



AN ALLETE COMPANY



**ROUTE PERMIT APPLICATION
FOR THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

April 15, 2014



Appendix C - I

BOOK 3 of 3



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Book 1 of 3: Route Permit Application

Book 2 of 3: Appendix A and B

- Appendix A: Detailed Figures
- Appendix B: Segment Calculations

Book 3 of 3: Appendix C - I

- Appendix C: Public Involvement and Agency Coordination
- Appendix D: Infrastructure Illustrations
- Appendix E: Methods and Regulations
- Appendix F: Noise Analysis
- Appendix G: Cultural Resource Report
- Appendix H: Landowner List
- Appendix I: Electric and Magnetic Fields

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Appendix C

Stakeholder Workshops and Agency Meetings

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Stakeholder Workshops

Comment Form

Community Survey

Handout

Meeting Summary

Presentatio

Scroll Map Index

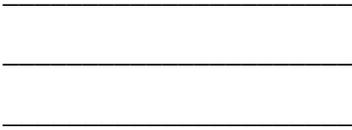
Stakeholder Letter (TRF Example)

Thank You Email

Tribal Stakeholder Letter (Bemidji Example)

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Jim Atkinson, Project Manager
Minnesota Power Cooperative, Inc
30 W Superior St
Duluth, MN 55802

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Email: _____

1. In your opinion, was the information presented helpful to gain an understanding of the project?

Yes

No

If not, is there any topic or information that could be improved or explained more clearly?

If not, is there additional information we could provide?

2. For future public meetings, do you have recommendations for local venues that we should consider using for large groups?

3. Are there any key members of your community that you suggest reaching out to during the project?

4. What are the main questions and concerns from you and your community about the project?

5. What is the best time of day to host public meetings?

Morning (8 – 10 am)

Afternoon (12 – 2 pm)

Evening (5 – 7 pm)

6. Would you or members of your community be likely to participate in an online public meeting?

Yes

No If not, why? _____

7. What is the best way to provide project information to you and your community?

Mail

Radio

TV

Internet / Email

Newspaper (Name: _____)

Other _____

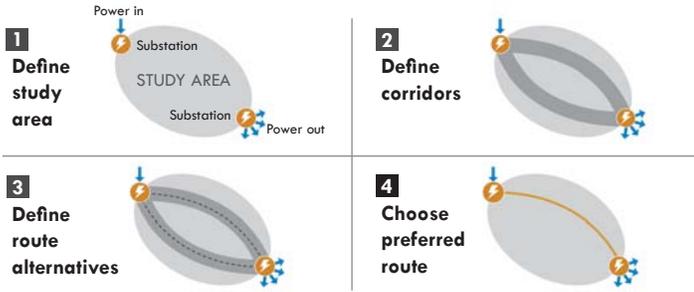
8. General comments:

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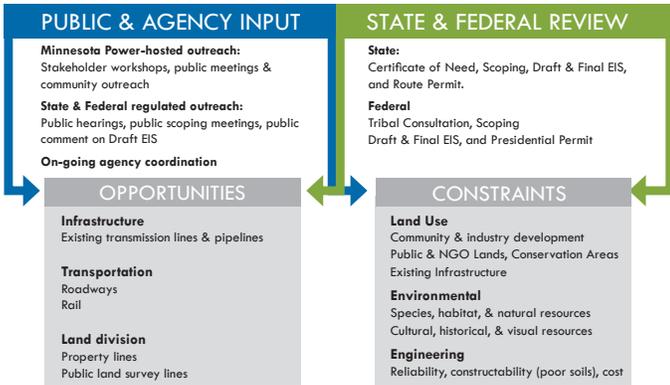
Jim Atkinson, Project Manager
Minnesota Power Cooperative, Inc
30 W Superior St
Duluth, MN 55802

▶ Routing a transmission line



▶ Developing routing criteria

Minnesota Power will incorporate state and federal environmental review requirements, and public and agency input to develop a set of criteria to help determine which areas provide opportunities or limitations for potential transmission line routes. The list below represents an example of possible routing criteria.



GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE

Minnesota Power's Great Northern Transmission Line project includes a 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to the Iron Range Substation, and a 345 kV double circuit line from the Iron Range Substation to the existing Arrowhead Substation near Duluth, Minnesota. The line will deliver power generated by Manitoba Hydro to customers.

See the inside of this handout for a map of the project area.

What is the project?

Why is the project needed?

- Brings power from Manitoba Hydro to customers within Minnesota Power's service territory, including the iron range, to meet growing demand.
- Increases access to clean, renewable energy for local customers and the wider region.
- Provides redundant connection to hydropower resource.
- Supports jobs and growth in regional economy.



What is the project schedule?

The project schedule is driven by state and federal regulatory requirements and the required June 2020 in-service date. The key steps of the project will be:

1. Identify opportunities & constraints
2. Route the line
3. Obtain environmental permits
4. Design the line
5. Construct the line

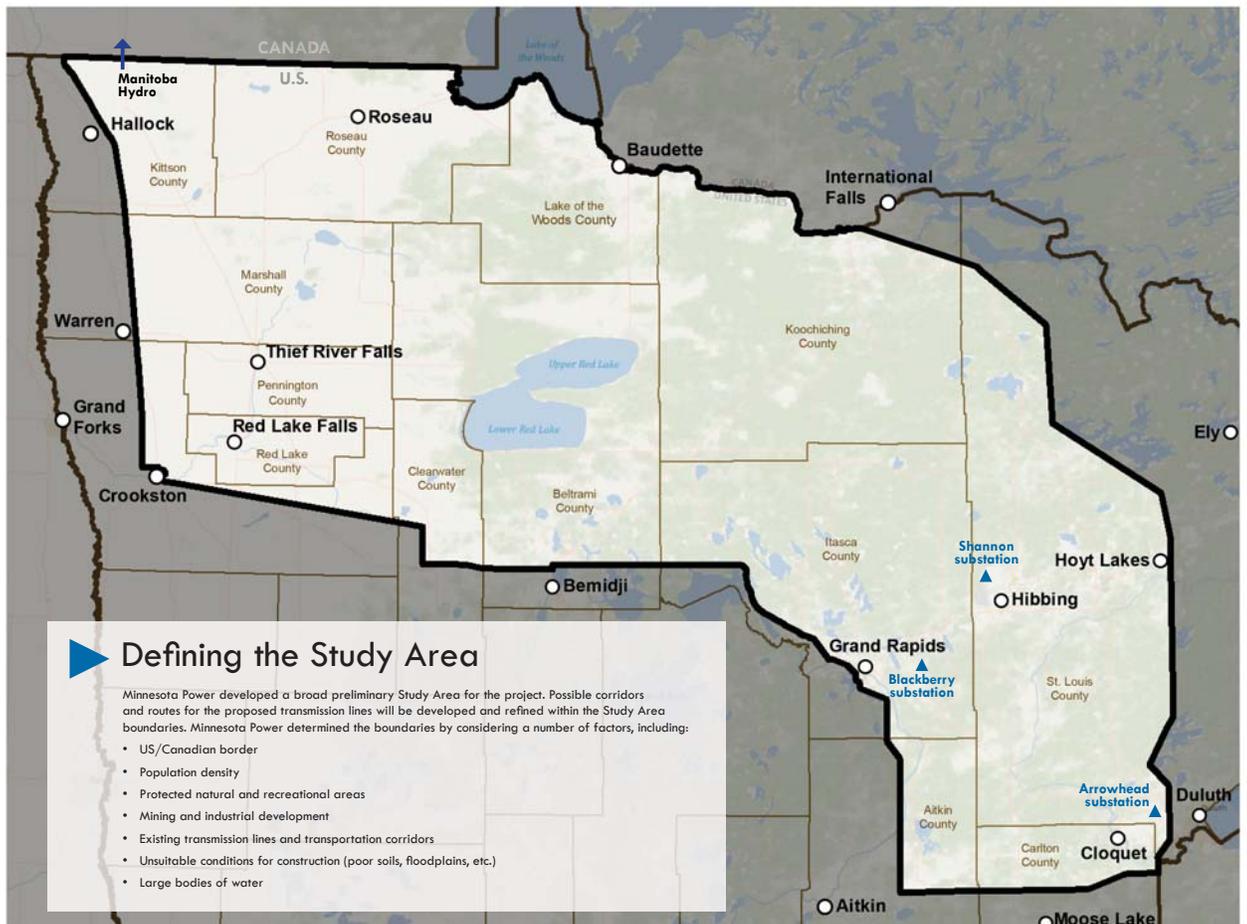
Public & agency input and environmental review will occur throughout the project.



Contact us

Jim Atkinson, Environmental Lead | Minnesota Power
info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com | 30 W Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802

PRELIMINARY STUDY AREA





Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Minnesota Power August 2012 Workshop Meetings Summary

Summary

Minnesota Power hosted a series of 11 stakeholder workshops from August 1-9, 2012 to gather input from local stakeholders and agency representatives and to discuss the Great Northern Transmission Line Project.

Meeting Attendance

18% of invitees attended (54 attended/298 invited). A table of attendance by week and meeting is located in the Workshops Overview section – Table 2.

Meeting Materials

- Study Area Board
- Presentation
- Meeting Handout (11X17, folded) with inserts:
 - Community Survey
 - Comment Form
- Sign-In Sheets
- Name Tags

Feedback

To collect feedback during the open houses, community surveys and comment forms were given to attendees. The comment form asked for contact information and provided space for the comment itself.

We received approximately **37** community surveys during the 11 workshops. The community survey and comments received during the open houses have been categorized by topic and are outlined in Appendix A. Some notable results are as follows:

- All 37 respondents indicated that the information at the workshops was helpful.
- 68% of respondents said that evening meetings would be the most optimal time of day to host public meetings, followed by 35% saying afternoons would be best.
- 65% would participate in online meetings.
- Respondents chose the following for best way to provide information:
 - Newspaper and Email – 59%
 - Mail – 54%
 - Project Website – 51%

Mapping Comments

In order to streamline the collection of comments on the detailed aerial corridor maps during the series of 11 workshops, HDR used a system that required each project team member to place a sticker dot (initials and dot number) in the location of the map comment, record comment information in their notebooks, and log comments into the comment tracker spreadsheet at the end of each week of open house meetings.

From this process, **119** mapping comments were collected. Table 1 identifies the comment category, number and major topics collected during the workshops.

Table 1: Open House Meeting Mapping Comments By Category

Comment Category	Total #	Major Topics	Follow-up	Follow-up Action
Agriculture	4	Center Pivot Irrigators, cropland, wild rice harvest area, peat mining.	0	None
Airport	2	Private airstrips.	0	None
Cultural	6	Historic trail, significant reservation lands.	0	None
Development	24	Communities, expansion areas, population notes, seasonal homes/cabins.	0	None
Housing	3	Housing developments.	0	None
Land	7	Corridor opportunities given landscape	0	None
Mining	14	Aggregate, iron ore and taconite.	0	None
Natural	18	Managed/pristine forest lands, fens, prairies, environmentally sensitive areas.	1	Send Chippewa National Forest project shapefiles for their review.
Recreation	15	Boat launches, campsites, trails, parks, shooting range.	1	Contact Richard Moore from City of Beltrami if more information on the shooting range is needed.
Transportation	15	Routing opportunities, border patrol stations, expansion/future highway projects.	0	None
Utility	10	Pipeline sharing areas, natural gas facility, cell towers, substations.	1	Contact Dave Christie from Itasca County Highway Department for more information about Essar gas plant/transmission project.
Wind Farm	1	Wind development area	0	None
Total #	119	Total Follow-up Actions	3	

Outreach

The following forms of communication were used to reach out public of the open house meetings:

- Invitation Letter Mailings (included Study Area map)
- Email follow-up
 - Invitation reminder
 - Attendee thank you email
- Phone call follow-up if no email was provided to those invited

Workshop invitees were asked to RSVP for the workshop they planned on attending; invitees were given an RSVP hotline (**877.657.9934**), and an email address (**rsvp@greatnortherntransmissionline.com**) to complete their RSVP. This helped the project team determine room set-up, staffing needs, and catering.

