



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 you of the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project and the upcoming Open House Meetings in the Project Area. 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 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. 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.*** If your jurisdiction is now outside the Corridors, we appreciate your feedback to date and we welcome any additional thoughts you have on the project development. A map of the Corridors has been provided for your review.

We will be hosting Open House Meetings at eleven locations throughout the 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.

Monday October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
	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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday November 8 <sup>th</sup>
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 <sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:jbatkinson@allete.com).

Sincerely,



Jim Atkinson  
Environmental Lead  
Minnesota Power  
[jbatkinson@mnpower.com](mailto:jbatkinson@mnpower.com)



Mike Donahue  
Project Manager  
Minnesota Power  
[mtonahue@mnpower.com](mailto:mtonahue@mnpower.com)

Enclosures: Figure 1 - Corridor Map





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

Dear,

Minnesota Power would like to inform your township of the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project and the upcoming Open House Meetings in your area. 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.

The drivers for this Project include:

- Diversifying Minnesota Power’s energy portfolio to include a greater percentage of clean, renewable energy;
- Increasing Minnesota Power’s energy supply to meet current and future customer demands, especially near the Iron Range;
- Improving regional electrical reliability and capacity to transmit clean, flexible, and cost competitive hydropower energy to the upper Midwest electric utilities and their customers.

Within the last few months, the Minnesota Power Project Team met with federal, state, and local agencies, key stakeholders, collected resource data, reviewed engineering considerations, and conducted field reviews in an effort to develop Corridors within the initial Project Study Area. In general, study 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 in your township 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 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.

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Jim Atkinson  
Environmental Lead  
Minnesota Power  
[jbatkinson@mnpower.com](mailto:jbatkinson@mnpower.com)



Mike Donahue  
Project Manager  
Minnesota Power  
[mdonahue@mnpower.com](mailto:mdonahue@mnpower.com)

Enclosures: Figure 1 - Corridor Map





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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
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- Length

If you or representatives from your tribe would be interested in having an informal, voluntary meeting with members of the Project Team to discuss the Project at a high level, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Atkinson from Minnesota Power (contact information below). This meeting would be outside of the formal Section 106 Consultation and is not promoted by any federal agency.

We will be hosting Open House Meetings at eleven locations throughout the Project Corridors the weeks of October 29 and November 5, 2012. A map of the Project Corridors is enclosed for your review. The following tables provide detailed information for each of the Open House Meetings. You are welcome to attend these Open House Meetings in addition to or in lieu of an informal meeting described above.

Minnesota Power  
30 West Superior Street  
Duluth, MN 55802

Monday October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday October 30 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday October 31 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Friday November 2 <sup>nd</sup>
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Enclosures: Figure 1 - Corridor Map





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***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. If you or representatives from your City or County would like an in-person meeting with a member of the Project Team to discuss the Project, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Atkinson of Minnesota Power (contact information provided below).

We will be hosting Open House Meetings at eleven locations throughout the 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.

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Mike Donahue  
Project Manager  
Minnesota Power  
[mtonahue@mnpower.com](mailto:mtonahue@mnpower.com)

Enclosures: Figure 1 - Corridor Map





# Thank you!



Thank you for attending our recent open houses from Oct. 29 to Nov. 8, 2012. We appreciate that you took time out of your busy day to learn about Minnesota Power's Great Northern Transmission Line and give us your valuable feedback.



All comments gathered will be carefully considered as the route alternatives are developed.

Watch your mailbox for news about Minnesota Power's upcoming open house meetings in Spring 2013! At our next open houses, we will gather your input on the route alternatives.

**For more information:**

- Visit our website at: [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)
- Call our toll-free information line: **877.657.9934**
- Email us at: [info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](mailto:info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

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



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# Open House Meetings

## Round 2 – Route Alternatives

Comment Form

Display Boards

Handout

Landowner Invitation Postcard

Meeting Summary

Paid Advertisement

Press Release

Right-of-way Factsheet

Stakeholder Invitation Email

Stakeholder Invitation Letter

Tribal Invitation Letter

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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
Here

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

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**Welcome!**

**The purpose of this meeting is to:**

- Provide information about the project.
- Explain our routing process.
- Answer your questions.
- **Gather your input!**

**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.

**Who is Minnesota Power?**

- We serve 144,000 retail customers and 16 wholesale municipalities.
- We are an investor-owned utility.
- Our interconnected transmission network promotes reliability in the upper Midwest.

**Project timeline**

2012: PLANNING  
 2013: STATE & FEDERAL REVIEW  
 2014: STATE & FEDERAL REVIEW  
 2015: DESIGN & PERMITTING  
 2016: DESIGN & PERMITTING  
 2017: CONSTRUCTION  
 2018-2020: CONSTRUCTION  
 Line In Service

**Meeting regional needs**

**DIVERSITY**  
 Provides access to clean, affordable, reliable energy for Minnesota Power customers and the region.

**INCREASING DEMAND**  
 Helps to meet increased energy demand from Minnesota's Iron Range.

**RELIABILITY**  
 Strengthens system reliability for Minnesota Power and the region.

**Minnesota Power Energy Sources in 2016**

**Minnesota Power Energy Sources in 2026**

**2016 Energy Sources:** Coal (76%), Wind (12%), Hydro (10%), Biomass (2%), Solar (1%), Other (1%).

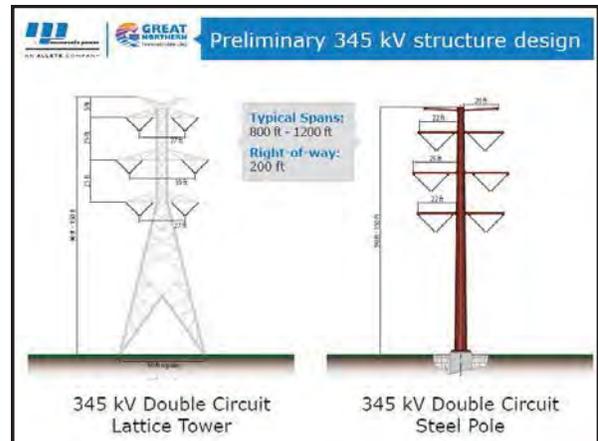
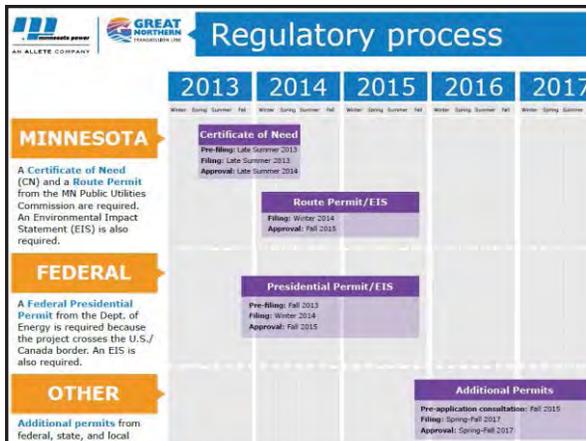
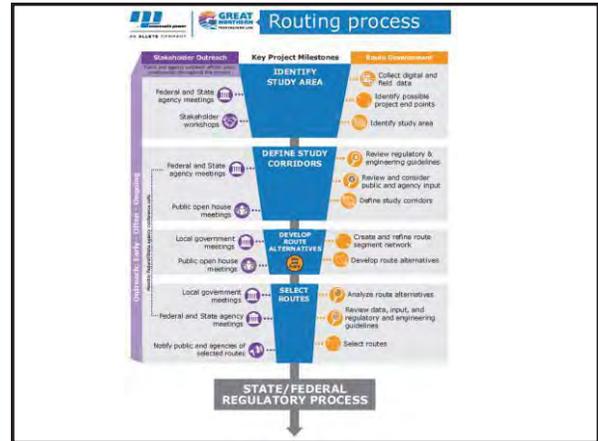
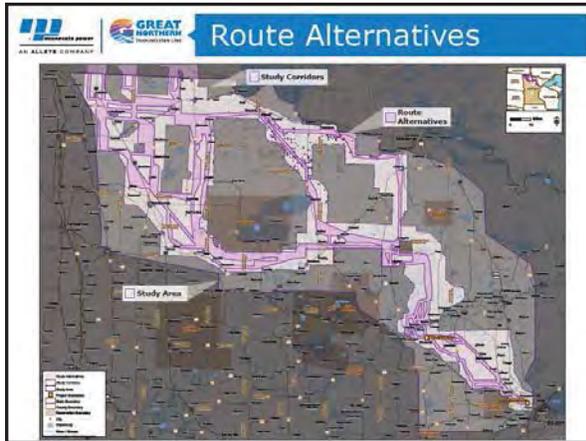
**2026 Energy Sources:** Coal (42%), Wind (32%), Hydro (10%), Biomass (2%), Solar (1%), Other (1%).

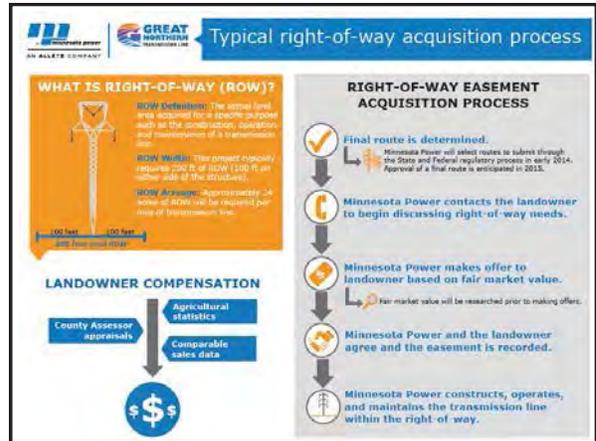
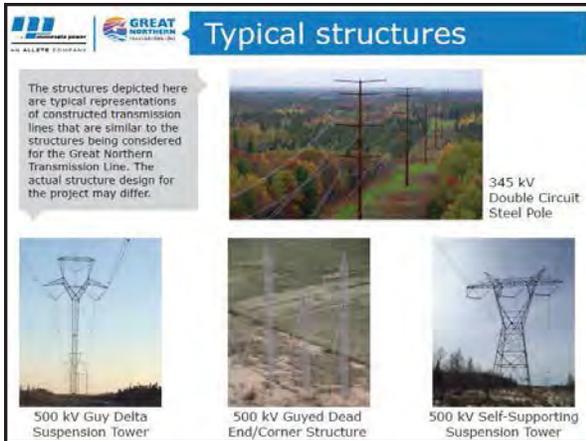
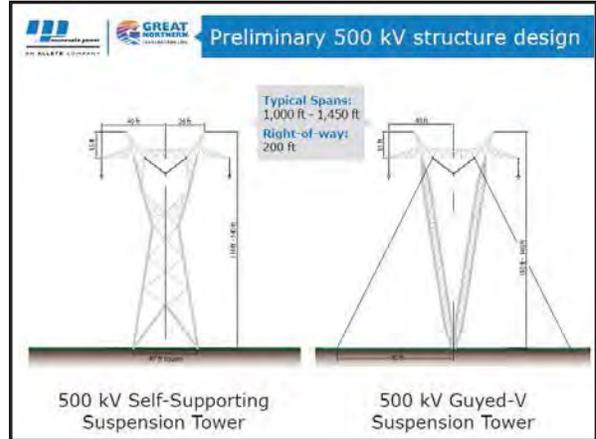
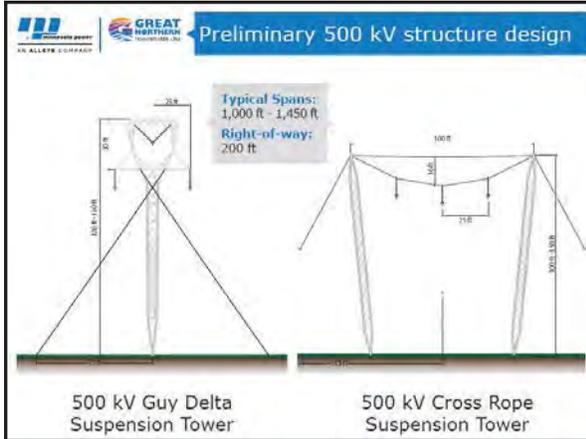
**2016-2026 Demand:** Residential (up), Commercial (up), Industrial (up), Market (up), Purchases (up), Customer (up), Generation (up).

**Local economic benefits**

The University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School's Bureau of Business and Economic Research conducted an independent economic study for the Great Northern Transmission Line. The analysis includes estimated economic impacts to the project area from start-up activities in 2012 through construction completion in 2020.

- GENERATE MORE THAN \$62M IN STATE & LOCAL TAX REVENUE**
  - \$62.5M in state and local taxes are estimated to be generated through compensation, business, household, and corporation taxes.
- CREATE OR SUPPORT 500 JOBS**
  - 315 jobs are estimated to be directly created for construction activities.
  - 185 jobs are estimated to be added in industries like food service, healthcare, building and professional services, retail, wholesale, etc.
- CONTRIBUTE NEARLY \$2.2B TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY**
  - Nearly \$1.4B are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on goods and services needed to support construction activities.
  - Nearly \$714.4M are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on wages, rents, interest, and profits.







