Route development process

PowerOn Midwest™
Big Stone South to Brookings

Otter Tail Power Company · Xcel Energy®

The process for identifying a route for a new transmission line is a multi-step analysis that identifies potential route options that minimize impacts on humans and the environment. We'll follow South Dakota Statutes and Rules when selecting a route and work to minimize the impact on landowners and the environment. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) will make a final decision on the project.

Route corridor

The route development process begins by identifying a route corridor where possible routes could be located and preliminary route options are identified. We then begin gathering input from local landowners, local government officials, Tribes and resource agencies, and other stakeholders. Throughout this process we also review federal, state and local regulations, and identify opportunities and sensitives, and other issues that may affect eventual project route options.

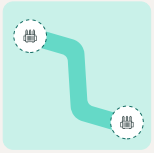
The criteria for route development is set by state statute and county rule and guides the route development process:

Identify route corridors

Using routing considerations and stakeholder input, we'll identify potential corridors for a transmission line.

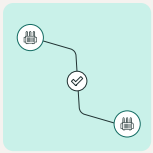
Identify proposed route

We'll identify a proposed route to submit in the Facility Permit Application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.



Refine to preliminary routes

With additional stakeholder input, we'll refine route corridors into narrowed preliminary routes.



SD PUC determines final route

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will review the Facility Permit Application and determine the final route.

Throughout the route development process we provide multiple opportunities for public involvement to gather feedback about the project.

Defining the route

Feedback gathered during the development of preliminary route options undergoes a more detailed analysis. Input on specific opportunities and sensitivities on preliminary routes, or identification of alternative route opportunities, is especially helpful as we refine preliminary route options. This step also includes verifying information collected and the analyses completed through site visits.

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Proposed route options

All of the information we review and comments we receive will help identify the routes which we will propose as part of a Facility Permit Application that we'll submit to the SD PUC for review, which will determine if the Facility Permit should be granted, and determine the final route.

Opportunities

Typical existing corridor features that are oriented in the direction of the project:

- Existing transmission lines and utility
- Corridors
- Highways and roads
- Property lines
- Field lines such as section or quarter lines

Sensitivities

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

- Agricultural uses, including organic farms or aerial spraying
- Agricultural drain tile
- Airports/air navigation facilities
- Cemeteries
- Center pivot irrigation systems
- Communication towers*
- Conservation areas/nature preserves
- Cultural/archaeological and historic resources*
- Floodplains
- Lakes/ponds/rivers/streams/wetlands*
- Levees/dams
- Mines/quarries
- Potentially contaminated sites
- Railroads*
- Religious facilities
- Residences (especially large neighborhoods)
- Schools
- Sensitive habitats*
- State/regional/local parks and trails
- Threatened or endangered plant/animal species*
- Wells

* Linear features with additional study needed

Your input matters

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

CONTACT US

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