Prior to and during the weeks of the meetings, **61** individuals submitted an RSVP. Out of those RSVPs, **8** (13%) were made by calling the RSVP hotline and **53** (87%) were made using the email RSVP address.

Overview

The 11 workshop locations were determined by proximity to the Study Area and travelling distance for stakeholders in the Study Area’s counties. An overview map of the area and meeting locations is located below; Table 2 shows meeting location and attendance information.

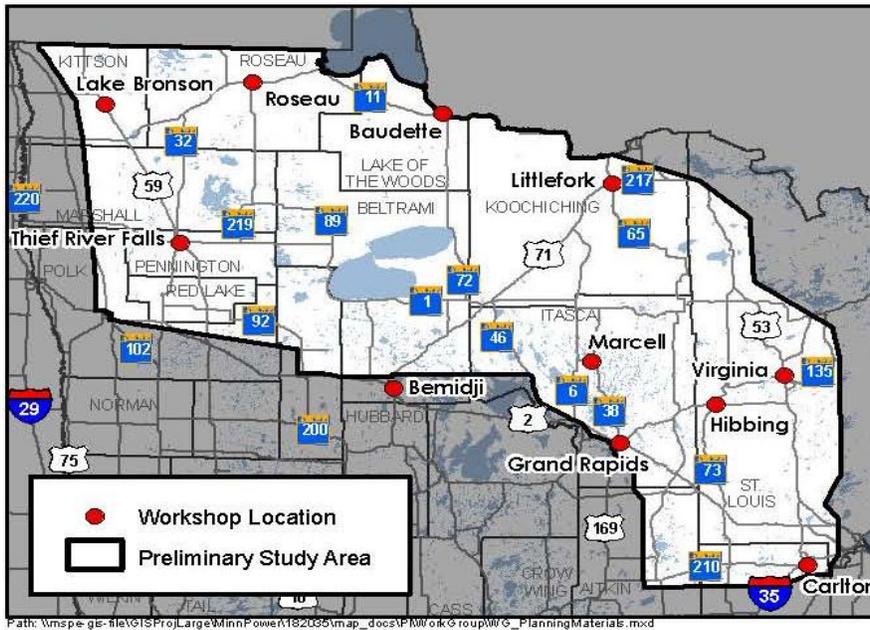


Table 2: Number of Invitees, RSVPs, and Attendees for each Meeting Location
Appendix B shows attendees and their organization.

Meeting Location	Date & Time	Number of Invitees	Number of Attendees
Baudette	August 1 4:30-6pm	8	1
Roseau	August 2 11:30-1pm	15	6
Lake Bronson	August 2 4:30-6pm	12	2
Thief River Falls	August 3 11:30-1pm	40	8
Carlton	August 6 11:30-1pm	80	5
Virginia	August 6 4:30-6pm	15	1
Hibbing	August 7 11:30-1pm	18	8
Grand Rapids	August 7 4:30-6pm	23	9
Marcell	August 8 11:30-1pm	6	0
Littlefork	August 8 4:30-6pm	10	5
Bemidji	August 9 11:30-1pm	71	8
	Total	298	53

Table 3: Venue and Catering

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address	Caterer Name
Wednesday August 1 4:30-6pm	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 th Ave SW Baudette MN 56623	Lake of the Woods Foods 108 N Main Ave Baudette
Thursday August 2 11:30-1pm	Roseau Civic Center Trapper Room 121 Center Street East Roseau MN 56751	Gene's Bar and Grill 1095 3 rd St NW Roseau
Thursday August 2 4:30-6pm	Lake Bronson Community Center 112 Main Street Lake Bronson MN 56734	Doug's Supermarket 610 3 rd Street NW Roseau
Friday August 3 11:30-1pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue North Thief River Falls MN	Black Cat Grill 1080 State Hwy 32 South TRF
Monday August 6 11:30-1pm	Otter Creek Event Center Lake Hall 1789 Minnesota 210 Carlton MN 55718	Otter Creek Event Center 1789 Minnesota 210 Carlton
Monday August 6 4:30-6pm	Mesabi Range Community College 1001 Chestnut Street W – Room C151 Virginia MN 55792	M.B.'s Little Gourmet Deli 302 Chestnut Street Virginia
Tuesday August 7 11:30-1pm	Hibbing Memorial Building Arena 400 East 23 rd Street Hibbing MN 55746	Sunrise Deli and Catering 2135 1 st Avenue Hibbing
Tuesday August 7 4:30-6pm	Grand Rapids IRA Civic Center 1401 Northwest 3 rd Avenue Grand Rapids MN 55744	Borealis Catering Company 1612 McKinney Lake Rd GR
Wednesday August 8 11:30-1pm	Marcell Family Center 49023 State Highway 38 Marcell MN 56657	Pine Cone Sandwich Shop 49407 Minnesota 38 Marcell
Wednesday August 8 4:30-6pm	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street Littlefork MN 56653	Lenard's Catering 1500 Hwy 71 International Falls
Thursday August 9 11:30-1pm	The Sanford Center Lakeview Room 1111 Event Center Drive NE Bemidji MN 56601	The Sanford Center

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Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Minnesota Power August 2012 Workshop Meetings Summary

Appendix A

Workshop Survey Topics and Results



Stakeholder Workshop – Community Survey

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Email: _____

1. In your opinion, was the information presented helpful to gain an understanding of the project?

Yes

No

If not, is there any topic or information that could be improved or explained more clearly?

If not, is there additional information we could provide?

2. For future public meetings, do you have recommendations for local venues that we should consider using for large groups?

3. Are there any key members of your community that you suggest reaching out to during the project?

4. What are the main questions and concerns from you and your community about the project?

5. What is the best time of day to host public meetings?

Morning (8 – 10 am)

Afternoon (12 – 2 pm)

Evening (5 – 7 pm)

6. Would you or members of your community be likely to participate in an online public meeting?

Yes

No If not, why? _____

7. What is the best way to provide project information to you and your community?

Mail

Radio

TV

Internet / Email

Newspaper (Name: _____)

Other _____

8. General comments:

Question/Topic	Results
Was the information helpful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – 37 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very early in the project. More info will help later ○ More information on where the hydro dams are, not need for the project just general information
Recommendation for local venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ralph Engelstad Arena – Thief River Falls (2) • City Halls • Roseau City Center • County commissioners, city mayors, and administrators • Thief River Falls Joint Facility (MnDOT, MnDNR, Pennington County) – contact Mike Flaagan • Community centers and schools • Proctor City Hall • Twig Community Center • Black Bear Casino • Iron World – Reclamation Building • Big Falls Community Center – International Falls • Timberlake Lodge – Grand Rapids • Blandin Foundation • Reif Center • Sawmill Inn • Beltrami Electric Co. meeting rooms • Clearbrook Community Center
Suggested community members to reach out to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNR Wildlife – Thief River Falls • Many WMA's • Township board officers at annual board meeting • Northwest Regional Development Commission • County commissioners • City Clerk • Watersheds • Highway engineers • Koochiching County Board • River board • MDLPUS – formerly Forest Capital Partners • Itasca County – Environmental Services/GIS • Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe • Northern Research Station • Headwaters Regional Development Commission • Tribal councils
Main concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location and impact • Paralleling state highways • Impact on the maintenance and operation of the highway • Keeping the land in great condition due to the area being a farming community • Corridor impacts to local landowners and what they can expect to see • Try to stay off prime farmland • Transmission line through important state forest lands. • Major timber production values • preserving drainage and roads are very important • Impacts to natural areas, specifically wetlands and prairie complexes • Keep on public land as much as possible • What is the specific route? • NEPA coordination, endangered species, cultural and heritage, wetlands, recreation, mineral development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corridors • River crossings, eminent domain, wetland issues, ability to sell power to MN Power • Environmental and visual quality impacts • Are there any benefits to the city? • Stay north in existing utility corridors • Utilizing existing corridors whenever possible. Maintain the scenic integrity of central Itasca County • How the corridor may affect our land during building phase and after • Can you avoid the forest? • Preservation of sensitive areas and limit interruption to residents • Evaluation per mile of the real property • Structure characteristics, siting of the line (shoreland, ag land, wetlands)
Time of day to host public meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morning - 4 • Afternoon - 13 • Evening - 25
Participation in online meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes – 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many farmers will be involved ○ Intermediate, not for big meetings/decisions • No – 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access Issues ○ Don't know how it would go over with public ○ Sometimes hard to develop interest ○ Internet availability ○ People want to put fingers on to a map
Best way to provide information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mail - 20 • TV - 5 • Newspaper – 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Oklee Herald – Richards Publishing ○ Roseau Times (2) ○ Greenbush – Warroad ○ The Times – TRF ○ Watch – TRF ○ North Star News ○ Warroad Pioneer ○ Hibbing Daily Tribune ○ International Falls Journal ○ Bois Forte News ○ Littlefork Times ○ Grand Rapids Herald Review ○ Scenic Range News ○ Bemidji Pioneer (2) ○ Farmers Independent ○ Leader Record • Radio – 9 • Project Website – 19 • Email – 22 • Other - 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook ○ Twitter ○ City website (LaPrairie)

General comments

- Continue to give advance notice of meetings and multiple locations
- It is always difficult to get interest until more specifics are presented
- Just have good PR with public
- A website with updates can be helpful. Email notice of major steps or decisions
- Thank you for reaching out at this time.
- There will be school trust issues to address
- The fact that the power source is renewable is more accepted than coal fired generator. There is a huge interest in NE MN to produce electricity through biomass/wood fired generation. Many forest owners/managers are looking for consumers and uses of their forest products as we see reduced traditional consumer demand in pulp/paper/board production.
- Very informative. Appreciated the MN Power employees really listening to everyone's thoughts and concerns.
- Good introduction presentation
- If at all costs avoid the National Forest from a time consuming position.