# We want your input!

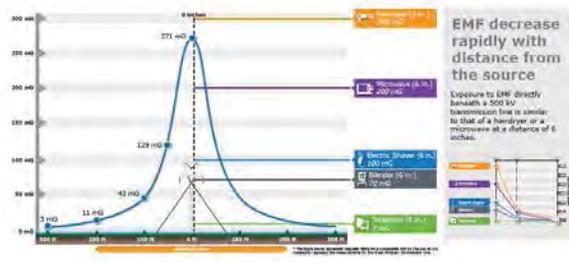
## How to stay informed and give us your input:



- Visit our website at: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://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](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)



# Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)

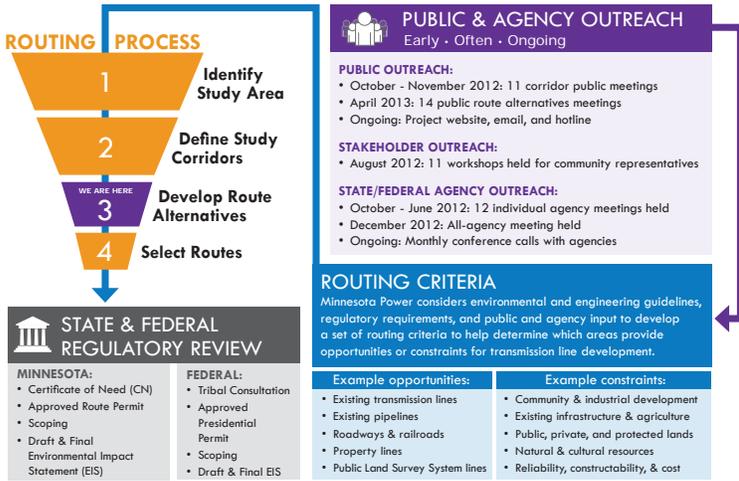


**Current Health Research**

"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."

"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."

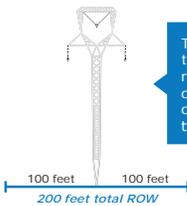
## Minnesota Power's routing process



## Right-of-way (ROW) easements

### What is ROW?

The actual land area where limited rights are acquired for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a transmission line.



This project typically requires 200 ft of ROW (100 ft on either side of the structure).

### Typical ROW acquisition process



For more information or to provide input:

Visit us online: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)  
Call our toll-free hotline: 1-877-657-9934  
Email us: [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)



## WELCOME!

- This meeting is intended to:
1. Provide project information
  2. Explain our routing process
  3. Answer your questions
  4. Gather your input

Fill out the enclosed comment form to give us your input!

## What is the project?

The Great Northern Transmission Line will carry hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to Minnesota Power's customers, providing access to a reasonably priced, emission-free energy supply that has a combination of base load supply characteristics, price certainty and resource optimization flexibility not available in comparable alternatives for meeting customer requirements. Project components include:

- A 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to the Iron Range Substation
- A 345 kV double-circuit transmission line from the Iron Range Substation to the existing Arrowhead Substation near Duluth.

## 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 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.

Minnesota Power Energy Sources in 2013



Minnesota Power Energy Sources in 2026

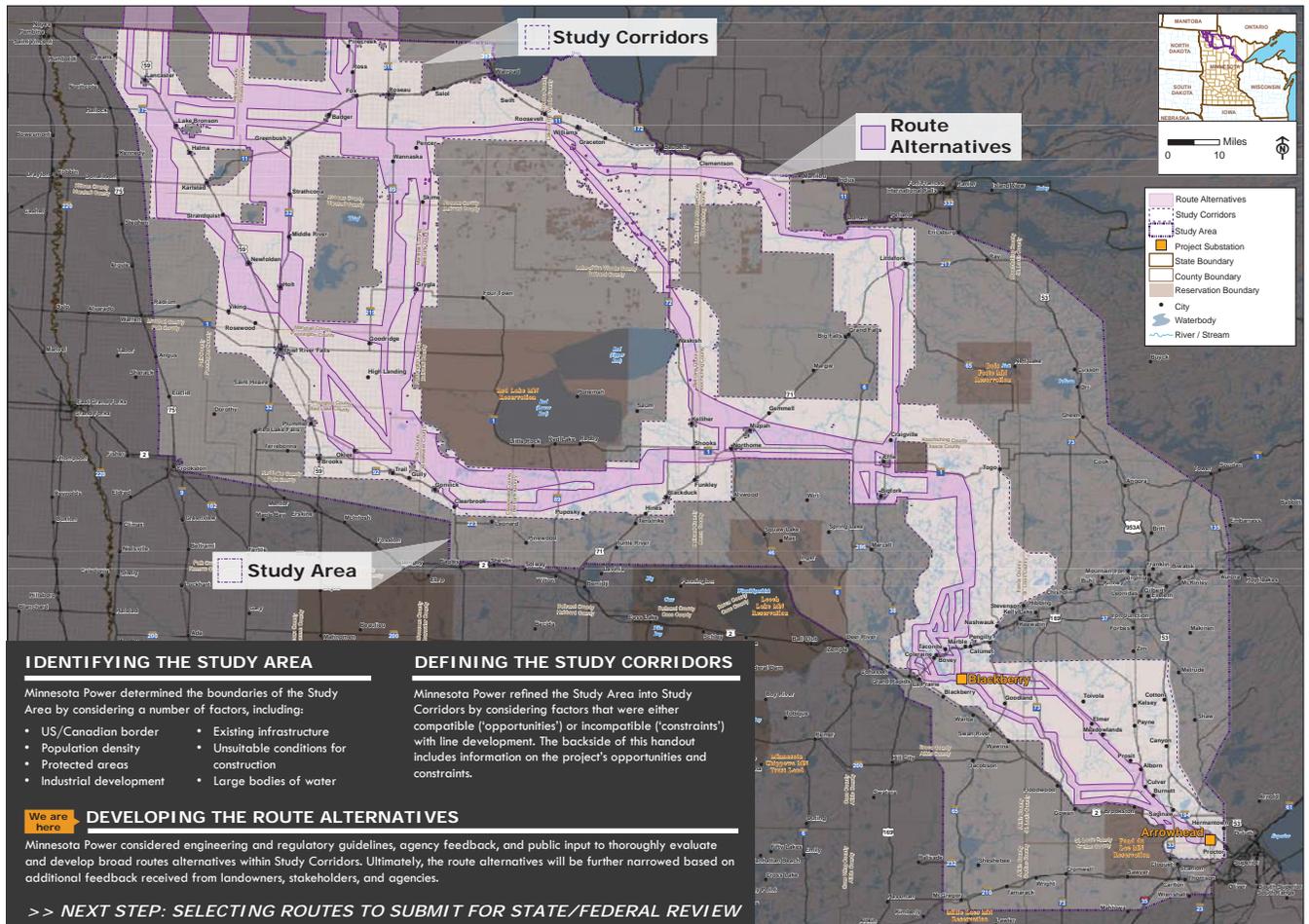


## What is the project schedule?

The project schedule is driven by state and federal regulatory requirements and the required June 2020 in-service date.



# ROUTE ALTERNATIVES



### JOIN US!

- By attending an open house, you will:
1. Learn about the project and our routing process.
  2. Be able to discuss the routing process with project team members.
  3. Provide input to help us develop our preferred routes.



The Great Northern Transmission Line project is currently in the routing phase. The map to the left shows the route alternatives under consideration (in purple). Input gathered from the October 2012 public meetings, ongoing agency meetings, and comments submitted through our website, hotline, and email were used to develop the route alternatives.

Please attend a meeting near you in April or join the online meeting on our website to allow us to gather your input on the route alternatives and help us develop our preferred routes.

## 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 kilovolt (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 U.S.

## Meeting purpose

The purpose of the upcoming public meetings in April (details on reverse side) is to allow landowners, stakeholders, and interested members of the public to learn more about the project, learn about our transmission line routing process, discuss questions and concerns with our project team, and give us feedback that we can carefully review and consider as we develop our preferred routes.

## For More Information

**Visit:** [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)  
**Call:** 877.657.9934  
**Email:** [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

### Can't attend a meeting in person?

Visit our online meeting between April 15 and May 5, 2013 at:  
[www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting)

[www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

## JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE MEETING NEAR YOU!

Stop by anytime during one of the meetings listed below. No formal presentation will be given. The project team will be available to give small group tours and answer your questions. 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 want more information. Visit us between April 15 and May 5 at: [greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting)

### MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Clearbrook</b> Monday April 15	11 am - 1 pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Ave SW Clearbrook, MN 56634
<b>Thief River Falls</b> Monday April 15	5pm - 7pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Ave N Thief River Falls, MN 56701
<b>Greenbush</b> Tuesday April 16	11 am - 1 pm	Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726
<b>Lancaster</b> Tuesday April 16	5pm - 7pm	Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Roseau</b> Wednesday April 17	11 am - 1 pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center St E Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Grygla</b> Thursday April 18	11 am - 1 pm	Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727
<b>Baudette</b> Thursday April 18	5pm - 7pm	Lake of the Woods School 236 15th Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623
<b>Littlefork</b> Friday April 19	11 am - 1 pm	Littlefork Community Center 901 Main St Littlefork, MN 56653
<b>Blackduck</b> Monday April 22	5pm - 7pm	Blackduck Public High School 156 1st St NE Blackduck, MN 56630
<b>Bigfork</b> Tuesday April 23	11 am - 1 pm	Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
<b>Grand Rapids</b> Tuesday April 23	5pm - 7pm	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th St Grand Rapids, MN 55744
<b>Taconite</b> Wednesday April 24	11 am - 1 pm	Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes St S Taconite, MN 55786
<b>Meadowlands</b> Wednesday April 24	5pm - 7pm	Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Ave Meadowlands, MN 55765
<b>Hermantown</b> Thursday April 25	11 am - 1 pm	Hermantown Government Building 5105 Maple Grove Rd Hermantown, MN 55811

## Public Open House Invitation

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

## **I. Summary**

Minnesota Power hosted a series of 14 in-person public open house meetings from April 15-19 and April 22-25, 2013 and online open house meetings from April 15 - May 5, 2013 to gather input from local stakeholders and the public on the proposed route alternatives of the Great Northern Transmission Line.

### **a. Meeting Attendance**

A total of 747 invitees attended the meetings. A table of attendance by week and meeting is located in Section IV.

### **b. Meeting Materials**

- Overview handout
- Comment form
- Two sets of Information Boards:
  - Project overview
  - Meeting regional needs
  - Local economic benefits
  - Route alternatives
  - Routing process
  - Regulatory process
  - Preliminary structure design (3)
  - Typical structures
  - Typical right-of-way acquisition process
  - Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)
- Sign-in sheets
- Resource materials:
  - Minnesota Power's Energy Forward program overview
  - EMF handout
  - Right-of-way factsheet
  - Copies of information boards
- Two GIS mapping stations
- Large aerial maps

### **c. General Comments**

To collect feedback during the open house meetings, comment forms were made available in every meeting handout given to attendees. The comment included an area to write 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 to HDR following the meeting by folding and placing a stamp on the back of the comment form.

We received approximately 53 comment and GIS mapping comment forms at the 14 open houses.

### **d. Mapping Comments**

In order to streamline the collection of comments on the detailed aerial maps, 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, approximately 250 mapping comments were collected.

Table 1 identifies the comment category, number, and major topics collected during the meetings.

Comment Type	Count
Homes/Structures	53
Agriculture/Farming	50
Land	34
Airport/Airstrip	16
Cultural Resources	16
Recreation	18
Natural Resources	15
Utility	14
Mining	12
Other	8
Development	7
Wildlife	3
Transportation	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249</b>

## II. Outreach

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

### a. Mailings

Landowners within the project study corridor were sent postcard mailings inviting them to the open house meetings. The list included landowners, those that had signed up for the mailing list or submitted a comment, previous meeting attendees, and former elected officials. There were also 210 emails sent as a reminder for the meetings to landowners that provided email addresses. All mailings directed recipients to the project hotline number (877.657.9934), email ([info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)), and website ([www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)) for more information about the project and meetings.

Stakeholders - city, state, township, and county representatives, non-government organizations, and tribal contacts - were also sent a letter and map inviting them to the open house meetings. There were a total of 2021 stakeholder letters mailed on March 28, 2013.

