



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

4A  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** June 13, 2023

**Title of Item:** Northland Reliability Project - Discussion Only

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <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*
<b>Submitted by:</b> Jessica Seibert	<b>Department:</b> Administration	
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Zach Golkowski, Minnesota Power		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 20 Minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b>  An update on the Northland Reliability Project will be provided.		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Discussion only.		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> 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 <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

# Northland Reliability Project



## Supporting a reliable, resilient and flexible energy grid

To maintain a continuous supply of safe and reliable electricity, Minnesota Power and Great River Energy are investing in transmission infrastructure to enhance the stability of the regional electric system and support a reliable, resilient and flexible electric grid as energy resources continue to evolve. The energy resources we use to serve our customers and members are changing, and the regional power grid we use to deliver that energy needs to change, too.

### Project needs

The Northland Reliability Project will ensure the power grid in northern and central Minnesota continues to operate safely and reliably as energy resources in Minnesota and the regional power system continue to evolve. This project is also part of a large "Long Range Transmission Plan" portfolio approved by MISO, the region's grid operator, to support grid reliability across the Midwest. As generation resources shift from fossil fuels to more renewables, the Northland Reliability Project is one part of the solution to:



Provide support to the energy grid as more renewable energy is brought online and coal operations cease at existing power plants



Improve ability to withstand more frequent extreme weather events



Increase capacity to safely and reliably deliver more clean energy from where it's produced to where it's consumed by utility customers and power cooperative members



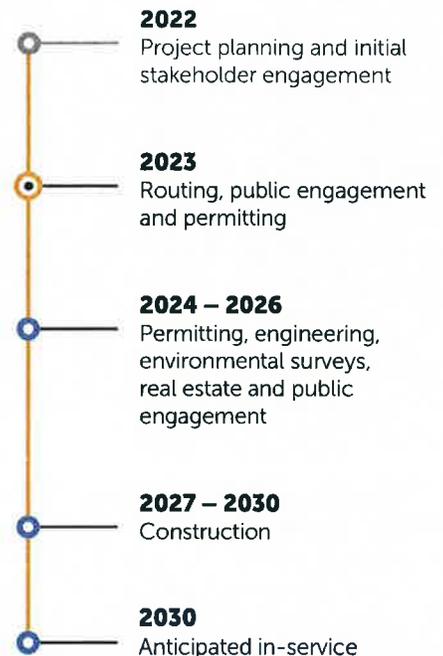
Meet future energy needs by enabling transfer of many types of power generation to many locations to meet the long-term needs of our customers and members

### Regulatory process participation

You can subscribe to receive updates from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC). Visit [edockets.state.mn.us](https://edockets.state.mn.us) and enter the docket number you're interested in tracking. For information on the Certificate of Need use docket 22-416 and for information on the Route Permit use docket 22-415.

### Schedule

We're in the midst of a robust stakeholder process as we prepare to apply for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late summer 2023.



*\*The schedule is subject to change.*

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy have a successful history of joint development and ownership of projects that support the reliability of our electric grid to meet the needs of our communities.

April 2023



## Routing process

During the routing process, our team has identified a preliminary route built on taking advantage of opportunities while understanding constraints. We'll be relying on feedback from the public, local leaders, agencies and our own expertise to develop a proposed route, used for permitting.

### Segment one

Install approximately 140 miles of a new double-circuit 345-kV transmission line, generally located near existing transmission line corridors.

### Segment two

Replace two existing transmission lines.

- Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from Benton County Substation to a new substation named Big Oaks in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors on double circuit 345-kV structures. The Big Oaks Substation will be built as part of a separate project called Alexandria to Big Oaks.
- Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Benton County Substation to the Sherco Substation in Sherburne County along existing transmission corridors using double-circuit 345-kV structures.

### Additional project improvements:

- Expand the Iron Range Substation near Grand Rapids and the Benton County Substation near St. Cloud.
- Install a new substation at or near the existing Riverton Substation and reconfigure existing transmission lines in the Riverton area.



## Connect with us

Questions? We want to hear from you.



[northlandreliabilityproject.com](http://northlandreliabilityproject.com)



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