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Minnesota Power
August 2012
Workshop Meetings Summary

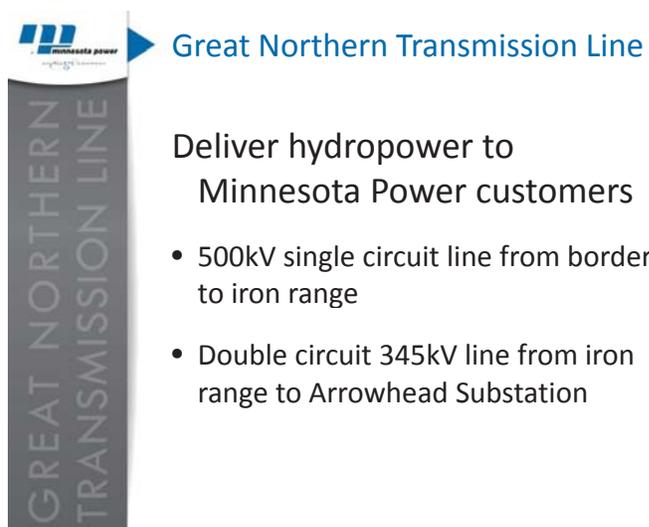
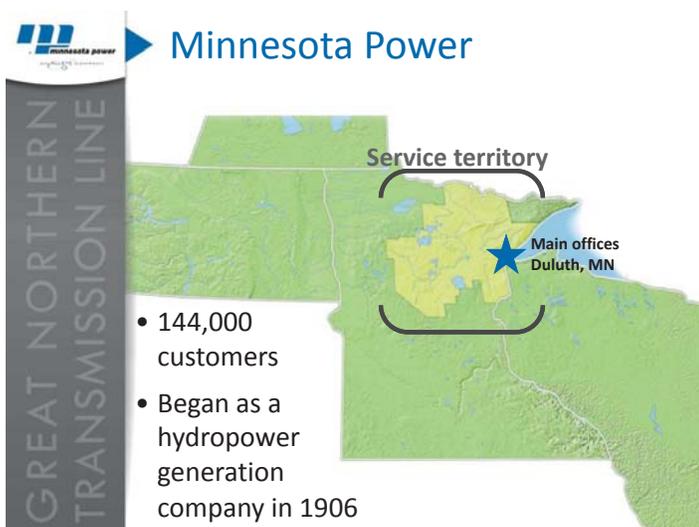
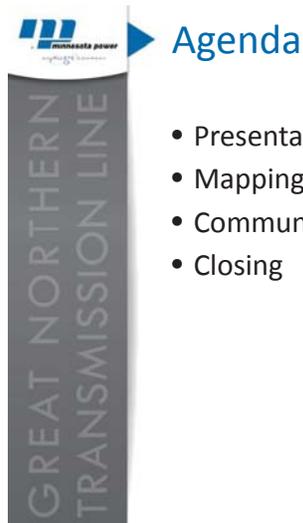
Appendix B

Workshop Attendees

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Meeting	FirstName	LastName	Organization
Baudette	Dana	Carlson	MN Department of Natural Resources
Roseau	Adam	Fisher	MN Department of Natural Resources
Roseau	Roger	Falk	Roseau County
Roseau	Loren	Horner	Warroad Watershed District
Roseau	Brian	Ketring	Roseau County
Roseau	Allen	Brandt	Roseau County
Roseau	Todd	Peterson	City of Roseau
Lake Bronson	Nick	Amb	City of Karlstad
Lake Bronson	Russ	Reisz	The Nature Conservancy
Thief River Falls	Craig	Mowry	Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge
Thief River Falls	Earl	Hill	MN Department of Transportation
Thief River Falls	Joe	McKinnon	MN Department of Transportation
Thief River Falls	Bonny	Cote	City of Oklee
Thief River Falls	Mike	Flaagan	Pennington County
Thief River Falls	Dale	Narlock	City of Thief River Falls
Thief River Falls	Lon	Aune	Marshall County
Thief River Falls	Laurie	Fairchild	USFWS
Carlton	Scott	Smith	Saint Louis County
Carlton	Elizabeth	Schleif	USDA
Carlton	David	Brenna	City of Proctor
Carlton	Sean	Copeland	Fond du Lac
Carlton	Wayne	Olson	Carlton County
Virginia	Sid	Jarvis	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Hibbing	Tim	Russ	MN Department of Natural Resources
Hibbing	William	Baer	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Hibbing	Wayne	Scheer	MN Department of Transportation
Hibbing	William	Hendricks	City of Nashwauk
Hibbing	Mike	Troumbly	City of Taconite
Hibbing	Bill	Storm	Dept of Commerce EFP
Grand Rapids	Tom	Pagel	City of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids	Roger L	Hoyum	JDI Contracts Inc.
Grand Rapids	Paul	Hoefler	JDI Contracts Inc.
Grand Rapids	Stephen	Welliver	Wellson Group, Inc
Grand Rapids	John	Schaubach	Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota
Grand Rapids	Lee	Mattfield	City of Coleraine
Grand Rapids	Lynn	O'Brien	City of LaPrairie
Grand Rapids	Jim	Gustafson	Itasca SWCD
Grand Rapids	Anthony	Ward	City of Grand Rapids
Littlefork	Brian	Lindvall	City of Littlefork
Littlefork	Loren	Lehman	City of Littlefork
Littlefork	Joseph	Brown	MN Department of Natural Resources
Littlefork	Dale	Olson	Koochiching County
Littlefork	Dave	Larson	Bois Forte Tribal Government
Bemidji	Bruce	Hasbargen	Beltrami County
Bemidji	Jane	Mueller	Beltrami County
Bemidji	Rich	Riewer	Beltrami Electric Cooperative
Bemidji	Christine	Brown	Chippewa National Forest
Bemidji	Nancy	Larson	Chippewa National Forest
Bemidji	Bob	Milne	MN Department of Natural Resources
Bemidji	Dan	Sauve	Clearwater County
Bemidji	Mike	Stenseng	Clearwater County

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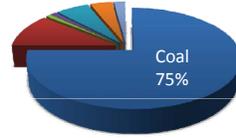
Why Great Northern?

- Diversification
- Demand
- Reliability

GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE



Diversification



MP Energy Sources in 2012



MP Energy Sources in 2024

- Coal
- Market Purchases
- Manitoba Existing
- Manitoba Hydro Short Term
- Wind
- Minnesota Power Hydro
- Biomass

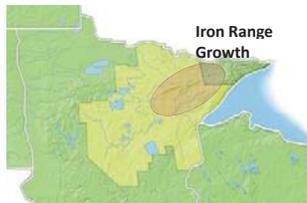
- Coal
- Market Purchases
- Expanded Conservation
- Manitoba Hydro Long Term
- Wind
- Minnesota Power Hydro
- Biomass

GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE



Demand

- Increase energy supply to load growth in Minnesota Power's service area, including the Iron Range



GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE



Reliability

- Regional access to the clean, renewable energy generated by Manitoba Hydro
- Electric supply reliability for the regional customers

GREAT NORTHERN TRANSMISSION LINE



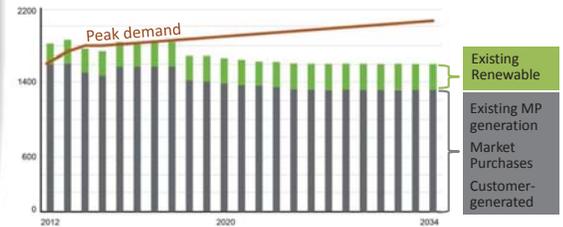
Addressing our responsibility with hydropower

- Clean
- Renewable
- Flexible
- Cost competitive



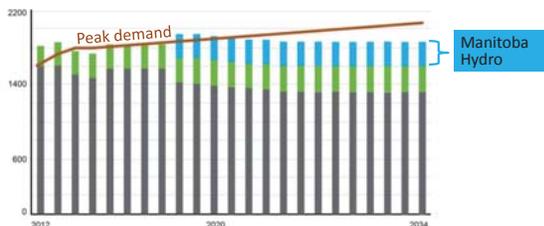
Addressing our responsibility with hydropower

- Generation and projected demand



Addressing our responsibility with hydropower

- Power from Manitoba Hydro helps meet growing demand with clean, renewable energy



Preliminary Schedule

Schedule is driven by federal and state regulations along with the required in-service date (June 1, 2020)





Planning



The Great Northern Transmission Line Study Area



Planning

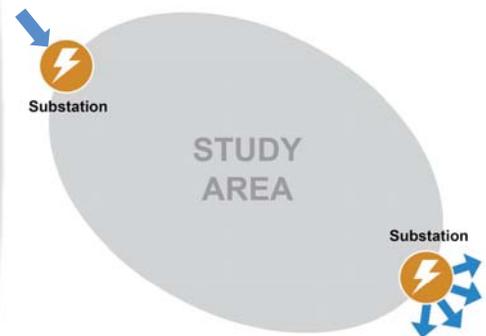
Outreach

- **Voluntary Minnesota Power Outreach:**
 - Stakeholder workshops
 - Public open houses on corridors & routes
 - Community outreach – who should we talk to?
- **On-going agency coordination**

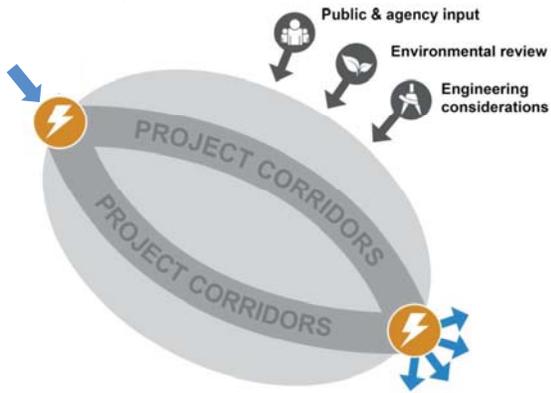


Planning

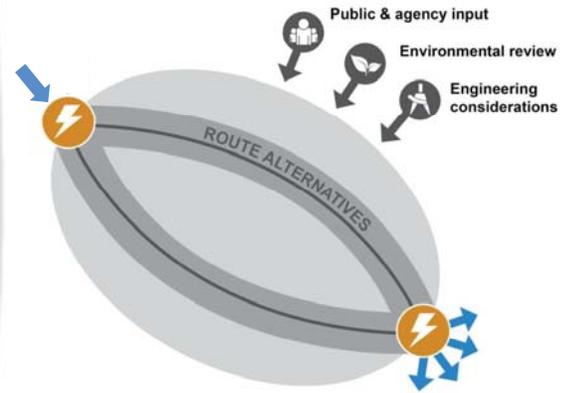
The routing process



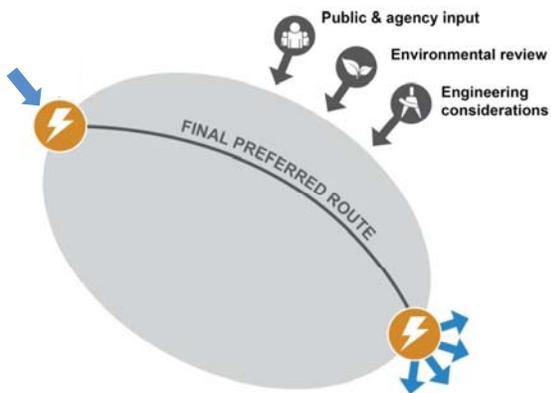
Planning
 The routing process



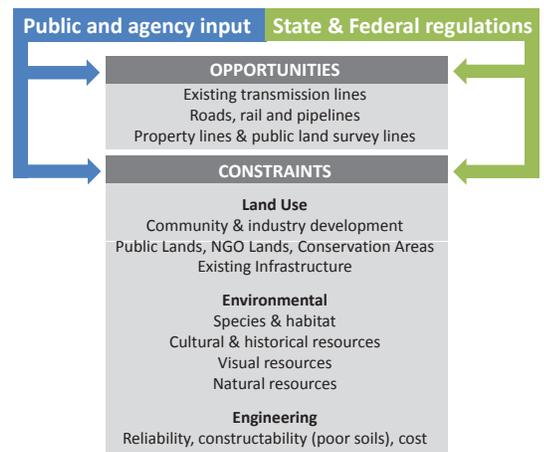
Planning
 The routing process

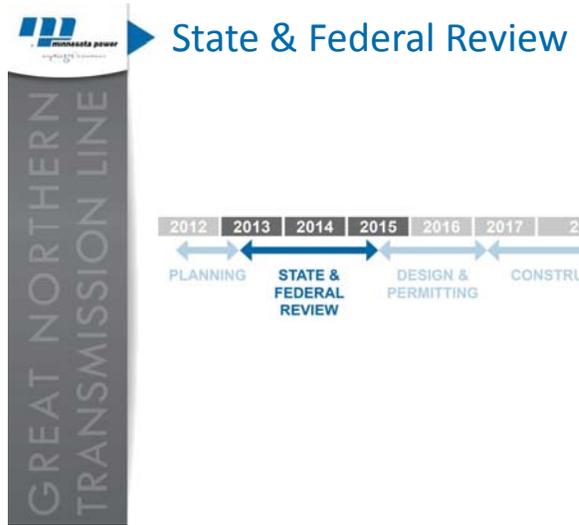


Planning
 The routing process



Planning: Routing criteria to evaluate





State & Federal Review
 Regulatory requirements

State	Federal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Need • Route Permit Application • Scoping • Draft & Final EIS • Route Permit (2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Permit Application • Tribal Consultation • Scoping • Draft & Final EIS • Presidential Permit (2015)

Local permit coordination will also occur.

