the easement area?

In general, the land can continue to be used as before, provided that the use does not interfere with the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy encourage landowners on the final approved route to discuss the activities they plan to conduct in the easement area with a land agent.

Will eminent domain be used for this project?

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power intend to work with all landowners to reach voluntary agreements. In the event those agreements cannot be reached, then eminent domain proceedings may be necessary. In those instances, the Northland Reliability Project team encourages landowners to consult with their own counsel. The Northland Reliability Project team will continue to negotiate with landowners during an eminent domain proceedings and will dismiss the proceedings if an easement agreement is reached.





Comment Form

Thank you for providing feedback on the Northland Reliability Project. Please use the comment form below to submit a comment or join the email list to receive project updates.

	Name:		
	Organization (if any):		
//	Address:		
4	City:	State:	Zip:
//	Phone number:	Email:	
Ar	re you the owner of the property listed above	? OYes ONo	
W	ould you like to join our email list? • Yes	○ No	
C	omment:		
_			
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_			
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Ρl	lease provide any additional information abou	it your property tha	t you would like our project team to be aware of:
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w	ould you like a response back to your comme	nts? O Yes O No	
	If you answer was placed fill out your amail phone and for m	pailing address above	How to submit comment form: Drop in the comment box at the open house
n	If you answer yes, please fill out your email, phone and/or n	_	 Mail it back to our project team (see back side)
Ξ	Comments must be postmarked by May 12, 20 in the routing process.	uzs for consideration	Email connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com



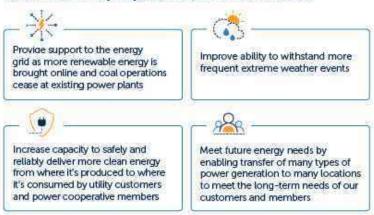


Supporting a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible electric grid as energy resources continue to evolve. The energy resources we use to serve our customers and members are changing, and the regional power grid we use to deliver that energy needs to change, too.

Project needs

The Northland Reliability Project will ensure the power grid in northern and central Minnesota continues to operate safely and reliably as energy resources in Minnesota and the regional power system continue to evolve. This project is also part of a large "Long Range Transmission Plan" portfolio approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, to support grid reliability across the Midwest. As generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewables, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:



Regulatory process participation

You can subscribe to receive updates from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC), Visit edockets.state.mn.us and enter the docket number you're interested in tracking. For information on the Certificate of Need use docket 22-416 and for information on the Route Permit use docket 22-415.

Schedule

We're in the midst of a robust stakeholder process as we prepare to apply for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late summer 2023.



*The schedule is subject to change.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy have a successful history of joint development and ownership of projects that support the reliability of our electric grid to meet the needs of our communities.

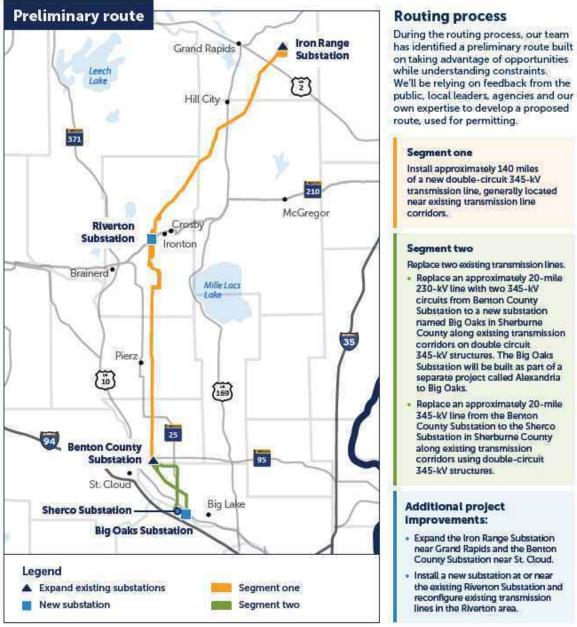
April 2023

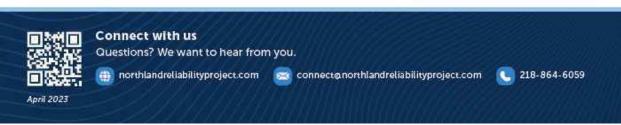
Overview Handout (back)

Northland Reliability Project









Information Packet





May 11, 2023

Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in the Northland Reliability Project. Because you requested more project information or a map, we're sending you an updated information packet. This packet details the progress we've made in our routing process and our identified preliminary route.

What is a preliminary route?

The preliminary route is a narrowed area being considered for the power line. We developed the preliminary route based on where the new power line will need to connect into substations, input gathered during our fall stakeholder workshops and winter public open houses, and the opportunity to route near existing utility corridors and land already being used for power lines. Using public input, we'll further narrow the area to create our final and proposed route.

Regulatory process participation

We will develop a proposed route that we will use to submit a Certificate of Need and Route Permit application with the PUC in late summer 2023. You can subscribe to receive updates from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC). Visit edockets.state.mn.us and enter the docket number you're interested in tracking. For information on the Certificate of Need use docket 22-416 and for information on the Route Permit use docket 22-415.

If you have additional questions, contact with us at 218-864-6059 or connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com. We'll respond within two business days. We look forward to connecting with you.

Sincerely.

