

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
Martin	Oct. 7, 2025
Faribault	Oct. 7, 2025
Lyon	Oct. 7, 2025
Steele	Oct. 14, 2025
Mower	Oct. 14, 2025
Pipestone	Oct. 14, 2025
Goodhue	Oct. 27, 2025
Dodge	Oct. 28, 2025
Lincoln	Nov. 4, 2025
Jackson	Nov. 4, 2025

COUNTY	DATE
Dakota	Nov. 6, 2025
Olmsted	Nov. 18, 2025
Nobles	Nov. 18, 2025
Cottonwood	Dec. 2, 2025
Murray	Dec. 2, 2025
Waseca	Dec. 2, 2025
Freeborn	Dec. 12, 2025
Redwood	Dec. 16, 2025
Rock	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

Hello,

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

PowerOn Midwest is a series of new electric transmission projects being developed by a 765 kV backbone transmission line, connecting Great River Energy, Xcel Energy, and Xcel Energy.

Other key partners include the Upper Midwest Energy Agency, 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 community continue to receive the reliable energy they depend on. We're meeting this need with reliable low-cost electricity, while prioritizing the stability and resiliency of our energy infrastructure.

Regulatory approvals

Now 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're 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 route options. Once route options are identified, we will seek to file Route Permit applications 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.



Included 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. We encourage you to attend the open house that is most convenient for you. All 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. 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. E, Lake Benton, MN 56049
Monday, Nov. 3	4 pm - 6 pm	Five Family Ranch, 2717 County Road 6, Marshall, MN 56258
Tuesday, Nov. 4	10 am - 12 pm	Holiday Inn Lodge, 201 4th St. NW, Pipestone, MN 56084
Tuesday, Nov. 4	4 pm - 6 pm	America Legion, 106 W Front St., Frazee, MN 56331
Wednesday, Nov. 5	10 am - 12 pm	Worthington Community Center, 1447 Prairie Dr., Worthington, MN 56187
Wednesday, Nov. 5	4 pm - 6 pm	Generations Event Center, 501 S. Estey St., Luverne, MN 56045
Thursday, Nov. 6	10 am - 12 pm	303 201 St. Hwy. 10, Lanes, MN 56337
Monday, Nov. 10	10 am - 12 pm	Windom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom, MN 56101
Monday, Nov. 10	4 pm - 6 pm	Knights of Columbus, 920 10th St. N., Faribault, MN 56021



Tuesday, Nov. 11	10 am - 12 pm	Neosho Event Center, 789 Business Park Dr., Wells, MN 56097
Tuesday, Nov. 11	4 pm - 6 pm	Worthington Community Center, 2230 4th St. NW, Worthington, MN 56090
Wednesday, Nov. 12	10 am - 12 pm	Events by Soltész, 401 8th St. SE, Albert Lea, MN 56001
Wednesday, Nov. 12	10 am - 12 pm	Holiday Inn Express, 201 2nd St. SE, Austin, MN 56011
Thursday, Nov. 13	4 pm - 6 pm	Zumbrota RV Park, 21st St. SE, Zumbrota, MN 55992
Friday, Nov. 14	9 am - 11 am	Grand DQ Event Center, 320 2nd St. NE, Cannon Falls, MN 55021

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

Sincerely,



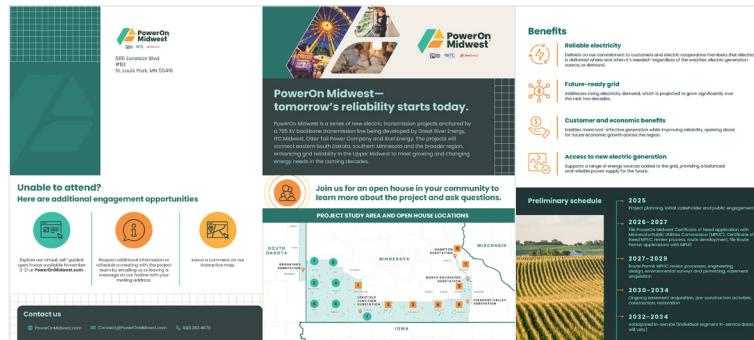
515 Executive Blvd #103
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

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Landowner postcard

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



Join us at an open house

We look forward to your attendance of our open houses to be held throughout the preliminary study area. We will have displays and maps available for review, and the opportunity for you to ask questions and receive information on the project. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and detailed maps to help you learn more about the project. We encourage you to attend the open house that is most convenient for you.

Week 1

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
1 Monday, November 3	8 am - 12 pm	Great River Energy & ITC Community & Event Center, 104 Center St. E, Lake Benton, MN 56049
1 Monday, November 3	4 pm - 6 pm	Five Family Ranch, 2717 County Road 6, Marshall, MN 56258
2 Tuesday, November 4	8 am - 12 pm	Holiday Inn Lodge, 201 4th St. NW, Pipestone, MN 56084
2 Tuesday, November 4	4 pm - 6 pm	America Legion, 106 W Front St., Frazee, MN 56331
3 Wednesday, November 5	8 am - 12 pm	Windom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom, MN 56101
3 Wednesday, November 5	4 pm - 6 pm	Generations Event Center, 501 S. Estey St., Luverne, MN 56045
4 Thursday, November 6	8 am - 12 pm	303 201 St. Hwy. 10, Lanes, MN 56337
4 Thursday, November 6	4 pm - 6 pm	Windham Event Center, 2230 4th St. NW, Worthington, MN 56090
5 Friday, November 7	8 am - 12 pm	Events by Soltész, 401 8th St. SE, Albert Lea, MN 56001
5 Friday, November 7	4 pm - 6 pm	Zumbrota RV Park, 21st St. SE, Zumbrota, MN 55992

Week 2

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
6 Saturday, November 11	8 am - 12 pm	Great River Energy & ITC Community & Event Center, 104 Center St. E, Lake Benton, MN 56049
6 Saturday, November 11	4 pm - 6 pm	Worthington Community Center, 2230 4th St. NW, Worthington, MN 56090
7 Sunday, November 12	8 am - 12 pm	Events by Soltész, 401 8th St. SE, Albert Lea, MN 56001
7 Sunday, November 12	4 pm - 6 pm	Zumbrota RV Park, 21st St. SE, Zumbrota, MN 55992
8 Monday, November 13	8 am - 12 pm	Windham Event Center, 2230 4th St. NW, Worthington, MN 56090
8 Monday, November 13	4 pm - 6 pm	Generations Event Center, 501 S. Estey St., Luverne, MN 56045
9 Tuesday, November 14	8 am - 12 pm	Events by Soltész, 401 8th St. SE, Albert Lea, MN 56001
9 Tuesday, November 14	4 pm - 6 pm	Zumbrota RV Park, 21st St. SE, Zumbrota, MN 55992

Social media

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



Paid advertisements

44 local newspapers

Total circulation:
109,963



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

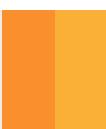
Information banners and boards, factsheets, comment forms, vendor forms, and project staff were available at the open houses.



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

PUBLIC COMMENT OVERVIEW