State & Federal Review
 Outreach

- **State & Federal regulated outreach:**
 - Public hearings
 - Public scoping meetings
 - Public comment on Draft EIS

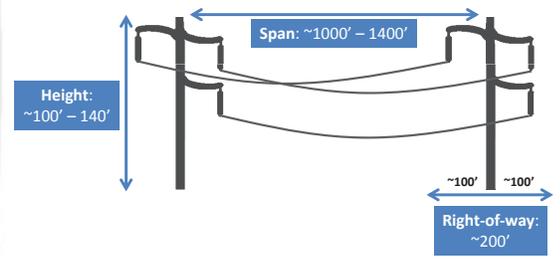
Design & Permitting



Design & Permitting

Engineering design

- **Typical Structure measurements:**
 (type of structure not yet determined)



Design & Permitting

Permitting



US Army Corps of Engineers®



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Construction





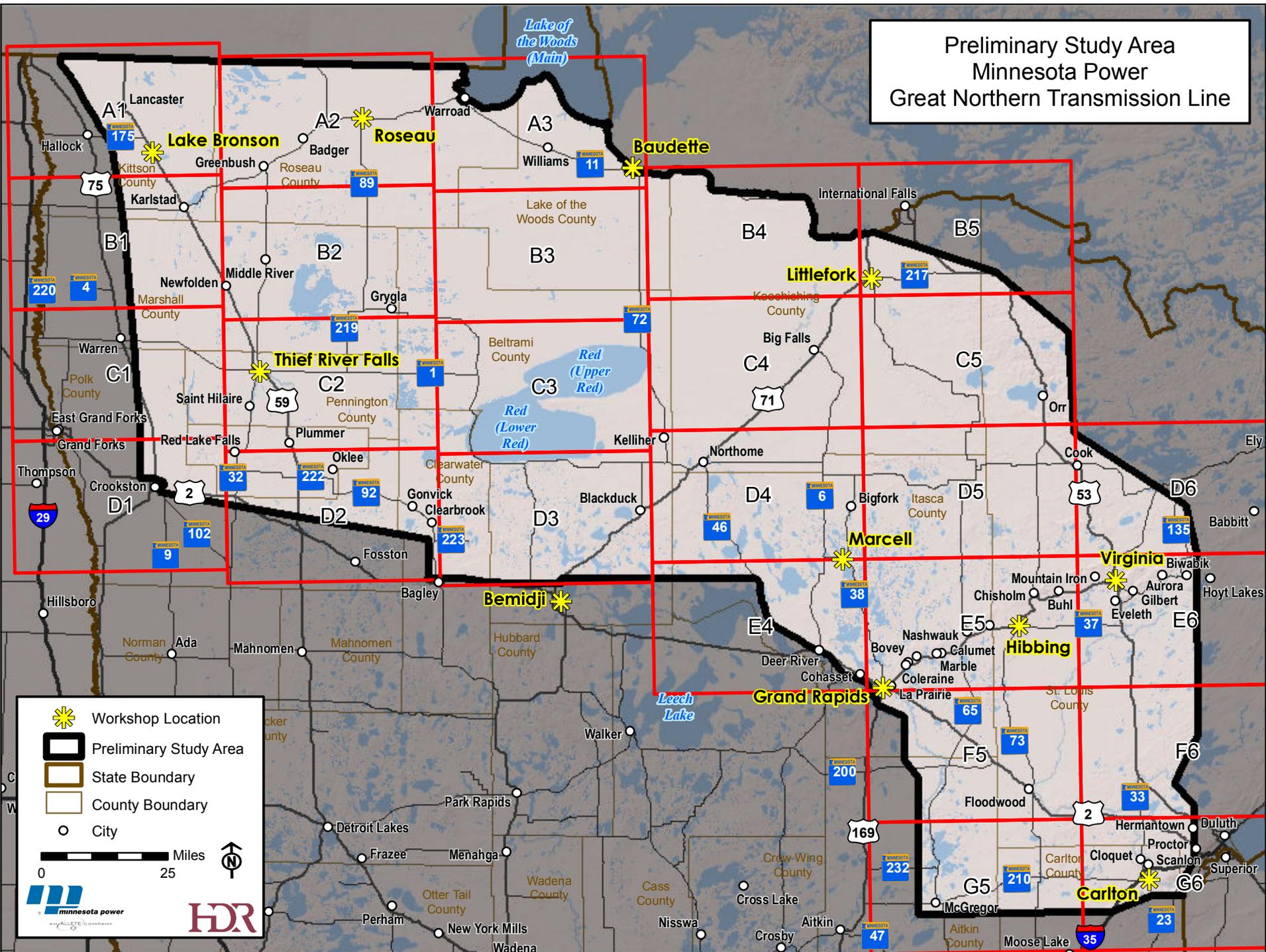
GREAT NORTHERN
TRANSMISSION LINE



Questions?

THANK YOU

Preliminary Study Area
Minnesota Power
Great Northern Transmission Line



- Workshop Location
- Preliminary Study Area
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- City

0 25 Miles



DATE

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line Workshops

Dear [Insert Name],

Minnesota Power is in the early planning stages for the construction of a new high-voltage transmission line, Great Northern Transmission Line. Three key drivers for this Project include:

- Access to clean, renewable energy for Minnesota Power and the region
- Increased industrial load growth on the Iron Range
- Strengthen regional reliability

The Project is proposed to be completed and in-service by 2020. A map of the preliminary study area is enclosed for your information.

We are currently gathering information that would be helpful to determine corridors for the Project and would appreciate and value your input. The following information is for a workshop we are hosting in your area with various leaders from your community, and we hope that you will join us.

Date and Time: Thursday, August 3, 2012
11:30am-1:00pm

Location: **Ralph Engelstad Arena Lobby**
525 Brooks Avenue North
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Please RSVP by July 25th by emailing rsvp@greatnortherntransmissionline.com or calling 877.657.9934

Each workshop will have a presentation, mapping exercise, and materials for your review. If you cannot attend, please send a representative from your organization in your place. If there is a representative from your organization that is better suited to attend this type of Project workshop, you are welcome to bring them along or have them join us in your place. Lunch will be served.

We hope to see you at the workshop. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson
Environmental Lead
Minnesota Power
jbtkinson@mnpower.com

Mike Donahue
Project Manager
Minnesota Power
mdonahue@mnpower.com



THANK YOU!

Your attendance at our recent workshop was greatly appreciated.

Your input was documented and will be included in our evaluation as we develop corridors for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project.



Please watch for information about our Open House Meetings in Fall 2012.

If your organization or community is interested in a presentation or meeting to discuss the Great Northern Transmission Line, contact us at:

Jim Atkinson, *Environmental Lead*
info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com

GREAT NORTHERN
TRANSMISSION LINE

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DATE

NAME

TITLE

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line Workshops

Dear [Insert Name],

Minnesota Power is in the early planning stages for the construction of a new high-voltage transmission line, Great Northern Transmission Line. Three key drivers for this Project include:

- Access to clean, renewable energy for Minnesota Power and the region
- Increased industrial load growth on the Iron Range
- Strengthen regional reliability

The Project is proposed to be completed and in-service by 2020. A map of the preliminary study area is enclosed for your information.

We are currently gathering information that would be helpful to determine corridors for the Project and would appreciate and value your input. **Formal Section 106 Government to Government Consultation has not been initiated for the Great Northern Transmission Line. The Department of Energy (DOE) is the lead federal agency for this Project. You will receive a letter from DOE to initiate the Section 106 Process at a later time.** The following information is for a workshop that is hosted in your area by Minnesota Power with various leaders from your community and we invite you to join in the conversation.

Date and Time: Thursday, August 9, 2012
11:30am-1:00pm

Location: **The Sanford Center**
Gate 4
1111 Event Center Drive NE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Please RSVP by July 25th by emailing rsvp@greatnortherntransmissionline.com or calling 877.657.9934

Each workshop will have a presentation, mapping exercise, and materials for your review. If you cannot attend, please send a representative from your organization in your place. If there is a representative from your organization that is better suited to attend this type of Project workshop, you are welcome to bring them along or have them join us in your place. Lunch will be served.

We hope to see you at the workshop. If you have questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Atkinson
Environmental Lead
Minnesota Power
jbatkinson@mnpower.com

Mike Donahue
Project Manager
Minnesota Power
mdonahue@mnpower.com

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Open House Meetings

Round 1 – Study Corridors

[Comment Form](#)

[Display Boards](#)

[Handout](#)

[Landowner Invitation Postcard](#)

[Meeting Summary](#)

[Paid Advertisement](#)

[Press Release](#)

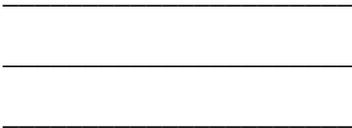
[Scroll Map Index](#)

[Stakeholder Letters](#)

[Thank You Postcard](#)

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Please fold, fasten, and mail. No envelope necessary.



Place
Stamp
Here

Great Northern Transmission Line Team
c/o HDR Engineering
701 Xenia Ave South, 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Welcome!

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Provide information about the project
- Answer your questions
- Gather your input!

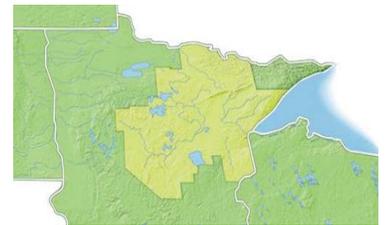
Who is Minnesota Power?

- We serve 144,000 retail customers and 16 wholesale municipalities.
- Office headquarters in Duluth, MN.
- Began as a hydropower generation company in 1906.
- Our interconnected transmission network promotes reliability in the upper Midwest.



AN ALLETE COMPANY

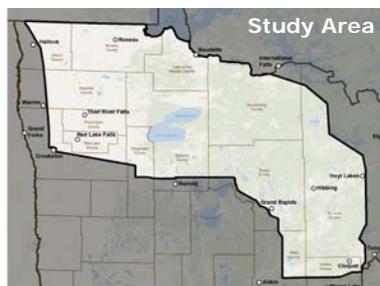
Minnesota Power Service Territory



Project overview

The project will consist of two transmission lines:

- 500 kV transmission line from Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range
- 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota

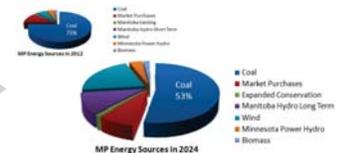


Project timeline

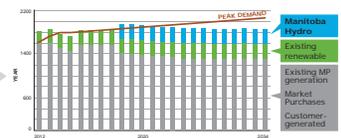


Why do we need this project?

DIVERSITY
Access to clean, affordable, reliable energy for Minnesota Power customers and the region.



INCREASING DEMAND
Increased energy demand from Minnesota's Iron Range.



RELIABILITY
Strengthen system reliability for Minnesota Power and the region.



