Appendix B

Agency and Stakeholder Correspondence

Agency, Tribal and Stakeholder Correspondence

Date	Type	From	To	Subject
10/7/2025	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC)	PowerOn Midwest 765-KV Transmission Line Project (Project) Introduction
10/10/2025	Letter	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	Local Government Units (LGUs) and Tribes	Invitation to first round of open houses to LGUs and Tribes
12/19/2025	Letter	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	Apache Tribe of Oklahoma Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota Upper Sioux Community, Minnesota Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota	Project introduction
1/12/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy Otter Tail Power	Deuel County Planning and Zoning Board Meeting	The Board voted to pursue an amendment requiring a 2,000-foot setback from inhabited residences for transmission lines exceeding 345 kV. Residents raised concerns about health effects, noise, property values, visual impacts, and eminent domain.
1/13/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr Engineering Co. (Barr)	Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota: Colten Archambeau, Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO)	Project introduction. The Yankton Sioux Tribe indicated an interest in participating with surveys.
1/14/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Jessica Dowler (Soil Conservationist) Bryce Ahlers (TITLE)	Project introduction.
1/16/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	Grant County	Project introduction
1/17/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota: Sara Childers, THPO Lilia Torres, Environmental Scientist	Project introduction. Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe shared they would like to survey the project independent of the other tribes.
1/17/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate: Dianne Desrosiers, Director, THPO Wayne Cloud, Field Crew Leader Tamara St. John, Archivist Angelina Wanna, Archives Assistant Arvella Wanna, Archives Assistant	Project introduction. Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate shared survey preferences
1/20/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	Deuel County	Project introduction

Date	Type	From	To	Subject
2/3/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy: Tim Rogers Otter Tail Power: Kirk Phinney	Deuel Co Joint Zoning and Commission Meeting	Utilities commented that 2,000-foot setback would increase route length, require additional transmission structures, increase impacts to landowners and agricultural land. Following discussion, the zoning board amended the proposal to allow landowners to voluntarily waive part of the setback requirement and forward the ordinance to the County Commission for consideration.
2/19/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota: Garrie Kills-A-Hundred, THPO	The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe THPO shared concerns about the Dakota Skipper and other natural resources, and discussed coordinating with other tribes and the use of drones for survey work.
2/27/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate: Dianne Desrosiers, Director, THPO Wayne Cloud, Field Crew Leader	Provided updated route alignments and discussed cultural survey planning.
3/3/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy: Tim Rogers and Randy Fordice Otter Tail Power: Kirk Phinney	Brookings County Commission Meeting	Attended County Commissioners meeting and presented project information. Commenters requested that the Commission consider larger transmission line setbacks similar to those being evaluated by Deuel County and raised concerns regarding stray voltage, noise, potential health effects, impacts on farming operations, soil and water resources, roads and other infrastructure, and the overall benefits of the Project to the County. Utilities responded that a 2,000-foot setback would likely increase route length, require additional transmission structures, and result in greater impacts to landowners and agricultural land. Additional comments were provided regarding the PowerOn Midwest South Dakota Project, including concerns about potential health and environmental impacts.
3/12/2026	Email	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Apache Tribe of Oklahoma Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota Upper Sioux Community, Minnesota Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota	Provided updated route alignments
3/13/2026	Letter	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) - Watertown Area Office South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP)	Project introduction and invitation to meet

Date	Type	From	To	Subject
3/13/2026	Letter	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Services USFWS - South Dakota Ecological Services Field Office Bureau of Indian Affairs U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Federal Aviation Administration Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - SD State Office NRCS - Milbank Service Center NRCS - Brookings Service Center NRCS - Clear Lake Service Center Farm Service Agency - SD State Office Farm Service Agency - Brookings Service Center	Project introduction and invitation to meet
3/16/2026	Email	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	USFWS: Dan Kim, Grassland Birds and Pollinator Biologist	USFWS indicated they are willing to coordinate on the Project and recommended co-locating new transmission lines with existing infrastructure and avoiding impacts to grasslands and Dakota Skipper critical habitat, while requesting an Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) number to formally track and respond to the project.
3/17/2026	Email	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Bureau of Indian Affairs: Christie Bradford, Regional Environmental Scientist	The Bureau of Indian Affairs indicated no objection to the Project provided it complies with applicable laws, while noting the need to coordinate directly with Tribes regarding nearby fee lands and to follow cultural resource protection requirements.
3/19/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	DANR: Aaron Ward, Water Quality Program Administrator Nick Kelly, Water Quality General Permit Team Lead Sean Kruger, Water Quality Standards Kelsey Newling, Contamination and EAs Steve Kropp, Senior Solid Waste Ashey Brakke, Air Quality Permitting and One-Stop Coordinator	Introduced the Project and discussed routing, construction activities, wetland and water resource considerations, permitting needs, and environmental compliance.
3/19/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate: Dianne Desrosiers, Director, THPO Wayne Cloud, Field Crew Leader Flandreau Santee Sioux: Sara Childers, THPO Standing Rock Sioux Tim Mentz Jr., THPO	Discussed minor route and substation updates, land-access progress, and coordination activities. Participants also discussed survey timing and mobilization needs, Dakota Skipper butterfly, and the plan to prepare an inadvertent archaeological discovery appendix.
3/23/2026	Email	SD Department of Tribal Relations: Algin Young, Secretary	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Response to introduction email dated 3/13/26, indicating no specific concerns or comments.
3/25/2026	Letter	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District Nathan Morey, SD Regulatory Office Section Chief	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	Response to introduction email dated 3/13/26, including a Section 404 fact sheet and outlining possible permitting and methods for pursuing them.
4/1/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	SHPO: Katie Wasley, Review and Compliance Coordinator Duncan Trau, Historic Preservation Restoration Specialist	Project introduction and discussion cultural resources expectations

Date	Type	From	To	Subject
4/15/2026	Response Letter	SHPO: Garry Guan, State Historic Preservation Officer Katie Wasley, Review & Compliance Coordinator	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	SHPO response regarding cultural resource review, survey expectations, tribal consultation, and coordination requirements.
4/16/2026	Phone Call	Xcel Energy/OtterTail	SDDOT: Matt Brey, Watertown Area Engineer	SDDOT expressed interest in meeting prior to filing the Facility Permit Application.
4/16/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate: Dianne Desrosiers, Director, THPO Wayne Cloud, Field Crew Leader Flandreau Santee Sioux: Lilia Torres, Environmental Scientist	Project update and discussion of field survey planning, access coordination, and ongoing tribal engagement.
5/4/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	SDGFP: Mandy Pearson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Nongame Conservation & Environmental Review Rocco Murano, Senior Waterfowl Biologist Chesley Pasbrig, Senior Nongame Aquatic Biologist Lucas Zilverberg, Senior Grassland Ecologist Ryan Wendinger,Habitat Program Administrator	Initial agency coordination regarding project routing, environmental resources, impact avoidance measures, and future review milestones.
5/10/2026	Email	Xcel Energy	USDA: Larissa Neugebauer, Program Analyst, Brookings County FSA	Discussion of high level Project details
5/13/2026	Email	USDA: Owen Fagerhaug, Program Manager, SD FSA	Xcel Energy	Response to email dated 5/10/26, answering questions posed by Xcel.
5/13/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	SDGFP: Mandy Pearson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Nongame Conservation & Environmental Review	Discussion of agency feedback on route information, environmental resources, and continued coordination during route refinement.
5/13/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	EPA: Cyrus Western, Mountains and Plains Regional Administrator Christy Woodward, Region 8 Chief of Staff Adrienne Sandoval, Director of Air and Radiation Division Carolyn Gleason, Region 8 Acting National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Program Manager	Project introduction. Discussion covered long-term capacity considerations, the project's evolving route development, and whether federal review under NEPA might apply. Based on current information, the team indicated federal involvement is not expected unless federal, tribal, or other federally regulated interests become implicated.
5/20/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Natural Resource Conservation Service: Dale Thiel, District Conservationist (Milbank, Grant County) Jessica Michalski, State Conservationist Megan Johnson, Business Operationist (Brookings) Valorie Dupraz, Assistant State Conservationist Michelle Burke, Assistant State Conservationist (Brookings) - Field Operationist Deron Ruesch, Resource Unit Conservationist (Sioux Falls - 5 county which includes Brookings)	Project introduction. Discussion centered on how wetland and agricultural easements are identified, what restrictions may apply to crossings or pole placement, and how shapefiles will be shared to support review. The group also discussed potential Farmland Protection Policy Act considerations, including estimating permanent impacts to prime farmland and gathering any guidance or data needed for future permitting.
5/25/2026	Email	NRCS: Valorie Dupraz, Assistant State Conservationist	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	NRCS confirmed there are no NRCS easements overlapping the proposed project route, though some are nearby. Overhead lines are generally permitted over easements, but any ground-disturbing activities would require further environmental review and administrative action.

Date	Type	From	To	Subject
6/1/2026	Email	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	FWS: Daniel Kim, Grassland Bird and Prairie Pollinator Biologist, Ecological Services	Provided updated IPaC number reflective of current route at time of submittal.
6/1/2026	Email	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	USDA	Invitation to meet the week of June 15
6/8/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Western Area Power Administration (WAPA): Benjamin Hammer, VP of Operations for Upper Great Plains Region Jessica Williams, TITLE Sara Baker, Project Manager Todd Meyers, Regional Maintenance Engineering Manager Cory Huber, Electrical Engineer Michelle Bissonnette Tim Rogers Aaron Mielke Anna Kadrie Tim Mauseth Jesse Lyon Eric Farnsworth Shauna Braun	Discussion focused on PowerOn Midwest's proposed crossings of WAPA facilities, including review of potential route options, crossing locations, structure heights, and design constraints. WAPA clarified key requirements such as keeping structures out of its right-of-way, noted that lowering existing facilities is not typical, and flagged that any major modifications could trigger a lengthy permitting and review process. The group agreed on next steps to exchange route files, submit a formal data request and NDA, and share project materials for environmental review.
6/9/2026	Email	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	USDA	Shared current current route alignments
6/12/2026	Letter	SDGFP	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	SDGFP indicated no major concerns are anticipated if standard resource protection measures are followed. It generally recommends minimizing impacts to habitat, wildlife, wetlands, and sensitive species, while continuing coordination if issues arise.
6/18/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate: Dianne Desrosiers, Director, THPO Wayne Cloud, Field Crew Leader Flandreau Santee Sioux: Sara Childers, Assistant THPO	Project update and discussion of ongoing tribal engagement.
6/24/2026	Online Submittal	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	DANR	Submitted a request for an Environmental Assessment via South Dakota's Public Records Request Portal
7/16/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Flandreau Santee Sioux: Sara Childers, Assistant THPO Lower Sioux: Trish Leith, Preservation Coordinator	Project update and preliminary planning for Tribal and cultural resource surveys, including survey corridor, landowner access status, data needs, and coordination.
8/20/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	SDDOT – Matt Brey Michelle Bissonnette Tim Rogers Aaron Mielke Anna Kadrie	Discussion on PowerOn Midwest's proposed crossings over SDDOT highways, including routing and potential alternative options. Structure heights and potential locations were discussed, with preference of SDDOT to have structures at least tipping height of structure away from roads. Utility crossing permits would go through Matt at SDDOT and would be processed after other approvals are obtained and route and structure locations are finalized.
8/20/2026	Meeting	Xcel Energy/OtterTail, Barr	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate: Dianne Desrosiers, Director, THPO Wayne Cloud, Field Crew Leader Flandreau Santee Sioux: Sara Childers, Assistant THPO Upper Sioux Indian Community: Samantha Odegard, THPO Lower Sioux Indian Community: Cheyanne St. John, THPO Trish Leith, Preservation Coordinator Prairie Island Indian Community: Scarlett Blaeser, Environmental Review Specialist	Project update and continued planning for Tribal and cultural resource surveys, including logistical considerations for the accessible survey areas and timing of the surveys, with agreement that available parcels will be surveyed after crop harvest in 2026 and the remainder to be completed in 2027.

