

Northland Reliability Project



Project Updates

Benton, Morrison, Crow Wing counties – Winter/Spring 2026

Three construction phases

- **Phase 1 (2025-2027)**
Two existing transmission line rebuilds
- **Phase 2 (2026-2028)**
Benton County Substation to Cuyuna Series Comp Station & realignments
- **Phase 3 (2027-2029)**
Cuyuna Series Comp Station to Iron Range Substation



Phase 2 construction

Starting in 2026



2026 activities



Engineering: Design in progress; 60% early March



Real Estate: In progress



Permitting: DNR Land & Water Crossings, 404 Permitting, County & Township (Road use/driveway), Stormwater



Pre-construction: Right-of-way and structure staking, surveying and soils investigations



Construction (fall): Material delivery, mat installation, foundation installation



▲ *Cherry Park Substation site excavation.*

Real estate process



Easement process



What landowners can expect during construction

We do our best to minimize impacts during construction. The following temporary impacts may occur:

- Noise, dust and lights for nearby residents
- Equipment (pick-up trucks, tree-clearing machines, drilling rigs and wire-stringing vehicles), materials and construction crews located along the road and in project right-of-way
- Work during daytime hours with potential for some work to be completed outside normal working hours (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.)
- Construction area staking
- Removal of all trees and tall vegetation within the easement area
- Erosion control measures installed to reduce impacts to streams and wetland areas
- Matting to minimize surface disturbance
- Temporary lane and road closures
- Signage and traffic management



Travelers and snowmobilers be cautious along trails and ditches near active construction sites.

Continued project communications



Project email, information line and website with construction map



Land agent updates and notifications



Mail and email updates



Local leader project update presentations



Upcoming communication: Periodic newsletters – both mailed and emailed

Northland Reliability Project



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