### b. Media

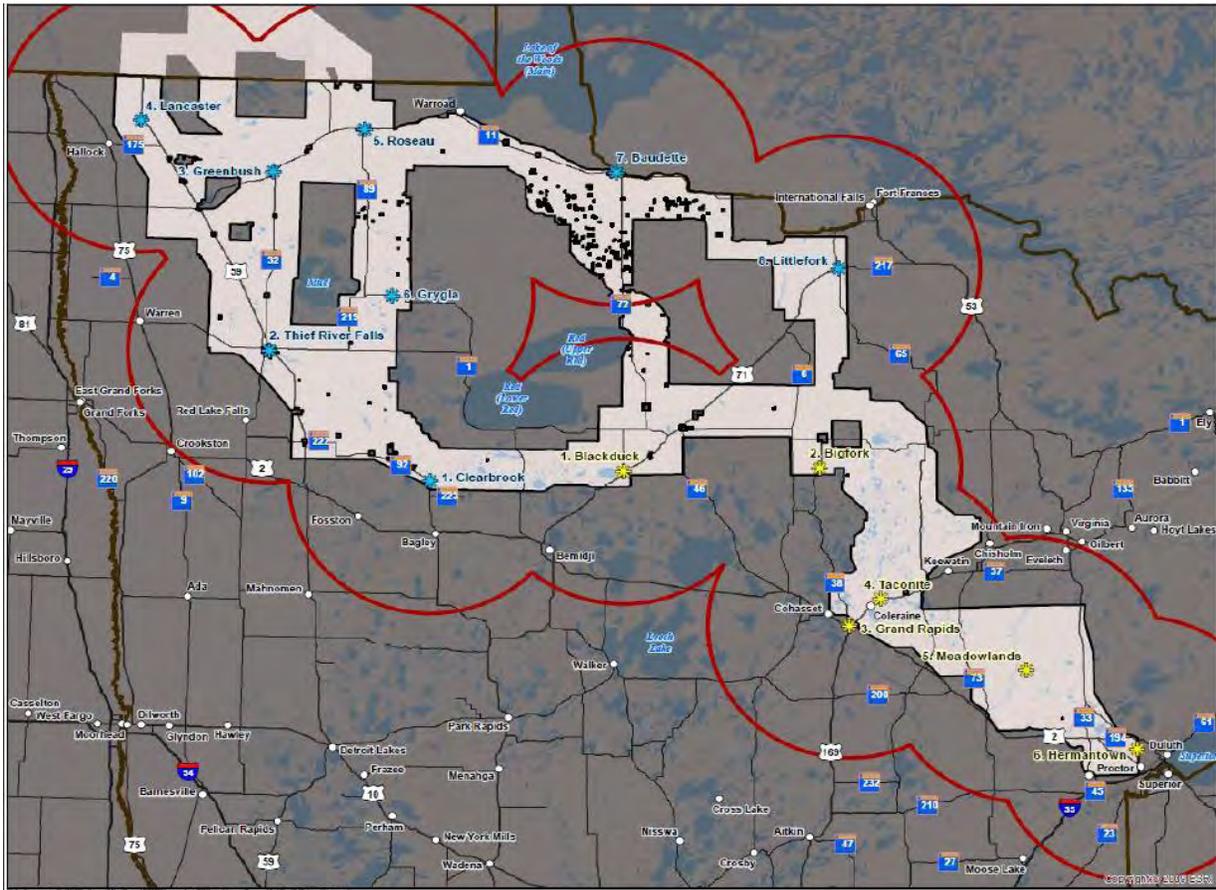
Paid advertisements that listed meeting dates and times were sent to 31 publications in the project study area. Press releases that further explained the project and announcing the open house meetings were sent to 77 media outlets. For a table showing the list of publications, refer to Appendix A.

### c. Website/Online Open House Meeting

The project’s website announced the public meetings weeks before the first meeting. It also encouraged those who could not attend 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 experienced while at an open house meeting. This online open house was made available from April 15-May 5, 2012. For website statistics information, refer to Appendix B.

### III. Open House Overview

The open house meetings occurred in 8 locations in northwestern Minnesota from April 15-19, 2013, and 6 locations in northeastern Minnesota from April 22-25, 2013. The meeting locations were determined by considering the proximity of the location to the route alternatives and travel distance for landowners. An overview map of the area and meeting locations is located below; Table 2 shows meeting location and attendance information.



**Table 2: Number of Attendees and Comment Forms for each Meeting Location**

Date & Time	Meeting Location	Number of Attendees
Monday, April 15 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	Clearbrook	29
Monday, April 15 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	Thief River Falls	59
Tuesday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	Greenbush	35
Tuesday, April 16 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	Lancaster	50
Wednesday, April 17 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	Roseau	91
Thursday, April 18 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	Grygla	61
Thursday, April 18 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	Baudette	31
Friday, April 19 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	Littlefork	28
Monday, April 22 <sup>nd</sup> 5-7pm	Blackduck	100
Tuesday, April 23 <sup>rd</sup> 11am-1pm	Bigfork	43
Tuesday, April 23 <sup>rd</sup> 5-7pm	Grand Rapids	92
Wednesday, April 24 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	Taconite	27
Wednesday, April 24 <sup>th</sup> 5-7pm	Meadowlands	46
Thursday, April 25 <sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm	Hermantown	55
<b>Total</b>		<b>747</b>



April 2013  
Routing Open House  
Meeting Summary Appendix

## Appendix A

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Media Outlets

Organization	Press Release	Paid Advertisement
93.1 The Border CFOB-Fort Frances (Acadia Broadcasting)	✓	
Bagley Farmers Independent	✓	✓
Budgeteer News	✓	
BusinessNorth.com	✓	
Chisholm Tribune Press	✓	
Cloquet Pine Journal	✓	✓
Cook News Herald	✓	
Crookston Daily Times	✓	
Duluth Budgeteer News	✓	✓
Duluth News Tribune	✓	✓
Duluthian	✓	
Electric Utility Week Magazine	✓	
Erskine Echo	✓	✓
Fertile Journal	✓	✓
Floodwood Forum	✓	✓
Fosston Thirteen Towns	✓	✓
Gap West Broadcasting	✓	
Gilbert Herald	✓	
Grand Rapids Herald Review	✓	✓
Greenbush Tribune	✓	✓
Grygla Eagle Newspaper	✓	✓
Hermantown Star	✓	✓
Hibbing Daily Tribune	✓	✓
Hometown Focus	✓	
Iron Range Broadcasting	✓	
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board	✓	
Itasca Community Television - ICTV	✓	
Karlstad North Star News	✓	✓
KAWE Lakeland Public Television	✓	
KDAL Radio	✓	
Kittson County Enterprise	✓	✓
KKEQ Radio	✓	
KQ92 Radio	✓	
KQDS-TV Fox 21	✓	
KROX Radio	✓	
KSRQ Pioneer 90.1 Radio	✓	
KTRF KKDQ KKAQ Radio	✓	
KUMD-FM	✓	
KUND-FM Prairie Public Broadcasting	✓	
KUWS	✓	
KVRR	✓	
KXJB	✓	
Labor World Newspaper	✓	

Organization	Press Release	Paid Advertisement
Leader-Record	✓	✓
Legal Ledger	✓	
MAPPCOR	✓	
Mesabi Daily News	✓	
Midwest Communications	✓	
Minnesota Public Radio	✓	
NatureScape News	✓	
Northland Connection	✓	
Northland News Center	✓	
Northome Area News	✓	
NorthSpan	✓	
Oklee Herald	✓	✓
Portage News	✓	
Proctor Journal	✓	✓
Red Lake Falls Gazette	✓	✓
Richard's Publishing Company Inc	✓	✓
Roseau Times-Region Newspaper	✓	✓
Scenic Range News Forum	✓	✓
Stephen Messenger	✓	
The Aberdeen American News	✓	
The American Newspaper	✓	✓
The Baudette Region Newspaper	✓	✓
The Bemidji Pioneer	✓	✓
The Energy Daily - HIS	✓	
The Littlefork Times	✓	✓
The Northern Light Newspaper	✓	
The Tower/Soudan Timberjay	✓	
Thief River Falls Times	✓	✓
Timberjay Newspaper	✓	
Voyageur Press of McGregor	✓	
Warren Sheaf	✓	✓
Warroad Pioneer	✓	✓
WDAZ	✓	
Western Itasca Review	✓	✓
WiLD 102 Radio	✓	

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April 2013  
Routing Open House  
Meeting Summary Appendix

## Appendix B

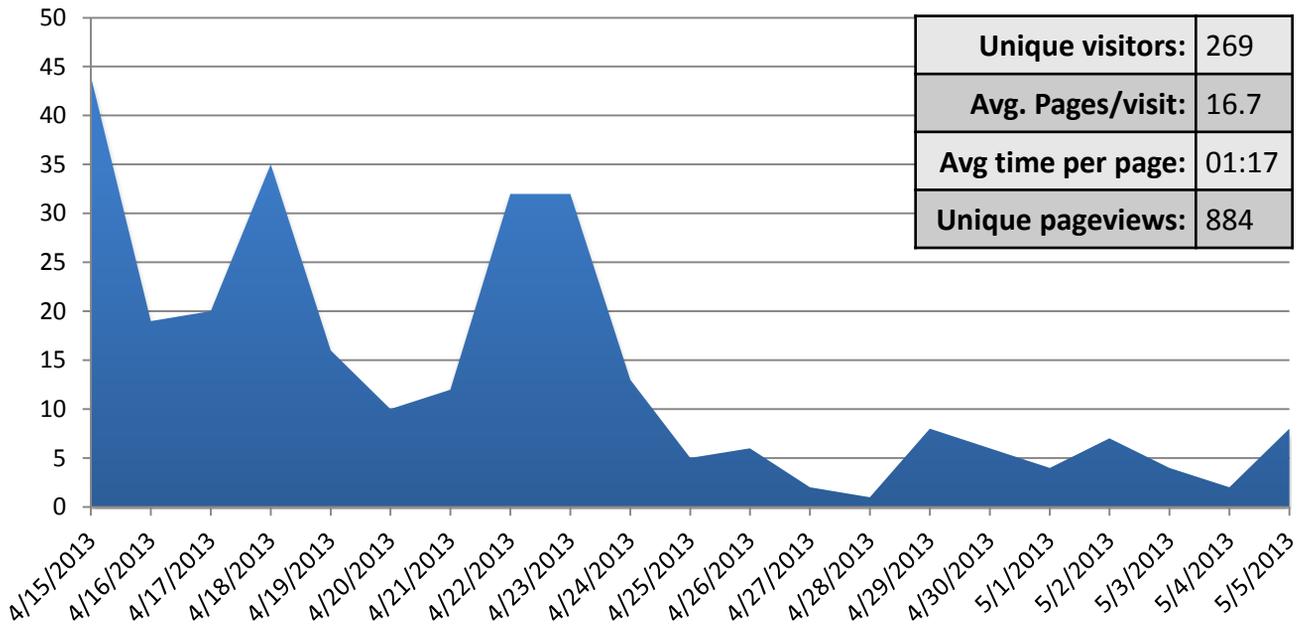
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Online Open House Meeting Website Statistics

# ONLINE MEETING STATISTICS

Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

## Online Routing Meeting (April 15, 2012 – May 5, 2012): Unique Visitors



### Top 10 pages

Page	Unique Visitors	Avg. Time on Page
/meeting home	192	01:18
/overview	134	01:16
/routing	93	01:26
/design	74	01:16
/right-of-way	71	01:40
/project-need	69	00:53
/clean-energy	56	00:51
/permitting	51	00:31
/outreach	45	02:00
/project-benefits	8	00:30

### Video Statistics

Video	Views
<b>Routing the Line</b> (corridor meeting)	179
<b>About Minnesota Power</b> (both meetings)	127
<b>Project Overview</b> (both meetings)	104
<b>Project Need</b> (both meetings)	89
<b>Welcome</b> (routing meeting)	73
<b>Clean Energy</b> (both meetings)	68
<b>Routing video</b> (routing meeting)	65
<b>Welcome</b> (corridor meeting)	59
<b>Right-of-way</b> (routing meeting)	49

### Comments Received During Online Meeting

Media	To date
Web form	38
Joined mailing list	31



## Join us at an open house meeting near you

### Attend a meeting to:

- Learn about our routing process
- Talk to our team
- Give us your input

Minnesota Power is hosting public open house meetings for the proposed **Great Northern Transmission Line** from the Canadian border through the Iron Range to near Duluth, MN. The line will deliver hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to customers in the U.S. We hope to gather your input to help us evaluate our route alternatives.