Abbreviations:

DANR	South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IPaC	Information for Planning and Coordination
LGU	Local Government Unit
MNDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PUC	South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
SDDOT	South Dakota Department of Transportation
SDGFP	South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
SHPO	South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Office
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

POWERON MIDWEST 765-kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

October 7, 2025

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. Tranche 2.1 Overview
3. PowerOn Midwest
4. Project Need Overview
5. Route Development Process
6. Public Outreach
7. SDPUC Permitting
8. County Permitting
9. Construction Schedule
10. Next Steps and Q&A

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

XCEL ENERGY TEAM

TIM ROGERS

Sr Manager, Siting & Permitting
Xcel Energy
Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com

TONY WENDLAND

Transmission Project Director
Xcel Energy
Tony.J.Wendland@xcelenergy.com

CRAIG WRISLEY

Principal Engineer – Transmission Planning
Xcel Energy
Craig.Wrisley@xcelenergy.com

LISA AGRIMONTI

Xcel Energy Counsel
Fredrikson & Byron
Lagrimonti@fredlaw.com

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

TRANCHE 2.1

In 2024, MISO approved LRTP Tranche 2.1, establishing a new 765-kV "backbone" across the Midwest.

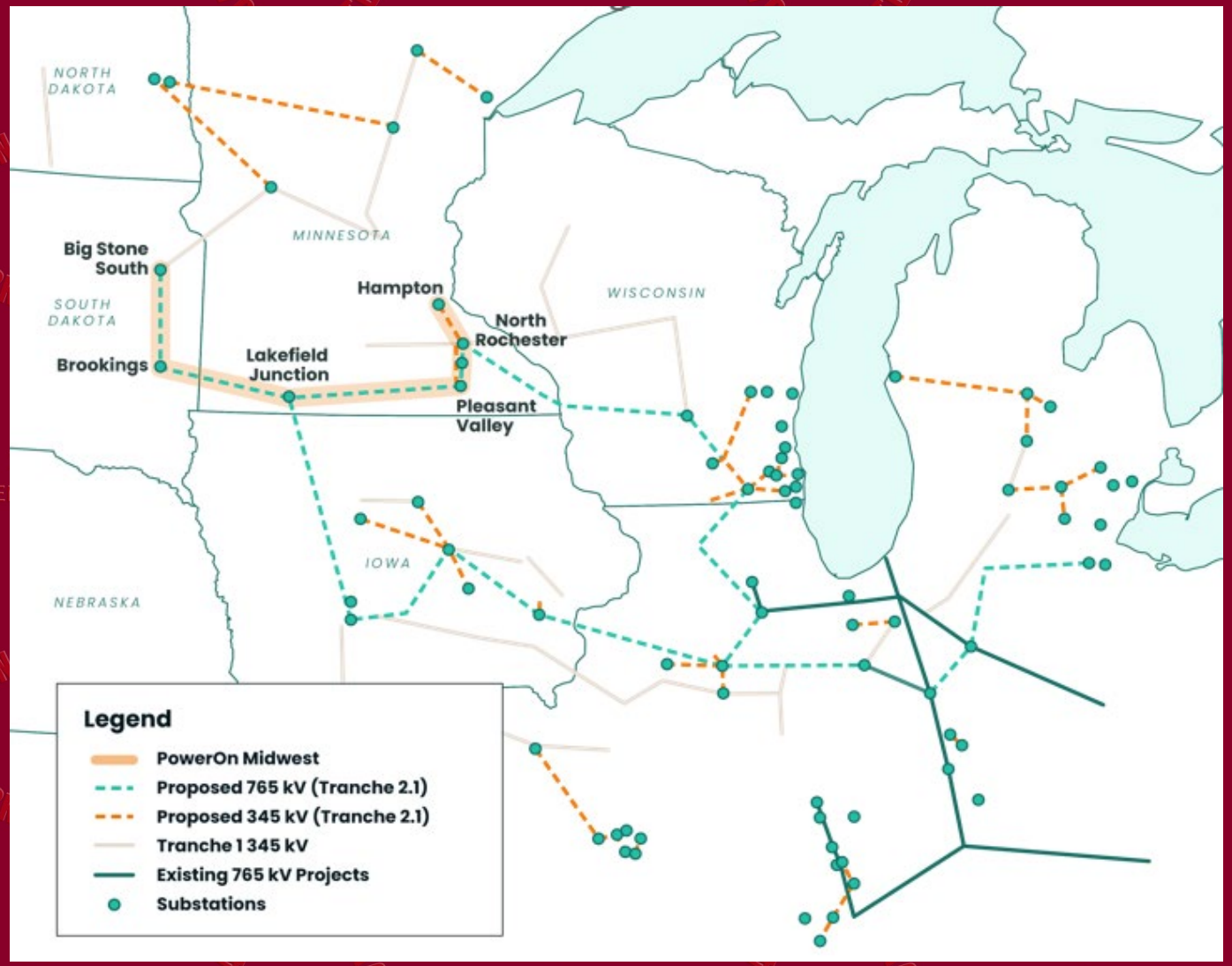
Tranche 2.1 includes 24 projects; approx. 3,600 miles of new and upgraded transmission in MISO's Midwest subregion.

Tranche 2.1 is needed to address reliability issues, promote economic efficiency, eliminate congestion, and enable interconnection of approx. 116,000 GW of primarily carbon-free resources.

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

TRANCHE 2.1



Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

POWERON MIDWEST

Consists of four of the LRTP projects in Tranche 2.1:

LRTP 22: Big Stone South – Brookings (SD) – Lakefield Junction (MN)

LRTP 23: Lakefield Junction (MN) – East Adair (IA) 765-kV

LRTP 24: Lakefield Junction (MN) – Pleasant Valley (MN) – North Rochester (MN) 765-kV.

LRTP 25: Pleasant Valley (MN) – North Rochester (MN) – Hampton Corner (MN) 345-kV

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

POWERON MIDWEST – SOUTH DAKOTA

Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company are developing the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV projects in South Dakota (LRTP 22).

Approx. 80- to 100- mile transmission line between the Big Stone South Substation, the Brookings County and the Lakefield Junction Substation (Minnesota).

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

PROJECT NEED OVERVIEW

Needed to maintain system reliability amid changes in demand for electricity and the type and amount of generation interconnected to the grid within the MISO footprint.

The Project and the LRTP Tranche 2.1 Portfolio of 24 projects will create a "super-network" throughout the Midwest that will be interconnected with an existing 2,000-mile 765 kV network from Illinois to Virginia.

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

PROJECT NEED OVERVIEW

The Project will enhance the ability of the transmission system to move energy into and out of South Dakota and "reach" to access generation across multiple states.

New connections will help ensure 24/7 reliable service during ever-increasing extreme weather events.

Industry analysts estimate between $1lb and $25b in economic benefits from the projects by 2050, a return of about $1.60 and $3.10 for each dollar invested in the projects.

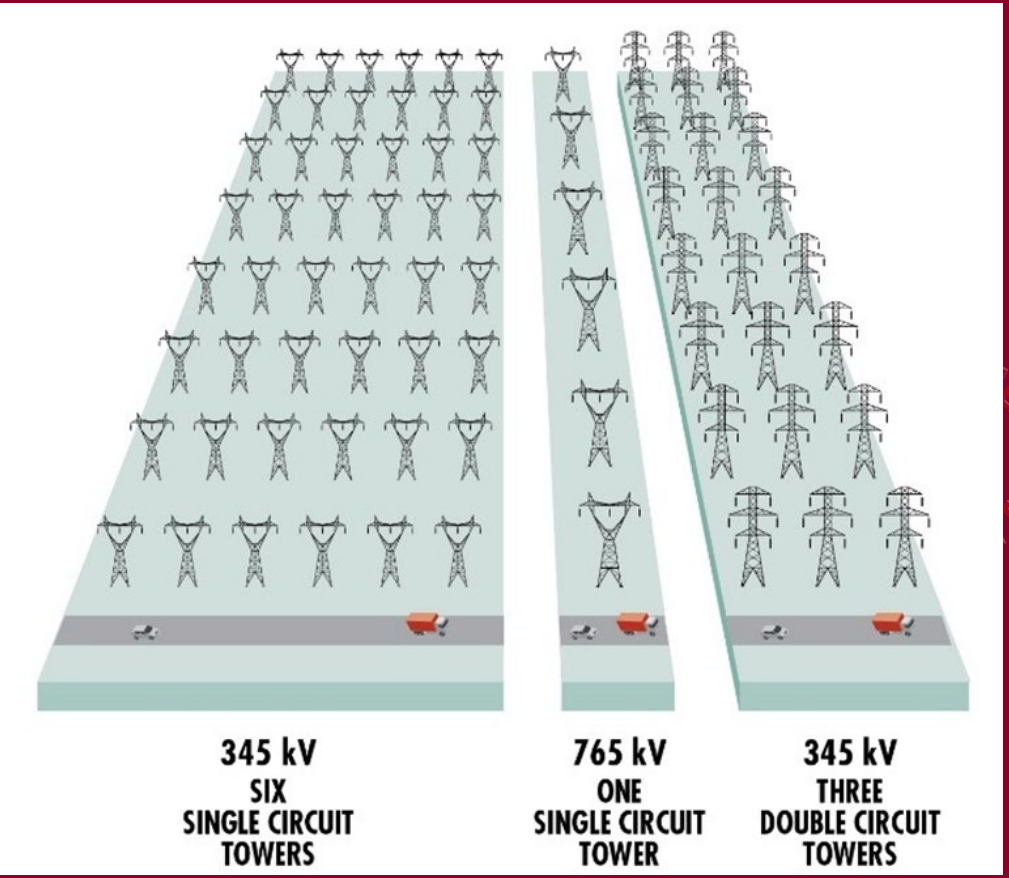
Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

WHY 765 kV?

765 kV technology was recommended for several technology advantages: efficiency, fewer lines and lower impacts, meet growing power demands, resilient infrastructure, and provide backup pathways.

The electricity that can be moved by a single 765 kV line would be the same as 6 single circuit 345 kV lines or 3 double circuit 345 kV lines.



Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Review current infrastructure for preferred routes; exploring possibilities in Grant, Deuel, Brookings, Moody, and Minnehaha Counties.

Public review of route proposals; input and comment.

Refinement of proposed routes based on public input.

Development and proposal of route in Facility Permit Application to SDPUC.

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Xcel Energy's routing process identifies routes that will:

1. Allow for safe and reliable construction and operation.

2. Respect existing land uses.

3. Conserve resources and minimize environmental impacts.

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

To meet these goals the process considers criteria including but, not limited to:

- Opportunities to locate alongside existing infrastructure.
- Proximity to structures, homes, and municipalities.
- Compatibility of existing land uses, such as farms, state parks, and protected areas.
- Technical and engineering constraints, such as length of spans and placement of structures.
- Potential safety concerns, such as wind turbines and cell towers.

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

PUBLIC OUTREACH - GOALS

Engage landowners, local officials, and stakeholders in the project area.

Foster understanding among landowners about projected electric growth and the need for new transmission infrastructure to meet future needs.

Demonstrate involvement of local communities and landowners, and provide means for landowners to engage in route development process.

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

PUBLIC OUTREACH - PLAN

Host open houses and county board presentations in October 2025 in affected communities.

Work with stakeholders and landowners from open houses; work to address comments and project concerns.

Maintain productive dialogue and conversations with landowners through continued response to questions.

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

SDPUC PERMITTING

March 2025: Xcel Energy and OTP file ROFR with SDPUC

September 2026: File facility permit application pursuant to SDCL Ch. 49-41B

October/November 2026: public input hearings

May/June 2027: evidentiary hearing

September 2027: SDPUC decision

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

2025	2026	2027	2028	2032 - 2034
Public Open Houses	Routing and public engagement		Construction	Anticipated in-service

Mar '25
Xcel and OTP file ROFR with SDPUC

Sep '26
File facility permit application *(SDCL Ch. 49B)*

Oct/Nov '26
Public input hearings

May/Jun '27
Evidentiary hearing

Sep '27
SDPUC decision

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

COUNTY PERMITTING

County permits and approvals are required; likely CUPs depending on county.

Timing under review given short duration of CUPs.

