

Northland Reliability Project



Minnesota Power and Great River Energy hosted in person and virtual engagement opportunities for stakeholders and community members to learn about the Northland Reliability Project and provide input to help our team route the new transmission line.

How we asked for your input

In person open houses

252

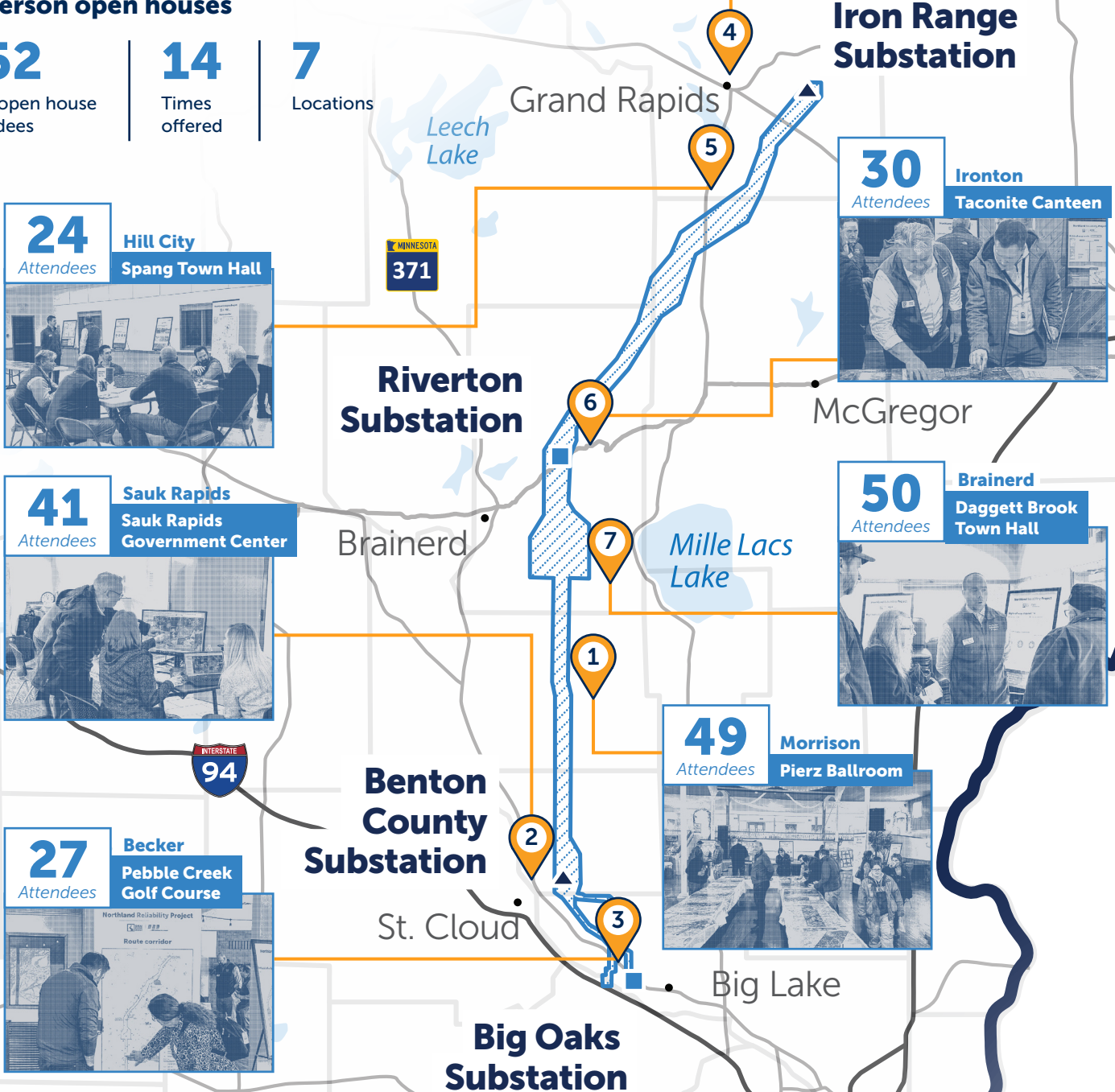
Total open house attendees

14

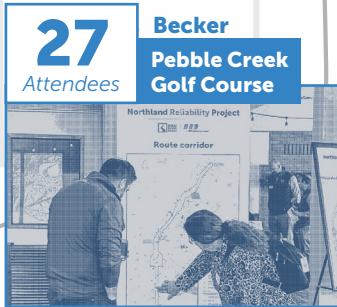
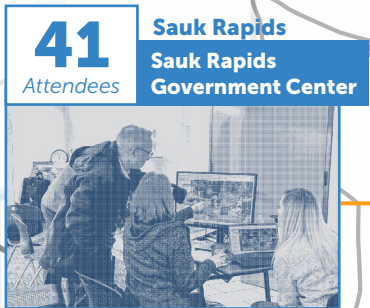
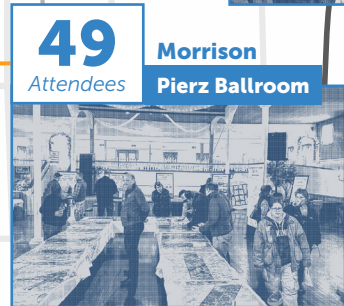
Times offered

7

Locations



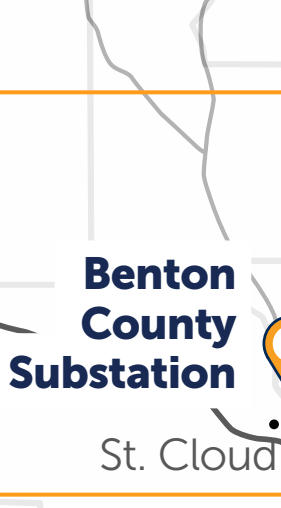
Iron Range Substation



Riverton Substation



Benton County Substation



Big Oaks Substation



Virtual engagement

122

Participants in the virtual open house

2,064

Website visits from Jan. 3 to Feb. 20

Communication channels



Email



Phone calls

Detailed information packets

Detailed information packets were available for request from community members via the mail or email. Packets included similar information as the in person open house and online engagement.

How we got the word out

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy conducted outreach about the public open houses and additional engagement opportunities in several ways.

1. Postcard mailing

8,430 landowners and key stakeholders within the route corridor

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy plan to build an approximately 150-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. 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.

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

Scan me

Join us at an open house

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tuesday, Jan. 24	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Pierz Ballroom 133 Main St. Pierz, MN 56354
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.	Hobbs Creek Golf Course 3400 Clubhouse Lane Becker, MN 55304
Monday, Jan. 30	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Timberlake 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.	Sprang Town Hall 240 Curtis Ave. Stanton, MN 56465
Wednesday, Feb. 1	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 56402
Thursday, Feb. 2	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	

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. 22 - 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

Use our interactive comment map at northlandreliabilityproject.com or participate in one of our engagement opportunities to provide your input.

Route corridor map

Expand existing substations
Install new substation and reconfigure existing transmission lines
Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing, single-circuit 345-kV line
Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing, single-circuit 345-kV line
Expand existing substation
Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing, single-circuit 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Big Oaks Substation