Jim Atkinson

Manager, Environmental and Real Estate Minnesota Power

Jame B adeium

Enclosure:

(1) Information packet

(1) Parcel map

Dan Lesher

Manager, Transmission Permitting and Land Rights Great River Energy

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Packet overview

Thank you for your interest in the Northland Reliability Project. We appreciate you reviewing this information to learn about the project and provide input to help us route this transmission line.

Packet materials

This packet includes:

- · Information about the project
- Frequently asked questions
- · Routing process and criteria
- · Additional engagement
- · Feedback opportunities

Please read the materials and send us the comment form to share your valuable input with us. You can:

- Mail the comment form back to our team
- Scan and email it to us at: connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com
- Visit the project website to see our online comment map and complete the online comment form at northlandreliabilityproject.com
- Call the project team if you have any questions at <u>218-864-6059</u>

Comments will be accepted through May 12, 2023.



Connect with us

We want to hear from you.



connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

218-864-6059



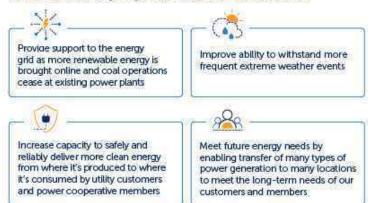


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April 2023

GREAT MIN Northland Reliability Project Preliminary route Routing process During the routing process, our team Iron Range has identified a preliminary route built Grand Rapids Substation on taking advantage of opportunities while understanding constraints. Leech Lake We'll be relying on feedback from the 2 public, local leaders, agencies and our Hill City own expertise to develop a proposed route, used for permitting. 371 Segment one Install approximately 140 miles of a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line McGregor corridors. Crosby Riverton Substation Ironton Segment two Replace two existing transmission lines. Brainerd* Replace an approximately 20-mile Mille Lacs 230-kV line with two 345-kV Lake circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors on double circuit Pierz 345-kV structures. The Big Oaks Substation will be built as part of a separate project called Alexandria to Big Oaks. 169 Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco 25 Substation in Sherburne County **Benton County** along existing transmission Substation 95 corridors using double-circuit 345-kV structures. St. Cloud Big Lake Additional project Sherco Substation Improvements: **Big Oaks Substation** Expand the Iron Range Substation near Grand Rapids and the Benton County Substation near St. Cloud. Legend Install a new substation at or near ▲ Expand existing substations Segment one the existing Riverton Substation and reconfigure existing transmission New substation Segment two lines in the Riverton area. Connect with us Questions? We want to hear from you. northlandreliabilityproject.com connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com 218-864-6059

April 2023

Frequently asked questions

Why is the Northland Reliability Project needed?

The Northland Reliability Project will ensure the power grid in northern and central Minnesota continues to operate safely and reliably as energy resources in Minnesota and the regional power system continue to evolve. As generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewable energy like wind and solar, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:

- Provide system support as the use of fossil-fueled baseload generators continues to evolve.
- Facilitate increased capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it is produced to where it is needed by our customers and members.
- Enhance system resiliency during extreme
- Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification.

How will I benefit from this project? Why is this project important to the electric grid in Minnesota?

The Northland Reliability Project will allow Minnesota Power and Great River Energy to continue delivering reliable, cleaner energy to our customers and members. This project will enhance the stability of our regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid so any type of generation, and from more locations, could be connected to meet the long-term energy needs of our customers and members. The Northland Reliability Project is part of a large portfolio of regional transmission projects approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, in the summer of 2022. All of the projects in that portfolio work together to provide broad regional benefits in addition to local reliability benefits. While the Northland Reliability Project will directly support reliability in northern and central Minnesota, it supports reliability well beyond Minnesota, as well.

What are transmission lines and substations and what do they do?

Electricity is generated at power plants, wind or solar facilities and other generation sites before it is delivered across a complex, interconnected system of power lines and substations to electric customers and cooperative members. Think of transmission lines as the interstates, or the super highways of the electric system. Transmission lines carry large amounts of high-voltage electricity from generation sites to substations, where it is "stepped down" to lower voltages so it can be delivered across the electric distribution system, and can be safely used at homes, farms and businesses.

What is the routing study area?

The study area is the geographic area in consideration for the route of the power line. We developed the study area based on where the new transmission line will need to connect into existing infrastructure. We looked for opportunities to follow existing utility corridors and use land already being used for power lines whenever it makes sense. We then narrowed down the area to create a route corridor. The area will continue to be narrowed based on the state of Minnesota's requirements, as well as public input, engineering. permitting and construction feasibility.

How much will this project cost and how will it be

The Northland Reliability Project is one of 18 regional transmission projects approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, in the summer of 2022. Because the entire region benefits from the Northland Reliability Project, the cost is spread across all of the utilities who are members of MISO in the region. The Northland Reliability Project's estimated overall cost is approximately \$970 million and ultimately, everyone who uses electricity in the MISO region will pay a share through their electric bills as costs flow through to electric utility customers and electric cooperative members. While there is cost associated with new transmission, transmission makes up a small portion of electric bills and the value of this project is high. The project is one of many that will ensure reliability in our region as our generation resources evolve. MISO estimates the benefit of bringing on more low-cost renewable energy, along with other benefits, outweighs the cost of these projects by two to four times.

What is this schedule for this project?