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

[include rough construction schedule/process, assuming SDPUC permit granted Sept. 2027]

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

NEXT STEPS

Host open houses in affected counties and continue coordination with landowners, stakeholders, and local and state agencies (October).

Once route is refined, begin preliminary land acquisition process.

Continue developing route and environmental impact analysis.

Target early September 2027 SDPUC Facility Permit Application filing.

Xcel Energy®

© 2025 Xcel Energy Inc.

12/19/2025

[name]

Subject: Introduction to the Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project, a segment of PowerOn Midwest

Dear [name]:

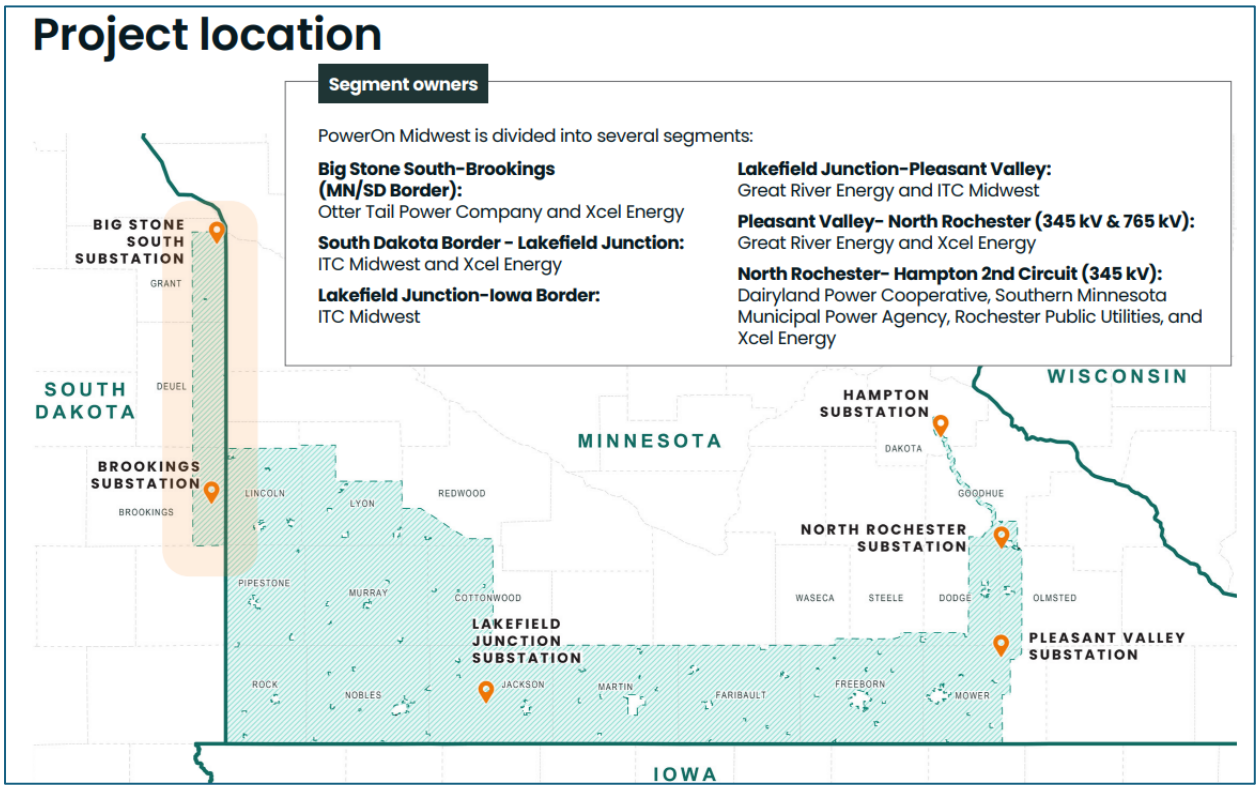
We are writing to introduce the proposed Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border transmission project (Project), a segment of the broader PowerOn Midwest Project. In South Dakota, the Project is being developed by Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company (Applicants). The Applicants would like to invite Apache Tribe of Oklahoma to engage with us as we begin the planning and regulatory process in South Dakota. We value the perspectives and knowledge of Tribal Nations and are committed to meaningful, respectful, and ongoing engagement throughout the life of this project.

About PowerOn Midwest
PowerOn Midwest is a series of proposed transmission infrastructure projects designed to strengthen the electric grid across southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota. These projects include a new 765 kilovolt (kV) backbone transmission line and additional 345 kV lines that will carry large volumes of electricity over long distances. This investment is critical for delivering reliable electric service, supporting regional economic growth, and enabling access to new carbon-free generation resources.

Developed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Power Company, and Xcel Energy, PowerOn Midwest will help meet rising electricity demand, improve system resilience during extreme weather, and deliver significant economic benefits to the region. The initiative will also enable more than 24,000 megawatts of new generation, primarily renewable energy, helping states meet carbon reduction goals and support sustainability objectives for communities and businesses.

The projects that comprise PowerOn Midwest are still in the early planning and route development stages. The anticipated schedules vary by segment but generally anticipate permit applications to be filed between 2026 and 2027, with In-service dates between 2032 and 2034

Map 1 below depicts PowerOn Midwest overall and highlights the Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project.



Map 1 PowerOn Midwest project area; Big Stone South to Brookings segment highlighted in orange

About the Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project (Project)
Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy are developing the Project in South Dakota, with Xcel Energy leading permitting efforts. The Project is a 765 kV transmission line that would connect the existing Big Stone Substation to the Brookings County Substation and then cross the South Dakota/Minnesota border. The Project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's Long Range Transmission Plan (LRTP) portfolio approved in December 2024, which was developed to address future reliability needs, integrate renewable generation, and strengthen the regional grid over the coming decades. The Project is the South Dakota portion of what is also referred to as LRTP-22. You can learn more about the project on our project website which is organized by segment.

The Project would consist of the new construction of a 765 kV transmission line through Grant, Deuel, and Brookings Counties, South Dakota. The Project also includes expansions of the existing Big Stone and Brookings Substations, as well as 345 kV lines connecting the existing and expanded substations. The Project will connect generation-rich areas to high-demand areas, improving reliability and efficiency across the Upper Midwest. The anticipated schedule for the Project is identified in the table below.

Milestone	Timeframe
Project planning, engagement, and route development	2025-2026
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Facility Permit Application Review	September 2026 – September 2027
Continued public engagement	2026-2030
Environmental surveys, local and environmental permitting	2027-2030
Start of construction	2030
In-service	2034

We are currently engaged in public outreach and route development and anticipate filing a Facility Permit Application with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in September 2026.

Public input and Tribal coordination will guide route development. The route development process begins by identifying a route corridor where possible routes could be located. We then start gathering input from local landowners, local government officials, Tribes, resource agencies, and other stakeholders. Throughout this process we also review federal, state, and local regulations, and identify opportunities and sensitives, and other issues that may affect eventual project route options. As detailed below, we will be holding open houses in the Project area in January 2026 to provide stakeholders with more information about our route development process and the routes we are currently reviewing. We are not currently aware of any portion of the Project that will result in review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, but we will coordinate with you and provide updates throughout the route development efforts.

Our Commitment to Tribal Engagement
We recognize the importance of respectful and meaningful engagement. We invite you to participate in discussions, share feedback, and provide input on cultural and environmental considerations. Our goal is to build trust and foster partnerships that respect your values and resources.

We will maintain open communication throughout all phases of the Project, from early planning through construction, and are committed to offering meaningful opportunities for Tribal input and

participation. We anticipate that opportunities for involvement will include but not necessarily be limited to meetings, cultural resource surveys, and participation in public hearings.

A series of open houses for the Project are scheduled in Big Stone City, Millbank, Clear Lake, and Brookings, South Dakota the week of January 12, 2026. We would be pleased to schedule an introductory meeting with Apache Tribe of Oklahoma during this time and will be in touch to request a meeting with representatives of your Tribe and Council. In the meantime, if you have any questions or initial comments you wish to share, please contact Matt Langan at Matthew.A.Langan@xcelenergy.com. We look forward to working together so that the Project reflects shared priorities and provides long-term benefits for all communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit: poweronmidwest.com/SouthDakota

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

Matt Langan
Manager, Regulatory Policy
Xcel Energy

Cc:

Apache Tribe of Oklahoma

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota

Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana

Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota

Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota

Santee Sioux Nation, Nebraska

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, South Dakota

Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota

Upper Sioux Community, Minnesota

Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and NATURAL RESOURCES
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 E CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-3182
danr.sd.gov

July 16, 2026

Sarah Johnson

Barr Engineering

South Dakota Citizens Portal
Record Request Number: PUBRECREQ0006237

Subject: Environmental Review – PowerOn: Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project (Project)

Dear Ms. Johnson:

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) has reviewed the above-referenced project for potential impacts to natural resources. Based on the information submitted, DANR has the following comments and permitting requirements.

Air Quality

This project is unlikely to have adverse impacts to air quality in the area. Should the parameters of the project change, please reach out to Tanner Turk at Tanner.Turk@state.sd.us or (605) 773-3151.

Drinking Water

After a thorough search of our files, the Drinking Water Program did not locate records responsive to your request. Should the parameters of your request change, please reach out to Eric Fuehrer at (605) 394-6745 or Eric.Fuehrer@state.sd.us.

Forestry

Resource Conservation & Forestry (RCF) has reviewed your request and has the following comments:

Construction can have detrimental effects to surrounding trees if no protective measures are taken. Special construction measures may have to be taken to preserve and protect tree health by avoiding damage to tree roots, stems, or branches.

At a minimum the storage of equipment, machinery, or trucks under or against a tree should be avoided.

Barriers or sturdy fencing should be placed around trees that will remain on site following construction. Barriers should be placed a minimum of 1 foot radius from the base of the tree's trunk for every 1 inch in diameter measured 4.5 feet above the ground. This will protect against soil compaction, alteration of the natural soil level under the live canopy and any damage from occurring to the trunk of the tree.

Eighty-five to ninety percent of a tree's root system lies within the top 6-12 inches of soil extending out one to one and a half times the height of the tree. Trenching through this critical root zone could severely destabilize a tree and adversely affect its health. Tunneling under or around the root system is much less damaging and encouraged.

Trees often do not die immediately following construction damage but can decline over several months/years. A tree that sustains damage meeting or exceeding the following limits must be removed and, if conditions allow, replaced to maintain the canopy and ecosystem benefits of tree cover:

a. The top or main stem of the tree is broken.
b. The live crown of the tree is reduced below 30 percent.
c. More than 1/3 of the circumference of a tree's main root system (a root 4 inches in diameter or larger) is injured such that the cambium layer (living tissue) is exposed.
d. More than 1/3 of tree's total root system is severed or torn.
e. More than 1/3 of the circumference of the trunk's cambium layer exposed.

For a list of suitable replacement trees or if you have any questions, please contact Amanda Morrison at Amanda.morrison@state.sd.us or (605) 394-2279.

Groundwater

This project is unlikely to have adverse effects on ground water quality. Should the parameters of your project change, please reach out to Matt Hicks at (605) 773-5337 or Matt.Hicks@state.sd.us. If this project impacts tribal lands, DANR recommends you also consult the tribe's environmental coordinator for any additional conditions.

Solid and Hazardous Waste

Our solid waste database was reviewed in response to this request. That review returned one record in Grant County. In July of 2015 our received a complaint alleging that a resident had demolished three structures and stored the debris on the property. As of 2019 the debris appears to have been removed. If any debris still present at this location, whether aboveground or buried, it will have to be taken to a permitted solid waste facility for disposal. Additionally, any solid waste generated by this project that will not be reused in some beneficial manner must be disposed or managed at a permitted solid waste facility. Regional landfills able to accept all solid waste generated are listed on our website: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/bd93e05a265c449d99a571e1d19c82d4. Only Regional landfills are permitted to accept all wastes generated.

A map showing the location referenced above is attached along with information from the file. If you have any questions, please contact Waste Management at (605) 773-3153.

