

# Certificate of Need engagement summary

PowerOn Midwest began its comprehensive outreach efforts in October 2025, activities that will continue throughout the life of the project. The Project utilities began meeting with county boards in early October and held 17 in-person open houses between Nov. 3 and 14, 2025 and a virtual open house was available through Nov. 21, 2025. The goal of the engagement was to introduce PowerOn Midwest, share the need for the project, answer questions, gather comments, connect with potentially impacted stakeholders and share how they can participate.

## Ways to contact us



A project information and comment line  
**888-283-4678**



A project email address **Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com**



Launched the PowerOn Midwest website at **PowerOnMidwest.com** on October 15, 2025

- Over **12,500** website views as of Dec. 19, 2025
- Interactive map to leave comments

## County board presentations

Project team representatives presented a project overview and addressed questions with 19 County Boards across the project area.

COUNTY	DATE
<b>Martin</b>	Oct. 7, 2025
<b>Faribault</b>	Oct. 7, 2025
<b>Lyon</b>	Oct. 7, 2025
<b>Steele</b>	Oct. 14, 2025
<b>Mower</b>	Oct. 14, 2025
<b>Pipestone</b>	Oct. 14, 2025
<b>Goodhue</b>	Oct. 27, 2025
<b>Dodge</b>	Oct. 28, 2025
<b>Lincoln</b>	Nov. 4, 2025
<b>Jackson</b>	Nov. 4, 2025

COUNTY	DATE
<b>Dakota</b>	Nov. 6, 2025
<b>Olmsted</b>	Nov. 18, 2025
<b>Nobles</b>	Nov. 18, 2025
<b>Cottonwood</b>	Dec. 2, 2025
<b>Murray</b>	Dec. 2, 2025
<b>Waseca</b>	Dec. 2, 2025
<b>Freeborn</b>	Dec. 12, 2025
<b>Redwood</b>	Dec. 16, 2025
<b>Rock</b>	Jan. 20, 2026



## Notifications

### Stakeholder letter

Approximately **1,100 letters** to key stakeholders throughout the Project Study Area in advance of the open houses on October 17, 2025. The letter introduced PowerOn Midwest and detailed upcoming engagement opportunities.



XX, XX, 2025

<< Name >>

<< Address >>

<< Address >>

**RE: You're invited to attend PowerOn Midwest public open houses**

Hi,

Please join us at an upcoming open house to learn about PowerOn Midwest.

PowerOn Midwest is a series of new electric transmission projects anchored by a 765 kV backbone transmission line being developed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy. The projects will connect eastern South Dakota, southern Minnesota and the broader region, enhancing grid reliability in the upper Midwest to meet growing and evolving energy needs in the coming decades. As demand grows and the energy landscape rapidly changes, PowerOn Midwest will help our communities continue to receive the reliable energy they depend on. We're meeting this demand with reliable low-cost electricity, while prioritizing the stability and reliability of our energy infrastructure.

#### Regulatory approvals

New transmission line proposals like PowerOn Midwest require two key regulatory approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC). The first is a Certificate of Need, which highlights the issues the projects will solve. We anticipate submitting an application for a Certificate of Need in early 2026.

The second approval is a Route Permit. PowerOn Midwest is in the early stages of project development and we have not yet identified transmission line route options. Over the course of the next year and a half, we will provide numerous opportunities for landowners, local governments, tribal entities, and other stakeholders to provide input on route options, for consideration before filing the Route Permit. We anticipate route Permit applications for each project to be filed with the MPUC in 2027.



1



Enclosed is a map that shows the preliminary study area.

#### Open house schedule

One of the opportunities for public engagement is a series of upcoming open houses, which are designed to introduce you and your community to the PowerOn Midwest projects and provide an opportunity to meet our team who will be available to answer questions. Below you will find the dates, times and locations for each open house. Feel free to attend the session that best fits your schedule on each meeting will have the same information, including project displays and maps.

Can't make it? Learn more by visiting the project website at [PowerOnMidwest.com](https://PowerOnMidwest.com). A virtual open house opportunity will be available November 3-21 and will share the same information, displays, and maps from the in-person public open houses.