Routing the line

1. Define Study Area



2. Define Corridors



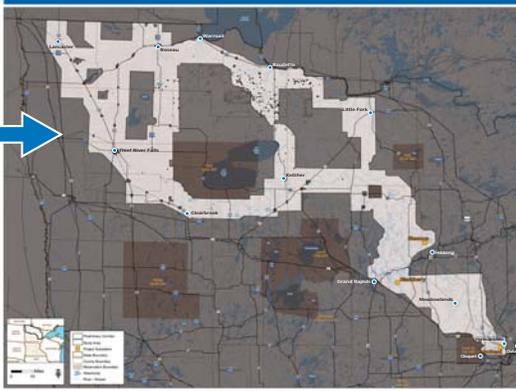
3. Define route alternatives



4. Choose final route



Preliminary Corridors



Potential routing criteria

Structures

- Homes
- Daycares
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Religious facilities
- Cemeteries
- Billboards/barns/sheds
- Communication towers
- Mines/quarries
- Commercial/industrial facilities
- Planned development
- Airports
- VOR/radar systems
- Historic structures

Land Use

- Agricultural land
- Center pivot/lateral move irrigation
- Orchards
- Century/Sesquicentennial Farms
- State or National wilderness area
- Parks
- State Scientific & Natural Areas
- Trails
- Scenic areas
- Parks
- Federal, state, or NGO lands
- Historically significant landscapes
- Military Lands and Operations
- Reservations

Environmental

- Wetlands/peatlands/Calcareous ferns
- Native prairie
- Conservation areas
- Historic & cultural resources
- Special Status Species
- Designated critical habitat
- Lakes/Ponds/Reservoirs
- Rivers/Streams (Impaired/PWI)
- Geomorphology
- Floodplains
- Forested areas
- Traditional

Engineering

- Cost
- Number of angles in the line
- Soil conditions
- Roadway access for construction and maintenance
- Number of 'special' structures needed
- Tree trimming/vegetation management
- Size and type of foundation
- Inductive currents/Interference

Regulatory process

FEDERAL

Anticipated completion:
Fall 2015

A **Federal Presidential Permit** from the U.S. Department of Energy is required for this project because it crosses the U.S./Canada border.

MINNESOTA

Anticipated completion:
CON: Spring 2014
Route Permit: 2015

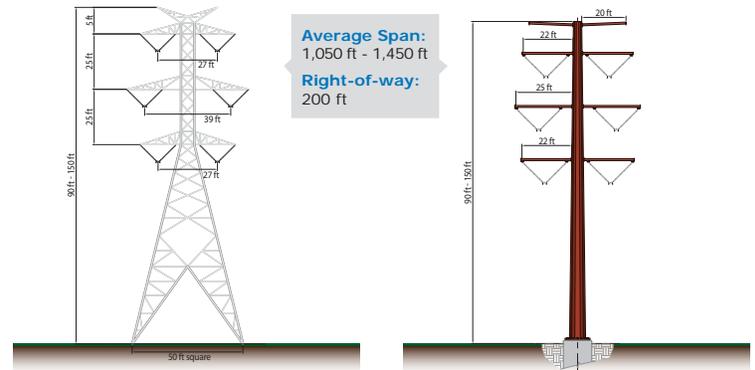
A **Certificate of Need (CON)** and a **Route Permit** from the MN Public Utilities Commission are required.

OTHER

Anticipated completion:
Spring 2017

Additional permits from federal, state, and local agencies will be required.

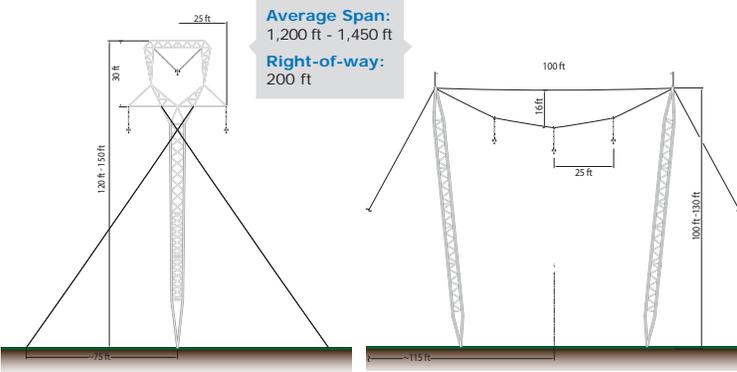
Preliminary 345 kV structure design



345 kV Double Circuit Lattice Tower

345 kV Double Circuit Steel Pole

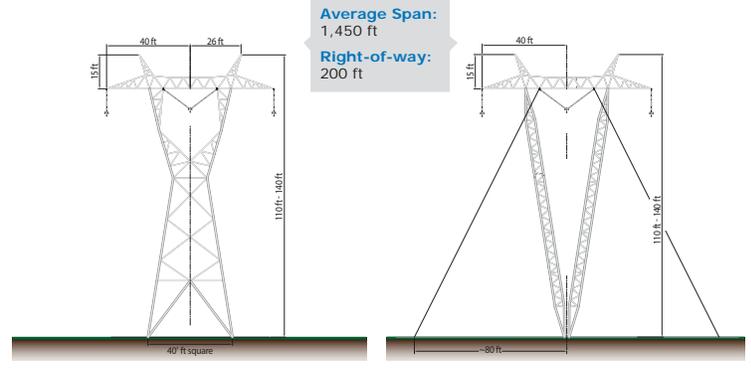
Preliminary 500 kV structure design



500 kV Guy Delta Suspension Tower

500 kV Cross Rope Suspension Tower

Preliminary 500 kV structure design



500 kV Self-Supporting Suspension Tower

500 kV Guyed-V Suspension Tower

We want your feedback!

How to stay informed and give us your input:



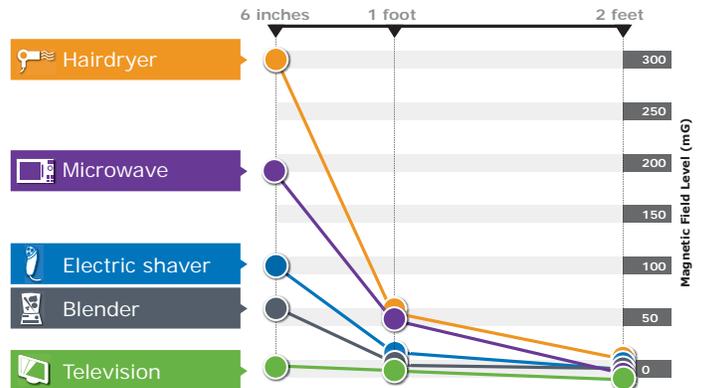
- Visit our website at: www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com
- Submit a comment at a meeting or online
- Call our toll-free information line: **877.657.9934**
- Join our mailing list
- Email us at: info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com

Upcoming public meetings:

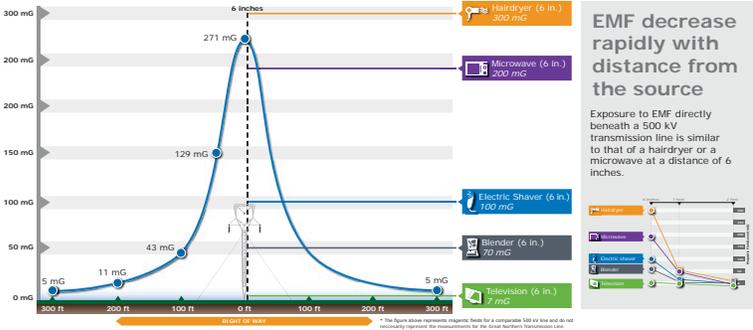
We plan to host routing meetings in Spring 2013.



Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)



Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)



Current Health Research

"The Minnesota Department of Health concludes that the current body of evidence is insufficient to establish a cause and effect relationship between EMF and adverse health effects."

(page 36, A White Paper on Electric and Magnetic Field Policy and Mitigation Options, 2002)

"Much of the research about power lines and potential health effects is inconclusive...the evidence available is weak and is not sufficient to establish a definitive cause-effect relationship."

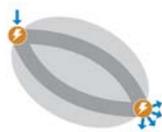
(www.epa.gov/factsheets/power-lines.html, accessed 10/9/2012)

▶ Routing a transmission line

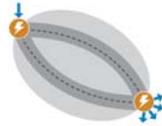
1
Define study area



2
Define corridors



3
Define route alternatives

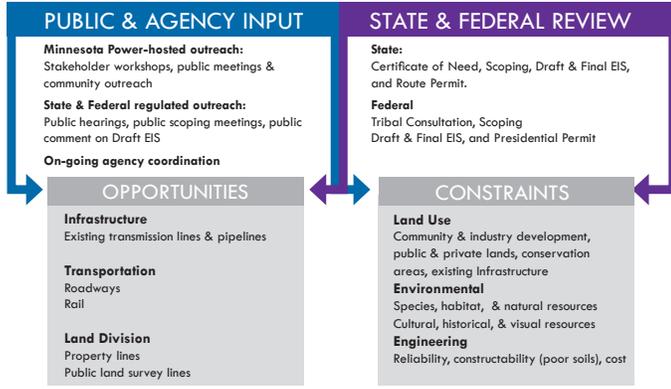


4
Choose preferred route



▶ Developing routing criteria

Minnesota Power will incorporate state and federal environmental review requirements and public and agency input to develop a set of criteria to help determine which areas provide opportunities or limitations for potential transmission line routes. The list below represents examples of some of the routing criteria used for the project.



For more information or to submit feedback:

Visit us online: www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com
Call our toll-free hotline: 1-877-657-9934
Email us: info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

WELCOME!

This meeting is intended to:
1. Provide project information
2. Answer your questions
3. Gather your feedback

Fill out the enclosed comment form to give us your input

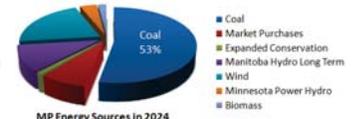
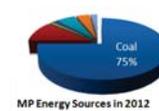
What is the project?

Minnesota Power's Great Northern Transmission Line project includes a 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to the Iron Range Substation, and a 345 kV double circuit line from the Iron Range Substation to the existing Arrowhead Substation near Duluth, Minnesota. The line will deliver power generated by Manitoba Hydro to customers.

See the inside of this handout for a map of the study area and corridors.

Why is the project needed?

- **DIVERSIFY ENERGY SOURCES.** Minnesota Power is working to diversify their energy resources. The Great Northern Transmission Line will increase hydropower as a key component in their energy company's portfolio.
- **MEET DEMAND.** The Great Northern Transmission Line will bring power from Manitoba Hydro to customers within Minnesota Power's service territory, including the iron range, to meet growing demand.
- **INCREASE RELIABILITY.** The Great Northern Transmission Line provides a redundant connection to a clean, flexible, and cost competitive hydropower resource.



What is the project schedule?