This project is in the early planning stages and includes a robust stakeholder engagement process. We'll apply

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for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and work with local jurisdictions, landowners, customers, members and agencies while following permitting requirements throughout project development and construction. The proposed schedule is as follows:

- 2022 Project planning and initial stakeholder engagement
- 2023 Routing, public engagement and permitting
- 2024-2026 Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, real estate and public engagement
- 2027-2030 Construction
- 2030 Anticipated in-service*
 - *The schedule is subject to change.

O Can I get involved? Will my input be taken into account during the routing process?

Yes and yes! We need your input during the routing process. You can get information and provide input by visiting us at workshops and public meetings, browsing this website and more. Property owners within the notice corridor will receive information throughout project development and we are always available to discuss the project with each individual property owner. Finally, you can stay up to date on project happenings by visiting this website regularly and signing up for future email updates.

How will the routing process work?

We start by identifying a study area and through the routing process, ultimately narrow down to a specific route. Our routing process includes robust community engagement. You're the experts in your communities and we need you to share your insights so we can have a more complete picture of opportunities and constraints in your area. We analyze and study cost, environmental impacts, engineering, constructability and more. After we receive your input and analyze everything we have heard and studied, we will select a proposed route to submit in our Route Permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For this project, we will be submitting an application for a combined Certificate of Need and Route Permit in late summer of 2023.

What if I have personal or commercial land located on the proposed route?

If you have property along the preliminary route, you will receive communications about the project by mail and you will be invited to public open house meetings. If you own property on the final route that is approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, a project team member will contact you and begin the process for obtaining an easement on your property for the project's right-of-way needs. A right-of-way is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line and it is typically secured in the form of an easement. The easement is the document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to use the portion of your property for the transmission line project's needs. More information on the easement process will be made available when we have a better idea of what our proposed route will be.

What is a preliminary route?

The preliminary route is a narrowed area within the route corridor being considered for the power line. We developed the preliminary route based on where the new power line will need to connect into substations, input gathered during our stakeholder workshops and phase 1 public open houses, and the opportunity to route near existing utility corridors and land already being used for power lines. Using public input, we'll develop the proposed route for the Certificate of Need and Route Permit application from the preliminary route.

What will the transmission line structure look like?

We are proposing 120-180 foot-high single-pole steel structures with arms on both sides of each structure to carry the lines. For this type of structure, we anticipate having about five to six for each mile of our line. Although this is our proposed typical design, this could change based on environmental needs, permitting requirements and engineering standards. We'll continue to share more details as they become available and we complete more engineering activities.

Who can I talk to if I have other questions on this project?

If you have questions not answered here, you can fill out the comment form, email connect@ northlandreliabilityproject.com or call 218-864-6059. Each comment goes to our project team and one of our team members will get back to you.



Questions? We want to hear from you.



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218-864-6059

April 2023





Our routing process

Routing a transmission line is no small task. The state of Minnesota has statutes and rules that guide the route development process and help minimize a project's impact to human settlement and the environment. Input from you, local leaders and agencies as well as our own expertise is critical as we develop and finalize a route.

The graphic below shows how our routing process works. Please note that at each point during this process, and even after we submit our Certificate of Need and Route Permit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, there will be opportunities for public input.

Public engagement

Define study area

Our team started by using data from publicly available sources and federal, state and local agencies to define a study area. We considered existing utility corridors, existing land use, resource areas and other data to help identify opportunities to eventually identify a proposed route.

Define route corridor

The route corridor is a narrowed area considered for the power line. We developed the route corridor based on where the new power line will need to connect into substations, input gathered during our fall 2022 stakeholder workshops, and the opportunity to route near existing utility corridors and land already being used for power lines.

We are here

Define preliminary route

The preliminary route is a narrowed area within the route corridor being considered for the power line. We developed the preliminary route based on where the new power line will need to connect into substations, input gathered during our stakeholder workshops and phase 1 public open houses, and the opportunity to route near existing utility corridors and land already being used for power lines. Using public input, we'll develop the proposed route for the Certificate of Need and Route Permit application from the preliminary route.

Identify proposed route to submit in the Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

We will develop a proposed route that we will use to submit a Certificate of Need and Route Permit application with the PUC in late summer 2023. You can subscribe to receive updates from the PUC. Visit edockets.state.mn.us and enter the docket number you're interested in tracking. For information on the Certificate of Need use docket 22-416 and for information on the Route Permit use docket 22-415.



Routing opportunities and constraints

The criteria for route selection, set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 216E.03, subdivision 7, and Minnesota Rule 7850.4100, will guide our team's route development process. Project partners will site transmission lines to minimize impacts to human settlement and the environment in accordance with Minnesota Statutes and Rules and will guide the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) selection of the final route for the project. During the routing process, our team will identify a preliminary route built on taking advantage of opportunities while understanding constraints. The routing process will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in the Certificate of Need and Route Permit application which will be filed with the Minnesota PUC in late summer 2023.

Your input matters

We need your help to identify opportunities and constraints in the project area. Use the information on this handout to help us identify opportunities and sensitivities on survey, map and/or comment form included in your packet.

Opportunities

Typical existing corridor features that are oriented in the direction of the project.

- Existing transmission line and utility corridors
- Highways and roads
- Property lines
- Field lines

Constraints

Typical area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration.

