



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3A

Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: 06/25/2024

Title of Item: Minnesota Power Presentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title): Zach Golkowski and Mike Putney		Estimated Time Needed: 20 min.
Summary of Issue:		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion:		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Please Explain:		

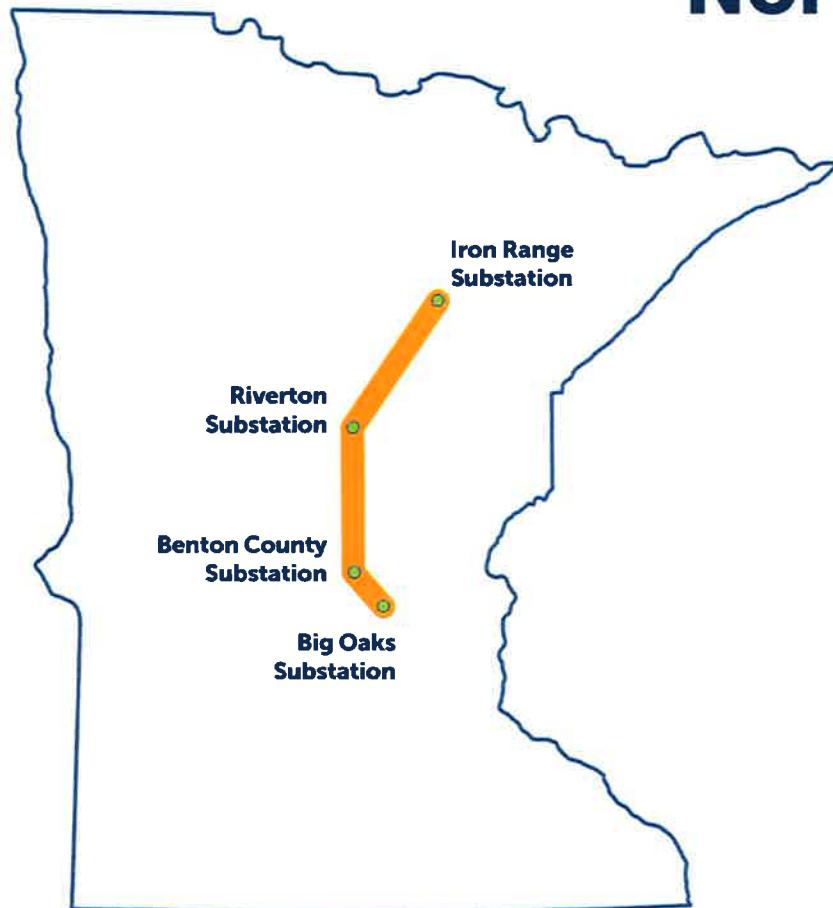
Northland Reliability Project



Project Updates

Aitkin County, June 2024

Northland Reliability Project



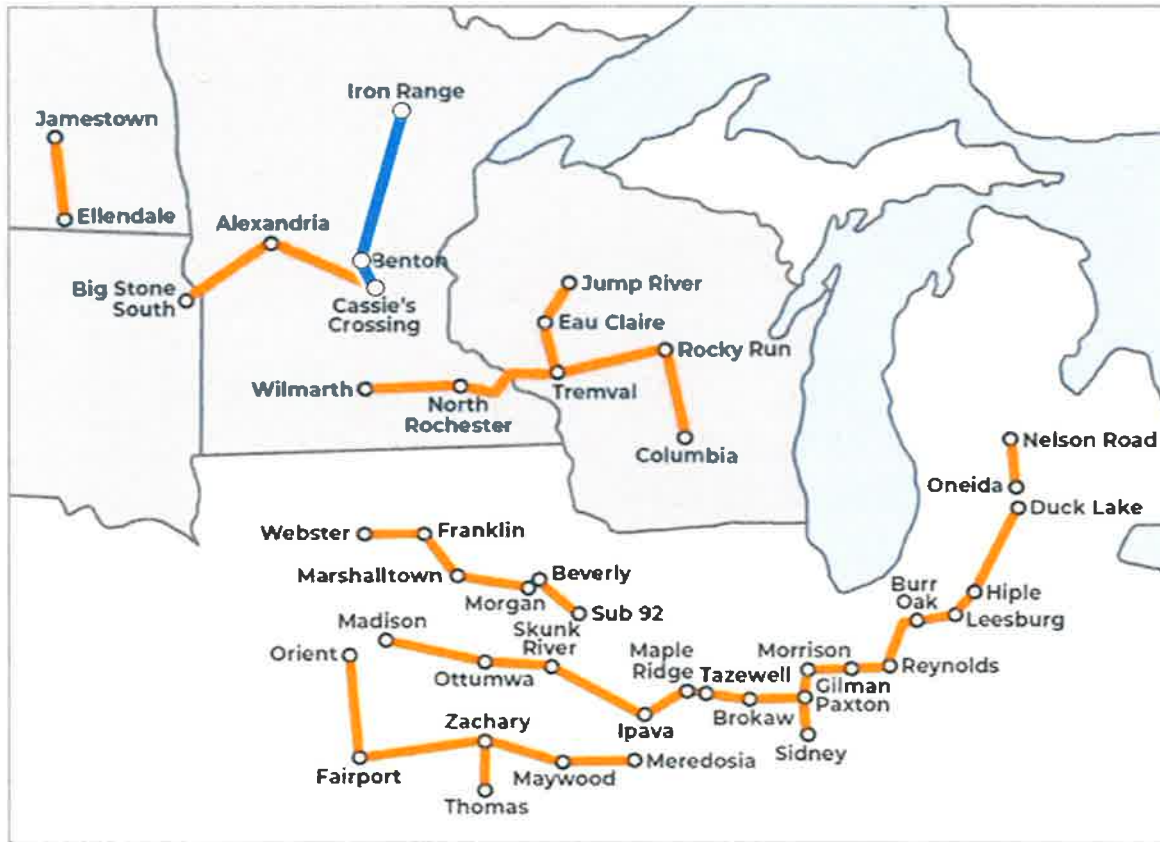
**Double-circuit
345-kV line**

**Over 85% co-located
with existing HVTL**

180 miles

**Expanded and new
substations**