It is not expected that any hazardous wastes sites will be encountered within the vicinity of your project area. However, if road construction is planned for areas within a city or town, the contractor should contact this Department prior to construction. Should any hazardous waste be generated during the implementation of this project, the generator must abide by all applicable hazardous waste regulations. To determine whether your project may generate hazardous waste, visit: https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/managing-your-hazardous-waste-guide-small-businesses. If you have any questions, please contact Waste Management Program at (605) 773-3153.

Demolition or renovation of a building structure may be subject to the South Dakota asbestos requirements. If demolition or renovation is part of this construction project, or if the scope of the project changes to include demolition or renovation, please contact the asbestos program at DANR.Asbestos@state.sd.us or (605) 773-3153.

Surface Water

All surface waters are considered waters of the State and are protected under ARSD 74:51:01. This includes all rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands regardless of federal waters of the United States jurisdictional status. Any project proposing to impact, alter, use, or discharge any substance including fill materials must contact the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources prior to engaging in the proposed activity.

This project could impact 10 different waters with the following assessments.

The project work will cross North Fork Yellow Bank River, Labolt Lake Creek, Crow Timber Creek, Florida Creek, and Deer Creek. Ecological assessment work indicates that this waterbody supports beneficial uses under South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards and Uses Assigned to Streams for: (4) Warmwater permanent fish life propagation waters; (7) Immersion recreation waters; (8) Limited contact recreation waters; (9) Fish and wildlife propagation, recreation, and stock watering waters; and (10) Irrigation waters. Because of these beneficial uses, special construction measures may have to be taken to ensure that the 30-day average total suspended solids criterion of 90 mg/L and the daily maximum total suspended solids criterion of 158 mg/L are not violated. Additionally, please refer to South Dakota's Statewide 401 Water Quality Certification for conditions to Nationwide Permits when crossing flowing or classified waters: https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR_SD_401_Statewide_Certification.pdf.

The project work will cross South Fork Yellow Bank River, Lost Creek, Crow Creek, and Monighan Creek. Ecological assessment work indicates that this waterbody supports beneficial uses under South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards and Uses Assigned to Streams for: (5) Warmwater semipermanent fish life propagation waters; (7) Immersion recreation waters; (8) Limited contact recreation waters; (9) Fish and wildlife propagation, recreation, and stock watering waters; and (10) Irrigation waters. Because of these beneficial uses, special construction measures may have to be taken to ensure that the 30-day average total suspended solids criterion of 90 mg/L and the daily maximum total suspended solids criterion of 158 mg/L are not violated. Additionally, please refer to South Dakota's Statewide 401 Water Quality Certification for conditions to Nationwide Permits when crossing flowing or classified waters: https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR_SD_401_Statewide_Certification.pdf

The project work will cross Mud Creek. Ecological assessment work indicates that this waterbody supports beneficial uses under South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards and Uses Assigned to Streams for: (6) Warmwater marginal fish life propagation waters; (8) Limited contact recreation waters; (9) Fish and wildlife propagation, recreation, and stock watering waters; and (10) Irrigation waters. Because of these beneficial uses, special construction measures may have to be taken to ensure that the 30-day average total suspended solids criterion of 150 mg/L and the daily maximum total suspended solids criterion of 263 mg/L are not violated. Additionally, please refer to South Dakota's Statewide 401 Water Quality Certification for conditions to Nationwide Permits when crossing flowing or classified waters: https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR_SD_401_Statewide_Certification.pdf

At a minimum and regardless of project size, appropriate erosion and sediment control measures must be installed to control the discharge of pollutants from the construction site. Any construction activity that disturbs an area of one or more acres of land must have authorization under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. A Surface Water Discharge permit may be required if any

construction dewatering should occur because of this project. Contact the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for additional information or guidance at 1-800-SDSTORM +1(800) 737-8676 or https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/default.aspx.

The discharge of pollutants from any source, including indiscriminate use of fill material, may not cause destruction or impairment except where authorized under Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Please contact the United States Army Corps of Engineers for more information (605) 224-8531.

The Water Quality Program has several interactive maps on our website to search for locations of interest to check for any active or terminated surface water discharge permits. If the location in question does have a permit, the related documents can be found in a table under our interactive maps. If you are unable to find the information you are searching for, please contact the WQP at (605) 773-3351. The following links are to the various WQP search maps:

Individual Surface Water Discharge Permit (NPDES) Search:

https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/swdpermitting/wwDBSearch.aspx.

For additional questions, please reach out to SWDPermits@state.sd.us.

Stormwater Permit (Industrial, Construction, and Contractor Authorization) Search:

https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/stormwater/StormWaterDBSearch.aspx. For additional questions, please reach out to stormwater@state.sd.us.

Mineral Development

The Minerals, Mining, and Superfund Program maintains databases of licensed construction aggregate mine sites and permitted oil & gas well sites. To find the location of construction aggregate mine sites and access related data, please visit https://sdgis.sd.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=4096d702a381439abb9f42bec307f6bc.

To find the location of permitted oil & gas wells and access related data, please visit https://usd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id =e54c5063b19c49629560a86a7be2eb3d.

To access the locations of or information pertaining to permitted mining operations, regulated mineral exploration areas, or to review the department's list of known historic abandoned mine sites, please contact Roberta Hudson at 605-773-4201 or at Roberta.Hudson@state.sd.us.

Tanks and Spills

The Inspection, Compliance, and Remediation Program (ICRP) maintains a database of registered storage tanks and spills/environmental events, including petroleum and chemical releases in South Dakota. For information about currently known petroleum storage tanks and spills/environmental events at or surrounding your project area (including PDF copies of case files), please review our online database: https://apps.sd.gov/nr42interactivemap. If you have specific questions about a particular case file, feel free to contact this office by calling (605) 773-3296. However, if your question pertains to a spill/environmental event labeled as a Superfund, CERCLIS, FUD, or National Guard case, direct your questions to DANR Superfund Program staff at (605) 773-4201.

ICRP recommends you recheck the online database as your project progresses, to ensure you have up to date information about new spills/environmental events or newly installed registered tanks at or near your project area. While we do our best to maintain accurate information about spills/environmental events and registered tanks, in some cases the location information provided to us may have been inaccurate. For this reason, if contamination is encountered or if a spill occurs during onsite construction activity, that contamination or spill must be reported to DANR at (605) 773-3296 (605-773-3231 after hours). Contaminated soil that has been excavated should be segregated from clean soil and sampled to determine disposal requirements.

Please be aware if this project impacts property subject to tribal jurisdiction, state records may be incomplete. DANR recommends that you contact the proper tribal authorities for additional information. Thank you for providing DANR the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions regarding the information provided, please contact me at Jamison.Smith@state.sd.us or (605) 773-3296.

Sincerely,

Jamison Smith

Jamison Smith

Environmental Scientist I

SD DANR

Phone: (605) 773-3296

Email: Jamison.Smith@state.sd.us

PowerOn Midwest™

Big Stone South to Brookings

OtterTail Power Company

Xcel Energy®

PowerOn Midwest – South Dakota

January 2026

Agenda

- Introduction
- Project team
- Overview
- Project location
- 765 kV Technology
- Permitting
- Public involvement
- Schedule

Utility team

Otter Tail Power Company | **Xcel Energy**

PowerOn Midwest

Electricity use is growing throughout the Upper Midwest and **demand is expected to increase** over the next two decades.

This increase in electric use, combined with the changing ways electricity is generated, requires new long-term solutions to meet the needs of our communities, states, and region to ensure we can continue delivering the reliable service you need to power your daily lives.

PowerOn Midwest—tomorrow's reliability starts today.

