

Northland Reliability Project

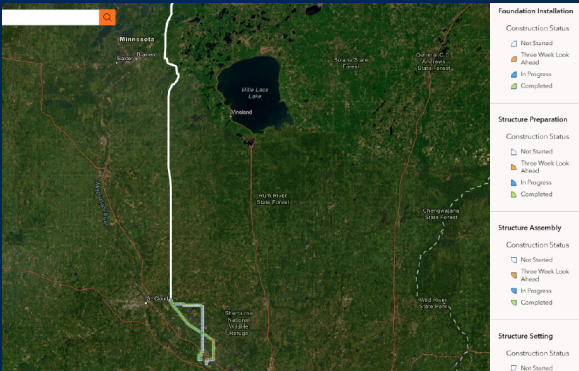


12300 Elm Creek Blvd N
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Follow along online

The interactive construction map on our website shows the construction status for each structure and line segment. Each structure is divided into four quadrants representing key phases of work: the top left shows foundation installation, the top right shows structure preparation, the bottom left shows structure assembly, and the bottom right shows structure setting.

This data is updated regularly, so follow along and connect with our Project Team if you have any questions.



Questions or suggestions

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Northland Reliability Project



Construction continues in 2026

Construction continues on the Northland Reliability Project in central and northern Minnesota. This multiyear project is being built in three phases starting in the southern portion of the route and moving north. Throughout construction, the Project Team remains focused on safety, minimizing impacts, and maintaining clear communication with landowners and local communities.

Phase 1 Construction activities (2025–2027)

Phase 1 construction, which began in 2025, will continue this year along existing transmission corridors. Key activities occurring this fall include assembly and setting of new structures and wire installation via helicopter. Structure removal of wooden H-frames and steel monopoles will also continue.

Civil work, grading and re-seeding is nearly complete at the Cherry Park and Benton County Substations. Crews continue to work on dismantling the Riverton 115-kV Substation, located on the south side of Little Rabbit Lake. Foundation work continues inside the Riverton 230-kV Substation fenceline.

Environmental inspection and monitoring will continue throughout construction.

Phase 2 Construction activities (2026–2028)

Phase 2 construction began earlier this year and included land rights, engineering, and local and environmental permitting. Starting this fall, landowners may see survey crews, material delivery, access and wetland mat installation, tree clearing and mowing, and structure foundation work.

In support of Phases 2 and 3 of the Project, civil and grading work began at the Cuyuna Series Compensation Station and Iron Range Substation. Materials storage areas will be located in Pierz and Brainerd for Phase 2 construction activities.

Construction will continue to progress in phases, with advance notice provided to landowners ahead of work in their area whenever possible. **For questions and comments, please connect with your land agent or the Project Team.**



Have you seen our new construction progress map? Visit our website at: <https://northlandreliabilityproject.com/construction/> to see what's happening in your area.

What landowners can expect during construction

The Project Team works to minimize impacts during construction; however, some temporary activities and disturbances are expected as work progresses.

Landowners may notice:

-  **Construction crews and equipment** in and near the Project right-of-way, including trucks, tree clearing equipment, drilling rigs, concrete trucks, and wire stringing vehicles
-  **Noise, dust, and lighting** near active construction areas
-  **Work occurring primarily during daytime hours**, with some activities potentially extending outside the typical 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. window when needed to safely complete critical tasks
-  **Vegetation clearing and mowing** within the easement area to safely construct and operate the transmission line
-  **Installation of access mats** to reduce ground disturbance
-  **Erosion control measures** near streams and wetlands
-  **Temporary lane or road closures**, along with signage and traffic management
-  **Construction staking** to mark work areas



Road and recreational travelers, including trail users and snowmobilers, are encouraged to use caution near trails, roads and ditches where construction is underway.

Managing trees and vegetation in the right-of-way

As construction of the Northland Reliability Project continues, one of the most visible activities landowners may see is vegetation management. From tree clearing to restoration, these efforts help create a safe and reliable transmission corridor while also protecting environmental resources and accommodating landowner needs whenever possible.



Why vegetation management matters

We developed a Vegetation Management Plan to inform landowners and communities about vegetation and natural resources management. To safely construct, operate and maintain transmission lines, vegetation must be managed within the right-of-way (ROW). Proper vegetation management helps prevent trees and other tall-growing vegetation from interfering with transmission facilities, while allowing crews to safely access the line for inspections, maintenance and emergency repairs.



Protecting Minnesota’s natural resources

The project corridor crosses a diverse landscape that includes forests, agricultural land, wetlands and waterways. Vegetation management activities are planned and conducted with these resources in mind.

To reduce environmental impacts, construction crews follow best management practices such as minimizing disturbance to sensitive areas, using mats, implementing erosion-control measures, and restoring disturbed areas after construction. In some locations, work timing is adjusted to protect wildlife and sensitive habitats. Specifically, clearing of trees will occur between November 1, 2026, and April 15, 2027.

The Project has also completed environmental and rare plant surveys to identify sensitive resources and guide protection measures throughout construction.



Restoration is part of the plan

Vegetation management does not end when construction is complete. Following construction activities, disturbed areas are inspected and restored as appropriate. Temporary restoration through seeding may be used as a quick means to minimize soil erosion and reduce the potential for spreading noxious weeds.

Depending on site conditions, restoration may include removal of cleared vegetation, disking or grading, seeding non-agricultural areas or planting crops. In many locations, existing vegetation is expected to naturally reestablish over time.



Working with landowners

Because landowners continue to use much of the property within and adjacent to transmission ROW, Project representatives work closely with property owners before, during and after construction activities.

Before vegetation clearing begins, landowners receive advance notice about planned activities. Landowners can request to keep wood generated during clearing operations. Requested trees, logs or wood chips will be placed outside the ROW, and unwanted materials are removed from the property.

Tree clearing is planned for November 2026 to April 2027 in Phase 2 from St. Cloud to Riverton. The ROW will be cleared from edge to edge and mowed. Please connect with your land agent if you have planned activities in the ROW and/or if you want to keep the wood material.

Herbicide use

Unless otherwise requested by the landowner, herbicides may be used to prevent the regrowth of woody vegetation after it has been cleared, or to control invasive and noxious weed species. When herbicides are planned, affected landowners will receive advance notice describing the products that may be used and the application methods. Herbicide use must comply with applicable state and federal regulations, as well as product-specific application requirements.

Preventing noxious weeds and invasive species

To minimize spreading noxious weeds, the Project is using mats on access routes and work pads, and requires equipment to be cleaned before entering work areas and between known infested and non-infested locations. Weed-free erosion-control materials and seed mixes are used where appropriate. These practices help protect agricultural lands, natural areas and restored habitats throughout the Project corridor.



Ongoing maintenance

During operations, crews will conduct aerial or ground surveys of the right-of-way every year to support a safe and reliable corridor. As a result, periodic clearing of vegetation and “danger trees” (trees that are leaning, dead, damaged or decaying and could fall into the transmission line) is expected.



If you have questions or concerns regarding vegetation management on your property, please reach out to our land agents. **Contact information can be found on the back side of this newsletter.**