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Clearbrook</b> Mon., April 15	11am - 1pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Ave SW, Clearbrook, MN
<b>Thief River Falls</b> Mon., April 15	5 pm - 7pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Ave N, Thief River Falls, MN
<b>Greenbush</b> Tue., April 16	11am - 1pm	Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N, Greenbush, MN
<b>Lancaster</b> Tue., April 16	5 pm - 7pm	Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S, Lancaster, MN
<b>Roseau</b> Wed., April 17	11am-1pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center St E, Roseau, MN
<b>Grygla</b> Thu., April 18	11am - 1pm	Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave, Grygla, MN
<b>Baudette</b> Thu., April 18	5 pm - 7pm	Lake of the Woods School Baudette, MN
<b>Littlefork</b> Fri., April 19	11am - 1pm	Littlefork Community Center 901 Main St, Littlefork, MN
<b>Blackduck</b> Mon., April 22	5 pm - 7pm	Blackduck Public High School 156 1st St NE, Blackduck, MN
<b>Bigfork</b> Tue., April 23	11am - 1pm	Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave, Bigfork, MN
<b>Grand Rapids</b> Tue., April 23	5 pm - 7pm	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th St, Grand Rapids, MN
<b>Taconite</b> Wed., April 24	11am - 1pm	Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes St S, Taconite, MN
<b>Meadowlands</b> Wed., April 24	5 pm - 7pm	Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Ave, Meadowlands, MN
<b>Hermantown</b> Thu., April 25	11am - 1pm	Hermantown Government Building 5105 Maple Grove Rd, Hermantown, MN

Can't attend in person? Join our online meeting from April 15 to May 5:  
[greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting)

Visit [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com) for more information



For Release: April 10, 2013

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

# NEWS

## Minnesota Power to present route alternatives for the Great Northern Transmission line at upcoming open house meetings

Duluth, Minnesota – Minnesota Power will host a second series of public open house meetings beginning April 15 to gather input and provide information on its Great Northern Transmission line which will deliver emission-free hydro power from Manitoba to Minnesota.

The 14 public meetings will focus on the project’s route alternatives 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 April 15-May 5 at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://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.

Monday, April 15	Tuesday, April 16	Wednesday, April 17	Thursday, April 18	Friday, April 19
11 am - 1 pm Clear Waters Life Center 256 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW Clearbrook, MN 56634	11 am - 1 pm Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726	11 am - 1 pm Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751	11 am - 1 pm Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727	11 am - 1 pm Littlefork Community Center 901 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653
5 - 7 pm Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue N Thief River Falls, MN 56701	5 - 7 pm Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735	No Evening Meeting	5 - 7 pm Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623	No Evening Meeting

Monday, April 22	Tuesday, April 23	Wednesday, April 24	Thursday, April 25
No Midday Meeting	11 am - 1 pm Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628	11 am - 1 pm Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes Street South Taconite, MN 55786	11 am - 1 pm Hermantown Government Building 5105 Maple Grove Rd Hermantown, MN 55811
5 - 7 pm Blackduck Public High School 156 1 <sup>st</sup> Street NE Blackduck, MN 56630	5 - 7 pm Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17 <sup>th</sup> Street Grand Rapids, MN 55744	5 - 7 pm Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Avenue Meadowlands, MN 55765	No Evening Meeting

A listing of the open houses can also be found on the project website at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://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 route alternatives. Input received during in-person and online open houses on the route alternatives will be reviewed and considered while developing preferred routes.

The Minnesota Power project is part of the company's **EnergyForward** resource strategy for a cleaner energy supply that ensures reliable and affordable power for its customers. The Great Northern Transmission Line will deliver 250 megawatts of emission-free hydropower to customers in Minnesota, meet growing energy demand while increasing system reliability.

The project 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 final route will be approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission through the state application process and the Department of Energy will approve the project through the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Construction of the project is expected to begin in 2017, and be in service by June 1, 2020. Minnesota Power is currently in the environmental and regulatory review stage of the project.

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 143,000 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). Visit [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com) for more information.

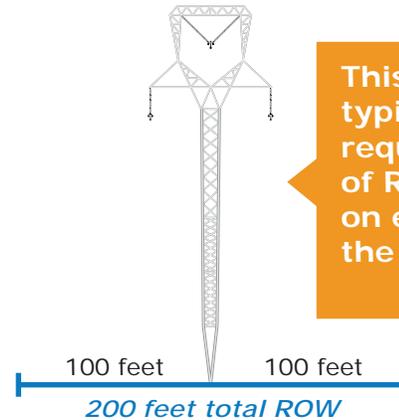
*The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements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

###

## ▶ What is right-of-way?

The term right-of-way or ROW refers to the actual land area where limited rights are acquired for a specific purpose, such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a transmission line.

The ROW width for this project is generally 200 feet – 100 feet on each side of the structure. Approximately 24 acres of right-of-way easement will be required for each mile of transmission line.



## ▶ How will Minnesota Power acquire ROW for this Project?

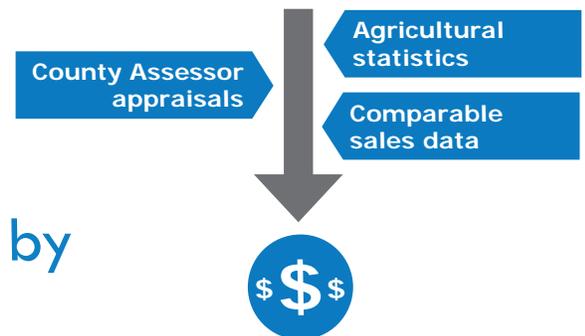
The Project is currently in the Route Alternatives stage. When a final route has been approved by the Minnesota Public Utility Commission, Minnesota Power will start acquiring easements for the ROW to construct and maintain the transmission line. ROW agents will contact individual landowners along the route to start discussing the Project ROW needs. Land values will be researched and fair market value offers will be made to the landowners.

After the landowner and Minnesota Power agree, the easement is signed and then recorded at the respective County Courthouse. The landowner continues to own the property subject to Minnesota Power's right to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line facilities.



## ▶ What do affected landowners get in the form of compensation?

Landowner compensation is determined by a variety of factors: County Assessor appraisals, agricultural statistics (where applicable), and comparable sales data.



## ▶ How are property taxes affected by the ROW?

The landowner continues to pay property tax on the land as the owner of the property. Minnesota Power pays the property taxes on the transmission line facilities.

## ▶ Will eminent domain be used on this Project?

Minnesota Power will exercise eminent domain only after all other options have been explored. To complete this project on time and continue to provide our customers with low-cost energy and meet future service demands, Minnesota Power will make a fair offer to landowners and allow sufficient time for conversations and negotiations. We are engaging landowners early in the routing process to allow for discussion and input to help develop potential transmission line routes that address the concerns of landowners and Minnesota Power.

## ▶ Who controls access to the ROW?

The landowner continues to control access to the ROW subject to the terms of the easement. The landowner may fence across the ROW provided that a gate is included to allow Minnesota Power access to the ROW. Minnesota Power will work with landowners if a gate is required.

## ▶ What activities are allowed within the ROW?

The landowner retains the right to utilize the property subject to the terms of the easement. Agricultural lands can continue to be farmed. Recreational uses of the property continue to be permissible.

- Buildings and other structures are not permitted within the ROW.
- Trees and shrubs with the potential to exceed 15 feet in height are generally not permitted within the ROW.
- Storage of flammable materials is not permitted within the ROW.

In general, the land can continue to be used as before provided that the use does not interfere with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line.

## ▶ Will Minnesota Power cut trees located within the ROW?

Tall trees may interfere with transmission lines. Typically, tall trees and most woody vegetation will be removed from the ROW for construction. Tree removal is required to comply with National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards and for the safe operation and maintenance of the line. Some low to the ground vegetation may be allowed to grow under the transmission line following construction and once the construction area is restored.

## ▶ How will Minnesota Power handle construction damage on my property?

Minnesota Power will be responsible for restoration of properties damaged by the construction and maintenance of the transmission line. The ROW will be restored as reasonably practical to re-grade and re-establish vegetative cover in disturbed areas. Minnesota Power will compensate landowners for the value of any crops destroyed during construction or maintenance.

## ▶ When is construction scheduled to begin?

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017 and take three years to complete.

## Join us at an open house meeting near you

The Great Northern Transmission Line project is currently in the routing phase. The map below shows the route alternatives under consideration (in purple). Input gathered from the October 2012 public meetings, ongoing agency meetings, and comments submitted through our website, hotline, and email were used to develop the route alternatives.

Please attend a meeting near you in April or join the [online meeting](#) on our website to allow us to gather your input on the route alternatives and help us select routes.

## JOIN US!

By attending an open house, you will:

1. Learn about the project and our routing process.
2. Be able to discuss the routing process with project team members.
3. Provide input to help us select routes.

## Great Northern Transmission Line Route Alternatives Map



## Open House Meeting Schedule

[>> View a Google map of meeting locations](#)

Stop by anytime during one of the meetings listed below. No formal presentation will be given. The project team will be available to give small group tours and answer your questions. Informational materials and detailed maps will be displayed at each open house. Light refreshments will be provided.

City and date	Time	Location
<b>Clearbrook</b> Monday April 15	11am - 1pm	Char Waters Life Center 256 2nd Ave SW Clearbrook, MN 56634
<b>Thief River Falls</b> Monday April 15	5pm - 7pm	Rolph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 215 Brooks Ave N Thief River Falls, MN 56701
<b>Greenbush</b> Tuesday April 16	11am - 1pm	Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726
<b>Lancaster</b> Tuesday April 16	5pm - 7pm	Lancaster Community Center 1.8 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735
<b>Roseau</b> Wednesday April 17	11am-1pm	Roseau Civic Center 111 Center St E Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Grygla</b> Thursday April 18	11am - 1pm	Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727
<b>Baudette</b> Thursday April 18	5pm - 7pm	Lake of the Woods School 236 15th Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623
<b>Littlefork</b> Friday April 19	11am - 1pm	Littlefork Community Center 981 Main St Littlefork, MN 56653
<b>Blackduck</b> Monday April 22	5pm - 7pm	Blackduck Public High School 156 1st St NE Blackduck, MN 56630
<b>Bigfork</b> Tuesday April 23	11am - 1pm	Bigfork City Hall 280 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
<b>Grand Rapids</b> Tuesday April 23	5pm - 7pm	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th St Grand Rapids, MN 55744
<b>Taconite</b> Wednesday April 24	11am - 1pm	Taconite Community Center 24 Hayes St S Taconite, MN 55786
<b>Meadowlands</b> Wednesday April 24	5pm - 7pm	Meadowlands Community Center 758 Western Ave Meadowlands, MN 55765
<b>Hermantown</b> Thursday April 25	11am - 1pm	Hermantown Government Building 5.05 Maple Grove Rd Hermantown, MN 55811

### Can't attend a meeting in person?

Join our online meeting from April 15 - May 5  
at: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting/](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting/)

### ► 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 kilovolt (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 ManitobaHydro to customers in the U.S.

### ► Meeting Purpose

The purpose of the upcoming public meetings in April (details on reverse side) is to allow landowners, stakeholders, and interested members of the public to learn more about the project, learn about our transmission line routing process, discuss questions and concerns with our project team, and give us feedback that we can carefully review and consider as we select routes.

### ► For more information

Visit: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)  
Email: [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)  
Call: 877.657.9934



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

March 27, 2013

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
ADDRESS

**RE: Upcoming Open House Meetings to gather input on route alternatives for Great Northern Transmission Line Project**

Dear,

Minnesota Power would like to inform you 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.

The Project Team has been busy reviewing and considering feedback from the following stakeholders:

- federal, state, and local agencies,
- input from the fall 2012 corridor public open house meetings, and
- comments collected from the Great Northern Transmission Line website, email and information line.

In addition to the information gathered from the list above, Minnesota Power applied routing criteria developed from state and federal regulations and engineering and environmental industry best practices to further refine route alternatives.

***Minnesota Power is seeking your input on the route alternatives to assist the Project Team in identifying opportunities and constraints for the location of the proposed transmission line, and*** encourages you to review the enclosed map.

Minnesota Power will be hosting Open House Meetings at fourteen locations throughout the Project area the weeks of April 15 and April 22, 2013. The following table provides detailed information for each of the Open House Meetings. You are welcome to attend and share your feedback with the Project Team. Minnesota Power is also hosting an online open house meeting for those who cannot attend or want more information. Visit us online at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting) from April 15 – May 5, 2013,

**Route Alternatives Open House Meetings Schedule**

Monday, April 15	Tuesday, April 16	Wednesday, April 17	Thursday, April 18	Friday, April 19
11 am - 1 pm Clear Waters Life Center 256 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW Clearbrook, MN 56634	11 am - 1 pm Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726	11 am - 1 pm Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751	11 am - 1 pm Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727	11 am - 1 pm Littlefork Community Center 901 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653
5 - 7 pm Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue N Thief River Falls, MN 56701	5 - 7 pm Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735	No Evening Meeting	5 - 7 pm Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623	No Evening Meeting

Monday, April 22	Tuesday, April 23	Wednesday, April 24	Thursday, April 25
No Midday Meeting	11 am - 1 pm Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628	11 am - 1 pm Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes Street South Taconite, MN 55786	11 am - 1 pm Hermantown Government Building 5105 Maple Grove Rd Hermantown, MN 55811
5 - 7 pm Blackduck Public High School 156 1 <sup>st</sup> Street NE Blackduck, MN 56630	5 - 7 pm Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17 <sup>th</sup> Street Grand Rapids, MN 55744	5 - 7 pm Meadowlands Community Center 7758 Western Avenue Meadowlands, MN 55765	No Evening Meeting

Minnesota Power appreciates your participation in the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and looks forward to working with you. For more information, visit our Project website at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://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](mailto:jbatkinson@allete.com).