Rebuild approximately 20 miles of existing, single-circuit 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Searles Substation in Sibley County

Routing process

This project requires a robust routing process. During the routing process, our team will identify potential alternatives based on taking advantage of opportunities with existing corridors. The routing process will help us identify a proposed route that will be included in the Certificate of Need and the Public Information process will be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Segment one
Install approximately 130 miles of a new double-circuit, 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line corridors.

Segment two
Replace approximately 20 miles of an existing 220-kV transmission line with a double-circuit 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Big Oaks Substation. Substation to be built as part of a separate project.

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 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 Searles Substation in Sibley County.

2. Email

Notification to key stakeholders through email

Northland Reliability Project

Greetings,

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy invite you to attend an upcoming Northland Reliability Project public open house. You've already received information from us about our public open houses, but we wanted to send you a reminder because our open houses begin this week and our virtual, self-guided open house has launched.

The table below lists our open house dates and dates. We have midday and evening meetings to accommodate schedules. We will have a formal presentation but instead encourage attendees to come to an open house anytime during the open house. 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. Pierz, MN 56354
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Thursday, Feb. 2	11 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4 - 6 p.m.	

For more information, visit our website at northlandreliabilityproject.com. We will respond to you within one to two business days.

Sincerely,
Northland Reliability Project Team

Legend

- Expand existing substations
- New substation
- Segment one
- Segment two

3. Press release

275 local media outlets

4. Social media

567,880 impressions via posts and advertisements

Explore our virtual open house

5. Advertisements

25 ads placed in local newspapers

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. 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 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 218-864-6059

Legend

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- New substation
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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.

Feb. 2, 2023 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
4 - 6:00 p.m.

