

PowerOn Midwest route development process

Developing a route for a new transmission line is a complex process. The State of Minnesota has statutes and rules that guide the route development process and help minimize a project's impact to humans and the environment. Input from landowners, community members, local leaders, Tribal representatives, and state and federal agencies as well as the project team's own expertise is critical as we develop and finalize a proposed route.

At each point during the regulatory process, and even after we submit our Certificate of Need and Route Permit applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC), there will be opportunities for public input.



Define study area

The project team will start by using data from publicly available sources and federal, state, and local agencies to define a study area. We consider existing utility corridors, existing land use, resource areas, and other data to help identify route opportunities to further refine the study area.



Identify route corridors

The next step in the route development process is to identify a route corridor where a possible route could be located and preliminary route options are identified. We will develop the route corridor based on public input, opportunities to minimize impacts, and where the new transmission line will need to connect into substations.



Refine preliminary route

The preliminary route is a further narrowed area within the route corridor. Similar to the route corridor, we will develop the preliminary route based on input gathered during public open houses, input from community members, local leaders, Tribal representatives, and state and federal agencies. These factors will assist the project team as we develop the proposed route for the Route Permit application.



Identify proposed route to submit in the Route Permit application

Finally, the project team will use all of information and public input we have gathered throughout the route development process to develop a proposed route that we will submit in a Route Permit application to the MPUC in late 2026.



Minnesota Public Utilities Commission determines final route

The MPUC will review the proposed route, along with other route alternatives brought forward by the public and other stakeholders during the regulatory process, to determine the final routes for the transmission lines.



Routing opportunities and sensitivities

The criteria for route selection, set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 216I, will guide our team's route development process. During the route development process, our team will identify opportunities where routes and route alternatives could be located while understanding sensitivities or areas that would make routing difficult. The route development process will help us identify a proposed route to be included in the Route Permit application which will be filed with the MPUC.



Opportunities

Linear features that are oriented in the direction of the project:

- Field lines
- Section lines
- Utility corridors
- Property lines
- Roads



Sensitivities

Area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration:

- Agricultural conflicts
- Airports (public)
- Cemeteries
- Communication towers
- Conservation areas/nature preserves
- Contaminated areas
- Cultural/historic resources
- Forests
- Hospitals
- Levees/dams
- Mines/quarries
- Pipelines*
- Planned development
- Protected federal lands
- Protected state lands
- Railroads*
- Recreation
- Religious facilities
- Residences
- Scenic highways
- Schools/daycares
- Sensitive species
- Streams/wetlands

* Linear features with additional study needed



Your input matters

We're early in the route development process. Please share your information to identify opportunities and sensitivities in the project area.

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