



MEDIA ADVISORY

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PowerOn Midwest holding second round of routing open houses Aug. 4-13

Members of the public invited to provide feedback on refined route options

What:

Great River Energy, ITC Midwest and Xcel Energy will host another round of routing 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 electric use 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 most importantly, to provide feedback to the project team on route options, which have now been refined based on public input and further analysis.

When and where:

Open houses will take place from **August 4 through 13** in the following counties: Lincoln, Pipestone, Rock, Martin, Nobles, Murray, Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Goodhue, and Dodge. A full schedule is attached and can also be found at 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 refined routing options to review and collect input. For those unable to attend a meeting in person, a virtual open house will be available through August 28.

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:

- Offer attendees a chance to **provide feedback on route options, which have now been refined, directly to project staff**, ask questions, and understand how to participate in the regulatory and route development processes.
- Explain the **need for PowerOn Midwest**, including how the projects support electric reliability and regional 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).

Additional information:

Property owners within the study area received letters the week of July 27 inviting them to attend. 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 receive state regulatory approval before any construction activities can begin.