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Greetings from PowerOn Midwest

Hello,

Welcome to the first issue of the PowerOn Midwest newsletter. This newsletter is intended to be a valuable quick reference guide. In these newsletters we plan to share the latest updates on this transmission line project, provide a quick project timeline, and highlight any upcoming opportunities to get involved.

Sincerely,

The PowerOn Midwest project team



Benefits



RELIABLE ELECTRICITY

Delivers on our commitment to customers and electric cooperative members that electricity is delivered where and when it's needed—regardless of the weather, electric generation source, or demand.



CUSTOMER AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Enables more cost-effective generation while improving reliability, opening doors for future economic growth across the region.



FUTURE-READY GRID

Addresses rising electricity demand, which is projected to grow significantly over the next two decades.



ACCESS TO NEW GENERATION

Supports a range of energy sources added to the grid, providing a balanced and reliable power supply for the future.



Your input matters

Public involvement is a critical part of this project. We invite you to join us at any upcoming meeting or open house. To stay up to date on future events, please visit: www.PowerOnMidwest.com/events.

What is PowerOn Midwest?

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

PROJECT TIMELINE

- 2025**
Project planning, initial stakeholder and public engagement
- 2026-2027**
File PowerOn Midwest Certificate of Need application with the MPUC, Certificate of Need MPUC review process, route development, file Route Permit applications with MPUC
- 2027-2029**
Route Permit MPUC review processes, engineering design, environmental surveys and permitting, easement acquisition
- 2030-2034**
Ongoing easement acquisition, pre-construction activities, construction, restoration
- 2032-2034**
Anticipated in-service (individual segment in-service dates will vary)

SHORT-TERM SCHEDULE

- 1 February 2026 - CON filing
- 2 Spring 2026 - CON scoping meetings
- 3 Q2 2026 - Routing open houses; round 1
- 4 Q3 2026 - Routing open houses; round 2
- 5 Q4 2026 - MPUC Public hearings
- 6 February 2027 - Route permit application submittal

CONTACT US



PowerOnMidwest.com

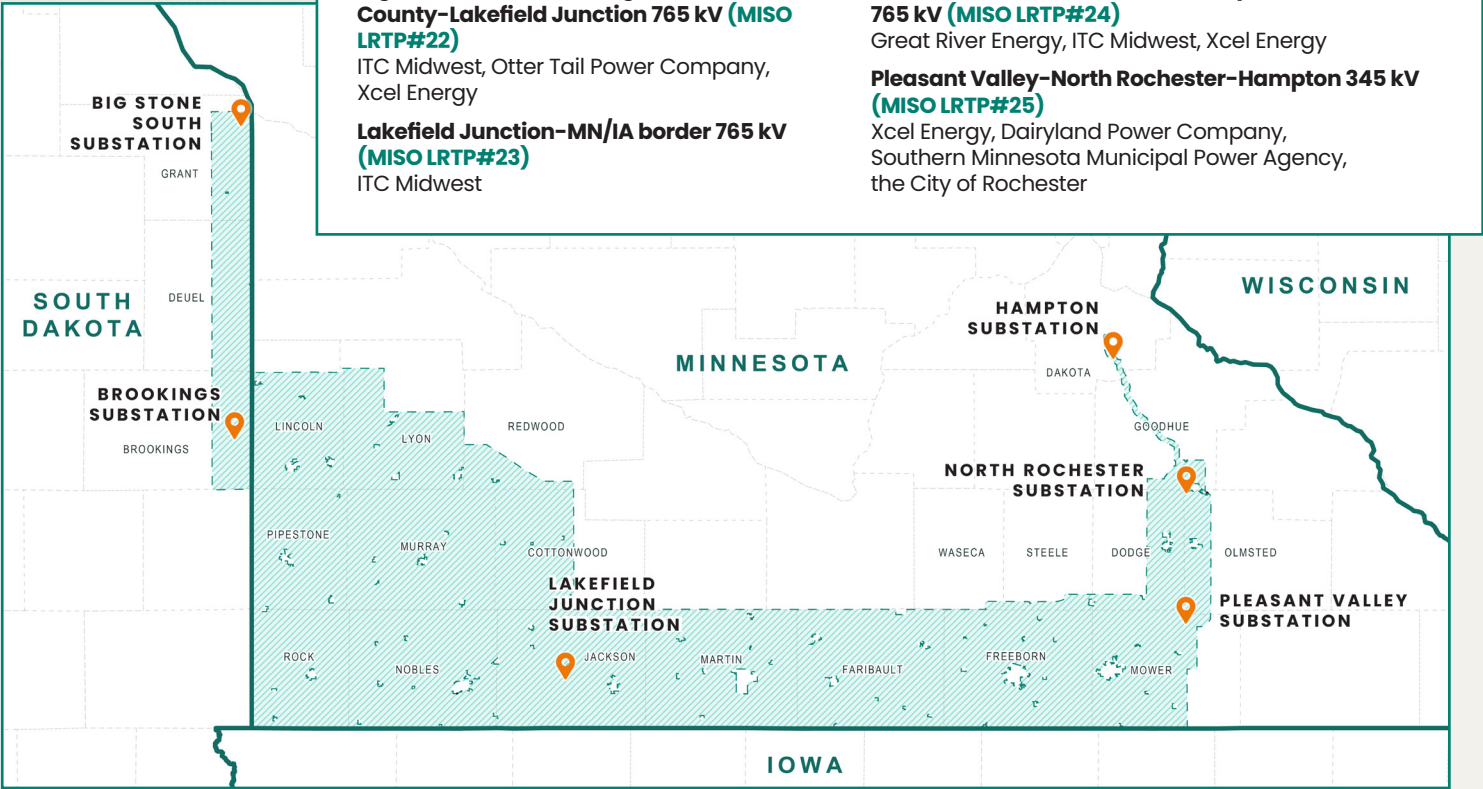


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Study area



Key steps (Typically a 12 to 15-month process)