Sincerely,



Jim Atkinson  
Environmental Lead  
Minnesota Power  
[jbatkinson@mnpower.com](mailto:jbatkinson@mnpower.com)



Mike Donahue  
Project Manager  
Minnesota Power  
[mdonahue@mnpower.com](mailto:mdonahue@mnpower.com)

Enclosures: Figure 1 – Route Alternatives Map



Connecting Manitoba and Minnesota

March 27, 2013

NAME  
TITLE  
ADDRESS  
ADDRESS

**RE: Upcoming Open House Meetings to gather input on route alternatives for Great Northern Transmission Line Project**

Dear,

Minnesota Power would like to inform you 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.

The Project Team has been busy reviewing and considering feedback from the following stakeholders;

- federal, state, and local agencies,
- input from the fall 2012 corridor public open house meetings, and
- comments collected from the Great Northern Transmission Line website, email and information line.

In addition to the information gathered from the list above, Minnesota Power applied routing criteria developed from state and federal regulations and engineering and environmental industry best practices to further refine route alternatives, and encourages you to review the enclosed map.

If you or representatives from your tribe would be interested in having an informal, voluntary meeting with members of the Project Team to discuss the Project, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Atkinson from Minnesota Power (contact information below). This meeting would be in addition to the formal Section 106 Consultation process that will be conducted by the lead federal agency in the near future.

Minnesota Power will be hosting in-person Open House Meetings at fourteen locations throughout the Project area the weeks of April 15 and April 22, 2013. The following table provides detailed information for each of the Open House Meetings. You are welcome to attend these Open House Meetings in addition to, or in lieu of, an informal meeting described above. Minnesota Power is also hosting an online open house meeting for those who cannot attend or want more information. Visit us online from April 15 – May 5, 2013, at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com/online-meeting).

Minnesota Power  
30 West Superior Street  
Duluth, MN 55802

**Route Alternatives Open House Meetings Schedule**

Monday, April 15	Tuesday, April 16	Wednesday, April 17	Thursday, April 18	Friday, April 19
11 am - 1 pm Clear Waters Life Center 256 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue SW Clearbrook, MN 56634	11 am - 1 pm Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726	11 am - 1 pm Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751	11 am - 1 pm Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727	11 am - 1 pm Littlefork Community Center 901 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653
5 - 7 pm Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue N Thief River Falls, MN 56701	5 - 7 pm Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735	No Evening Meeting	5 - 7 pm Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623	No Evening Meeting

Monday, April 22	Tuesday, April 23	Wednesday, April 24	Thursday, April 25
No Midday Meeting	11 am - 1 pm Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628	11 am - 1 pm Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes Street South Taconite, MN 55786	11 am - 1 pm Hermantown Government Building 5105 Maple Grove Rd Hermantown, MN 55811
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Sincerely,



Jim Atkinson  
Environmental Lead  
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Mike Donahue  
Project Manager  
Minnesota Power  
[mdonahue@mnpower.com](mailto:mdonahue@mnpower.com)

Enclosures: Figure 1 - Route Alternatives Map

# Open House Meetings

## Round 2 – Route Alternatives (Solway Township)

[Comment Form](#)

[Display Boards](#)

[EMF Handout](#)

[Meeting Summary](#)

[Right-of-way Factsheet](#)

[Solway Township Newsletter](#)

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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

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.
- Explain our routing process.
- Answer your questions.
- Gather your input!



## 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.

### Who is Minnesota Power?



Minnesota Power's Area of Operation

- We serve 144,000 retail customers and 16 wholesale municipalities.
- We are an investor-owned utility.
- Our interconnected transmission network promotes reliability in the upper Midwest.

### Project timeline



## Meeting regional needs

### DIVERSITY

Provides access to clean, affordable, reliable energy for Minnesota Power customers and the region.

### INCREASING DEMAND

Helps to meet increased energy demand from Minnesota's Iron Range.

### RELIABILITY

Strengthens system reliability for Minnesota Power and the region.



## Local economic benefits

The University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School's Bureau of Business and Economic Research conducted an [independent economic study](#) for the Great Northern Transmission Line. The analysis includes estimated economic impacts to the project area from start-up activities in 2012 through construction completion in 2020.

### GENERATE MORE THAN

**\$62<sup>M</sup>**  
STATE & LOCAL  
TAX REVENUE

- \$62.5M in state and local taxes are estimated to be generated through compensation, business, household, and corporation taxes.

### CREATE OR SUPPORT

**500  
JOBS**

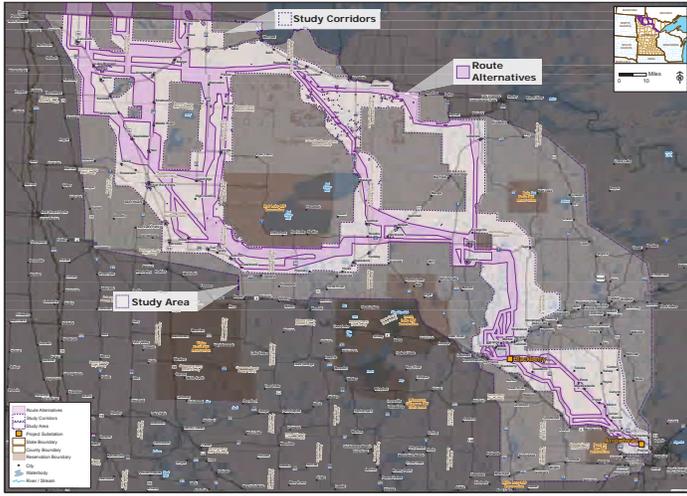
- 315 jobs are estimated to be directly created for construction activities.
- 185 jobs are estimated to be added in industries like food service, healthcare, building and professional services, retail, wholesale, etc.

### CONTRIBUTE NEARLY

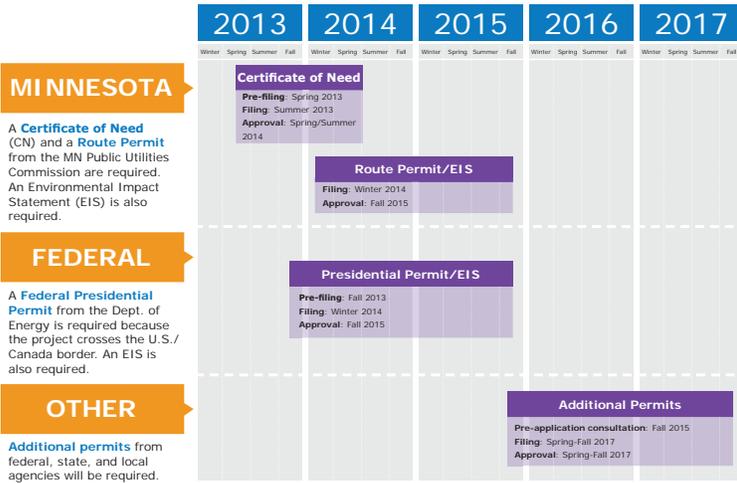
**\$2.2<sup>B</sup>**  
TO THE LOCAL  
ECONOMY

- Nearly \$1.4B are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on goods and services needed to support construction activities.
- Nearly \$714.4M are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on wages, rents, interest, and profits.

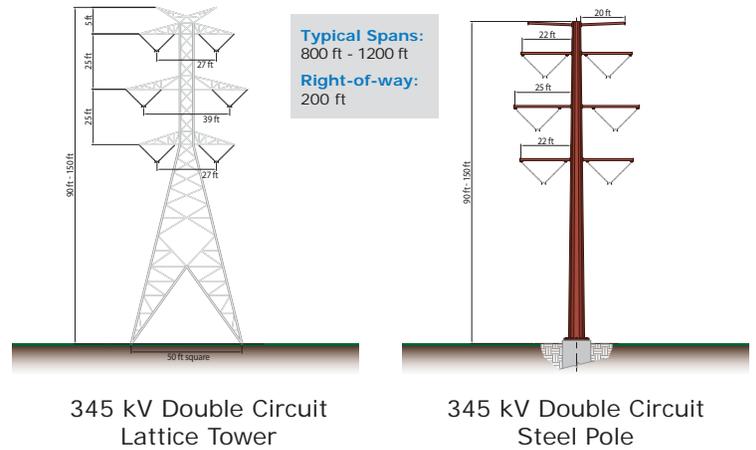
# Route Alternatives



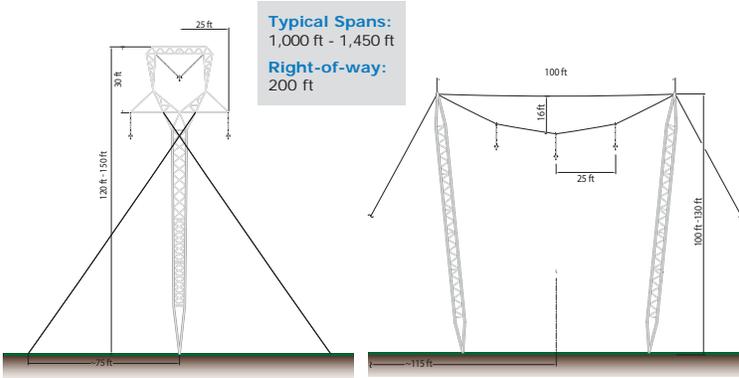
# Regulatory process



# Preliminary 345 kV structure design



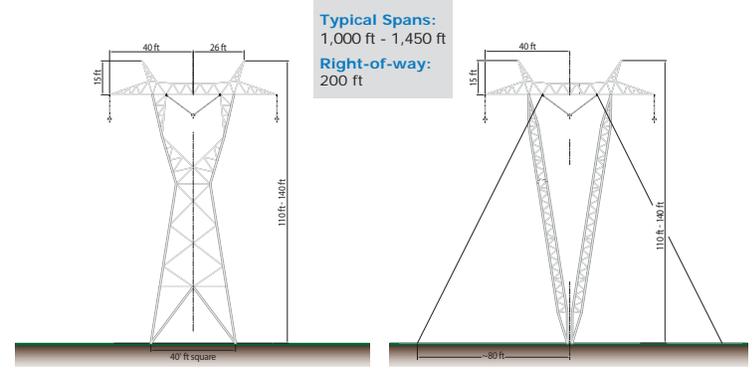
## Preliminary 500 kV structure design



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

## Typical structures

The structures depicted here are typical representations of constructed transmission lines that are similar to the structures being considered for the Great Northern Transmission Line. The actual structure design for the project may differ.



345 kV Double Circuit Steel Pole



500 kV Guy Delta Suspension Tower



500 kV Guyed Dead End/Corner Structure



500 kV Self-Supporting Suspension Tower

## Typical right-of-way acquisition process

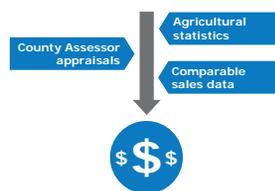
### WHAT IS RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)?

**ROW Definition:** The actual land area acquired for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a transmission line.

