



MEDIA ADVISORY

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PowerOn Midwest routing open houses begin June 2

Members of the public invited to learn about project, provide feedback on preliminary route options

What:

Great River Energy, ITC Midwest and Xcel Energy will host public open house meetings across southern Minnesota to discuss PowerOn Midwest, a series of new electric transmission projects anchored by a 765 kV backbone transmission line. The projects will connect eastern South Dakota, southern Minnesota and the broader region, enhancing grid reliability in the Upper Midwest to meet growing and changing energy needs in the coming decades.

The open houses will provide landowners, stakeholders and community members with an opportunity to learn about the need for the project, the timeline and the regulatory process, and provide feedback to the project team on preliminary route options.

When and where:

Open houses will take place from **June 2 – June 12** in the following counties: Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Martin, Nobles, Murray, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Dodge, and Goodhue. A full schedule is attached and can also be found at [PowerOnMidwest.com](https://www.poweronmidwest.com). There will be no formal presentation, and participants can stop by anytime during the listed times. Each open house will provide the same information including project displays and maps of routing options to review and collect input. If you are unable to attend a meeting in person, our virtual open house will be available June 2-26.

Why:

The way we generate and use electricity is changing — and electricity needs in our region are projected to significantly increase in the coming decades. PowerOn Midwest includes a proposed 765 kV backbone transmission line designed to meet those growing needs. The project will enhance grid reliability and resiliency across eastern South Dakota, southern

Minnesota and the broader Upper Midwest region. This project delivers on our commitment to customers and electric cooperative members that electricity is delivered where and when it's needed every hour of every day — regardless of the weather, electric generation source or energy use levels.

At the open houses, PowerOn Midwest representatives will:

- Explain the **need for PowerOn Midwest**, including how it supports reliability and economic growth.
- Outline the regulatory process, including the **Certificate of Need** process (application filed February 2026) and the subsequent **Route Permit application** phase (beginning in 2027).
- Offer attendees a chance to **provide feedback on routing options directly to project staff**, ask questions, and understand how to participate in the regulatory and route development processes.

Additional information:

Property owners within the study area received letters the week of May 18 inviting them to attend. County commission briefings are also underway. The project team is committed to early and proactive engagement, recognizing the importance of local input in shaping the future of the electric grid.

The PowerOn Midwest projects were approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), the regional grid operator, in December 2024. The projects were identified due to their ability to meet the region's long-term energy needs, including delivering electric reliability for customers and cooperative members, enabling new electric generation in the region and providing system resilience in extreme weather situations. All projects must still receive state regulatory approval before any construction activities can begin.