Project benefits

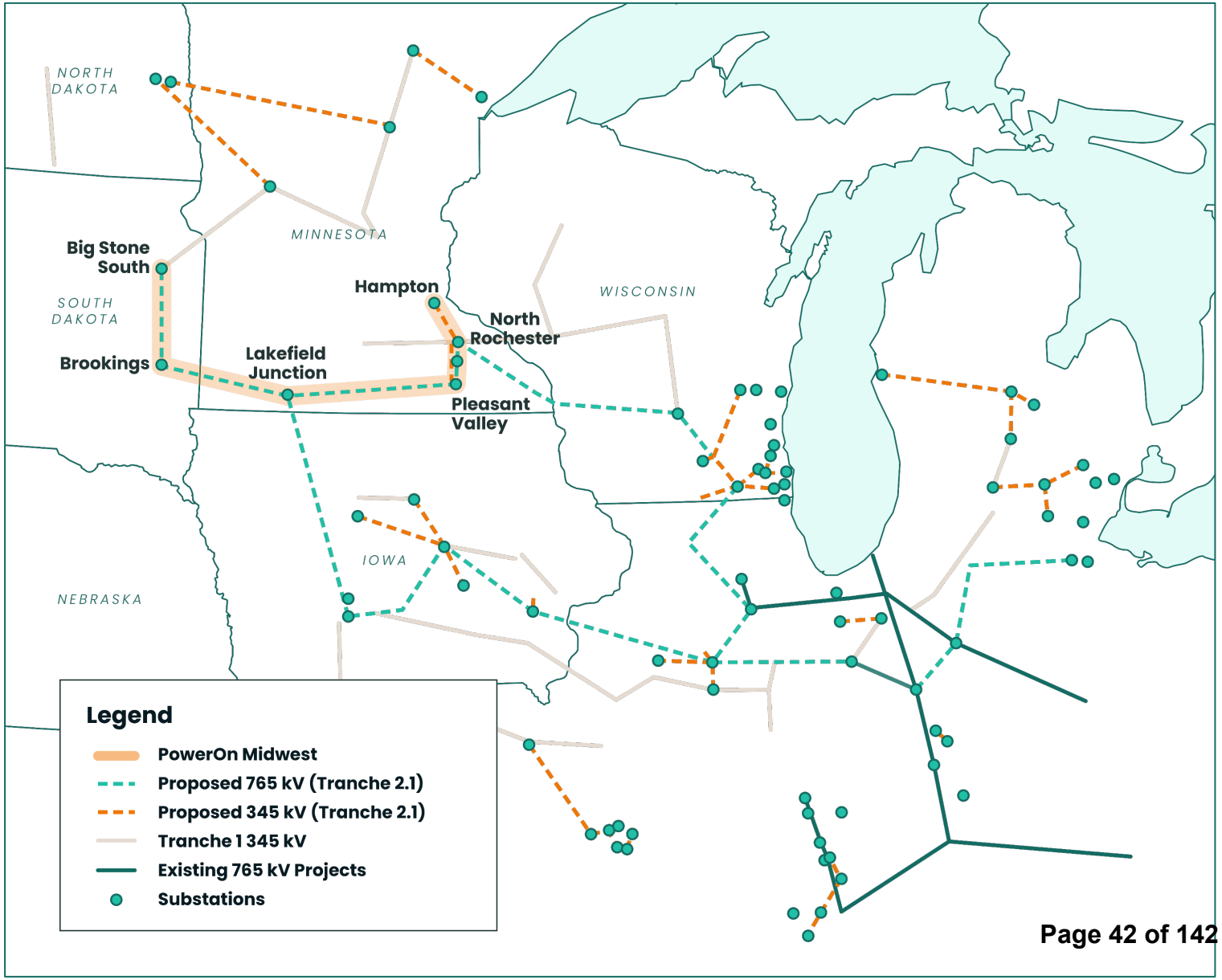
Continued electric reliability

Customer and economic benefits

Prepares the grid for future growth

Access to new generation

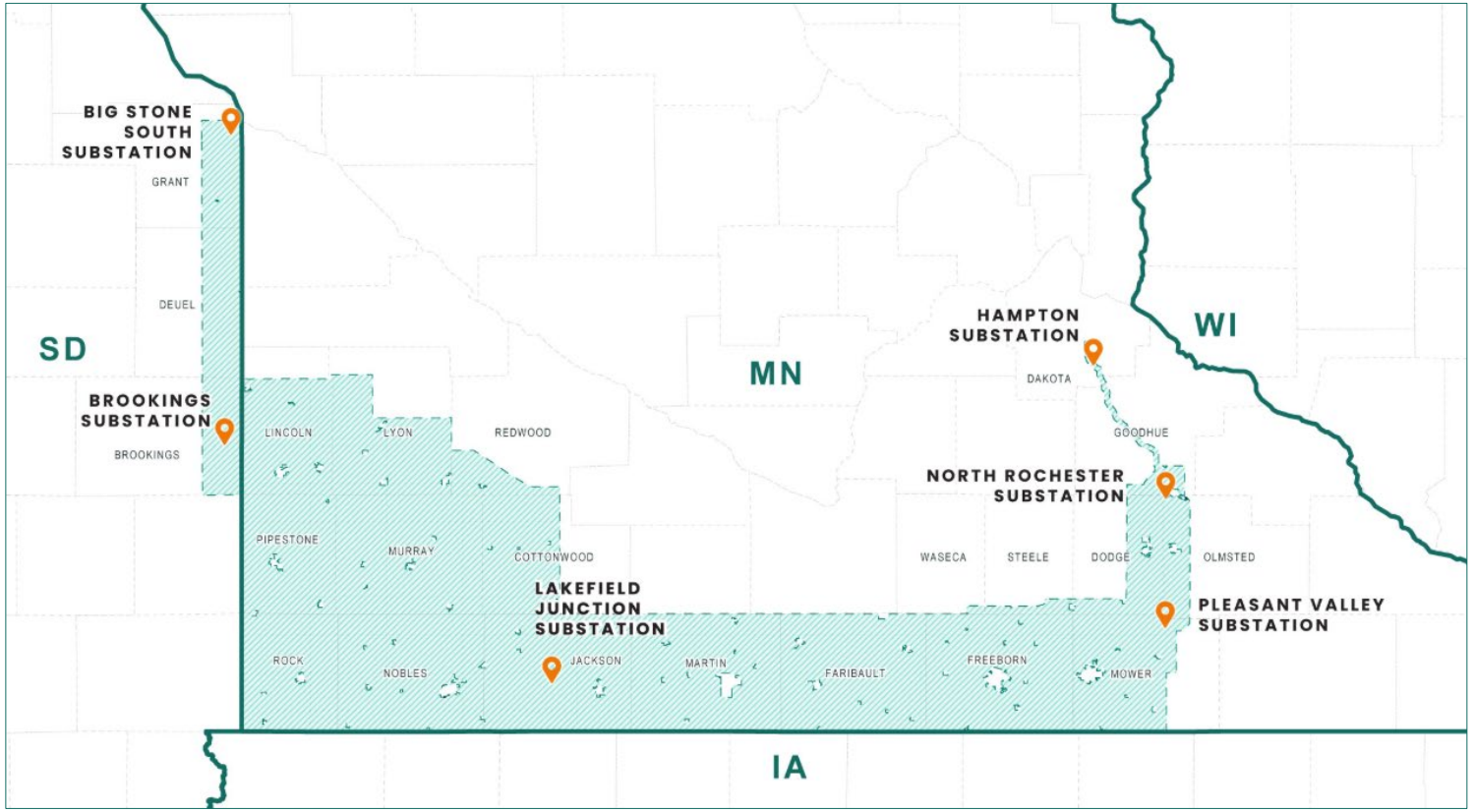
MISO Tranche 1 & 2.1



PowerOn Midwest project map

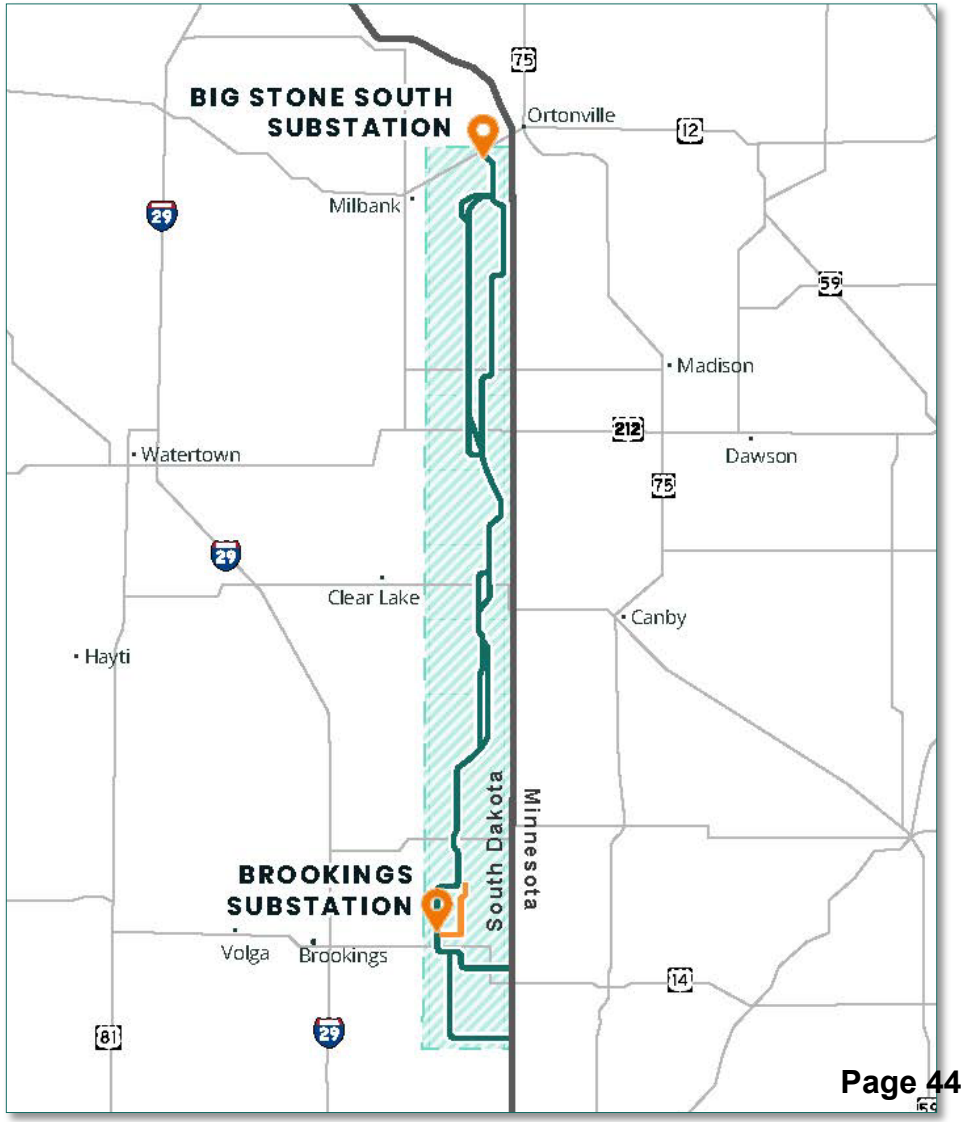
Project Segments:

- ***Big Stone South to Brookings County to SD/MN Border***- *765 kV* ***(South Dakota portion of LRTP#22)***
- South Dakota/Minnesota Border to Lakefield Junction – 765 kV ***(MN portion of LRTP#22)***
- Lakefield Junction to IA/MN border - 765 kV **(MISO LRTP#23)**
- Lakefield Junction to Pleasant Valley to North Rochester - 765 kV **(MISO LRTP#24)**
- Pleasant Valley to North Rochester to Hampton Corner - 345 kV **(MISO LRTP#25)**



PowerOn Midwest – South Dakota

Big Stone South to Brookings County to SD/MN Border- 765 kV (South Dakota portion of LRTP#22)



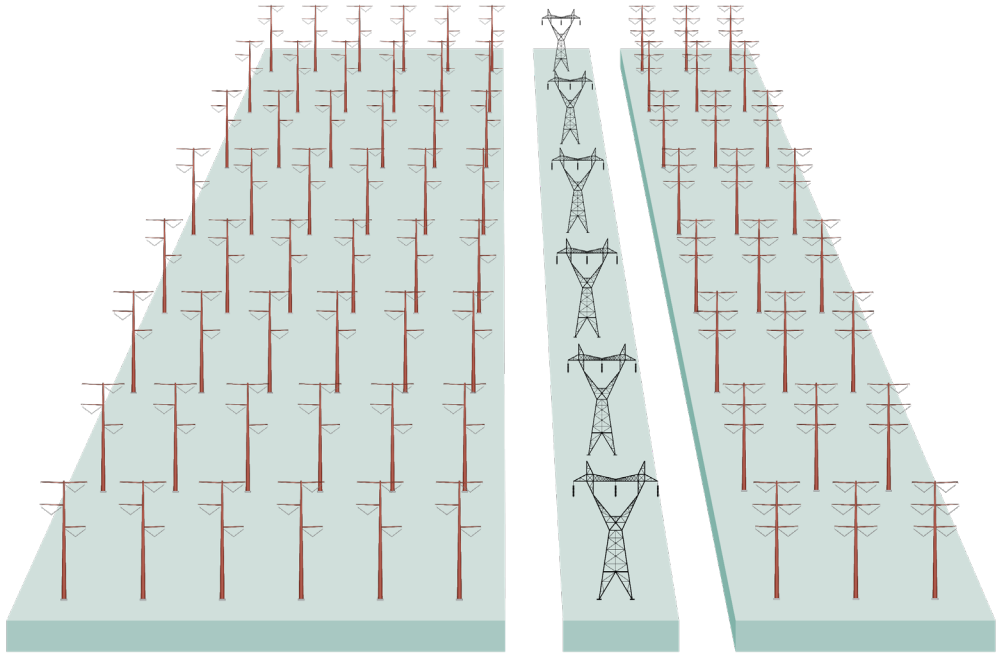
Technology

765 kV technology was recommended for several technology advantages:

- Efficiency
- Fewer Lines
- Lower impacts
- Meet growing power demands
- Resilient infrastructure
- Provide backup pathways

Per MISO, the electricity that can be moved by a single 765 kV line would be the same as:

- **Six single circuit 345 kV lines**
- **Or three double circuit 345 kV lines**



345 kV
SIX SINGLE CIRCUIT TOWERS
(900 ft of total right-of-way)

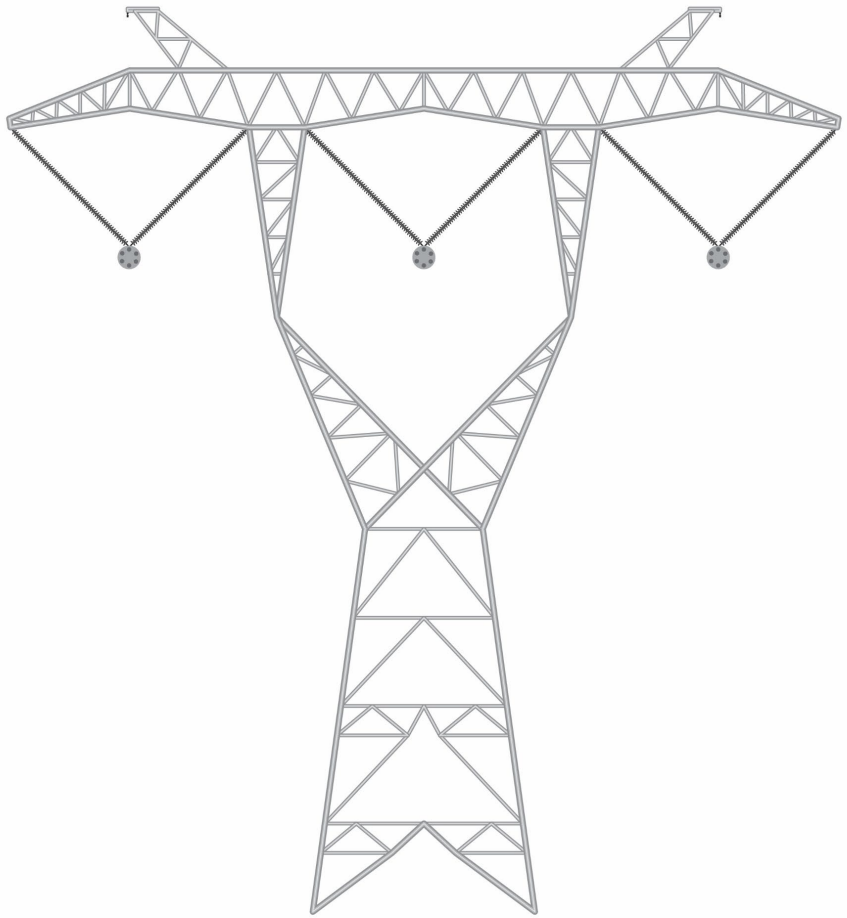
765 kV
ONE SINGLE CIRCUIT TOWER
(250 ft of total right-of-way)

345 kV
THREE DOUBLE CIRCUIT TOWERS
(450 ft of total right-of-way)

765 kV Structure

- Typical height: approximately 150 – 175 feet
- Width: approximately 140 – 150 feet Lattice style made of steel
- Foundation: 22 – 44 feet deep
- Right-of-Way: 250 feet
- Span: 1,100 – 1,300 feet (5 structures per mile
- Footprint (base): 35 x 35 ft to 50 x 50 ft

765 kV Lattice



PowerOn South Dakota permitting

Requires approval from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Facility Permit) and applicable county approvals

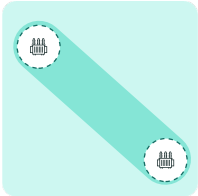
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Facility Permit

County approvals

(e.g., conditional use permit)

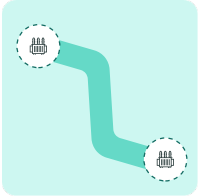
Route Development Process

The process for identifying a route for a new transmission line is a multi-step analysis that identifies potential route options that minimize impacts on humans and the environment. We'll follow South Dakota statutes and rules when selecting a route and work to minimize the impact on landowners and the environment.