**ROW Width:** This project typically requires 200 ft of ROW (100 ft on either side of the structure).

**ROW Acreage:** Approximately 24 acres of ROW will be required per mile of transmission line.

### LANDOWNER COMPENSATION



### RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROCESS





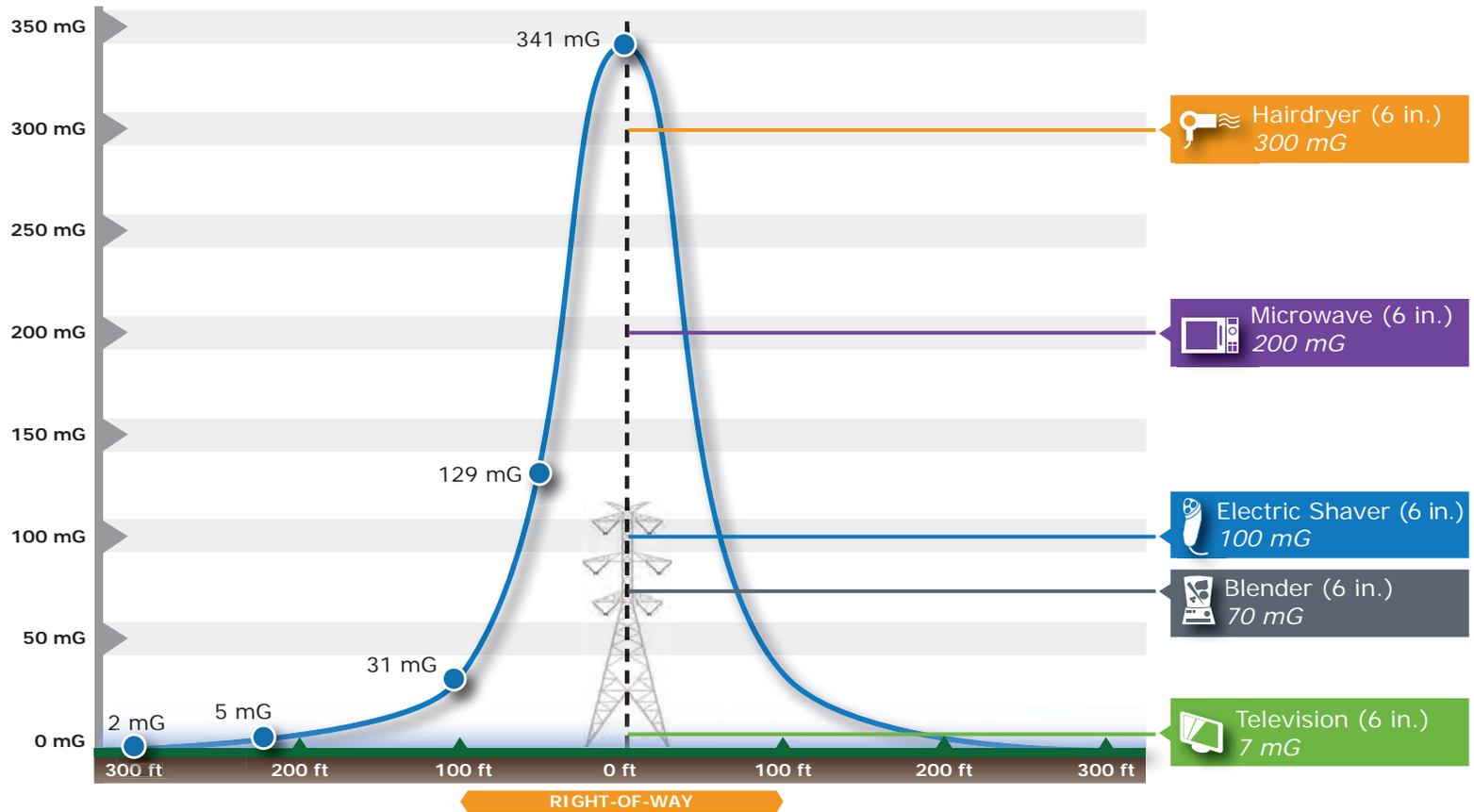
We want your input!

### How to stay informed and give us your input:



- Visit our website at:  
[www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://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](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

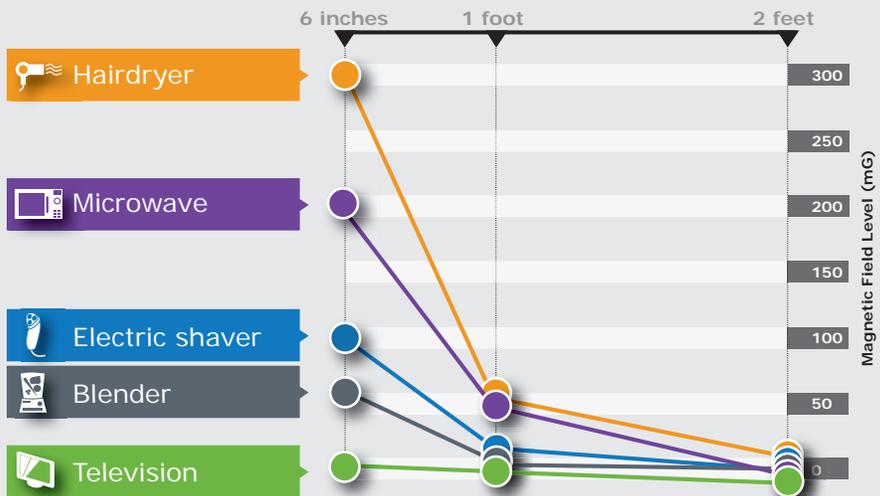
# Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)



\* The figure above represents magnetic fields for a comparable 345 kV line and do not necessarily represent the measurements for the Great Northern Transmission Line.

## EMF decrease rapidly with distance from the source

Exposure to MF directly beneath a 345 kV transmission line is similar to that of a hairdryer or a microwave at a distance of 6 inches.



## 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/radtown/power-lines.html, accessed 10/9/2012)*

## I. Summary

Minnesota Power hosted a public open house meeting on July 23, 2013 at the Solway Township Town Hall gather input from the area's local stakeholders and the public on the proposed route alternatives of the Great Northern Transmission Line.

The open house meeting was requested by Solway Township supervisors due to the area's proximity to the route alternatives. Meeting attendees were informed of the project's phased approach. During project development, Solway Township's area was included in Phase 2. The project is currently in Phase 1. A total of 28 invitees attended the meetings.

### a. Meeting Materials

- Overview handout
- Comment form
- Two sets of Information Boards:
  - Project overview
  - Meeting regional needs
  - Local economic benefits
  - Route alternatives
  - Routing process
  - Regulatory process
  - Preliminary structure design (3)
  - Typical structures
  - Typical right-of-way acquisition process
  - Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)
- Sign-in sheets
- Resource materials:
  - Minnesota Power's Energy Forward program overview
  - EMF handout
  - Right-of-way factsheet
- A GIS mapping station
- Large aerial maps of Solway Township and surrounding area

## II. Outreach

The open house meeting was announced in the Solway Township July newsletter, as well as advertised at the town hall and announced at the township monthly board meeting. The Proctor Journal ran a story on July 18, 2013 announcing the open house meeting.

## III. Feedback

### a. Comment Forms

Comment forms were made available to all attendees. One comment form was collected during the meeting.

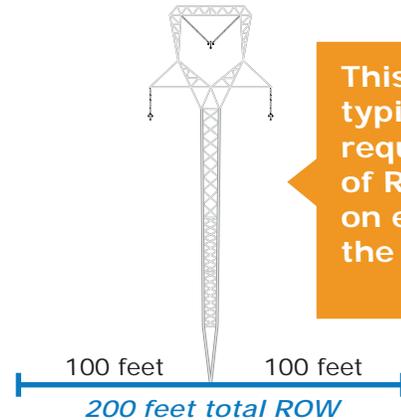
### b. Mapping Comments

Staff members were encouraged to place dot markers on the map for any mapping comments. These comments were recorded during the meeting, compiled, and included in the meeting notes.

## ▶ What is right-of-way?

The term right-of-way or ROW refers to the actual land area where limited rights are acquired for a specific purpose, such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a transmission line.

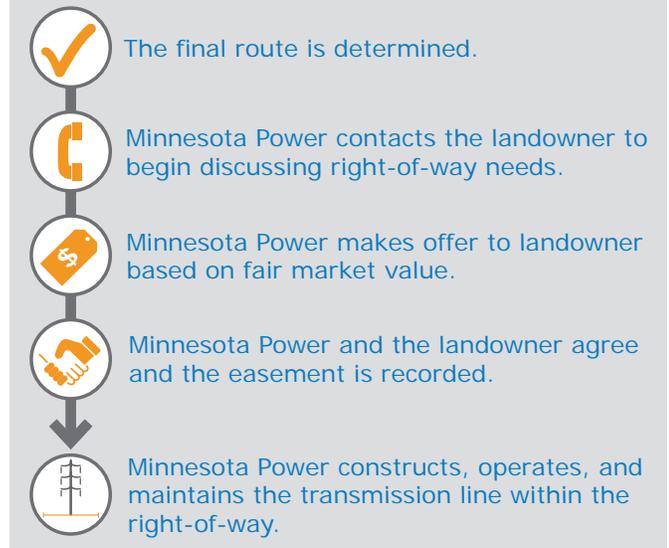
The ROW width for this project is generally 200 feet – 100 feet on each side of the structure. Approximately 24 acres of right-of-way easement will be required for each mile of transmission line.



## ▶ How will Minnesota Power acquire ROW for this Project?

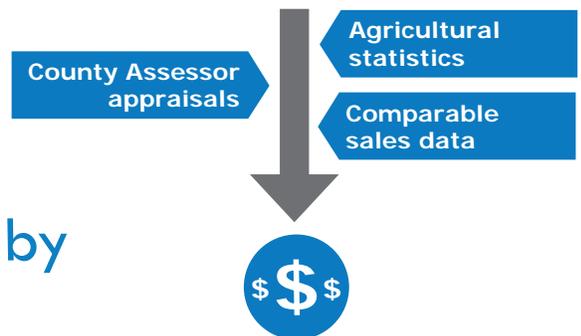
The Project is currently in the Route Alternatives stage. When a final route has been approved by the Minnesota Public Utility Commission, Minnesota Power will start acquiring easements for the ROW to construct and maintain the transmission line. ROW agents will contact individual landowners along the route to start discussing the Project ROW needs. Land values will be researched and fair market value offers will be made to the landowners.

After the landowner and Minnesota Power agree, the easement is signed and then recorded at the respective County Courthouse. The landowner continues to own the property subject to Minnesota Power's right to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line facilities.



## ▶ What do affected landowners get in the form of compensation?

Landowner compensation is determined by a variety of factors: County Assessor appraisals, agricultural statistics (where applicable), and comparable sales data.



## ▶ How are property taxes affected by the ROW?

The landowner continues to pay property tax on the land as the owner of the property. Minnesota Power pays the property taxes on the transmission line facilities.

## ▶ Will eminent domain be used on this Project?

Minnesota Power will exercise eminent domain only after all other options have been explored. To complete this project on time and continue to provide our customers with low-cost energy and meet future service demands, Minnesota Power will make a fair offer to landowners and allow sufficient time for conversations and negotiations. We are engaging landowners early in the routing process to allow for discussion and input to help develop potential transmission line routes that address the concerns of landowners and Minnesota Power.

## ▶ Who controls access to the ROW?

The landowner continues to control access to the ROW subject to the terms of the easement. The landowner may fence across the ROW provided that a gate is included to allow Minnesota Power access to the ROW. Minnesota Power will work with landowners if a gate is required.

## ▶ What activities are allowed within the ROW?

The landowner retains the right to utilize the property subject to the terms of the easement. Agricultural lands can continue to be farmed. Recreational uses of the property continue to be permissible.

- Buildings and other structures are not permitted within the ROW.
- Trees and shrubs with the potential to exceed 15 feet in height are generally not permitted within the ROW.
- Storage of flammable materials is not permitted within the ROW.

In general, the land can continue to be used as before provided that the use does not interfere with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line.

## ▶ Will Minnesota Power cut trees located within the ROW?

Tall trees may interfere with transmission lines. Typically, tall trees and most woody vegetation will be removed from the ROW for construction. Tree removal is required to comply with National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards and for the safe operation and maintenance of the line. Some low to the ground vegetation may be allowed to grow under the transmission line following construction and once the construction area is restored.

## ▶ How will Minnesota Power handle construction damage on my property?

Minnesota Power will be responsible for restoration of properties damaged by the construction and maintenance of the transmission line. The ROW will be restored as reasonably practical to re-grade and re-establish vegetative cover in disturbed areas. Minnesota Power will compensate landowners for the value of any crops destroyed during construction or maintenance.

## ▶ When is construction scheduled to begin?

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2017 and take three years to complete.

# Solway Section Lines

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 3

JULY 2013

## Road Maintenance for 2013

Our Township road inspection occurred on Friday, April 26th. As a result of our findings, gravel application, dust control, culvert replacements, ditching, sign replacement, roadside mowing and brushing were planned for May, June and July.

- 143 loads of gravel were applied to the roads the week of May 10th.
- 5800 gallons of calcium chloride were applied to roads on June 18th and 19th.
- Ditching projects were scheduled for Jeffrey, Heine and South Hanson Roads during May and June.
- The Town Hall parking lots and basketball/tennis courts received crack filling, seal-coating and striping June 11, 12, and 13th.
- Roadside mowing and brushing will continue over the summer months.
- Roads will be graded every three weeks or more frequently as needed.

If you have a particular problem on your road, please call the township office at 729-5134 so we can address it.

## Great Northern Transmission Line Project

### Open House Meeting July 23, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Minnesota Power is currently in the process of designing two potential routes for the southern portion of its Great Northern Transmission Line. The Great Northern Transmission Line Project consists of a 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 located off the north side of Morris Thomas Road between Solway and Midway Roads.

Minnesota Power needs to compile two separate routes for the transmission lines that are then presented to the State of Minnesota for their approval of one of the routes. Both potential routes will traverse Solway Township due to its proximity to the Arrowhead Substation, the project end point. The new transmission line will likely parallel existing lines, but will require additional right-of-way. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will determine the exact location of the line through the route permit process.

Minnesota Power held two rounds of open house meetings in the fall of 2012 and spring of 2013 to provide information, learn about the routing process, and gather input on the route alternatives. Because of the impact on Township property owners we have requested them to hold an additional meeting at our town hall. This meeting will be held Tuesday, July 23rd 5PM to 7PM. With an open house format you can stop by anytime during the meeting time and no formal presentation will be given. The project team will be available to give small group tours and answer your questions. Informational materials and detailed maps will be displayed at the open house and light refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions or concerns on this project be sure to make use of this meeting to have them addressed.

