



For Release: April 20, 2023

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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 presentation 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
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 105 <sup>th</sup> 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 [northlandreliabilityproject.com](http://northlandreliabilityproject.com). Individuals can also request a mailed informational packet by emailing [connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com](mailto:connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com) 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 Long Range 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 [northlandreliabilityproject.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.

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