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Monday, Nov. 3	10 am - 12 pm	Lake Benton Area Community & Event Center, 114 Center St. S, Lake Benton, MN 56040
Monday, Nov. 3	4 pm - 6 pm	Five Family Ranch, 2717 County Road 6, Marshall, MN 56258
Tuesday, Nov. 4	10 am - 12 pm	Hawthorn Lodge, 201 4th St. NW, Pipestone, MN 56154
Tuesday, Nov. 4	4 pm - 6 pm	America Legion, 100 W Front St., Fergus, MN 56037
Wednesday, Nov. 5	10 am - 12 pm	Worthington Event Center, 1447 Prairie Dr., Worthington, MN 56097
Wednesday, Nov. 5	4 pm - 6 pm	Generations Event Center, 105 S. 5th St., Luverne, MN 56155
Thursday, Nov. 6	10 am - 12 pm	Heron Lake Community Center, 312 10th St., Heron Lake, MN 56037
Monday, Nov. 10	10 am - 12 pm	Wisdom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom, MN 56091
Monday, Nov. 10	4 pm - 6 pm	Knights of Columbus, 920 East 10th St., Farmaret, MN 56033



2



Tuesday, Nov. 11	10 am - 12 pm	Nasevic Event Center, 789 Business Park Dr., Wells, MN 56097
Tuesday, Nov. 11	4 pm - 6 pm	Wardwood Cove, 2205 W. 9th St., Albert Lea, MN 56007
Wednesday, Nov. 12	10 am - 12 pm	Events by Sokos, 400 8th St. SE, Kasson, MN 56044
Thursday, Nov. 13	10 am - 12 pm	Hornet Nature Center, 1354 2nd St. NE, Austin, MN 55992
Thursday, Nov. 13	4 pm - 6 pm	Zumbardo VFW, 297 E. 1st St., Zumbardo, MN 55992
Friday, Nov. 14	9 am - 11 am	Grand 02 Event Center, 3257 84th Ave., Cannon Falls, MN 55909

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming public open houses and invite you to visit our website at [PowerOnMidwest.com](https://PowerOnMidwest.com), email us at [Contact@PowerOnMidwest.com](mailto:Contact@PowerOnMidwest.com), or leave us a message at 888.283.4678 to stay connected and informed.

Sincerely,



515 Exchange Blvd #103, St. Louis, MO 63102

St. Louis, MO 63102



3

### Landowner postcard

Postcards were sent to **47,400** landowners in the Project Study Area. The postcards were mailed between October 22 and 27, 2025.

515 Exchange Blvd #103, St. Louis, MO 63102

**PowerOn Midwest—tomorrow's reliability starts today.**

PowerOn Midwest is a series of new electric transmission projects anchored by a 765 kV backbone transmission line being developed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy. The projects will connect eastern South Dakota, southern Minnesota and the broader region, enhancing grid reliability in the upper Midwest to meet growing and evolving energy needs in the coming decades.

**Unable to attend?**

Here are additional engagement opportunities:

- Attend an open house
- Attend a virtual open house
- Attend a virtual open house

**Join us for an open house in your community to learn more about the project and ask questions.**

**Benefits**

- Reliable electricity**: Enhance our commitment to customers and electric cooperative members that electricity delivery is reliable and secure.
- Future-ready grid**: Enhance our commitment to customers and electric cooperative members that electricity delivery is reliable and secure.
- Customer and economic benefits**: Enhance our commitment to customers and electric cooperative members that electricity delivery is reliable and secure.
- Access to new electric generation**: Enhance our commitment to customers and electric cooperative members that electricity delivery is reliable and secure.

**Preliminary schedule**

- 2025**: Project planning, permitting, engineering and construction.
- 2026-2027**: Project planning, permitting, engineering and construction.
- 2027-2028**: Project planning, permitting, engineering and construction.
- 2029-2030**: Project planning, permitting, engineering and construction.
- 2031-2032**: Project planning, permitting, engineering and construction.
- 2033-2034**: Project planning, permitting, engineering and construction.

**Join us at an open house**

We look forward to seeing you at an open house to learn more about the project and ask questions. Open houses will be held throughout the project area. There will be no formal presentations. Open houses will be held on the following dates and times. Open houses will be held on the following dates and times. Open houses will be held on the following dates and times.

Week 1	Date	Time	Location
Monday, Nov. 3	10 am - 12 pm	Lake Benton Area Community & Event Center, 114 Center St. S, Lake Benton, MN 56040	
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Week 2	Date	Time	Location
Monday, Nov. 11	10 am - 12 pm	Nasevic Event Center, 789 Business Park Dr., Wells, MN 56097	
Monday, Nov. 11	4 pm - 6 pm	Wardwood Cove, 2205 W. 9th St., Albert Lea, MN 56007	
Tuesday, Nov. 12	10 am - 12 pm	Events by Sokos, 400 8th St. SE, Kasson, MN 56044	
Thursday, Nov. 13	10 am - 12 pm	Hornet Nature Center, 1354 2nd St. NE, Austin, MN 55992	
Thursday, Nov. 13	4 pm - 6 pm	Zumbardo VFW, 297 E. 1st St., Zumbardo, MN 55992	
Friday, Nov. 14	9 am - 11 am	Grand 02 Event Center, 3257 84th Ave., Cannon Falls, MN 55909	

### Social media

Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and X – these posts garnered almost **11,000** impressions, a reach of more than **3,200**, and **875** engagements.