If you are unable to attend, you can view project information, maps, and open house materials on the project website by visiting [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Transmission Line Informational Meeting	1
Harvest Reunion Show	2
Craft Sale	2
National Night Out	3
So St Louis County Fair	4
Calendar	6

## SOLWAY TOWN BOARD

**Chairperson:** Scott Welsh  
**Supervisors:** Ron Gajewski and Clare Stromlund  
**Clerk:** Regena Merritt  
**Treasurer:** Cindy Moe  
**Office Hours:** M, T, Th 9-3

**For Hall Rentals call 729-5134, leave your name, number and date wanted.**  
**Phone: 218-729-5134**  
**Fax: 218-729-5651**

**Township website:**  
[solwaytownship-MN.gov](http://solwaytownship-MN.gov)

**Email:**  
[solwayclerk@hotmail.com](mailto:solwayclerk@hotmail.com)

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# Open House Meetings

## Round 3 – Refined Route Alternatives

Comment Form

Display Boards

Exit Survey

Handout

Landowner Postcard

Meeting Summary

Paid Advertisement

Press Release

Stakeholder Email

Stakeholder Letter

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

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Place  
Stamp  
Here

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

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## Welcome!

### The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Provide information about the project.
- Explain our routing process.
- Answer your questions.
- Gather your input!



## 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.

### Who is Minnesota Power?



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- We serve 144,000 retail customers and 16 wholesale municipalities.
- We are an investor-owned utility.
- Our interconnected transmission network promotes reliability in the upper Midwest.

### Project timeline



## Meeting regional needs

### DIVERSITY

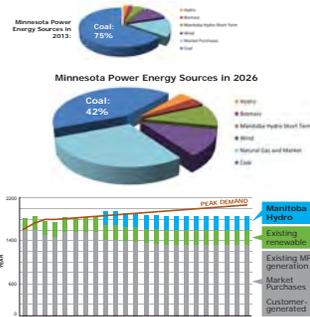
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Helps to meet increased energy demand from Minnesota's Iron Range.

### RELIABILITY

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## Local economic benefits

The University of Minnesota Duluth Labovitz School's Bureau of Business and Economic Research conducted an independent economic study for the Great Northern Transmission Line. The analysis includes estimated economic impacts to the project area from start-up activities in 2012 through construction completion in 2020.

### GENERATE MORE THAN

**\$62.5M**  
STATE & LOCAL  
TAX REVENUE

- \$62.5M in state and local taxes are estimated to be generated through compensation, business, household, and corporation taxes.

### CREATE OR SUPPORT

**500**  
JOBS

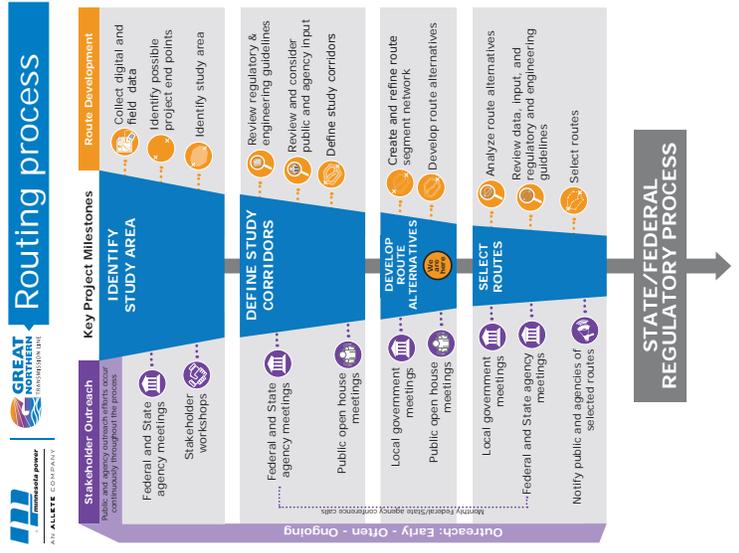
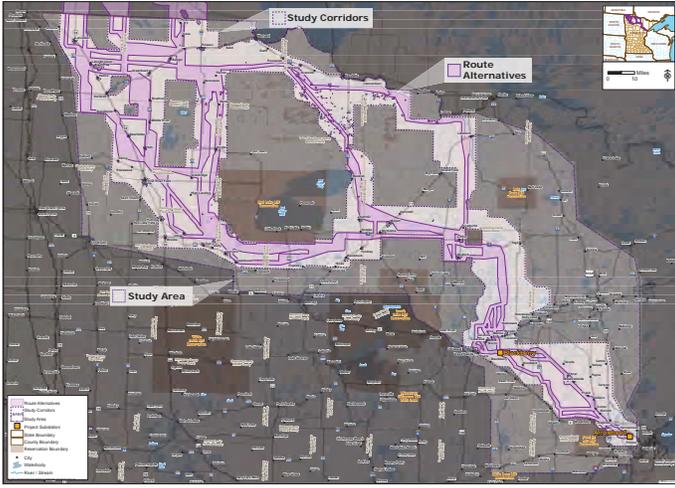
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- 185 jobs are estimated to be added in industries like food service, healthcare, building and professional services, retail, wholesale, etc.

### CONTRIBUTE NEARLY

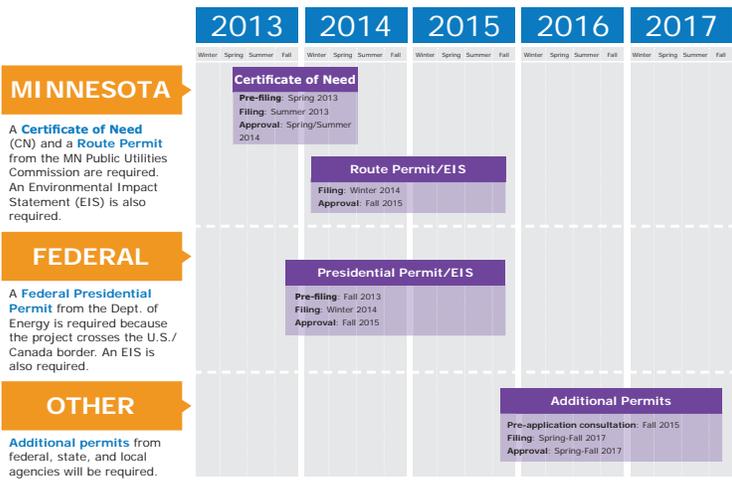
**\$2.2B**  
TO THE LOCAL  
ECONOMY

- Nearly \$1.4B are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on goods and services needed to support construction activities.
- Nearly \$714.4M are estimated to impact the local economy through direct and indirect spending on wages, rents, interest, and profits.

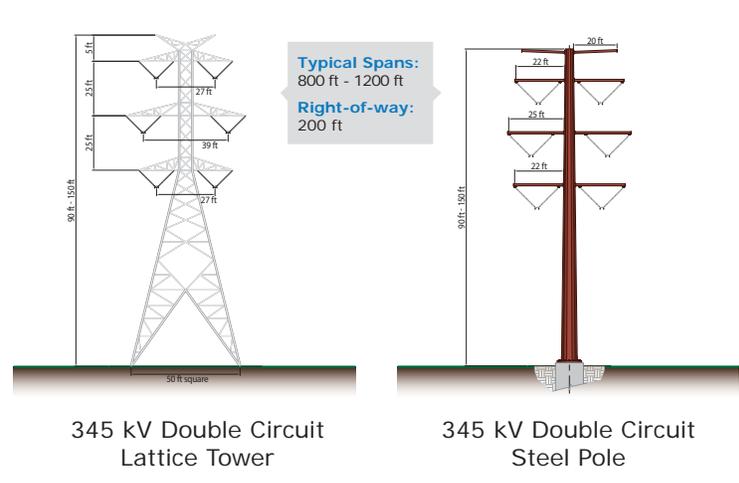
**Route Alternatives**



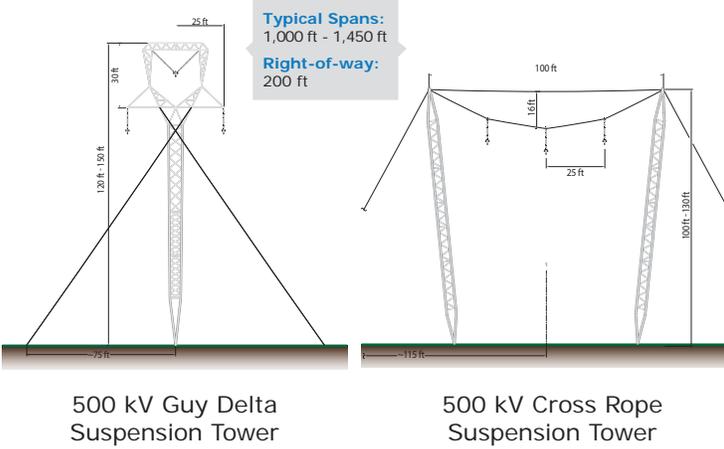
**Regulatory process**



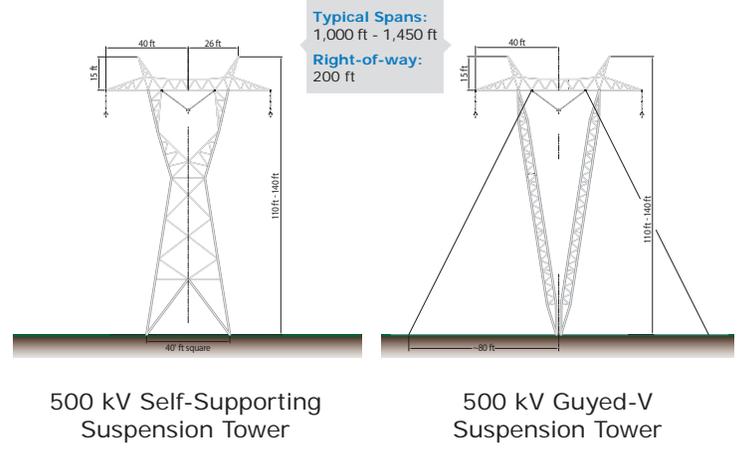
**Preliminary 345 kV structure design**



## Preliminary 500 kV structure design



## Preliminary 500 kV structure design



## Typical structures

The structures depicted here are typical representations of constructed transmission lines that are similar to the structures being considered for the Great Northern Transmission Line. The actual structure design for the project may differ.



345 kV Double Circuit Steel Pole



500 kV Guy Delta Suspension Tower



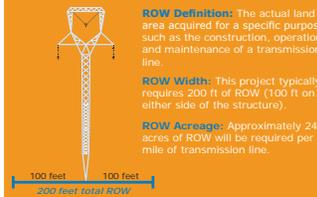
500 kV GUYED Dead End/Corner Structure



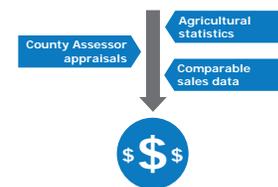
500 kV Self-Supporting Suspension Tower

## Typical right-of-way acquisition process

### WHAT IS RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)?



### LANDOWNER COMPENSATION



### RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROCESS





We want your input!

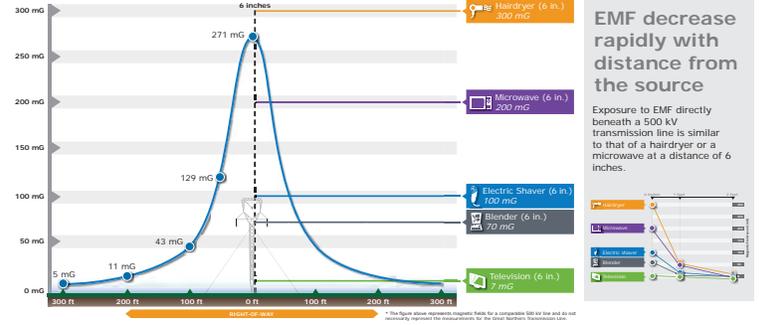


Electric & Magnetic Fields (EMF)

### How to stay informed and give us your input:



- Visit our website at: [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://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](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)



#### 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 16, 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.greatnortherntransmissionline.com, accessed 10/16/2012)

# Exit Survey

Please take a few minutes to help us improve our open house public meetings.

1) Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

2) Is this the first open house meeting for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project you have attended?

- Yes                       No

3) Which open house meeting location is closest to your property?

- Baudette                       Grand Rapids                       Lancaster                       Roseau                       Clearbrook  
 Blackduck                       Greenbush                       Littlefork                       Taconite  
 Bigfork                       Grygla                       Northome                       Thief River Falls

4) Do you own property in one or more of the route alternatives?

- Yes                       No

5) In your opinion, what is the MOST IMPORTANT routing factor?

