

# Northland Reliability Project



## Permitting and agency coordination

Environmental permitting and approvals from appropriate federal, state and local agencies will be obtained once a final route is identified and prior to construction. The project will also coordinate construction activities with local government agencies and jurisdictions and other stakeholders.

### Permitting process

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issues a certificate of need and route permit. The certificate of need shows there is a need for the power produced. A route permit is required for routing and construction of a transmission line. The PUC will make the final decision on the route.

Application for a certificate of need and a route permit will be in one application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. More information at <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities>.

Other required permits will be applied for and granted prior to construction. More information on the permitting timeline will be available as the project develops.

### PUC Alternative permitting process

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy intend to submit the Route Permit application under the Alternative permitting process set forth in Minn. R.7850.2800 to 7850.3900. Under the Alternative permitting process, the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Environmental Review and Analysis unit is tasked with preparing an environmental assessment on behalf of the PUC, for proposed high voltage transmission line facilities. The Alternative process can be used for several types of projects, including when a proposed transmission line of 200-kV or more follows existing transmission line right-of-way for at least 80% of its length. Under the Alternative process, an applicant is only required to submit a Route Permit application with one proposed route. More information can be found at <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/energy-facilities/power-plants-transmission-lines/alternative-process>.

### Agency coordination

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are working with federal, state and local agencies, Tribes, tribal organizations and non-governmental organizations. The PUC and the Department of Commerce will lead the state permitting process. Other involved agencies include but are not limited to:

#### Federal

US Fish and Wildlife Service,  
US Army Corps of Engineers

#### State

Minnesota Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, Office of the State Archaeologist and Pollution Control Agency

#### Local

Counties, cities and townships

#### Federally recognized Tribes and tribal organizations in Minnesota

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Lower Sioux Indian Community, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Upper Sioux Community, White Earth Nation, Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council



### Connect with us

Questions? We want to hear from you.



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