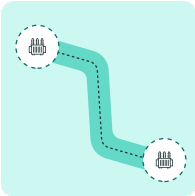
Identify route corridors

Using routing considerations and stakeholder input, we identified potential corridors for the Project.



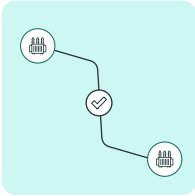
Refine to preliminary routes

With additional data and stakeholder input, we are refining route corridors into narrowed preliminary routes.



Identify proposed route

We'll identify a proposed route to submit in the Facility Permit Application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.



SD PUC determines final route

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will review the Facility Permit application and determine the final route.

Right-of-Way

What is right-of way?

A right-of-way, or ROW, is a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction or operation of transmission line.

What is an easement?

An easement is a legal agreement allowing a utility to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and other associated infrastructure on property.

Right-of-Way & Paralleling

How wide is the right-of-way?

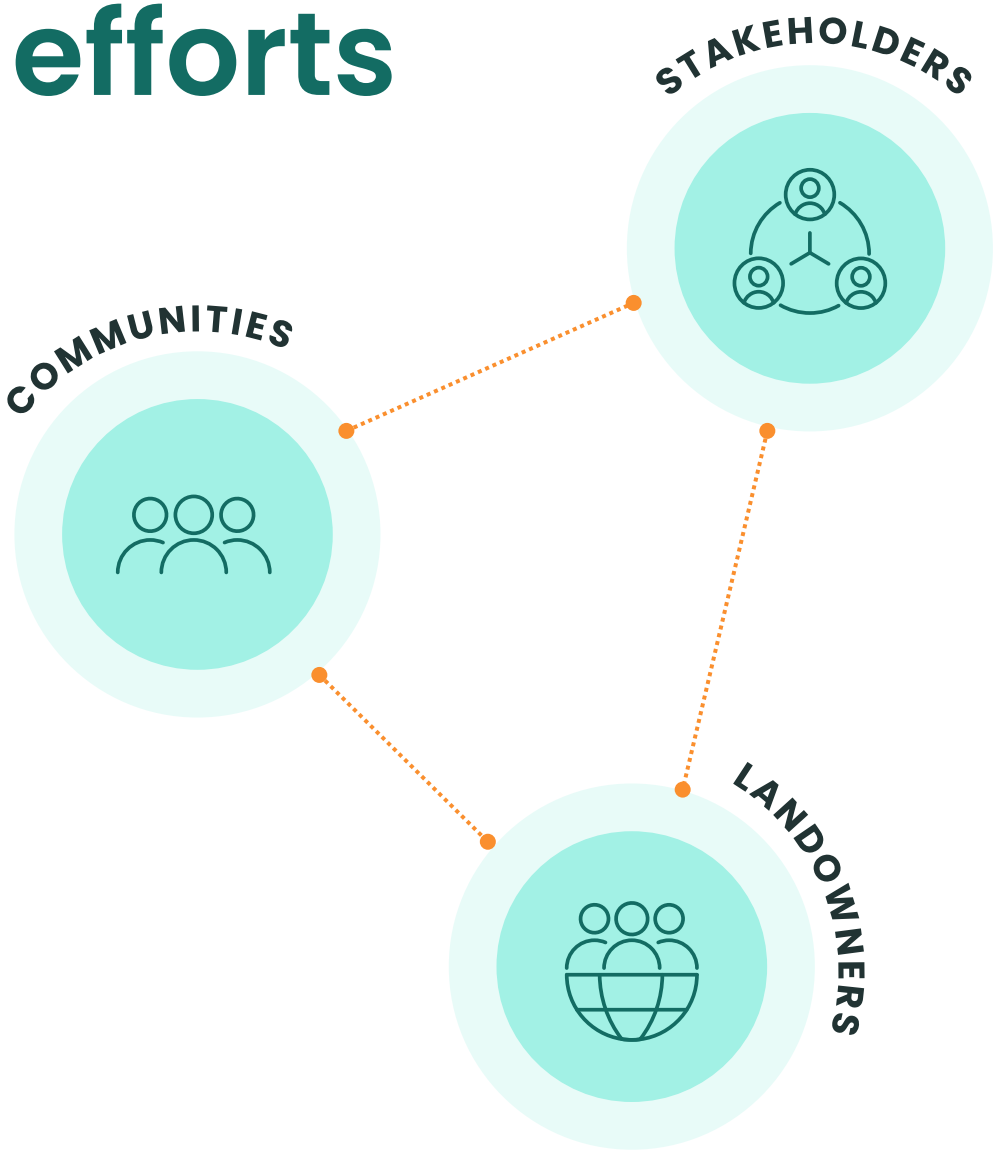
- The typical right-of-way for the Project will be 250 feet wide.

Can the Project follow other existing rights-of-way?

- Transmission lines may sometimes share, overlap, and/or parallel existing ROWs, such as highways, existing transmission lines, etc.

Public engagement efforts

PowerOn Midwest-South Dakota is employing a robust engagement approach that allows our team to connect with stakeholders, communities and landowners within the Study Area prior to filing the Facility Permit Application.



Schedule

2025
- Project planning
- Initial stakeholder and landowner engagement

2026 – 2027
- File Facility Permit Application
- Routing and public engagement
- Negotiating easements with landowners

2027 – 2029
- Regulatory review and engagement
- Engineering design
- Environmental surveys
- Real estate

2030 – 2034
- Construction

2034
- Anticipated in-service (Individual segment in-service dates will vary)

This schedule is preliminary and subject to change.

Engagement Opportunities

Join us at anytime during one of the times listed below

	Date	Time	Location
1	Tuesday, Jan. 13	10 am – 12 pm	Big Stone City Community Center, 400 Washington St. Ste 102, Big Stone City, SD
2	Tuesday, Jan. 13	4 pm – 6 pm	Speedway Grill & Event Center, 221 E 3rd Ave., Milbank, SD
3	Wednesday, Jan. 14	10 am – 12 pm	Clear Lake Community Center, 218 3rd Ave. S, Clear Lake, SD
4	Wednesday, Jan. 14	4 pm – 6 pm	Brookings Inn & Convention Center, 2500 6th St., Brookings, SD
5	Tuesday, Jan. 13 – Tuesday, Feb. 3	At your convenience	Self-guided virtual open house – PowerOnMidwest.com/SouthDakota

Connect with us

PowerOnMidwest.com/South Dakota

SouthDakota@PowerOnMidwest.com

877.869.2087

Thank You

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

Xcel Energy®

PowerOn Midwest™

Big Stone South to Brookings

PowerOn Midwest – South Dakota

Deuel County

January 2026

Utility team

Otter Tail Power Company | **Xcel Energy**

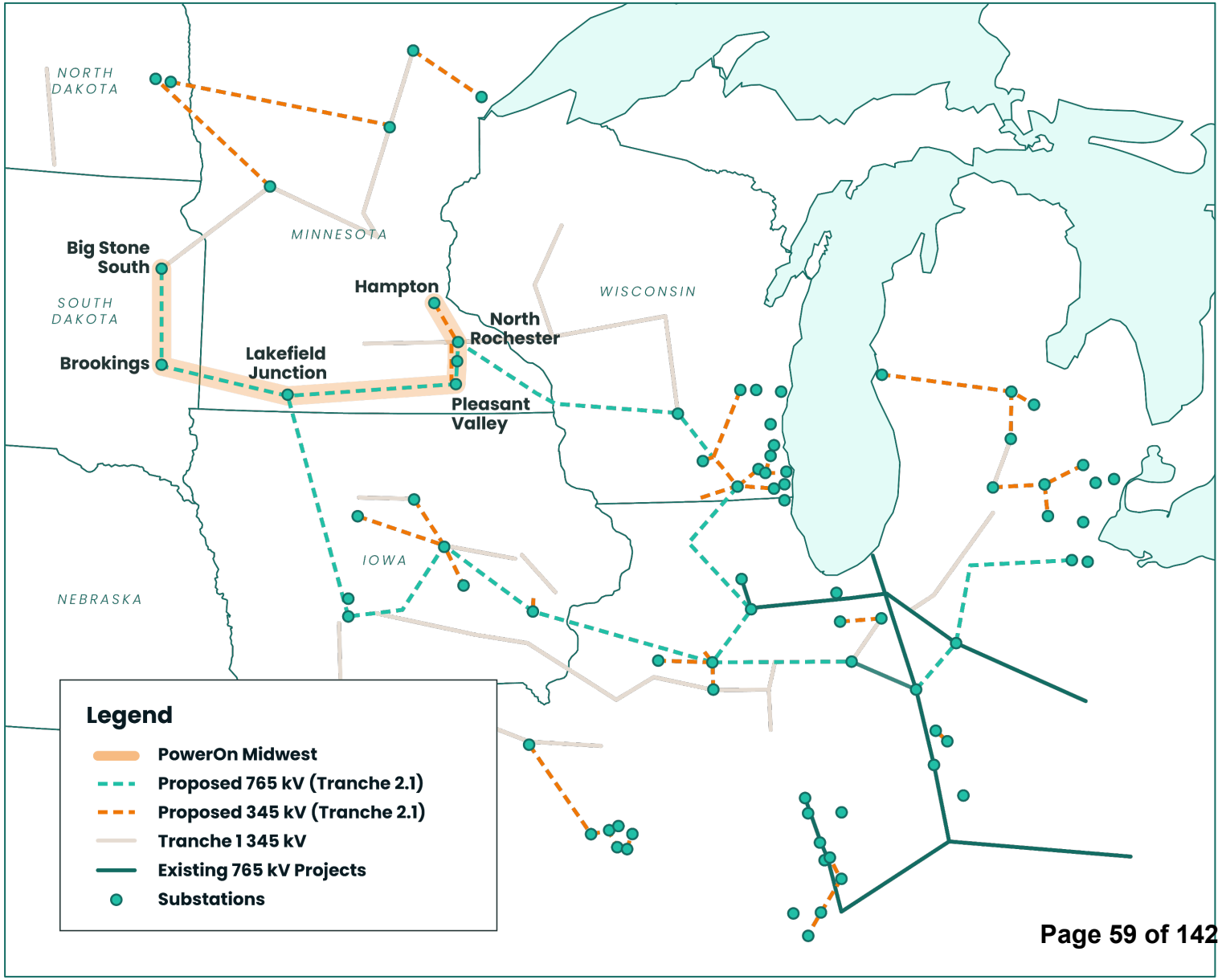
PowerOn Midwest

Electricity use is growing throughout the Upper Midwest and **demand is expected to increase** over the next two decades.