- Impacts to agricultural operations                       Impacts to public lands  
 Impacts to timber/forestry operations                       Following existing roads, pipelines, railways, etc.  
 Impacts to wildlife habitat, wetlands or endangered species                       How close the line is to my house  
 Cost

6) In your opinion, what is the SECOND MOST IMPORTANT routing factor?

- Impacts to agricultural operations                       Impacts to public lands  
 Impacts to timber/forestry operations                       Following existing roads, pipelines, railways, etc.  
 Impacts to wildlife habitat, wetlands or endangered species                       How close the line is to my house  
 Cost

7) In your opinion, what is the LEAST IMPORTANT routing factor?

- Impacts to agricultural operations                       Impacts to public lands  
 Impacts to timber/forestry operations                       Following existing roads, pipelines, railways, etc.  
 Impacts to wildlife habitat, wetlands or endangered species                       How close the line is to my house  
 Cost

8) What is more important to you?

- How the line will impact my property                       Fair compensation if the line is located on my property

9) What is more important to you?

- How the line affects how I use my land (farming, hunting, timber, etc.)                       How close the line is to my house

10) Which statement best describes how you feel about the Great Northern Transmission Line?

- I do not understand why Minnesota Power is building a new line                       I understand the need for the project and it would be acceptable to locate the line on or near my property.  
 I understand the need for the project.                       I understand the need for the project, but I don't want it located on my property.

11) Use this space to provide any additional input.

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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Place  
Stamp  
Here

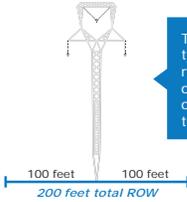
**Great Northern Transmission Line Team**  
**c/o HDR Engineering**  
**701 Xenia Ave South, 600**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55416**

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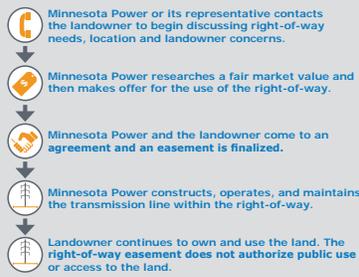
## ▶ Right-of-way acquisition process

### What is ROW?

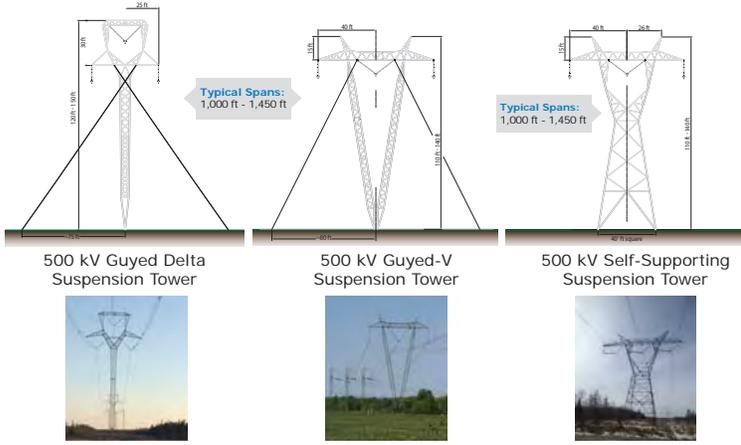
Typically a strip of land used for a public purpose such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a road or transmission line.



This project typically requires 200 ft of ROW (100 ft on each side of the centerline).



## ▶ Preliminary 500 kV Structure Design



These photos show a typical representation of existing transmission lines that are similar to the structures being considered for the project. The actual structure for the project may differ.

For more information or to provide input:

Visit us online: [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)  
 Call our toll-free hotline: 1-877-657-9934  
 Email us: [info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](mailto:info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)



## WELCOME!

- This meeting is intended to:
1. Provide project information
  2. Explain our routing process
  3. Answer your questions
  4. Gather your input to help us select routes for the state and federal permitting processes

Fill out the enclosed comment form to give us your input!

## What is the project?

The Great Northern Transmission Line will carry hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to Minnesota Power's customers to bring clean, emission-free energy into Minnesota. The Great Northern Transmission Line will consist of two transmission lines:

- **Phase 1:** 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range, and
- **Phase 2:** 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1. We fully anticipate both phases of the Project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. Phase 2 has been deferred until further notice.

## What is the Phase 1 project schedule?

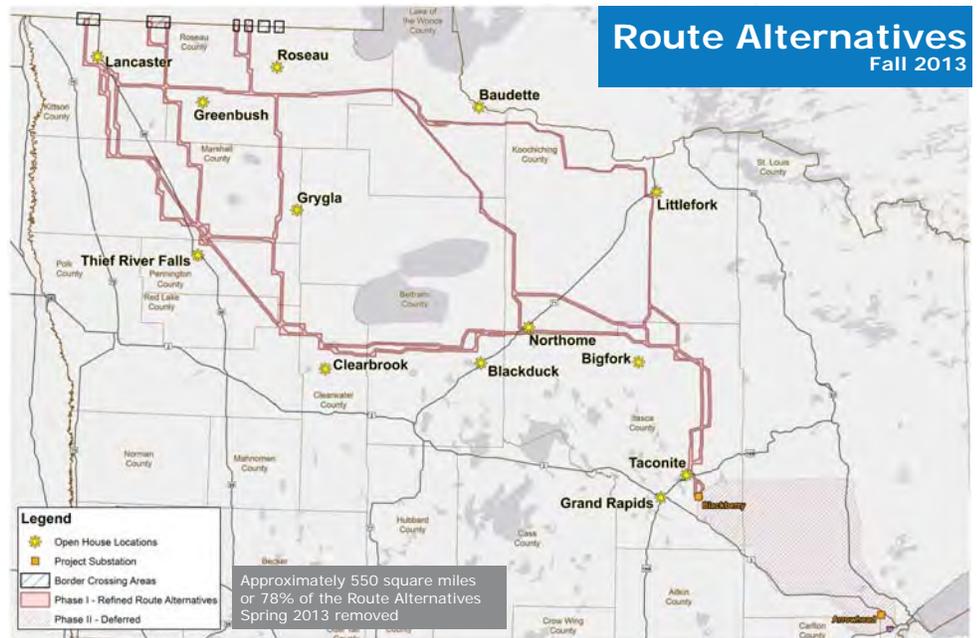
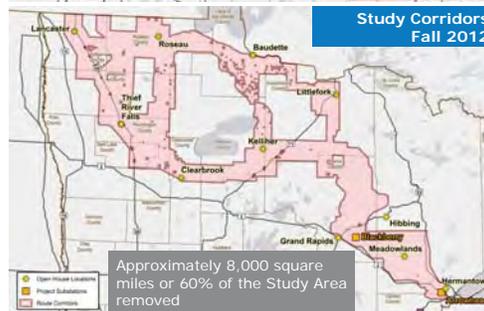
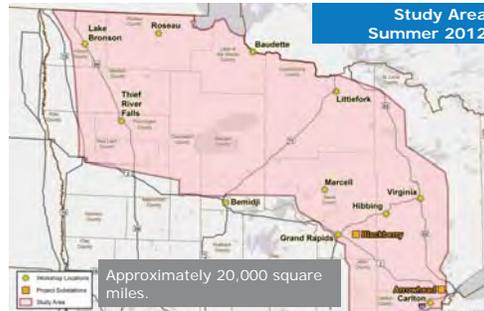
The project schedule is driven by state and federal regulatory requirements and the required June 2020 in-service date.



## How can I stay involved?

### Upcoming Public Involvement Opportunities

- NOW:** Sign up for the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) Certificate of Need (CN) mailing list at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) in Docket No. E015/CN-12-1163
- MARCH 2014:** Watch for notice and attend CN Hearing or provide written comments – hosted by PUC/Administrative Law Judge
- OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013:** Watch for notice and attend CN Scoping Meeting or provide written comments – hosted by MN Department of Commerce
- FEBRUARY 2014:** Sign up for PUC's Route Permit (RP) mailing list at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us) (Docket to be determined)
- ONGOING:** Sign up for Minnesota Power's quarterly newsletter, *Great Northern News*, or visit us online at [www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com)



### HOW DID WE GET HERE?

In Summer 2012, the original Study Area covered approximately 20,000 square miles. Through the routing process, Minnesota Power refined the Study Area into Study Corridors, then further into Route Alternatives. Throughout this process, Minnesota Power considered factors that were either compatible ("opportunities") or incompatible ("constraints") with line development, engineering and regulatory guidelines, agency feedback and public input.

### SELECTING ROUTES TO SUBMIT FOR STATE/FEDERAL REVIEW

The current Phase 1 Route Alternatives cover approximately only 550 square miles. The two or more routes submitted through the state and federal permitting processes will cover even less area than the current Route Alternatives. The final route will be determined through the regulatory process.

>> NEXT STEP: PERMITTING AND DESIGN

**JOIN US!**  
By attending an open house, you will:

1. Learn about the project.
2. Discuss the routing process with project team members.
3. Provide input to help us select routes for the state and federal permitting processes.



**UPDATE:** The Great Northern Transmission Line has developed refined route alternatives (in purple). Input gathered from the October 2012 and April 2013 public meetings, ongoing agency meetings, and comments submitted through our website, hotline, and email were used to develop these routes. We are seeking your input on these refined route alternatives.

Detailed maps available online at: [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/map/](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/map/)

**Project Phases**

Minnesota Power is proposing to build the Great Northern Transmission Line to bring clean, emission-free energy into Minnesota, meet growing energy demands and increase system reliability. The Great Northern Transmission Line will consist of two transmission lines:

- **Phase 1:** 500 kV transmission line from the Canadian border to Minnesota's Iron Range, and
- **Phase 2:** 345 kV double circuit transmission line from the Iron Range to near Duluth, Minnesota.

Minnesota Power is moving forward with the routing, siting, and permitting process for Phase 1. We fully anticipate both phases of the Project to be constructed; however, the 500 kV line is our initial priority. At this point, a timeframe has not been determined when Minnesota Power will continue development of Phase 2.

**Meeting Purpose**

The September public open house meetings will allow landowners, stakeholders, and interested members of the public to learn more about the project and our transmission line routing process, discuss questions and concerns with our project team, and give us input that we can carefully review and consider as we select routes for the state and federal permitting processes.



**For More Information**

**Call:** 877.657.9934  
**Visit:** [www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)  
**Email:** [info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](mailto:info@GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)

If you can't attend in person or want more information, visit our online meeting anytime September 9-30, 2013. Online meetings provide video clips along with the same maps and information boards used at the open house meetings.  
[www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting)

[www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com)

**JOIN US AT AN OPEN HOUSE MEETING NEAR YOU!**

Stop by anytime during one of the meetings listed below. No formal presentation will be given. The project team will be available to give small group tours and answer your questions. Informational materials and detailed maps will be displayed at each open house. Light refreshments will be provided.

Visit our online meeting anytime September 9-30, 2013 at:  
[www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting](http://www.GreatNorthernTransmissionLine.com/online-meeting)

**MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR PHASE 1\***

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>WEEK ONE</b>		
<b>Clearbrook</b> Monday September 9	5 pm - 7 pm	Clear Waters Life Center 256 2nd Ave SW Clearbrook, MN 56634
<b>Grygla</b> Tuesday September 10	11 am - 1 pm	Grygla Community Center 127 S Main Ave Grygla, MN 56727
<b>Thief River Falls</b> Tuesday September 10	5 pm - 7 pm	Ralph Engelstad Arena Imperial Room 525 Brooks Avenue North Thief River Falls, MN 56701
<b>Lancaster</b> Wednesday September 11	11 am - 1 pm	Lancaster Community Center 118 Central Ave S Lancaster, MN 56735

\*Meetings for the routing process of Phase 2 - the 345 kV line - have not been scheduled at this time. Phase 2 has been deferred until further notice.

Date and City	Time	Venue Name & Address
<b>Greenbush</b> Thursday September 12	11 am - 1 pm	Greenbush Community Center 244 Main St N Greenbush, MN 56726
<b>Roseau</b> Thursday September 12	5 pm - 7 pm	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street East Roseau, MN 56751
<b>Baudette</b> Friday September 13	11 am - 1 pm	Baudette Ambulance Garage 111 First Ave SW Baudette, MN 56623
<b>WEEK TWO</b>		
<b>Taconite</b> Monday September 16	5 pm - 7 pm	Taconite Community Center 26 Haynes Street South Taconite, MN 55786
<b>Blackduck</b> Tuesday September 17	5 pm - 7 pm	Blackduck Public High School 156 1st Street NE Blackduck, MN 56630
<b>Littlefork</b> Wednesday September 18	11 am - 1 pm	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street Littlefork, MN 56653
<b>Northome</b> Wednesday September 18	5 pm - 7 pm	Northome Public School 11731 MN Hwy 1 Northome, MN 56661
<b>Bigfork</b> Thursday September 19	11 am - 1 pm	Bigfork City Hall 200 Main Ave Bigfork, MN 56628
<b>Grand Rapids</b> Thursday September 19	5 pm - 7 pm	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street Grand Rapids, MN 55744

**Public Open House Invitation**

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