- Agricultural uses, including organic farms
- Airports/air navigation facilities
- Cemeteries
- Communication towers*
- Conservation areas/nature preserves
- Cultural/archaeological and historic resources*
- Floodplains (more difficult construction and could have sensitive species)
- Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands*
- Levees/dams
- Mines/quarries
- Pipelines*
- Potentially contaminated sites
- Railroads*
- Religious facilities
- Residences (especially large clusters of homes)
- Scenic highways
- Sensitive plant/animal species*
- State/regional/local parks and trails.

*Constraints with additional precautions and studies required.

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Right-of-way acquisition

What is right-of-way?

The term right-of-way or ROW is typically a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation and maintenance of a road or transmission line. Right-of-way is typically secured as an easement on a property.

What is an easement?

A document allowing Minnesota Power and Great River Energy the right to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on a landowner's property.

Project representatives will hold individual meetings with affected landowners to discuss right-of-way needs.



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.





We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement, An easement is recorded.

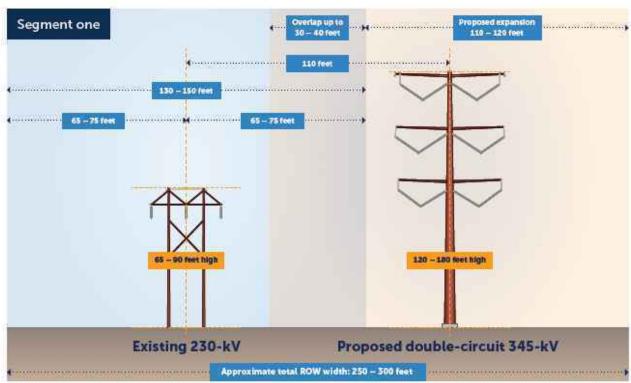


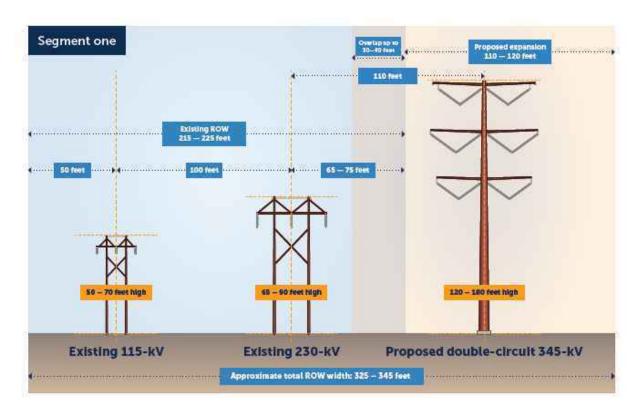
The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

Frequently asked questions

Can this project share right-of-way in segment one with an existing line?

There may be opportunities to overlap right-of-way with an existing line. We estimate up to 30-40 feet of right-of-way may be shared between the existing structure and the new structure depending on factors like engineering, construction and topography.



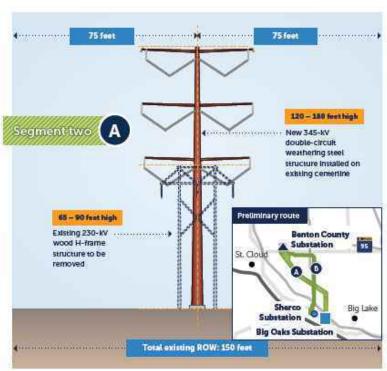


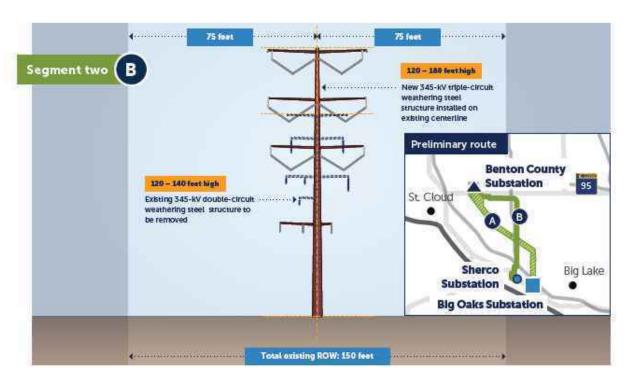
How large of an easement do you need?

The typical right-of-way width will be at a minimum 150 feet for each transmission line (75 feet on each side of a transmission line). It is sometimes necessary to secure additional permanent right-of-way at angles or areas where we use specialty structures. It could also be necessary to secure temporary areas next to the permanent right-of-way for stringing and construction access.

Does segment two require a wider easement?

At this time, we do not anticipate requiring additional easement width for the line replacement along segment two (Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation). The replaced line is expected to be in the same ROW as the existing line.





How far will the transmission line be from by homes and businesses?

To the extent practicable, the project team will design the route to maximize separation from homes and businesses. Proximity to homes and businesses is one of the routing criteria for Minnesota Power and Great River Energy. We do not anticipate having structures within our 150-foot-wide right-of-way.

How does an easement affect my property?

The easement restricts the placement of buildings and structures within the easement area for safety and reliability and provides rights for access as well as clearing and removal of vegetation. Our project team will coordinate with landowners prior to construction. Additionally, easements stay with a property even if the ownership of a property changes.

What activities are allowed within the easement area?

In general, the land can continue to be used as before, provided that the use does not interfere with the construction, operation and maintenance of the transmission line. Minnesota Power and Great River Energy encourage landowners on the final approved route to discuss the activities they plan to conduct in the easement area with a land agent.

