



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

5A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: November 26, 2024

Title of Item: Northland Reliability Project Presentation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title): Northland Reliability Project Team		Estimated Time Needed: 30 min.
Summary of Issue: Northland Reliability Project team presentation on project updates.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion:		
Financial Impact: <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

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

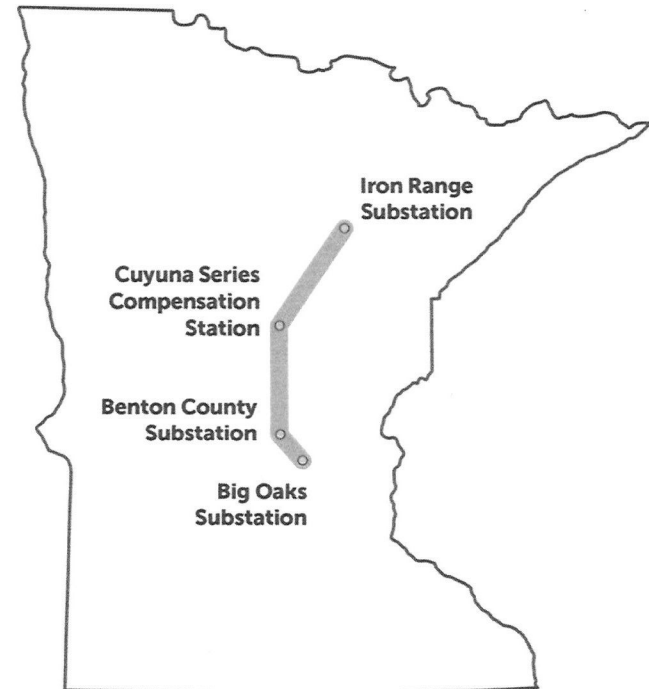
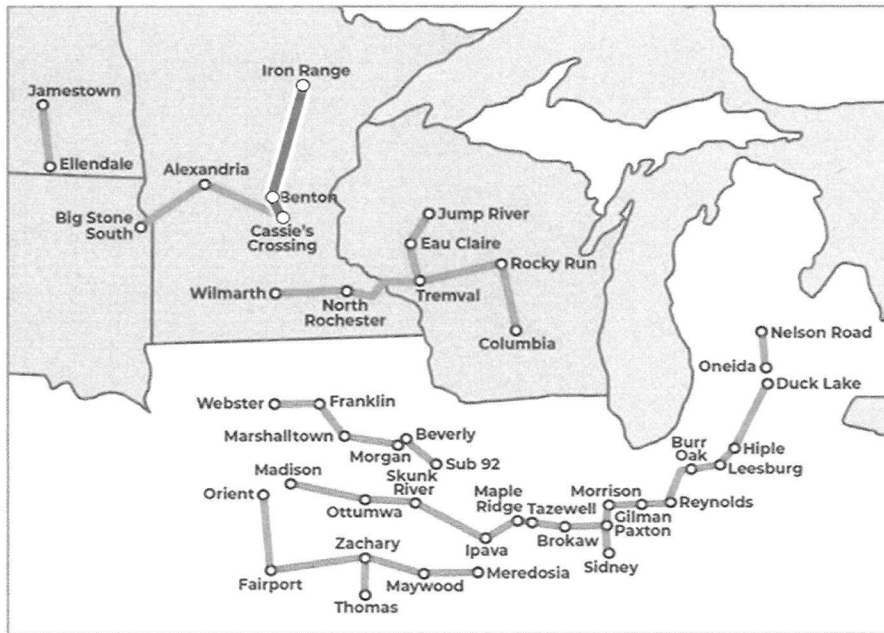
Northland Reliability Project



Project Updates

Aitkin County, November 2024

MISO-approved project: part of a regional plan



Double-circuit 345-kV line

Over 85% co-located with existing HVTL

180 miles

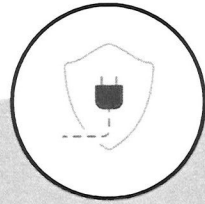
Expanded and new substations

Fulfilling a need



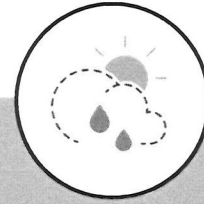
Maintaining reliability

Provide system support as energy resources continue to evolve.