Public participation opportunity

- APPLICATION FILING AND COMPLETENESS REVIEW:** The MPUC reviews the application for completeness and invites public comment. Once deemed complete, the case is typically assigned to an independent Administrative Law Judge, who presides over the review process.
- INTERVENTION OPPORTUNITY:** Anyone can attend meetings and submit comments without formally intervening, i.e. becoming a “party” to the proceeding. Persons who want to become a party must submit a request to the Administrative Law Judge. Parties may present formal arguments, testimony, and cross examine witnesses – often with legal representation (although not required for individuals). Formal intervention is not required to submit comments on the application.
- ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING PUBLIC MEETINGS:** The MPUC prepares an Environmental Report to evaluate human and environmental impacts related to a project. Public meetings are conducted to explain the process and gather comments on issues and alternatives that should be addressed in the Environmental Report. Written comments may also be submitted to the MPUC at this time and meeting notices are published locally.
- SCOPING DECISION:** Before the MPUC prepares the Environmental Report, it reviews all public input and publishes its Scoping Decision, which outlines the issues to be addressed in the report.
- ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:** The MPUC gathers information, then prepares and publishes the Environmental Report, which must be done before public hearings can take place.
- MPUC PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE CON:** The MPUC holds public hearings presided by an Administrative Law Judge. Notice is published in local newspapers and mailed to landowners and local governments prior to the start of the hearings. Anyone can present comments and express opinions concerning the utilities’ proposal or alternatives and the Environmental Report. The Administrative Law Judge provides a report that summarizes the hearing record, including public comments, and makes recommendations to the MPUC.
- MPUC CON DECISION:** The MPUC makes the final decision about whether to issue a CON. In making its decision, the MPUC considers all information in the record and deliberates at a formal MPUC meeting.



Project milestones

On February 3, 2026 the PowerOn Midwest team submitted the Certificate of Need application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

What is a Certificate of Need?

A Certificate of Need (CON) identifies the issues the proposed project is designed to solve (the need for the project) and reviews how the project benefits the state and region. A CON is one of two state regulatory approvals required for the project to be built.

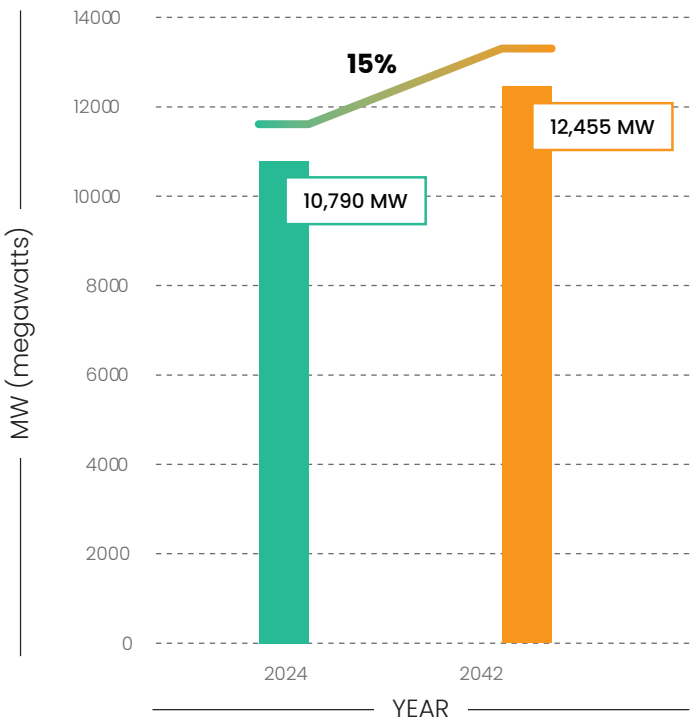
Rising energy demand

As communities modernize and new technologies emerge, our grid must grow stronger and more flexible. Strengthening our transmission grid is essential to keep the power flowing where and when we need it most.

PowerOn Midwest is driven by the urgent need to address rising energy demand and maintain long-term reliability across our region. In fact, according to forecasting models, Minnesota’s peak energy demand is expected to grow by 15% over the next 18 years. By contrast, for the first 20 years of this century, electricity growth was nearly flat.

The 765 kV backbone transmissions line at the heart of PowerOn Midwest is essential infrastructure–built to deliver reliable, lower-cost and increasingly carbon-free power to homes, businesses, and communities across the Upper Midwest.

Minnesota Peak Energy Demand



Upcoming public meetings

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) will be hosting scoping meetings in the project study area in Spring 2026. We will communicate dates, times, and locations when the details have been finalized. Also watch our website at PowerOnMidwest.com/events for more updates.

What are scoping meetings?

A scoping meeting for a transmission project in Minnesota is an early-stage, public forum hosted by the MPUC. This meeting is meant to define what will be studied in the environmental review. Additionally, the public can provide input on the need for the project.

Timing: It is the first step in the MPUC’s permitting process after a project application is accepted.

Source: Joint Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need for PowerOn Midwest, p. 106

What’s next:

The Certificate of Need process can take up to 15 months. Throughout 2026 the MPUC will develop an Environmental Report. There will be public hearings for the public to attend and provide input, and finally there will be a decision from the MPUC about whether to grant the Certificate of Need. For a more detailed process description, visit our webpage at: poweronmidwest.com/regulatory-process/