Will eminent domain be used for this project?

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power intend to work with all landowners to reach voluntary agreements. In the event those agreements cannot be reached, then eminent domain proceedings may be necessary. In those instances, the Northland Reliability Project team encourages landowners to consult with their own counsel. The Northland Reliability Project team will continue to negotiate with landowners during an eminent domain proceedings and will dismiss the proceedings if an easement agreement is reached.







Construction, restoration and maintenance

Typical preconstruction survey types

- Field surveys
- Wildlife surveys
- Archaeological surveys
- Wetland and stream surveys
- Soil surveys

Construction and restoration



 Initial surveying, right-of-way clearing and access routes



 Structure staking, surveying and soils investigations as needed



Foundation installation Foundation type may vary depending on structure



Assemble and set structures



▲ Wire installation



Cleanup and restoration

A project representative will assess damages incurred during construction and contact each property owner to settle claims for any such damages. After construction is complete, damaged property will be restored as close as possible to its original condition. Landowners will be fairly reimbursed if damage occurred to crops, fences or other property during construction.

Northland Reliability Project GREAT RIVER SHERGY.

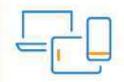




Additional engagement opportunities

In addition to this packet, there are many ways to stay connected and share your input.

Virtual open house



Explore our virtual, self-guided open house available from May 1-12 at northlandreliabilityproject.com.

Interactive comment map

Visit our interactive comment map at northlandrellablityproject.com. Drop a pin on the interactive map to share geographically specific routing

opportunities or constraints in your community.



Meeting with the project team



Schedule a meeting with the project team by emailing us or leaving a message on our hotline.

Printable detailed maps

Visit the project website to view and print detailed sections of the study





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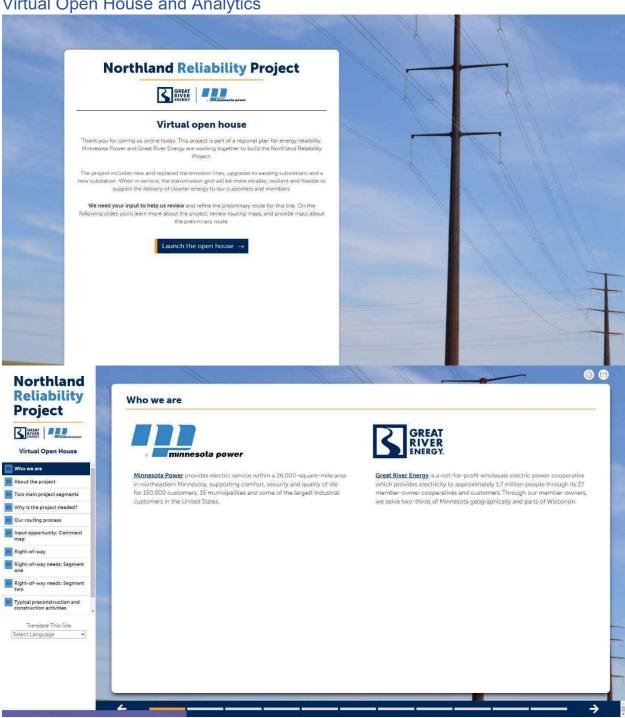
Comment Form

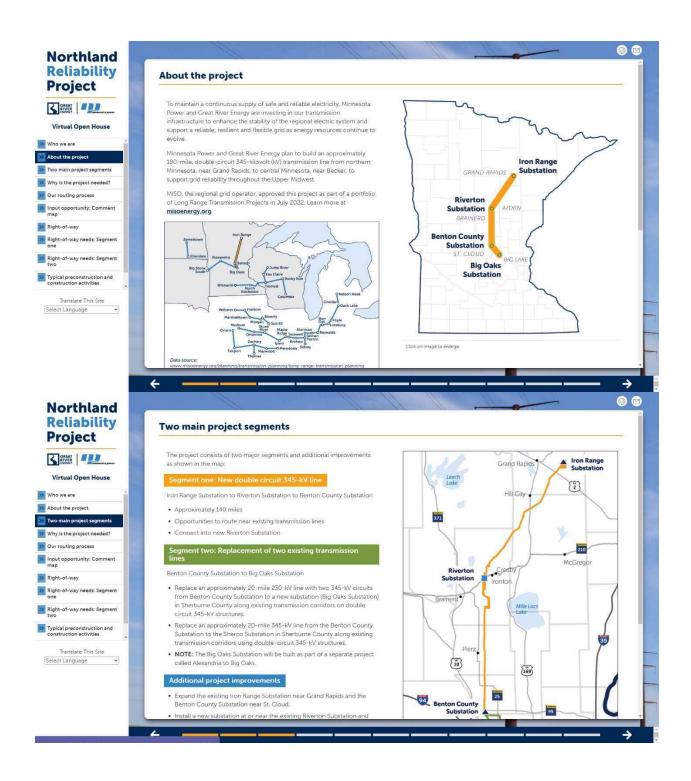
Thank you for providing feedback on the Northland Reliability Project. Please use the comment form below to submit a comment or join the email list to receive project updates.