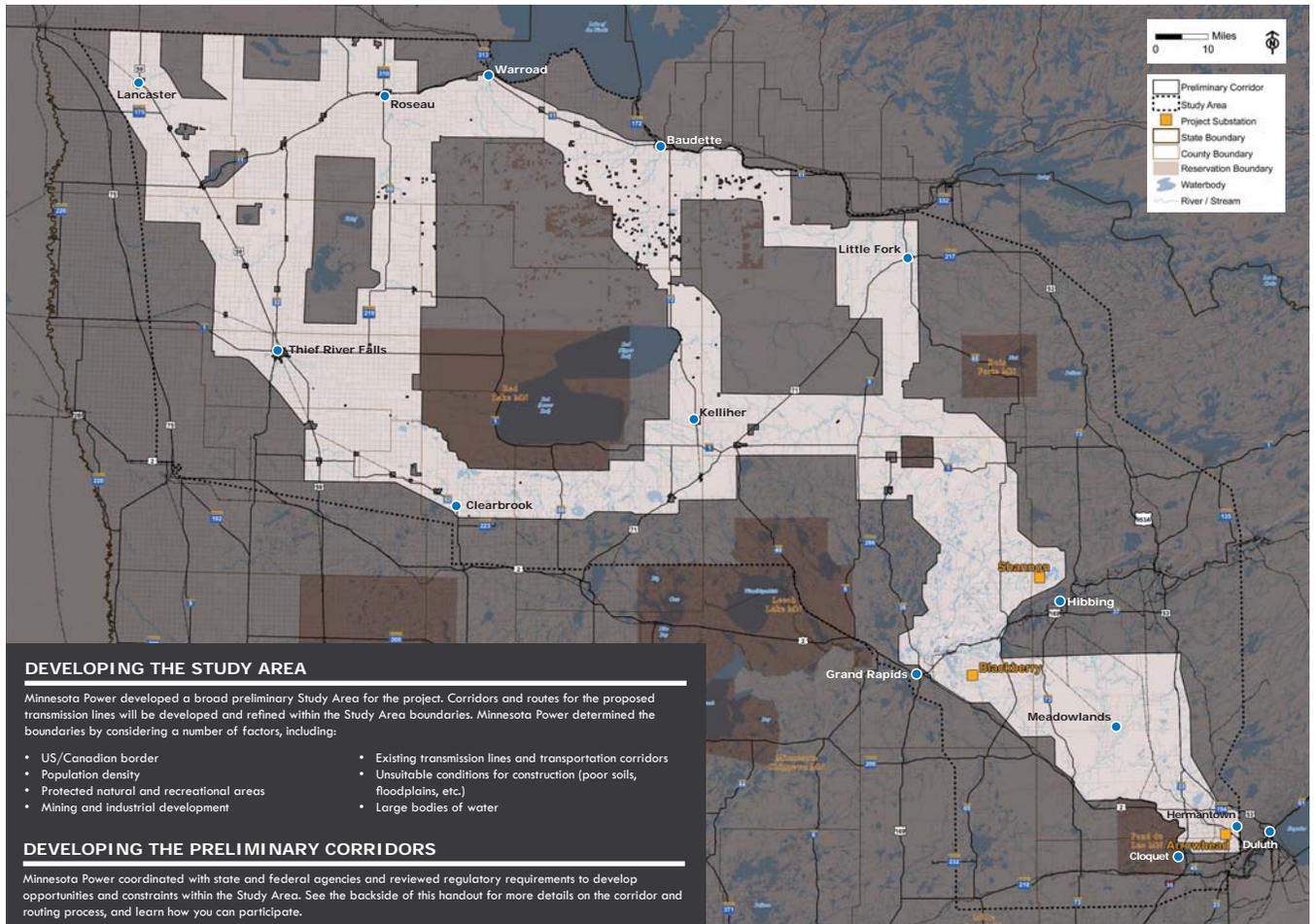
The project schedule is driven by state and federal regulatory requirements and the required June 2020 in-service date. The key steps of the project will be:

1. Identify opportunities & constraints
2. Identify corridor and route alternatives
3. Obtain environmental permits
4. Design the line
5. Construct the line

Public & agency input and environmental review will occur throughout the project.



PRELIMINARY CORRIDORS



DEVELOPING THE STUDY AREA

Minnesota Power developed a broad preliminary Study Area for the project. Corridors and routes for the proposed transmission lines will be developed and refined within the Study Area boundaries. Minnesota Power determined the boundaries by considering a number of factors, including:

- US/Canadian border
- Population density
- Protected natural and recreational areas
- Mining and industrial development
- Existing transmission lines and transportation corridors
- Unsuitable conditions for construction (poor soils, floodplains, etc.)
- Large bodies of water

DEVELOPING THE PRELIMINARY CORRIDORS

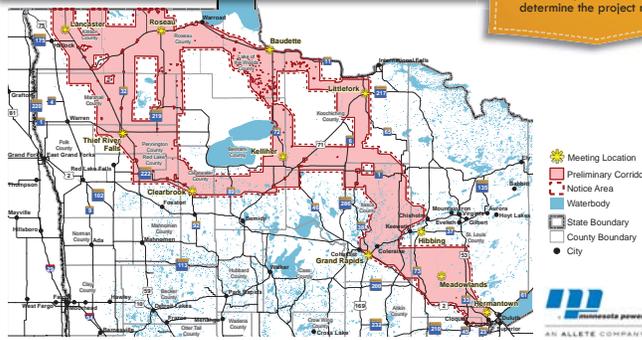
Minnesota Power coordinated with state and federal agencies and reviewed regulatory requirements to develop opportunities and constraints within the Study Area. See the backside of this handout for more details on the corridor and routing process, and learn how you can participate.



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

JOIN US!

- By attending an open house, you will:
1. Learn about project details.
 2. Be able to ask questions about the project and have them answered by team members.
 3. Provide input to better determine the project route(s).



Project Information

Minnesota Power is proposing to build the Great Northern Transmission Line to bring cleaner, emission-free energy into Minnesota, meet growing energy demands and increase system reliability. The Great Northern Transmission Line consists of a 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range, and a 345 kV double circuit line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minn. The line will deliver hydropower generated by Manitoba Hydro to customers in the United States.

Several priorities are driving the need for the Great Northern Transmission Line including:

- Access to clean energy for Minnesota Power and the region
- Industrial growth on the Iron Range
- Strengthened regional reliability



For More Information

Call 877.657.9934
 Email info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com
 Visit GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com

Can't attend a meeting in person? Visit our online meeting from October 29 to November 18 at: GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting

Public Open House Invitation

c/o HDR Engineering
 701 Xenia Ave South, 600
 Minneapolis, MN 55416



JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE MEETING!

Stop by anytime during one of the meetings listed here. Project representatives will be on hand to conduct small group tours of detailed project information. Informational materials and detailed maps will be displayed at each open house. Light refreshments will be provided.

Minnesota Power is also hosting an **online open house meeting** for those who can't attend or would like more information. Visit us online from October 29 to November 18:
GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting

OCTOBER DATES

Date	Time	Venue Name & Address
Monday October 29th	5-7pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Avenue SW Clearbrook, MN 56634
	11 am-1 pm	Centennial Hall 222 Central Avenue South Lancaster, MN 56735
Tuesday October 30th	5-7pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue North Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Wednesday October 31st	11 am-1pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751

NOVEMBER DATES

Date	Time	Venue Name & Address
Thursday November 1st	11 am-1 pm	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653
	5-7pm	VFW Post 723 204 International Drive NE Baudette, MN 56623
Friday November 2nd	11 am-1 pm	North Beltrami Community Center 220 East Main Street Kelliher, MN 56650
Wednesday November 7th	11 am-1 pm	Hermantown Government Services Building, Training Center 5105 Maple Grove Road Hermantown, MN 55811
	5-7pm	Sawmill Inn - Blandin Rooms 2301 South Highway 169 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Thursday November 8th	11 am-1 pm	Hibbing Memorial Building Arena Downstairs Dining Room 400 East 23rd Street Hibbing, MN 55746
	5-7pm	Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Avenue Meadowlands, MN 55765

I. Summary

Minnesota Power hosted a series of 11 open house meetings from October 29-November 2, 2012 and November 7-8, 2012 to gather input from local stakeholders and the public on the proposed corridors of the Great Northern Transmission Line.

a. Meeting Attendance

A total of 583 invitees attended the open house meetings. A table of attendance by week and meeting is located in Section IV. In addition, 80 unique visitors accessed the online open house meeting on the project website. For more about the online open house meeting, refer to section III.c.

b. Meeting Materials

- Overview Handout
- Comment Form
- Two sets of Information Boards:
 - Welcome
 - Who is Minnesota Power?
 - Project overview
 - Why do we need this project
 - Routing the line
 - Regulatory process
 - Preliminary 345 kV structure design
 - Preliminary 500 kV structure design (2)
 - We want your feedback!
 - Potential routing criteria
 - EMF (November 7-8 meetings only)
- Sign-in sheets
- Staff nametags
- Resource materials: EMF handouts and copies of display boards
- GIS Corridor Review Station

c. General Comments

To collect feedback during the open houses, comment forms were made available in every meeting handout given to attendees. The comment form asked for contact information and provided a space for the comment itself. Comment forms could be submitted during the open house meeting in one of the two comment boxes or mailed following the meeting using the paid postage on the back of the comment form. We received approximately 16 comment forms during the 11 open houses.

d. Mapping Comments

In order to streamline the collection of comments on the detailed aerial corridor maps during the series of meetings, HDR used a system that required each project team member to place a sticker dot (initials and dot number) in the location of the map comment, record comment information in their notebooks, and log comments into the comment tracker spreadsheet at the end of each week of open house

meetings. From this process, 154 mapping comments were collected. **Error! Reference source not found.** identifies the comment category, number, and major topics collected during the meetings.

Table 1: Comment Collection Summary

Comment Type	Count
Agriculture	18
Airport/Airstrip/Heliport	12
Animal	3
Cultural	7
Development	6
Housing	34
Information Request	2
Land	15
Mining	11
Natural	16
Recreation	2
Transportation	7
Utility	18
Wind Farm	3
TOTAL	154

II. Outreach

The following forms of communication were used to reach out to stakeholders and landowners within the project corridor to promote the open house meetings.

a. Mailings

Landowners within the project corridor were sent postcard mailings inviting them to the open house meetings. In total, there were 48,827 mailings sent. All mailings directed recipients to the project hotline number (877.657.9934), email (info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com), and website for more information about the project and its meetings.

Stakeholders including federal, state, county, city, and township representatives, non-government organizations, and tribal contacts were also sent letters inviting them to the open house meetings along with a map of the project corridors.

b. Media

Paid advertisements were sent to publications throughout the project study area showing all meeting dates and times. Press releases were also sent to these publications explaining more about the project and announcing the open house meetings. For a table showing the list of publications and the run dates for their paid advertisements, refer to Appendix A.

c. Website

The project's website, www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com, announced the in-person open house meeting information in early October 2012. It also encouraged those who could not attend the open house meetings in person to experience the **online open house meeting**. This part of the website featured videos from the project and communication team, additional information categorized by topic, and a tour format similar to what attendees would experience while at an open house meeting. This online open house was made available from October 29-November 18, 2012 for those that could not attend the other meetings or wanted more project information. The table below shows statistics about the online meeting. For more specific information, refer to Appendix B.

Table 2: Online Meeting Statistics

Totals	Quantity
Unique visitors	80
Unique pageviews	284
Video plays	115

III. Open House Overview

The open house meetings occurred in 11 locations in northwestern Minnesota from October 29-November 2, 2012, and in northeastern Minnesota from November 7-8, 2012. The meeting locations were determined by proximity to the project corridors and limiting travel distance for landowners (at most 35 miles apart). An overview map of the area and meeting locations is located below; Table 3 shows meeting location and attendance information.