Daggett Brook Town Hall
14074 Co Road 2
Brainerd, MN 56402

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Can't be there in person?
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Northland Reliability Project

Maintaining reliability

Creating resiliency

Enabling clean energy

Providing flexibility

Northland Reliability Project

Join us at an in-person open house

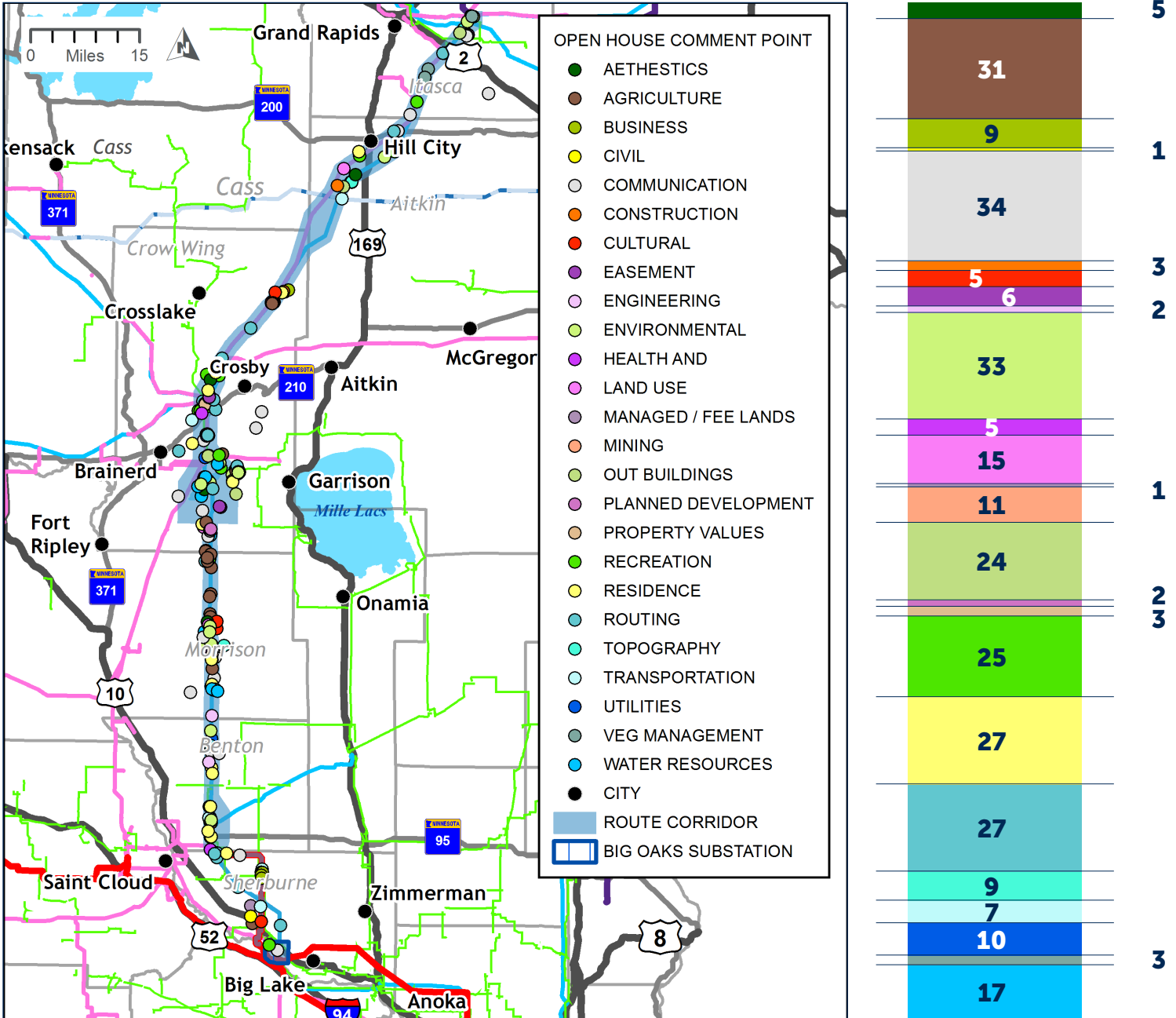
Engaging Partners

We've engaged agencies, Tribes and Tribal Organizations in regular and meaningful conversations to build a cooperative relationship and to collaborate, provide project information and gather information. Examples of organizations we've worked with include: Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office.

How we heard from you – 315 total comments

- In person board interactions (opportunities and constraints)
- Paper comment forms
- Email comments
- Online survey responses (opportunities and constraints)
- Online map comments
- Hotline calls
- Tabletop map comments
- Facebook comments

What we heard



Connect with us

Questions? We want to hear from you.

northlandreliabilityproject.com

connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com

[218-864-6059](tel:218-864-6059)