

Northland Reliability Project



12300 Elm Creek Blvd N
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Local vendor spotlight

When our team is in St. Cloud, Bo Diddley's Deli is a go-to stop for a quick, satisfying lunch. It's the kind of place that delivers exactly what you want from a neighborhood deli: solid sandwiches, fast service, and a laid-back atmosphere that makes it easy to refuel and get back to work. A local favorite we're happy to support.

www.bodiddleysdeli.com/st-cloud



Questions or suggestions

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Northland Reliability Project



2026 Construction season underway!



Construction continues on the Northland Reliability Project in central and northern Minnesota. This multi year 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. Activities in 2026 include material delivery, installation of access mats, foundation installation, assembly and setting of new structures, wire installation, and cleanup. Grading is mostly complete and structure framing will start at the Cherry Park / Benton County Substation. Environmental inspection and monitoring will continue throughout construction.

Phase 2

Construction activities (2026–2028)

Phase 2 construction begins in 2026 between the Cherry Park / Benton County Substation and the Cuyuna Series Compensation Station, including select realignments. This year's work includes ongoing engineering and design, real estate and permitting activities, and preconstruction efforts such as right-of-way and structure staking, surveying, and soil investigations. Later in the year, landowners may see material delivery, access mat installation, tree clearing and mowing, and structure foundation work.

Grading and earth work will start at the Cuyuna Series Compensation Station. Removal of the Riverton 115 kV Substation, located on the southside of Little Rabbit Lake, will begin.

Construction will continue to progress in phases, with advance notice provided to landowners ahead of work in their area whenever possible.



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
- **Vegetation clearing and mowing** within the easement area to safely construct and operate the transmission line
- **Installation of access mats** to reduce ground disturbance
- **Noise, dust, and lighting** near active construction areas
- **Erosion control measures** near streams and wetlands
- **Temporary lane or road closures**, along with signage and traffic management
- **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
- **Construction staking** to mark work areas



Travelers and recreational users are encouraged to use caution near trails, roads, and ditches where construction is underway.

Safety spotlight:

Putting safety first every day

Safety is built into every part of construction on the Northland Reliability Project, starting before crews ever leave the construction yard. Each workday begins with a daily tailgate meeting, where crews gather to review the plan for the day, discuss potential hazards, and make sure everyone understands how the work will be done safely.

During these meetings, crews talk through where they are going, how they will access the work area, and what activities are planned. Digital maps are reviewed on tablets and mobile devices so crews can clearly see approved routes, work zones, and any special considerations along the way. This helps prevent surprises and ensures everyone is aligned before work begins.

Tailgate meetings also provide time to review lessons learned from previous days, trending safety concerns, and reminders about housekeeping, equipment staging, and communication between crews. These conversations encourage workers to speak up, ask questions, and look out for one another throughout the day.



Inclement weather safety:

Crews regularly discuss weather conditions during tailgate meetings and adjust plans as needed. This may include modifying work activities, increasing rest breaks, securing equipment, or delaying work during high winds, lightning, extreme cold, or other unsafe conditions.



Spill prevention and response:

Crews are trained to prevent spills and respond quickly if one occurs. Daily reminders reinforce proper handling of materials, equipment inspections, and clear reporting procedures so issues can be addressed safely and efficiently.

By taking time each day to plan, communicate, and adapt, construction teams reinforce a strong safety culture focused on protecting workers, landowners, and the communities where work is taking place.

Meet the construction monitors and coordinators

Large infrastructure projects like the Northland Reliability Project involve many moving parts, especially when construction occurs across miles of land, waterways, roads, and environmentally sensitive areas. To help ensure construction is completed safely, responsibly, and in compliance with permits and landowner agreements, several types of construction monitors and coordinators are actively involved throughout the project.

These professionals work in the field every day, alongside construction crews, to identify issues early, protect sensitive resources, and keep construction moving forward appropriately.



Environmental coordinators

Environmental Coordinators are full time, on site members of the construction team. Their primary role is to ensure construction activities follow environmental permits, plans, and restrictions. They are the first point of contact for construction crews when environmental questions arise and provide daily guidance on permit conditions.

Environmental Coordinators inspect active work areas, communicate environmental requirements during daily job briefings, and ensure crews understand when they are working near environmentally sensitive areas. They also oversee erosion control measures, spill response, vegetation management, and stormwater inspections. When issues are identified, Environmental Coordinators work with project managers and environmental inspectors to resolve concerns quickly and prevent small issues from becoming larger problems.

As construction expands geographically or moves into more sensitive areas, additional Environmental Coordinators may be added to ensure adequate coverage.



Biological monitors

Biological Monitors are specialists who focus on protecting natural resources such as rare plants, wildlife, and nesting birds. These monitors are mobilized when construction is planned in areas identified as environmentally sensitive.

Their work includes observing construction activities in these areas, conducting required surveys ahead of ground disturbing work, and documenting conditions through daily monitoring reports. If a protected resource is identified or at risk, Biological Monitors can monitor construction and the natural resource and coordinate next steps with the environmental team to avoid impacts.



Environmental inspectors

Environmental Inspectors represent the project owners in the field and provide an additional layer of oversight. Their role is to independently monitor construction activities for compliance with permits, environmental plans, and project agreements.

Environmental Inspectors conduct daily inspections, review upcoming construction schedules, and coordinate closely with Environmental Coordinators to identify sensitive resources ahead of construction. They also verify that work stays within approved work areas, confirm that erosion control measures are functioning properly, and document compliance levels.

If construction activities do not meet permit requirements, Environmental Inspectors work with the contractor to resolve the issue and implement corrective actions.



Cultural and Tribal monitors

Cultural and Tribal Monitors help protect archaeological sites, cultural resources, and areas of significance to Tribal Nations. These monitors are present during ground disturbing activities in designated monitoring areas and carefully observe work as soil is moved or exposed. Also, Cultural and Tribal Monitors ensure protective fencing and signage remains in place and are removed once work is complete.



Agency monitors

Agency Monitors are independent monitors who report directly to state agencies. Their role is to provide regulatory oversight, review construction activities, and ensure permit conditions are being followed.

Agency Monitors inspect best management practices, track compliance issues, review construction schedules, and document concerns or landowner complaints. When issues arise, they work with the project team to verify that corrective actions are completed in a timely manner.