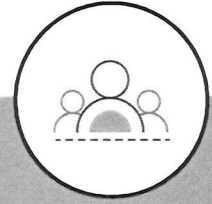
Enabling clean energy

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
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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)
- **June 2024** - DOC published EA
- **July 2024** - Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) held public hearings across the project area
- **September 2024** - Applicants submitted responses to public comments
- **November 2024** - ALJ report with recommendations to the PUC
- **Late 2024/Early 2025** - PUC decision on route permit



Visit
edockets.state.mn.us

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

Regulatory process – ALJ Hearing

General comments:

- Common corridor
- Maximize distance to residences
- Reduce effects to center pivot systems
- Clarify the route width versus the right-of-way
- Clarify access and construction and easement types

Aitkin County:

- Impacts to dog sled businesses
- Impacts to property values

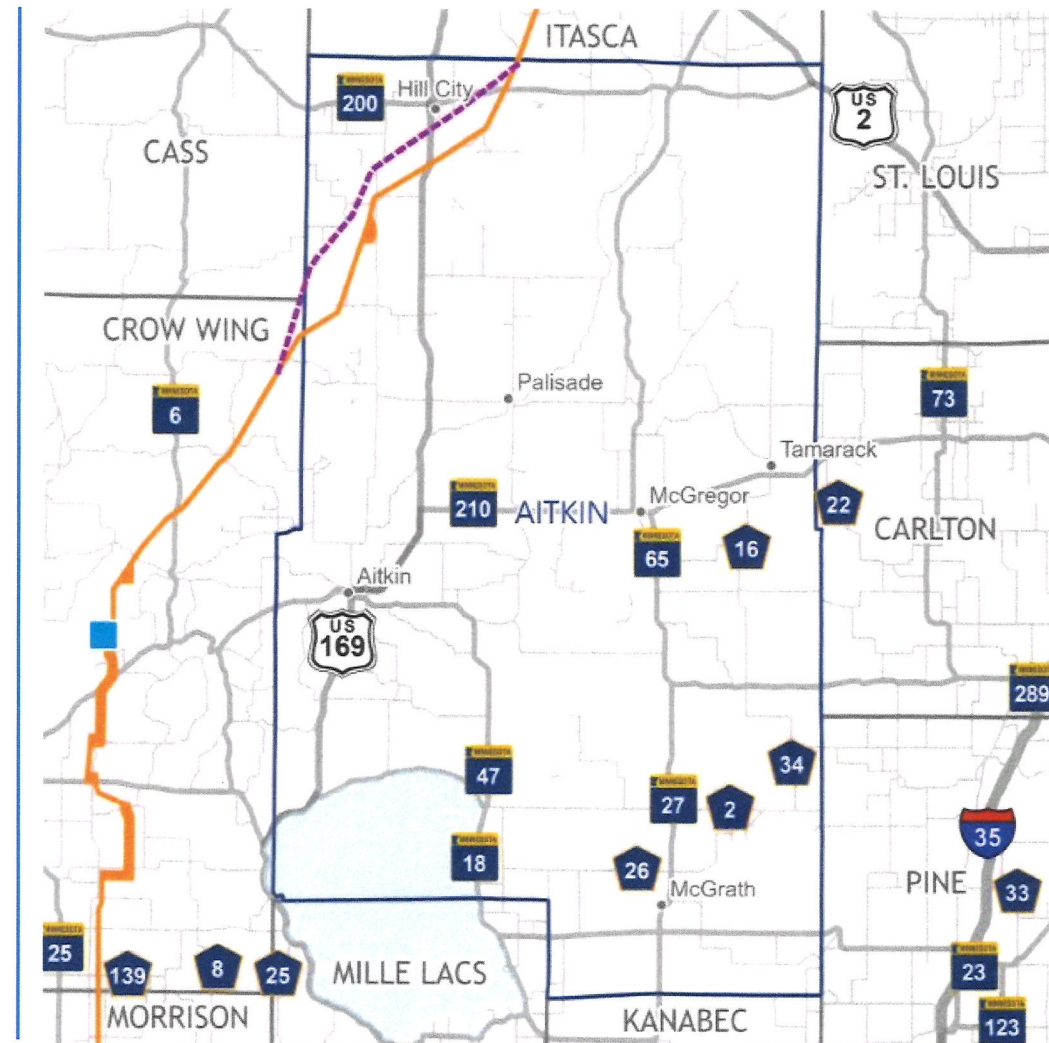
Proposed Route – Aitkin County

Route Permit
Application
August 2023

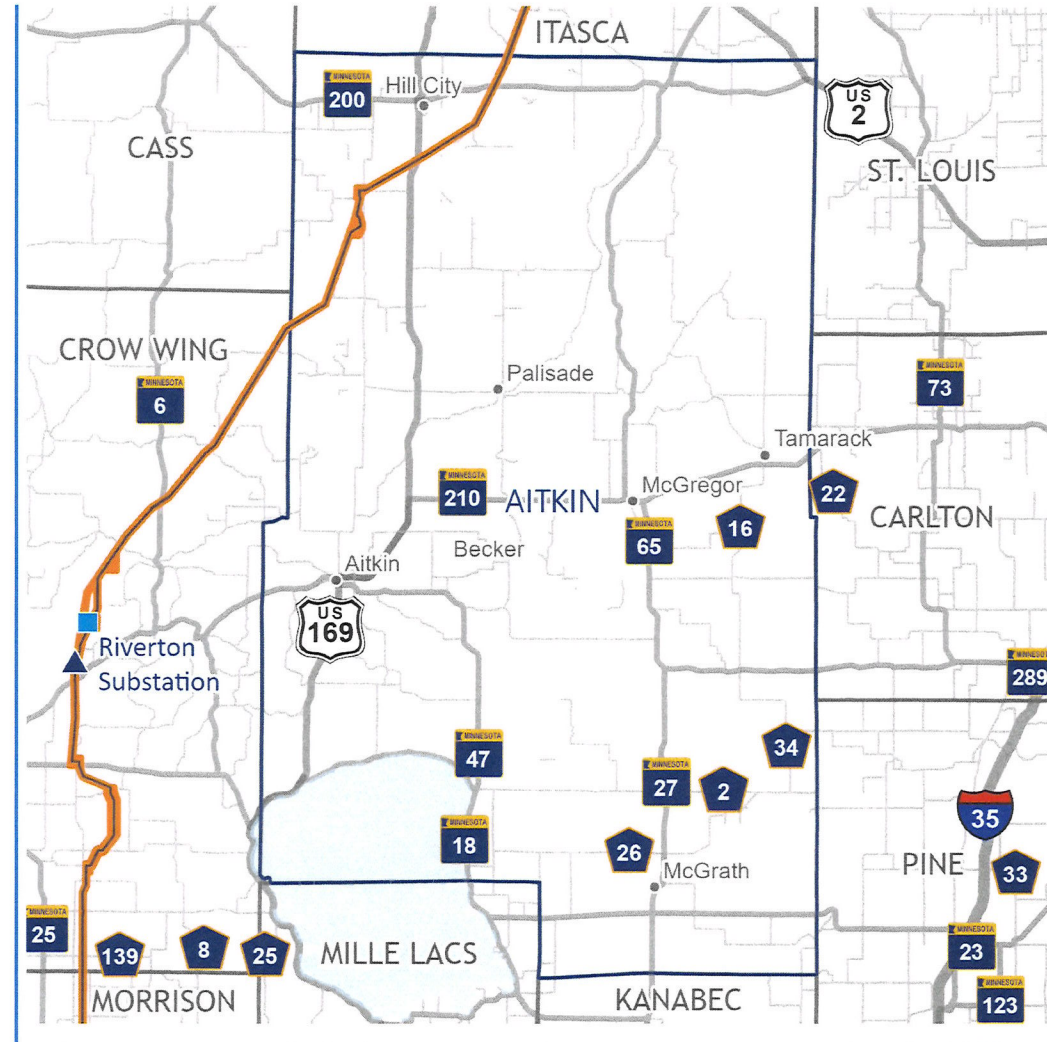


Route Alternatives – Aitkin County

Scoping
October 2023



Co-location Maximization Route (September 2024)



Field surveys

**Landowner notices provided in advance of surveys*

Started
October 2023



Continuing
May – November 2024



Continuing