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan



Fulfilling a need



Maintaining reliability

Provide system support as energy resources continue to evolve.



Enabling clean energy

Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver clean energy from where it's produced to where it's needed by our customers and members.



Strengthening resiliency

Enhance system resiliency during extreme weather events.



Enhancing flexibility

Plan proactively to meet changing customers' and members' power needs due to decarbonization and electrification.

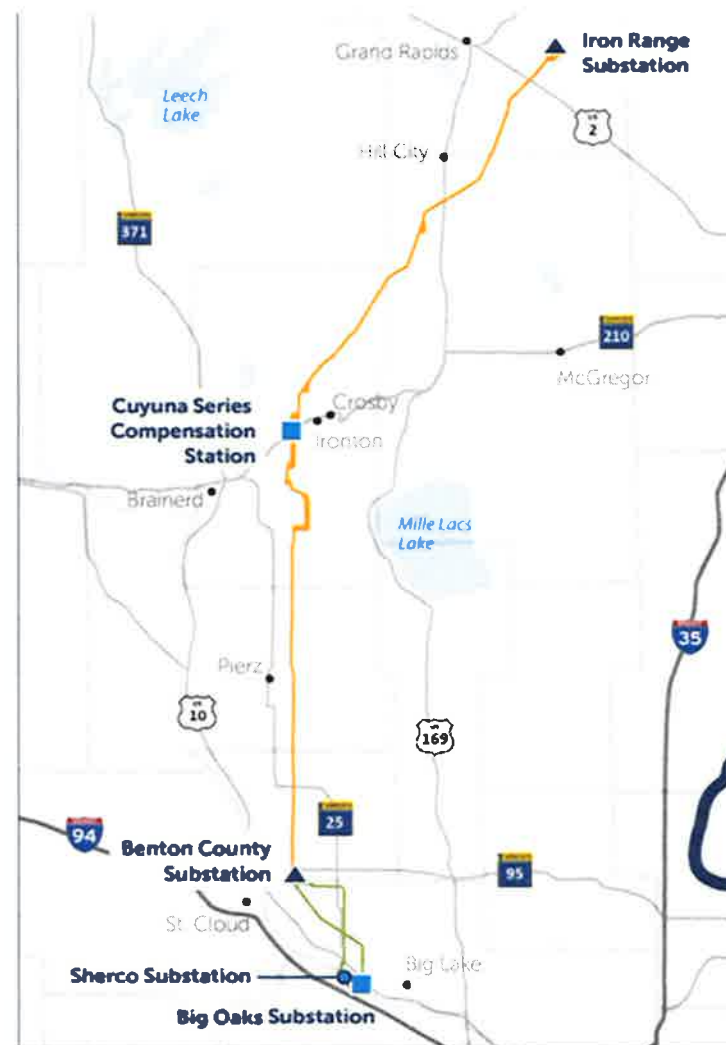
Two main project segments

- **Segment one:** Iron Range Substation to Cuyuna Series Comp Station to Benton County Substation
- **Segment two:** Benton County Substation to Big Oaks Substation