**You're invited**

**Virtual tour**

### Paid advertisements

44 local newspapers  
Total circulation:  
109,963

**YOU'RE INVITED** We're hosting a series of open houses across the project area with opportunities to meet our team and ask questions. Open houses will be held on the following dates and times. Open houses will be held on the following dates and times. Open houses will be held on the following dates and times.

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## In-person open houses

17 open houses at 15 venues in 14 counties across southern Minnesota in the Project Study Area between **November 3–14, 2025**.



Project displays



Detailed Project Study Area maps



GIS stations for the attendees to review and provide input



Approximately 577 people attended the open houses

## Week one in-person open houses

### LINCOLN COUNTY

**Monday, Nov. 3**

10 a.m. – noon

Lake Benton, MN

### LYON COUNTY

**Monday, Nov. 3**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Marshall, MN

### PIPESTONE COUNTY

**Tuesday, Nov. 4**

10 a.m. – noon

Pipestone, MN

### MURRAY COUNTY

**Tuesday, Nov. 4**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Fulda, MN

### NOBLES COUNTY

**Wednesday, Nov. 5**

10 a.m. – noon

Worthington, MN

### ROCK COUNTY

**Wednesday, Nov. 5**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Luverne, MN

### JACKSON COUNTY

**Thursday, Nov. 6**

10 a.m. – noon

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Heron Lake, MN

**211 total attendees**

## Week two in-person open houses

### COTTONWOOD COUNTY

**Monday, Nov. 10**

10 a.m. – noon

Windom, MN

### MARTIN COUNTY

**Monday, Nov. 10**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Fairmont, MN

### FARIBAULT COUNTY

**Tuesday, Nov. 11**

10 a.m. – noon

Wells, MN

### FREEBORN COUNTY

**Tuesday, Nov. 11**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Albert Lea, MN

### DODGE COUNTY

**Wednesday, Nov. 12**

10 a.m. – noon

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Kasson, MN

### MOWER COUNTY

**Thursday, Nov. 13**

10 a.m. – noon

Austin, MN

### GOODHUE COUNTY

**Thursday, Nov. 13**

4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Zumbrota, MN

### GOODHUE COUNTY

**Friday, Nov. 14**

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Cannon Falls, MN

**366 total attendees**

**577 total attendees**

\* Attendees were not required to sign in at the meetings. Attendee numbers are based on headcounts taken at each meeting.



## Virtual open house



**339**  
views of the virtual  
open house

Open between **November 3 – Nov. 21, 2025**, and included the same content presented during the in-person open houses in a website-type format. As of December 18, 2025, there have been **339 views** of the virtual open house.

## Open house materials

Information banners and boards, factsheets, comment forms, vendor forms, and project staff were available at the open houses.



## Comments



**608** comments  
were collected



**Comment dates:**  
**October 1 – November 21**

### COMMENTS COLLECTED BY CHANNEL



**5**  
Interactive  
web map



**8**  
Email



**24**  
Hotline



**25**  
In-person  
comment  
form



**546**  
Map  
station  
comments

## Key comment themes

- Environmental and land sensitivities
- Agricultural impacts
- Route preferences
- Requests for property-specific project information; Requests to join or be removed from the mailing list
- Local government and stakeholder engagement
- Existing infrastructure
- Renewable energy
- Electromagnetic fields; Livestock safety concerns; Requests for more EMF information
- Agricultural and wildlife areas preservation
- How to participate

## Map station comments (from the in-person open houses November 3-14)

Aviation	9	Environmental (general)	7	Property damage	1	Trees	1
Communication	5	General	43	Proximity to homes	7	Utilities	94
Construction	2	Hunting/fishing	2	Recreation	2	Vendor	1
Cultural resources	36	Information request	14	Renewable energy	6	Visual impacts	1
Easement payment	17	Land Use	65	Restoration	1	Wetlands and water resources	156
EMF	4	Mailing list request	2	Routing	11	Wildlife	22
Endangered species	3	Property access	31	Safety	1		
Energy reliability	1			Stray voltage	1		

**546**  
total comments