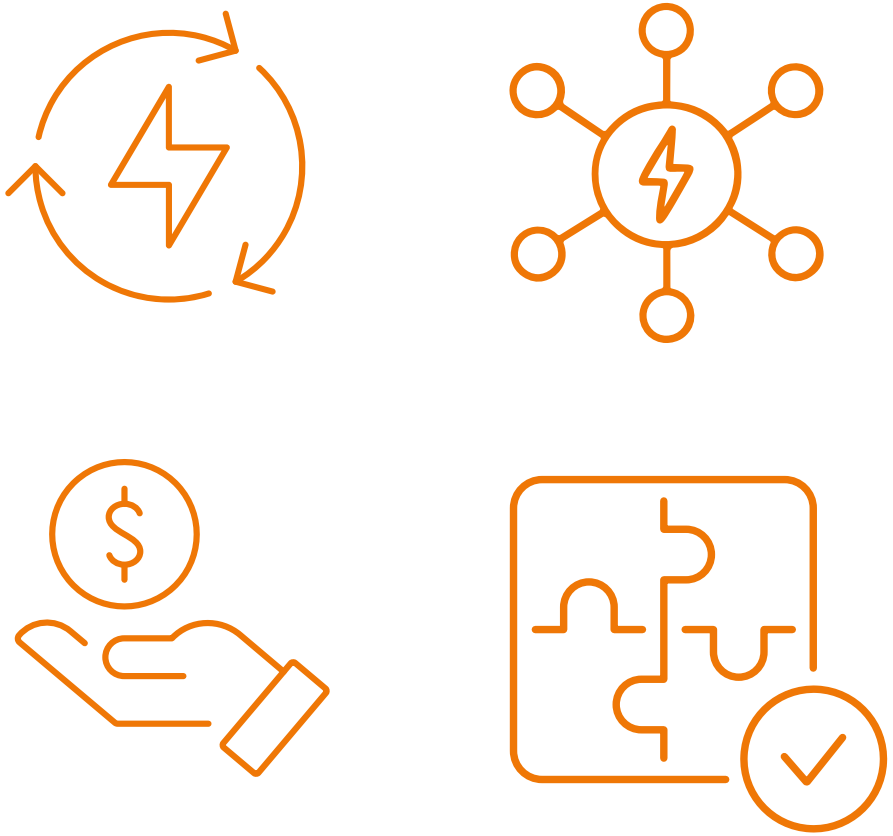
This increase in electric use, combined with the changing ways electricity is generated, requires new long-term solutions to meet the needs of our communities, states, and region to ensure we can continue delivering the reliable service you need to power your daily lives.

PowerOn Midwest—tomorrow's reliability starts today.

MISO Tranche 1 & 2.1



Project Benefits Overview



- Consistent and reliable power delivery in any season, under any conditions.
- Access to existing cost-effective generation.
- Additional access to new, always-ready natural gas plants.
- Emerging technologies.
- Enabled new and expanded manufacturing as well as other load additions in the communities we serve.

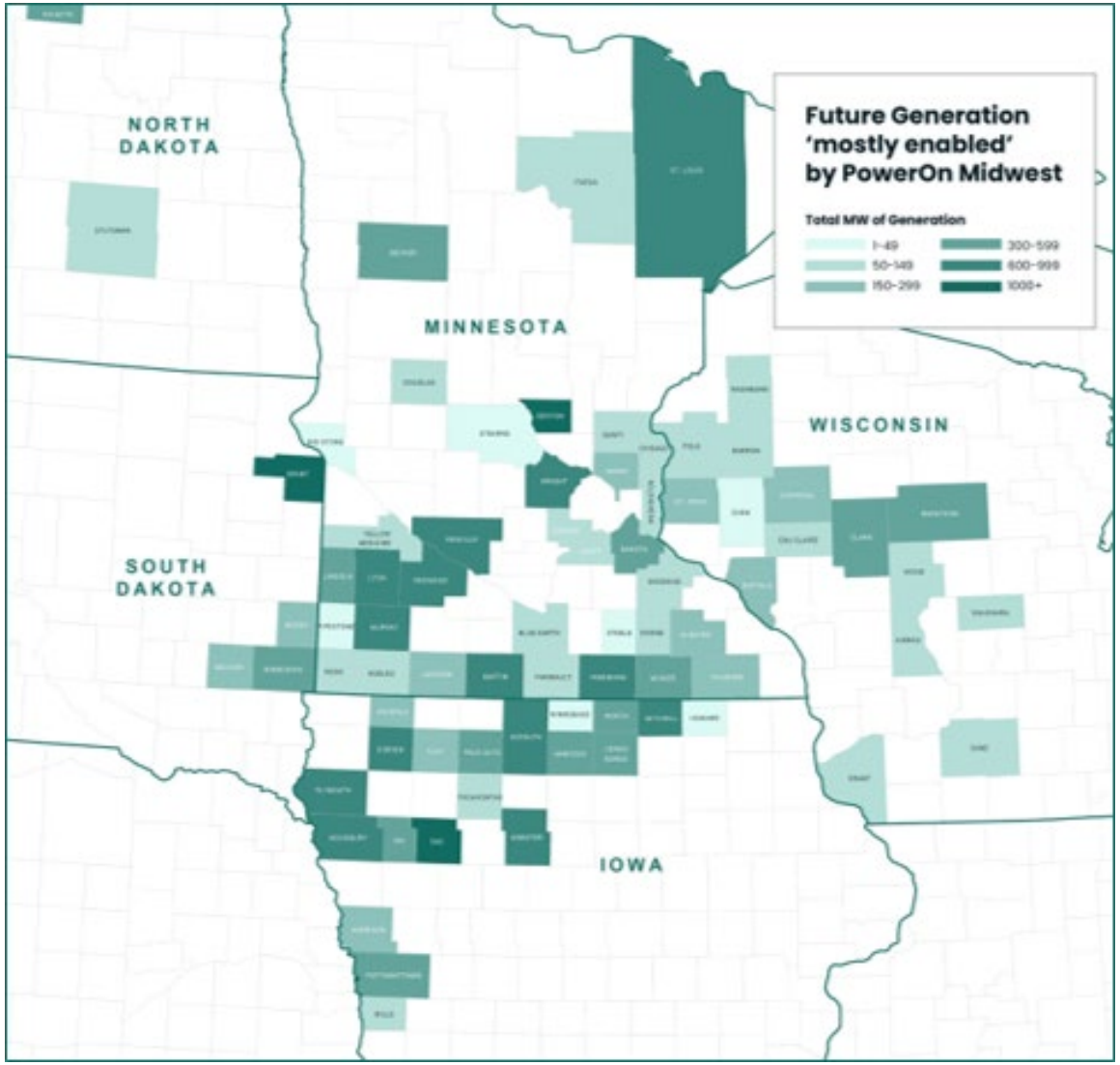
Project Benefits: Generation

The Studied Projects help enables approximately **24 GW** of new generation to be reliably connected to the transmission grid.

The additional transmission capacity allows better and fuller utilization of existing resources—reducing curtailment by **7,200 GWh.**

This includes queued natural generation requests in Deuel County **totaling 1586 MW.**

Generation Enabled by the Studied Projects

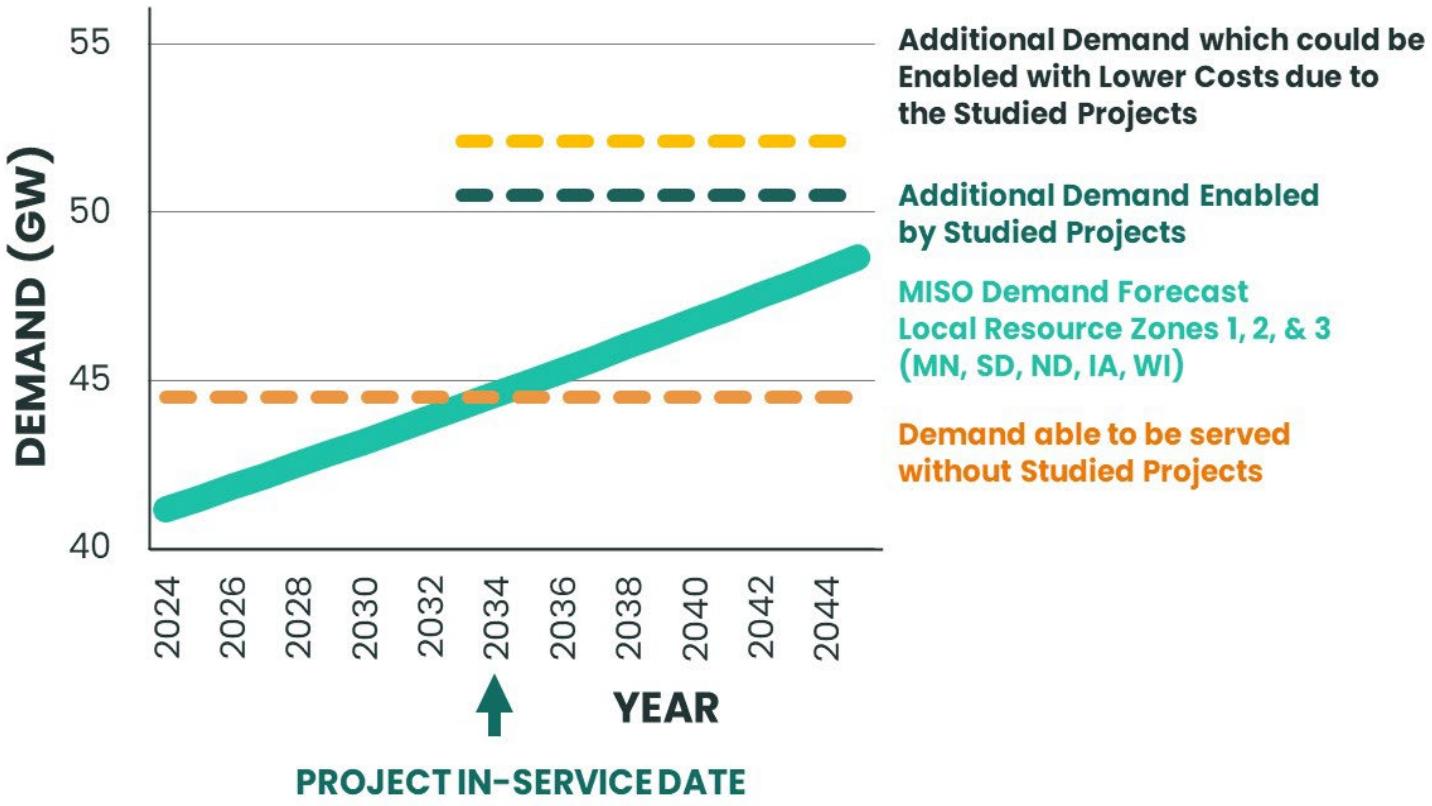


Project Benefits: Load Growth

The Studied Projects enable forecasted demand growth to be reliability served.

While needed to meet the current forecasted demand, the Studied Projects leave "space" to **accommodate approximately 3,000 MW of additional residential, commercial, and/or industrial demands**.