Legend

- ▲ Expand existing substations
- New substation

- Segment one
- Segment two



Our routing process & input opportunities

Define study
area

Define route
corridor

Define
preliminary
route

Identify
proposed
route

Filed Certificate
of Need and
Route Permit to
Minnesota
Public Utilities
Commission
(Aug 4, 2023)

We are here



Engagement
opportunities during
PUC Process

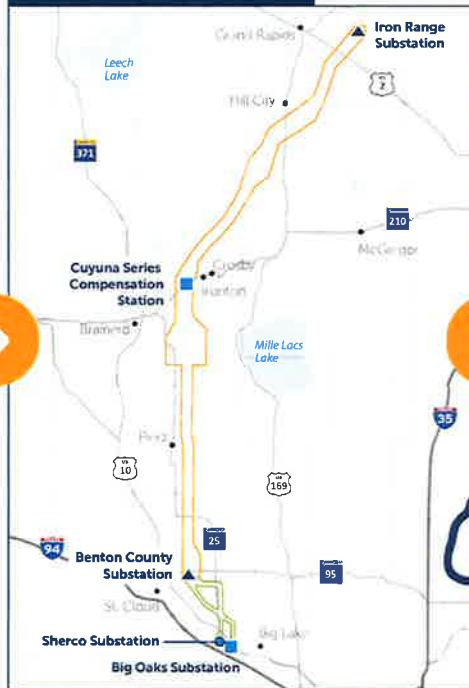
Public engagement

Route Development

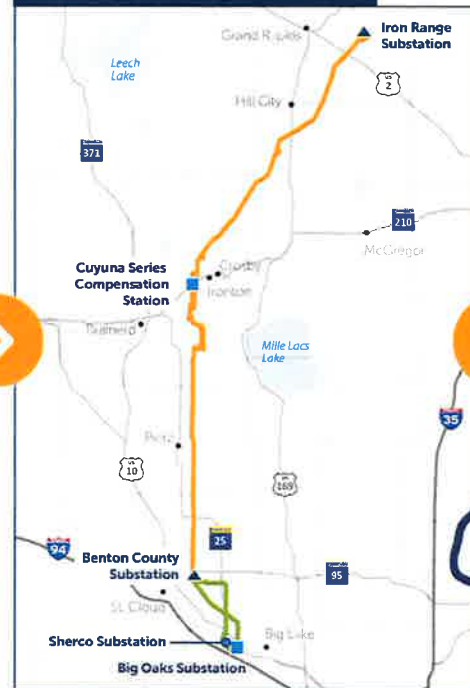
Study area



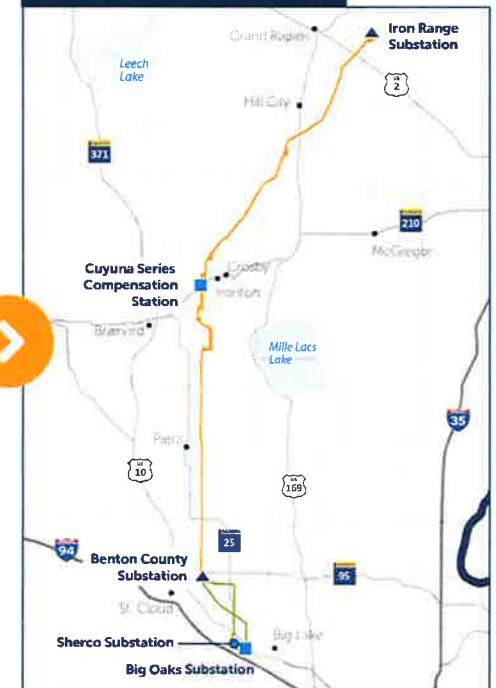
Route corridor



Preliminary route



Proposed route



Proposed Route – Aitkin County



Route Alternatives – Aitkin County



State Regulatory Process

- August 2023 - Submitted a joint Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
- October 2023 – PUC/Department of Commerce (DOC) public scoping meetings
 - Collected public feedback on the proposed routes and consider route alternatives
 - Identified route alternatives being evaluated in the Environmental Assessment (EA)