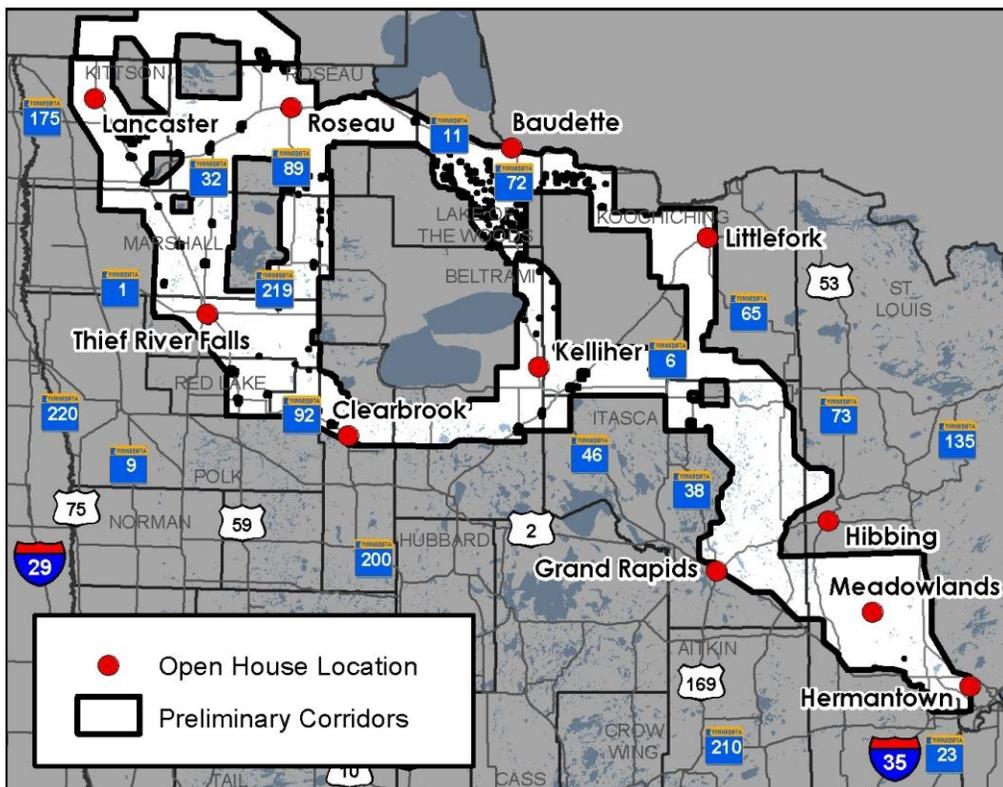


Table 3: Number of Attendees and Comment Forms for each Meeting Location

Date & Time	Meeting Location	Number of Attendees	Number of Comment Forms
Monday, October 29 th 5-7pm	Clearbrook	43	1
Tuesday, October 30 th 11am-1pm	Lancaster	39	0
Tuesday, October 30 th 5-7pm	Thief River Falls	77	3
Wednesday, October 31 st 11am-1pm	Roseau	61	3
Thursday, November 1 st 11am-1pm	Littlefork	26	0
Thursday, November 1 st 5-7pm	Baudette	44	0
Friday, November 2 nd 11am-1pm	Kelliher	56	1
Wednesday, November 7 th 11am-1pm	Hermantown	56	7
Wednesday, November 7 th 5-7pm	Grand Rapids	110	1
Thursday, November 8 th 11am-1pm	Hibbing	20	0
Thursday, November 8 th 5-7pm	Meadowlands	51	0
TOTAL		583	16

Minnesota Power

November 2012

Corridor Open House Meeting Summary

Table 4: Venue and Catering

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address	Caterer Contact
Monday, October 29 th 5-7pm	Clear Waters Life Center Clearbrook, MN 56634	Coborn's Foods
Tuesday, October 30 th 11am-1pm	Centennial Hall Lancaster, MN 56735	Super One Foods
Tuesday, October 30 th 5-7pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room Thief River Falls, MN 56701	Ralph Engelstad Arena
Wednesday, October 31 st 11am-1pm	Roseau Civic Center Roseau, MN 56751	Doug's Supermarket
Thursday, November 1 st 11am-1pm	Littlefork Community Center Littlefork, MN 56653	Lake of the Woods Foods
Thursday, November 1 st 5-7pm	VFW Post 723 Baudette, MN 56623	Lake of the Woods Foods
Friday, November 2 nd 11am-1pm	North Beltrami Community Center Kelliher, MN 56650	Lake of the Woods Foods
Wednesday, November 7 th 11am-1pm	Hermantown Gov't Services Bldng Training Center Hermantown, MN 55811	Cub Foods
Wednesday, November 7 th 5-7pm	Sawmill Inn – Blandin Rooms Grand Rapids, MN 55744	Sawmill Inn
Thursday, November 8 th 11am-1pm	Hibbing Memorial Building Arena Downstairs Dining Room Hibbing, MN 55746	Hibbing Super One Foods
Thursday, November 8 th 5-7pm	Meadowlands Community Center Meadowlands, MN 55765	Hibbing Super One Foods

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Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Appendix A

Media Publications

Outlet	Paid Ad	Press Release	County
The American	Sun Oct 21	✓	Beltrami
The Bemidji Pioneer	Thurs Oct 25 & Fri Oct 26	✓	
Cloquet Pine Journal	Thurs Oct 25	✓	Carlton
Bagley Farmers Independent	Wed Oct 24	✓	Clearwater
Richards Publishing Company	Sun Oct 21	✓	
Grand Rapids Herald-Review	Wed Oct 24	✓	Itasca
Karlstad North Star News	Thurs Oct 25	✓	Kittson
Kittson County Enterprise	Wed Oct 24	✓	
The Littlefork Times	Fri Oct 26	✓	Koochiching
Baudette Region	Tues Oct 23	✓	Lake Of The Woods
Warren Sheaf	Wed Oct 24	✓	Marshall
Thief River Falls Times, Inc.	Wed Oct 24	✓	Pennington
Erskine Echo	Thurs Oct 25	✓	Polk
Fertile Journal	Wed Oct 24	✓	
Fosston Thirteen Towns	Tues Oct 23	✓	
Red Lake Falls Gazette	Wed Oct 24	✓	Red Lake
Roseau Times-Region	Sat Oct 27	✓	Roseau
Tribune (Greenbush, MN)	Wed Oct 24	✓	
Warroad Pioneer	Tues Oct 23	✓	
Duluth Budgeteer News	Sun Nov 4	✓	St. Louis
Floodwood Forum	Thurs Oct 25	✓	
Hermantown Star	Thurs Oct 25	✓	
Proctor Journal	Thurs Oct 25	✓	
Duluth News-Tribune	Sun Nov 4	✓	
The Hibbing Daily Tribune	Fri Oct 26	✓	



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

Appendix B

Online Meeting Statistics

Oct 28, 2012 - Nov 19, 2012 ▾

Unique Visitors ▾ VS. Select a metric

Day Week Month  

● Unique Visitors



Unique Visitors

80

% of Total: 11.40% (702)

Unique Pageviews

284

% of Total: 9.84% (2,857)

Avg. Time on Page

00:01:24

Site Avg: 00:01:36 (-13.07%)

<input type="checkbox"/> Page path level 2	Unique Visitors	↓	Unique Pageviews	Avg. Time on Page
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.  /	51		62	00:01:04
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.  /routing/	40		43	00:01:46
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.  /minnesota-power/	38		43	00:02:21
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.  /project-need/	25		27	00:01:34
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.  /permitting/	24		24	00:00:36
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.  /design/	23		23	00:00:53
<input type="checkbox"/> 7.  /overview/	21		22	00:01:41
<input type="checkbox"/> 8.  /clean-energy/	20		21	00:01:23
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.  /outreach/	17		19	00:00:20

Video views



About Minnesota Power

30 Plays



Routing the line

28 Plays



Welcome to our online open house meeti...

19 Plays



Project Need

17 Plays



Clean Energy: Hydro & Wind

12 Plays



Project Overview

9 Plays

Welcome to the online open house!



Thank you for joining us!

We appreciate you visiting our online open house. By navigating through the open house, you will:

- **Learn** about the Great Northern Transmission Line
- **Watch** video clips from the Project Team
- **Understand** our routing process
- **Give us your input** by leaving a comment to help us determine our project route(s)

We look forward to your input. All comments submitted will be reviewed and considered. Your comments may be submitted by clicking the comment button below.

34%

Begin the online meeting!



14%



Speaking: Amy Rutledge, Corporate Communications Manager for Minnesota Power

6.6%

Leave a comment

Online meeting topics:

- 34% [Minnesota Power](#)
 - [Project Need](#)
- 14% [Clean Energy: Wind & Hydro](#)
 - [Project Overview](#)
- 11% [Routing Process](#)
 - [Permitting: State & Federal Review](#)
 - [Preliminary Design](#)
 - [Outreach](#)
- 2.6% [Routing Process](#)
- 5.3% [Permitting: State & Federal Review](#)

SHARE

3.9%





Join us at an open house meeting!

Minnesota Power is hosting public open house meetings for the proposed **Great Northern Transmission Line**, which includes a 500 kV line from the Canadian border to the Iron Range, and a 345 kV line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, MN. The line will deliver hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to customers in the United States.

Attend a meeting to:

- Learn about the project
- Talk to our team
- Give us your input

	Date	Time	Meeting Location
October Meetings	Mon Oct. 29	5-7pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Avenue SW, Clearbrook, MN
	Tue Oct. 30	11am-1pm	Centennial Hall 222 Central Avenue South, Lancaster, MN
		5-7pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue North, Thief River Falls, MN
Wed Oct. 31	11am-1pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East, Roseau, MN	
November Meetings	Thu Nov. 1	11am-1pm	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN
		5-7pm	VFW Post 723 204 International Drive NE, Baudette, MN
	Fri Nov. 2	11am-1pm	North Beltrami Community Center Main Street West & Gould Ave, Kelliher, MN
	Wed Nov. 7	11am-1pm	Hermantown Gov't Services Building, Training Center 5105 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown, MN
		5-7pm	Sawmill Inn – Blandin Rooms 2301 South Highway 169, Grand Rapids, MN
	Thu Nov. 8	11am-1pm	Hibbing Memorial Bldg Arena, Downstairs Dining Room 400 East 23rd Street, Hibbing, MN
5-7pm		Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Avenue, Meadowlands, MN	

Can't attend in person? Join our online meeting:

Our online meeting is open from Oct. 29 to Nov. 18 at:
GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting



Visit www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com for more information!



For Release: Wednesday, October 24, 2012

Contact: Amy Rutledge
 Manager - Corporate Communications
 Minnesota Power/ALLETE
 218-723-7400
 arutledge@mnpower.com

NEWS

Minnesota Power to host open houses throughout region for Great Northern Transmission line project

Duluth, Minnesota – Minnesota Power will host eleven voluntary public open house meetings beginning Oct. 29 to gather input and provide information on its Great Northern Transmission line, which will bring clean, emission-free hydro power from Manitoba to Minnesota. The public meetings will focus on the project’s proposed corridors in an open house format with no formal presentations. Project team members will be available to answer questions.

Those who are unable to attend a meeting in person can visit an online open house meeting site from Oct. 29 through Nov. 18, 2012 at www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting. The same information will be available at the in-person and online open house meetings. Times, dates, and locations of each open house meeting are listed below.

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address
Monday October 29th 5-7pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Avenue SW Clearbrook, MN 56634
Tuesday October 30th 11am-1pm	Centennial Hall 222 Central Avenue South Lancaster, MN 56735
Tuesday October 30th 5-7pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue North Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Wednesday October 31st 11am-1pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751
Thursday November 1st 11am-1pm	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653

Date & Time	Venue Name & Address
Thursday November 1st 5-7pm	VFW Post 723 204 International Drive NE Baudette, MN 56623
Friday November 2nd 11am-1pm	North Beltrami Community Center 220 East Main Street Kelliher, MN 56650
Wednesday November 7th 11am-1pm	Hermantown Government Services Building Training Center 5105 Maple Grove Road Hermantown, MN 55811
Wednesday November 7th 5-7pm	Sawmill Inn – Blandin Rooms 2301 South Highway 169 Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Thursday November 8th 11am-1pm	Hibbing Memorial Building Arena Downstairs Dining Room 400 East 23rd Street Hibbing, MN 55746
Thursday November 8th 5-7pm	Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Avenue Meadowlands, MN 55765

A listing of the open houses also can be found on the project website at www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com and through the project information line at (877) 657-9934. Materials used during the open houses will be available on the project website along with an interactive map of the proposed corridors. Input received during in-person and online open houses on the corridors will be reviewed and considered while developing proposed routes.

Minnesota Power is proposing to build the Great Northern Transmission Line to deliver emission-free hydro power to customers in Minnesota, meet growing energy demand and strengthen system reliability. The Great Northern Transmission Line consists of a 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range, and a 345 kV double circuit line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minn.