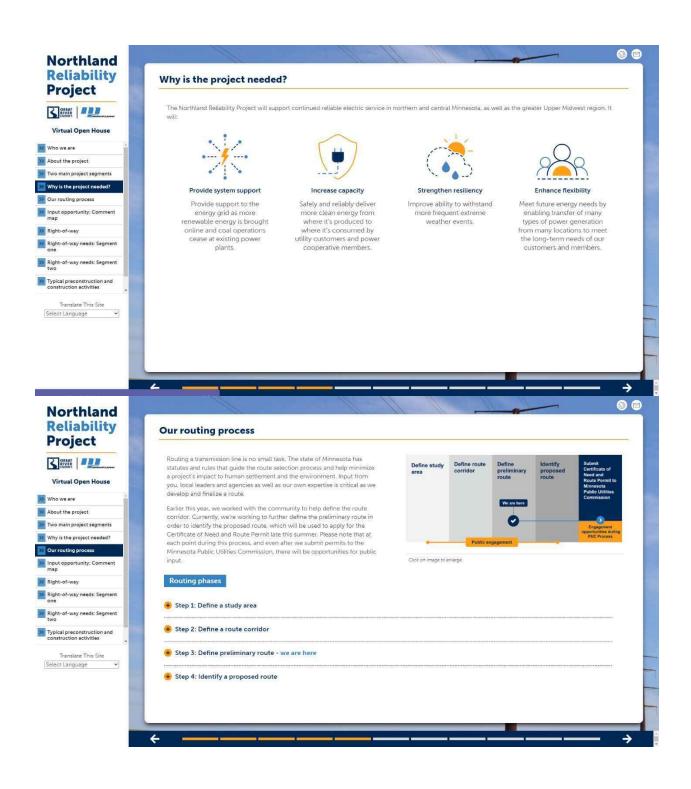
///	Name:		
///	Organization (if any):		
///	Address:		
//	City:	State:	Zip:
//	Phone number:	Email:	
Are	you the owner of the property li	sted above? O Yes O No	
Wou	ıld you like to join our email list?	○ Yes ○ No	
Con	nment:		
Plea	se provide any additional inform	ation about your property tha	t you would like our project team to be aware of:
Wou	ıld you like a response back to yo	ur comments? O Yes O No	Hourto cubmit commant form:
If ye	ou answer yes, please fill out your email, pl	one and/or mailing address above	How to submit comment form: Drop in the comment box at the open house
ye	 Comments must be postmarked by 		Mail it back to our project team (see back side)
=>	in the routing process.	y may 12, 2023 for consideration	, Email connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

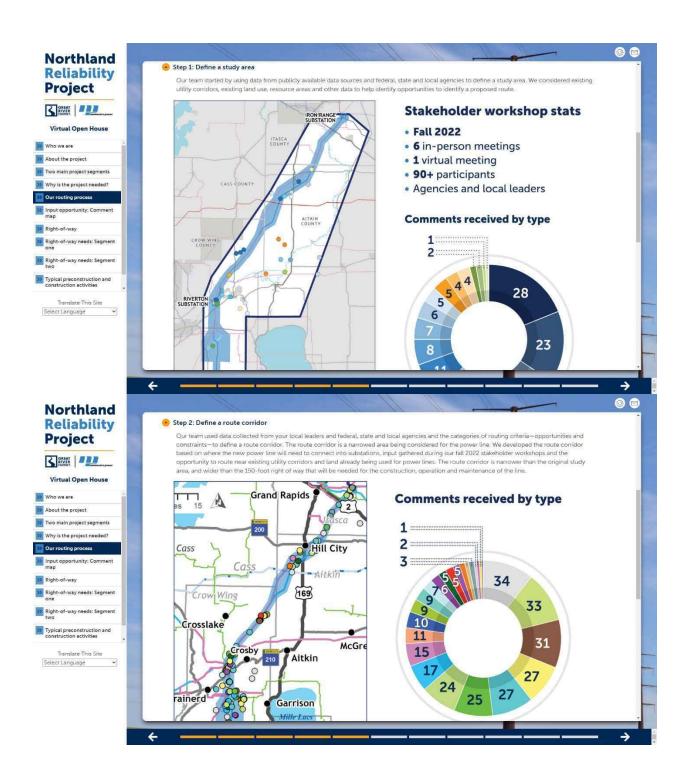
	Place postage here
Northland Reliability Project	
S OSEAT PROJECT	
12300 Elm Creek Blvd. N.	