Visit

edockets.state.mn.us

- Certificate of Need: docket **22-416**
- Route Permit: docket **22-415**

State Regulatory Process



- June 2024 – DOC publish EA
- July 2024 - Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hold public hearings across the project area
- Fall 2024 - ALJ report with recommendations to the PUC
- Late 2024 - PUC decision on route permit

Visit

edockets.state.mn.us

- Certificate of Need: docket **22-416**
- Route Permit: docket **22-415**

Field Surveys

Started
October 2023



Continuing
May – November 2024



Continuing
Into 2025

**Landowner notices provided in advance of surveys*

Types of surveys



Biological



Wetlands



Land



Cultural
resources



Noxious weeds



Soil borings

**Acoustic detectors
for bats**



Real Estate Process



Right-of-entry
2023 – 2024



Easements
2024 – 2026

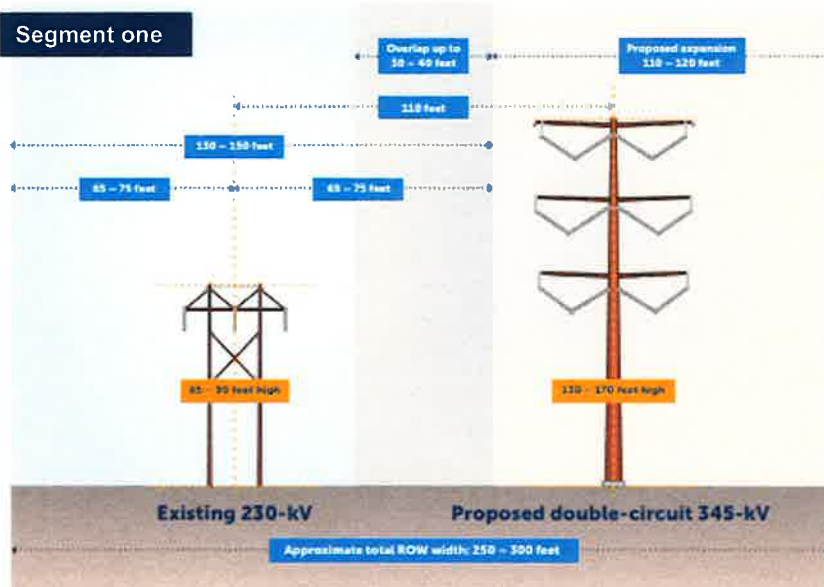


Construction
2025 – 2030

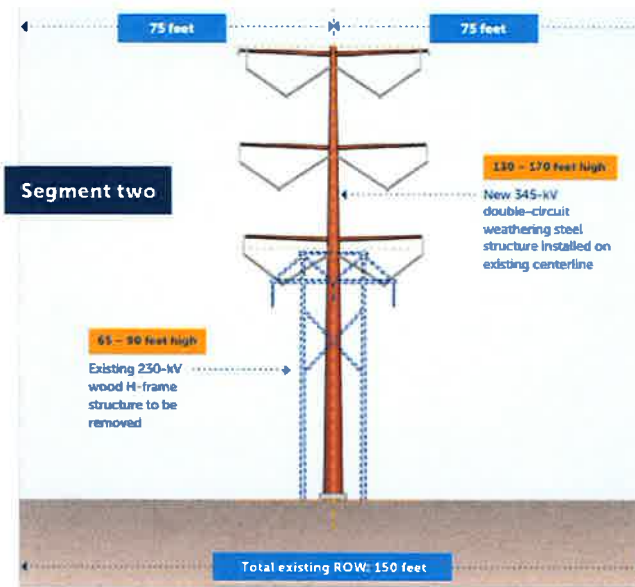


Restoration
2027 – 2031

Segment one



Segment two



Upcoming Project Milestones



PUC/DOC EA and public hearing



Engineering design for substations and transmission line



State and federal permitting efforts



Environmental field surveys in Segment 1 in Spring and Fall 2024



Anticipate construction starting on Segment 2 in Fall 2025

Northland Reliability Project



Connect with us!



northlandreliabilityproject.com



Call our hotline at
218-864-6059



Send us an email at
connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com