Minnesota Power is beginning the process to obtain required approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) that the line is needed and later will be seeking MPUC approvals of specific routes. In addition, a Presidential Permit from the United States Department of Energy is required since the proposed line will cross the Canadian-United States border. Upon regulatory and

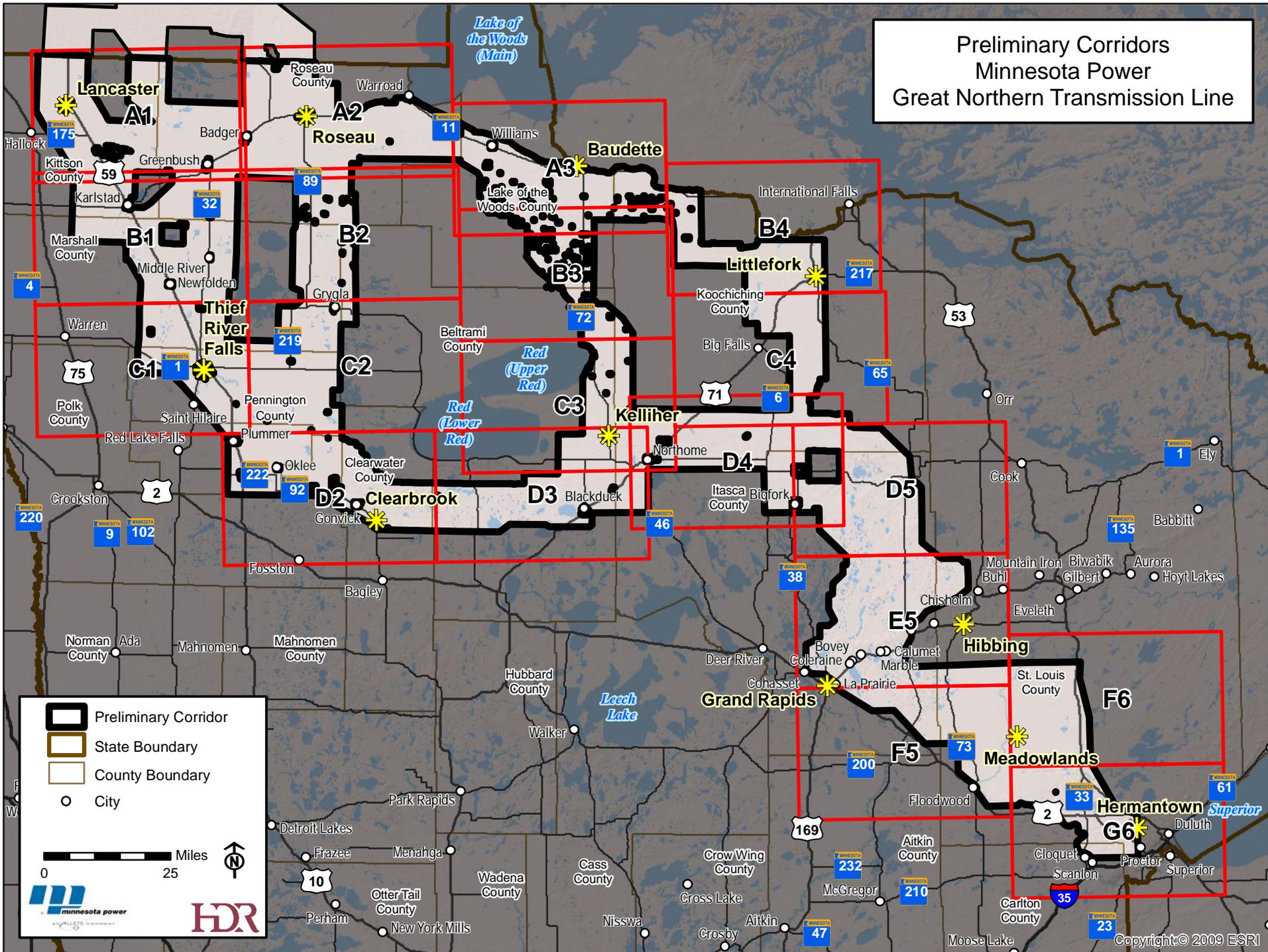
environmental permitting approvals, construction of the project is expected to begin in 2017, and be in service by June 1, 2020. Visit www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com for more information.

Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, provides electricity in a 26,000-square-mile electric service area in northeastern Minnesota. Minnesota Power supplies retail electric service to 144,000 customers and wholesale electric service to 16 municipalities. Minnesota Power's transmission and distribution components include 8,866 miles of lines and 169 substations. Minnesota Power's transmission network, a critical component of regional electric grid reliability, is part of a larger transmission organization called the Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO).

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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Preliminary Corridors Minnesota Power Great Northern Transmission Line



Preliminary Corridor
 State Boundary
 County Boundary
 City

Miles
 0 25



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

October 3, 2012

NAME
TITLE
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

RE: Upcoming Open House Meetings for Great Northern Transmission Line Project

Dear,

Minnesota Power would like to inform your agency or organization of the upcoming Open House Meetings for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. The Project will consist of 500kV high-voltage transmission line from the Minnesota – Canada border to a receiving substation near the Iron Range and a double-circuit 345kV high-voltage transmission line from the Iron Range substation to the Arrowhead substation near Hermantown, Minnesota

Within the last few months, the Project Team met with federal, state, and local agencies and key stakeholders, collected resource data, reviewed engineering considerations, and conducted field reviews in an effort to develop Corridors within the Project Study Area. A map showing the resulting Corridors is enclosed. In general, Corridors were developed based on the comments received and by considering the following:

- Existing rights-of-way (transmission lines, pipelines, railway, or roads), survey lines, and natural division lines
- Impacts to populated areas
- Impacts to sensitive environments
- Impacts to public and private airports
- Length

We are seeking any information related to the Corridors to assist the Project Team in identifying opportunities and constraints for the location of the proposed transmission line. We encourage you to review the enclosed Corridor map.

We will be hosting Open House Meetings at eleven locations throughout the Project Corridors the weeks of October 29 and November 5, 2012. The following tables provide detailed information for each of the Open House Meetings. You are welcome to attend and share your feedback with the Project Team.

Minnesota Power
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Monday October 29 th	Tuesday October 30 th	Wednesday October 31 st	Thursday November 1 st	Friday November 2 nd
	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Centennial Hall 222 Central Avenue South Lancaster, MN 56735	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E Roseau, MN 56751	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM North Beltrami Community Center 220 East Main St Kelliher, MN 56650
5:00 – 7:00 PM Clear Waters Life Center 256 2 nd Avenue SW Clearbrook, MN 56634	5:00 – 7:00 PM Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Rm 525 Brooks Avenue North Thief River Falls, MN 56701	No Evening Meeting	5:00 – 7:00 PM VFW Post 723 204 International Drive NE Baudette, MN 56623	

Wednesday November 7 th	Thursday November 8 th
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Hermantown Government Services Bldg Training Center 5105 Maple Grove Road Hermantown, MN 55811	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Hibbing Memorial Building Arena Downstairs Dining Room 400 East 23 rd Street Hibbing, MN 55746
5:00 – 7:00 PM Sawmill Inn – Blandin Rooms 2301 South Highway 169 Grand Rapids, MN 55744	5:00 – 7:00 PM Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Avenue Meadowlands, MN 55765

We appreciate your participation in the Great Northern Transmission Line and look forward to working with you. For more information, visit our Project website at www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com or call our Project information line at (877) 657-9934. If you have questions or comments, please contact Jim Atkinson at (218) 355-3561 or jbatkinson@allete.com.

Sincerely,
Minnesota Power

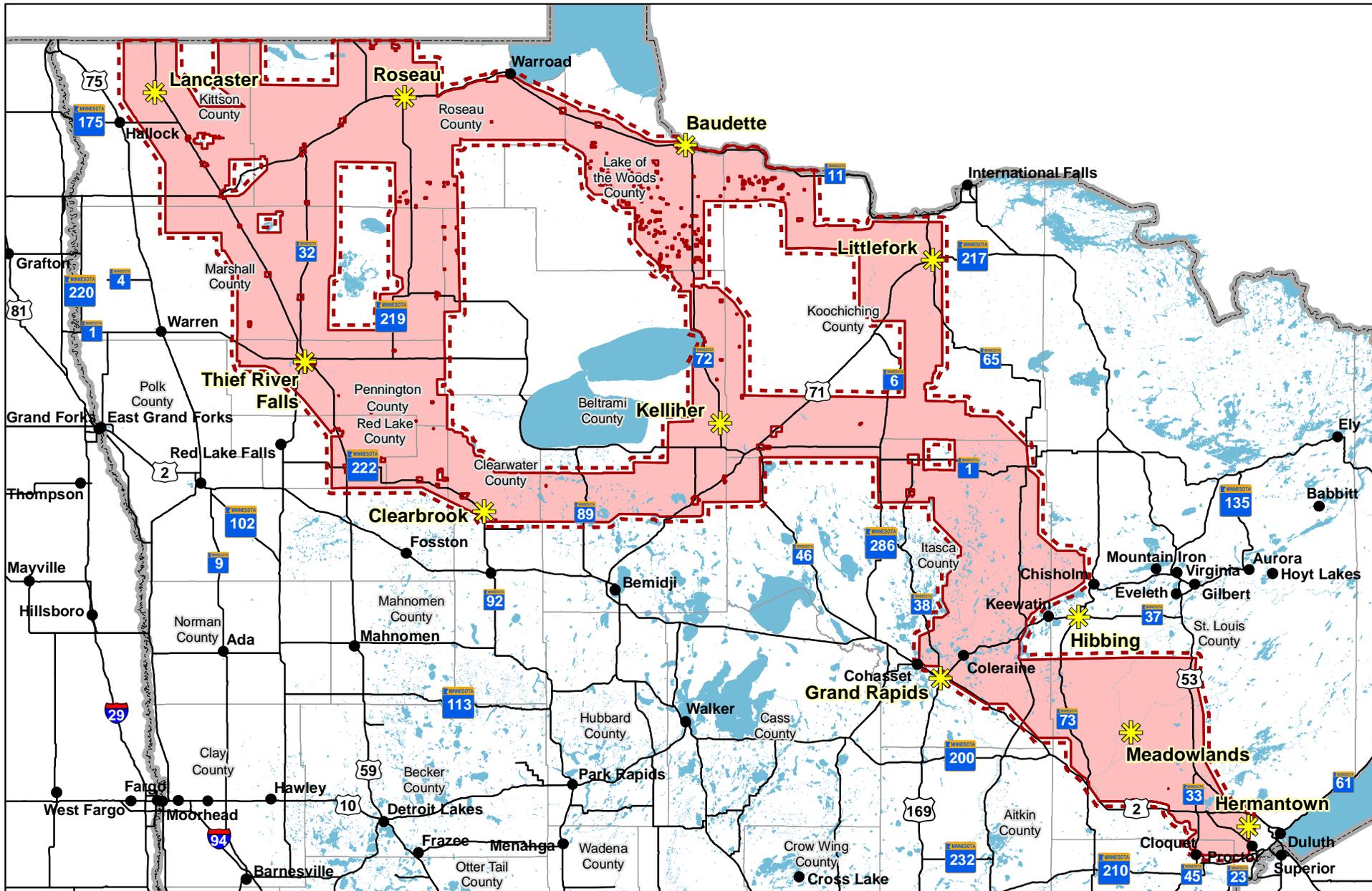


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Project Manager
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Enclosures: Figure 1 - Corridor Map



-  Meeting Location
-  Preliminary Corridor
-  Notice Area
-  Waterbody
-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  City

Notice Area