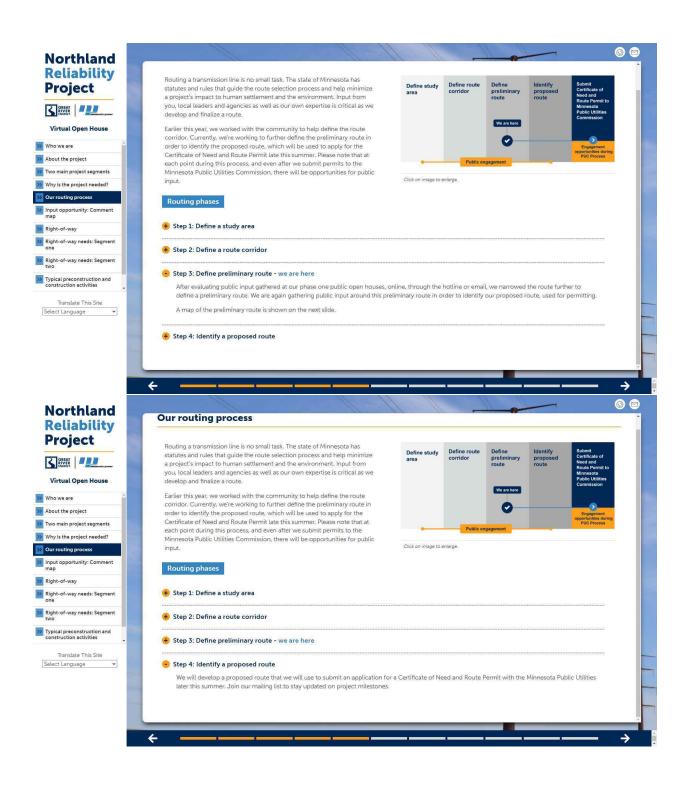
Virtual Open House and Analytics

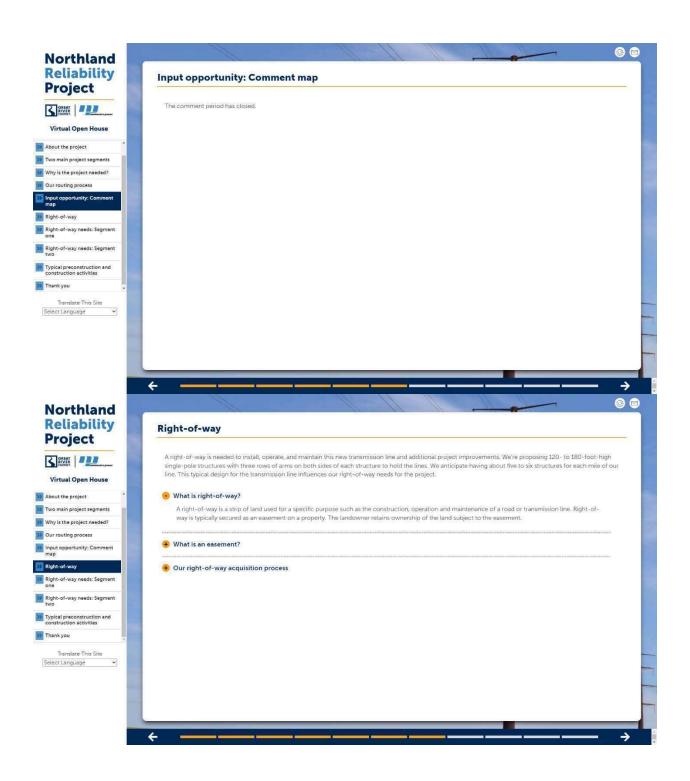


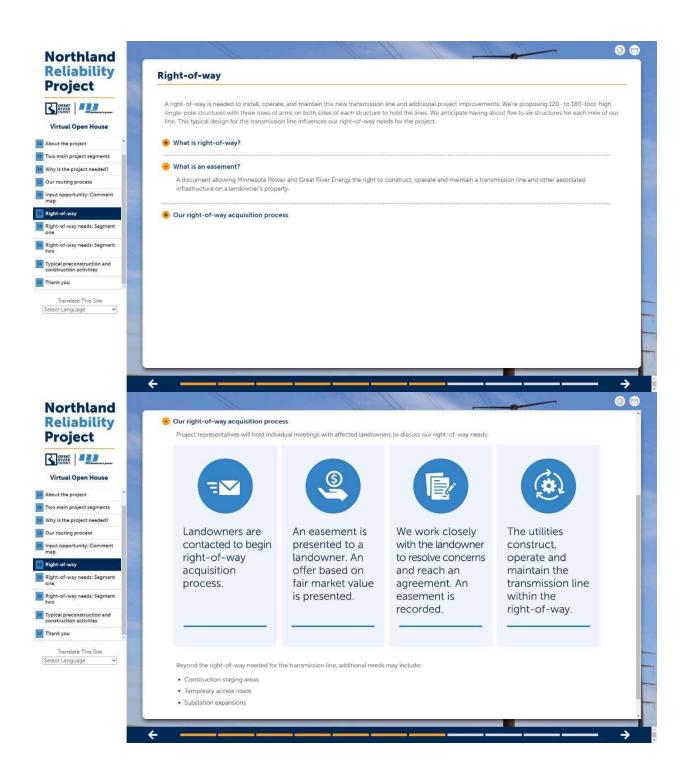


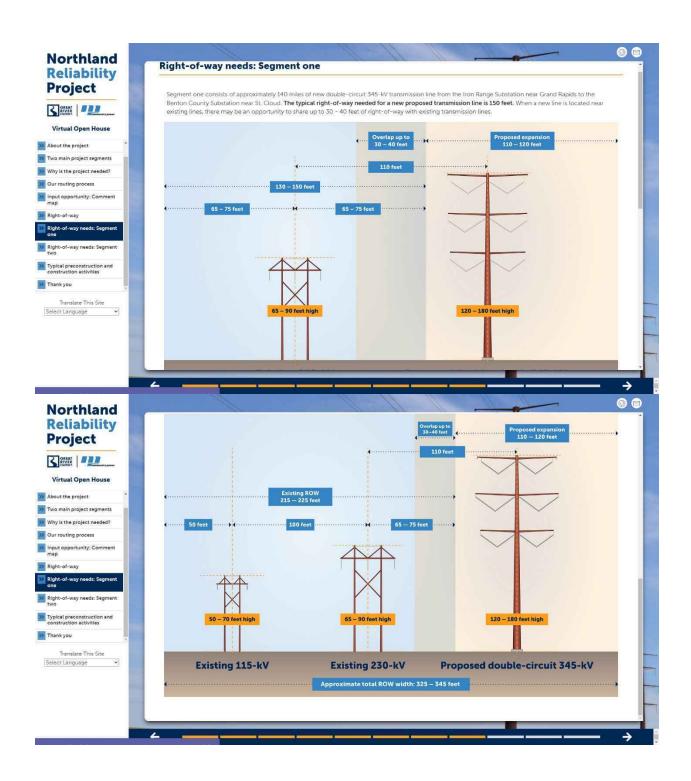


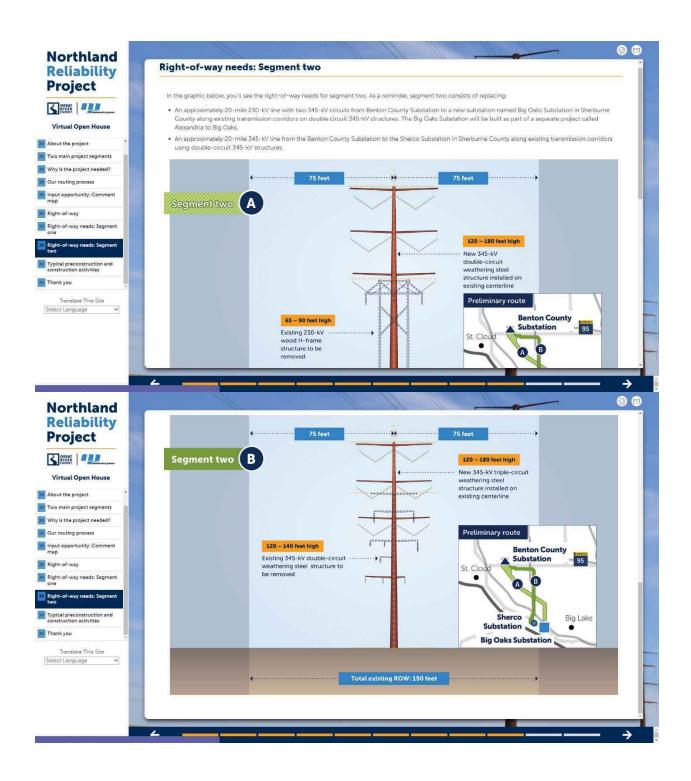


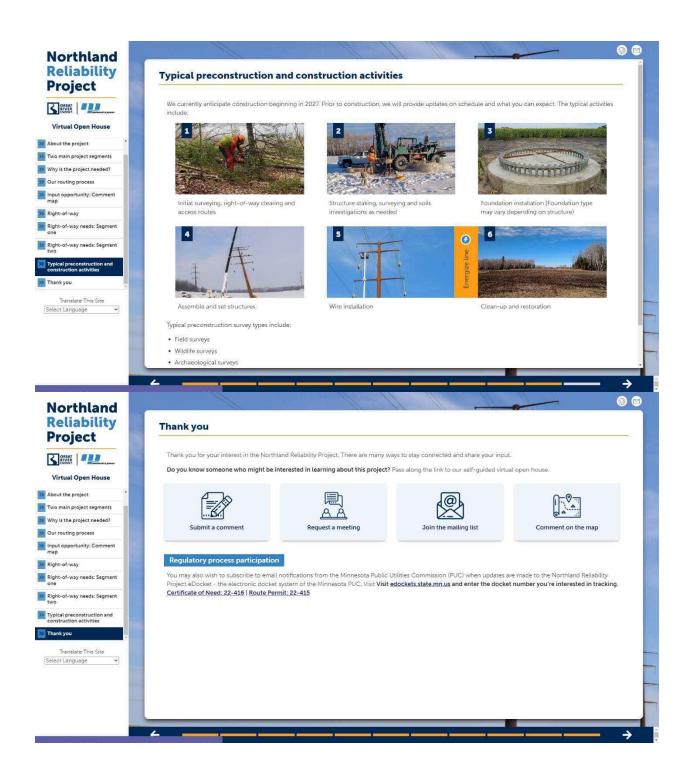












There was a total of 391 views and 234 total users that visited the virtual open house.

Comments Analysis

Public comments were collected in a variety of ways, both in-person and virtually. The tables below indicate the number of comments, regarding any topic, received during the second phase of engagement and through which channel; or the number of comments by category.

Number of Comments

Channel	Number of Comments
Project hotline	20
Project email	27
Online comment map	21
Online comment form	23
Mailed comment form	0
In-person comment form	6
GIS station and tabletop map comments	136

Comments by Category

Comments by Category	Open Houses	Online, Hotline, and Email with Location	Total
Aesthetics	4	-	4
Agriculture	9	-	9
Business	2	-	2
Communication	36	1	37
Construction	5	-	5
Cultural	5	1	6
Easement	2	2	4
Engineering	6	-	6
Environmental	9	7	16
Health and Safety	3	-	3
Land Use	10	15	25
Map Request		42	42
Out Buildings	2	-	2
Planned Development	3	-	3
Property Damage	-	3	3
Recreation	7	1	8
Residence	13	15	28
Routing	12	18	30
Topography	1	-	1
Transportation	2	-	2
Utilities	-	1	1
Veg Management	1	-	1
Water Resources	4	2	6
Grand Total	136	108	244