Into 2025

Types of surveys



Biological



Wetlands



Cultural resources



Soil borings

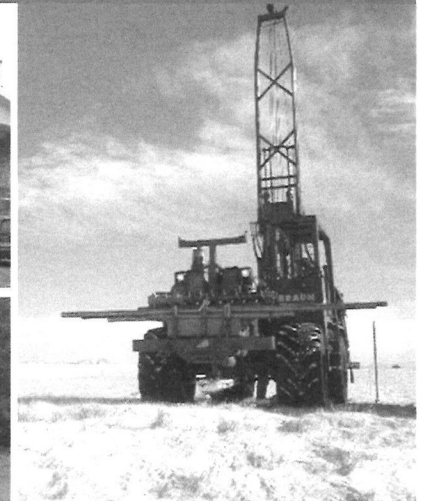


Noxious weeds



Land

Geo-tech soil boring surveys



Real estate process



Right-of-entry
2023 – 2024



Easements
2024 – 2026



Construction
2025 – 2030



Restoration
2027 – 2031

What landowners can expect

1



Landowners are contacted to begin right-of-way acquisition process.

2



An easement is presented to a landowner. An offer based on fair market value is presented.

3



We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement. An easement is recorded.

4



The utilities construct, operate and maintain the transmission line within the right-of-way.

On-going and upcoming project milestones



Engineering design for substations and transmission line



State and federal permitting efforts



Soil borings on Segment 2 fall and winter 2024/2025



Anticipate construction starting on Segment 2 in 2025

Continued project communications



Continue supporting our project email, information line and website



Land agent updates and notifications



Newsletter and postcard updates



Local leader project update presentations



Upcoming communication: PUC decision on Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application (postcard and website updates)

Northland Reliability Project



Connect with us!



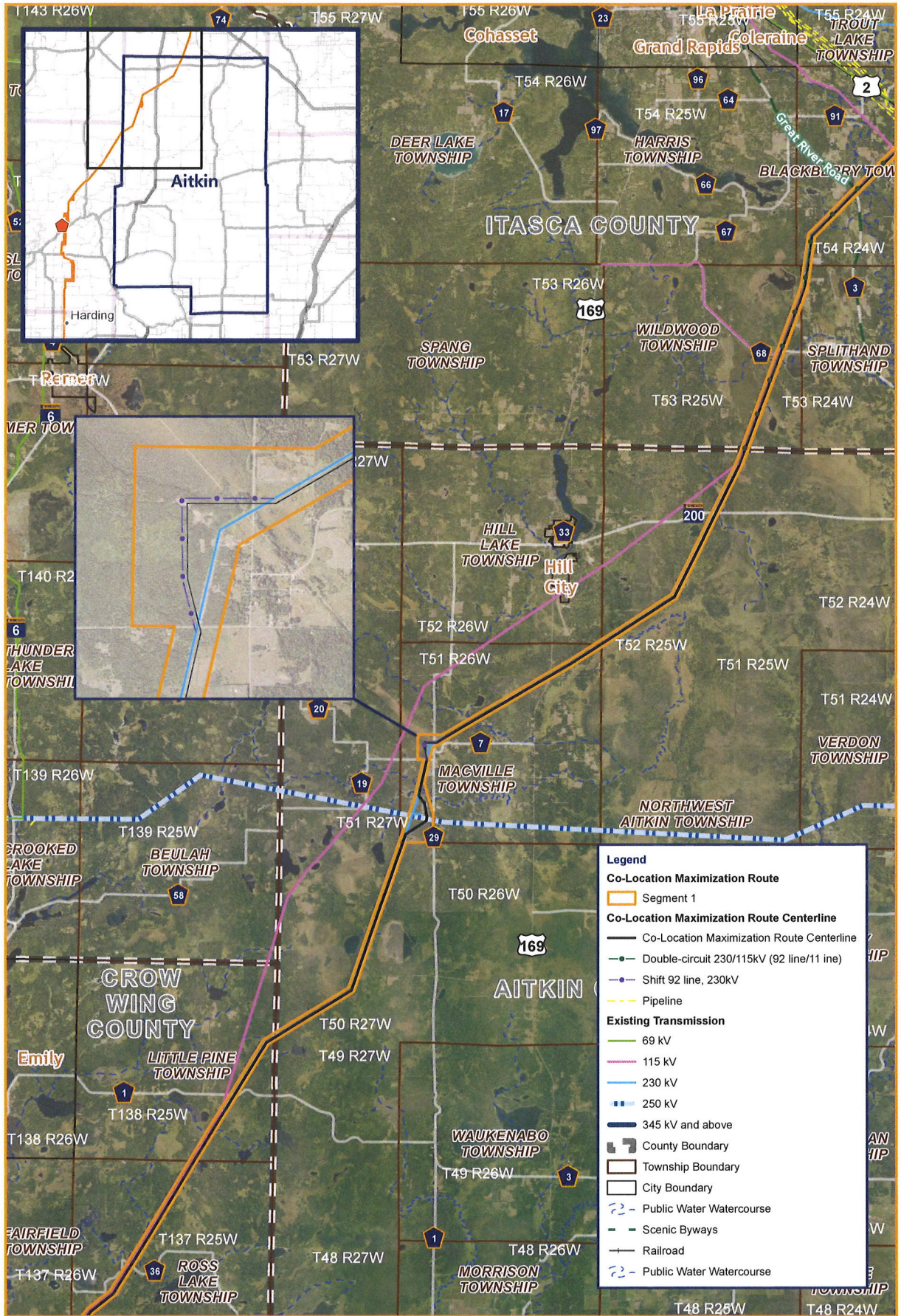
northlandreliabilityproject.com



Call our hotline at
218-864-6059



Send us an email at
connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com



Legend

- Co-Location Maximization Route**
 - Segment 1
- Co-Location Maximization Route Centerline**
 - Co-Location Maximization Route Centerline
 - Double-circuit 230/115kV (92 line/111 line)
 - Shift 92 line, 230kV
 - Pipeline
- Existing Transmission**
 - 69 kV
 - 115 kV
 - 230 kV
 - 250 kV
 - 345 kV and above
- Boundaries**
 - County Boundary
 - Township Boundary
 - City Boundary
- Other Features**
 - Public Water Watercourse
 - Scenic Byways
 - Railroad
 - Public Water Watercourse



Co-Location Maximization Route (Oct 2024) in Aitkin County