Demand Enabled by the Studied Project



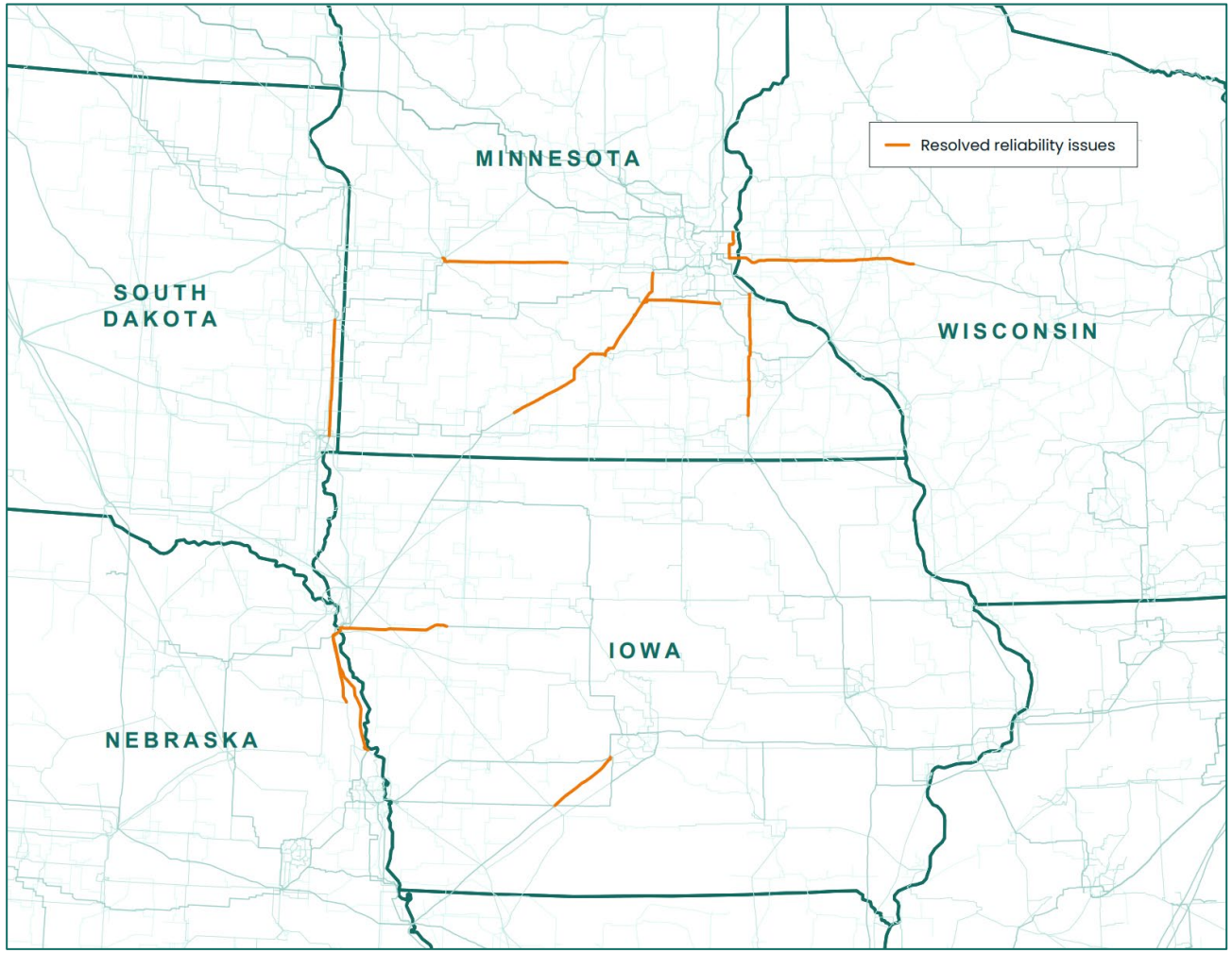
Project Benefits

The Studied Projects mitigate NERC reliability overloads on 102 facilities (**27** of which are greater than 200kV) - mitigating a total of **1,313** NERC reliability violations.*

Without the Studied Projects, **1,300 GWh** of demand is at risk of not being served on an annual basis (model year 2042).

Maintain reliability for every hour of the day

Top reliability issues resolved by the studied projects*

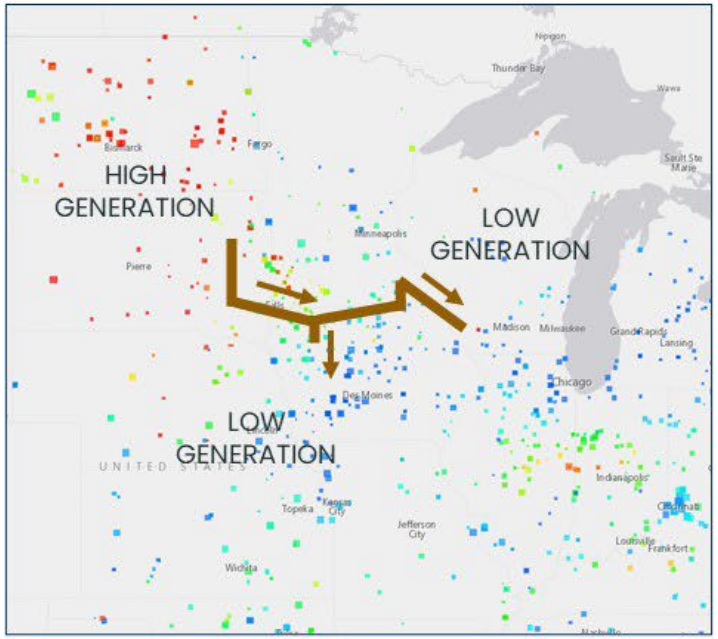


*Source: MISO MTEP 2024 Report

Project Benefits

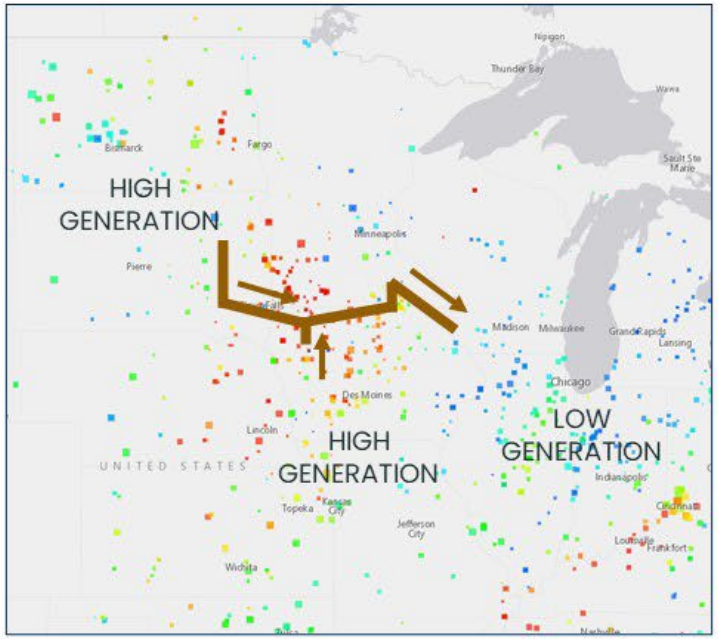
Enabling the grid to take on the role of baseload capacity

12:00 AM



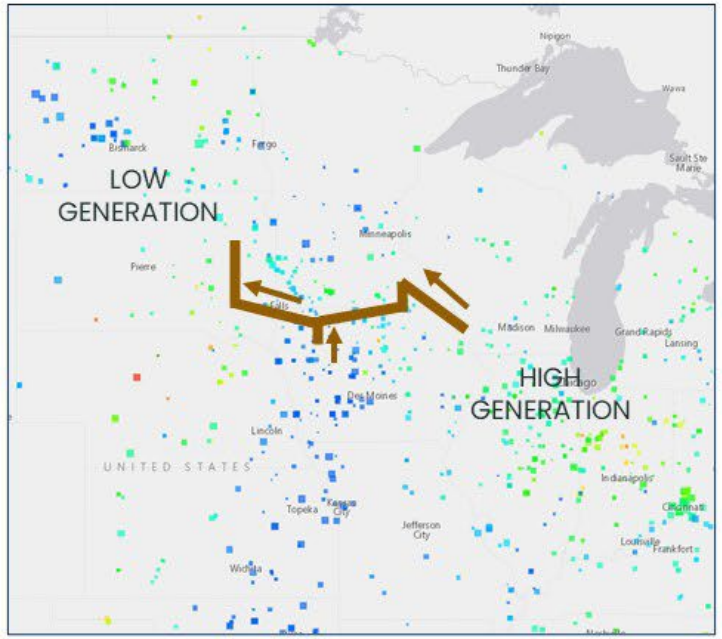
The Studied Projects solve:
Unserved demand: 3,407 MW
Curtailed generation: 788 MW

7:00 AM



The Studied Projects solve:
Unserved demand: 2,685 MW
Curtailed generation: 3,509 MW

7:00 PM



The Studied Projects solve:
Unserved demand: 2,354 MW
Curtailed generation: 326 MW

KEY: → Energy flow direction

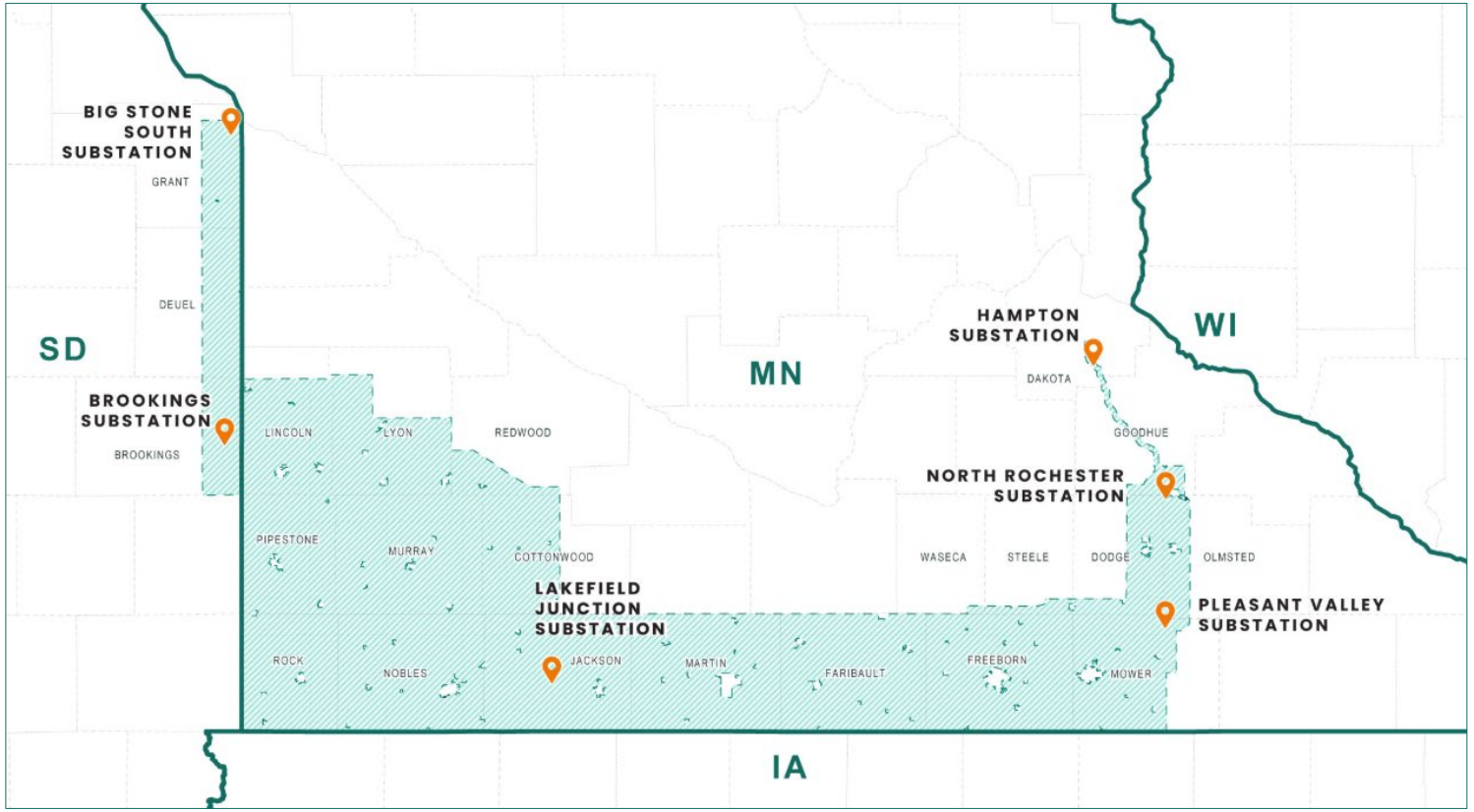
Each square is a generator: ■ Full output ■ Low/No Output

← Warm colors to cool colors →

PowerOn Midwest project map

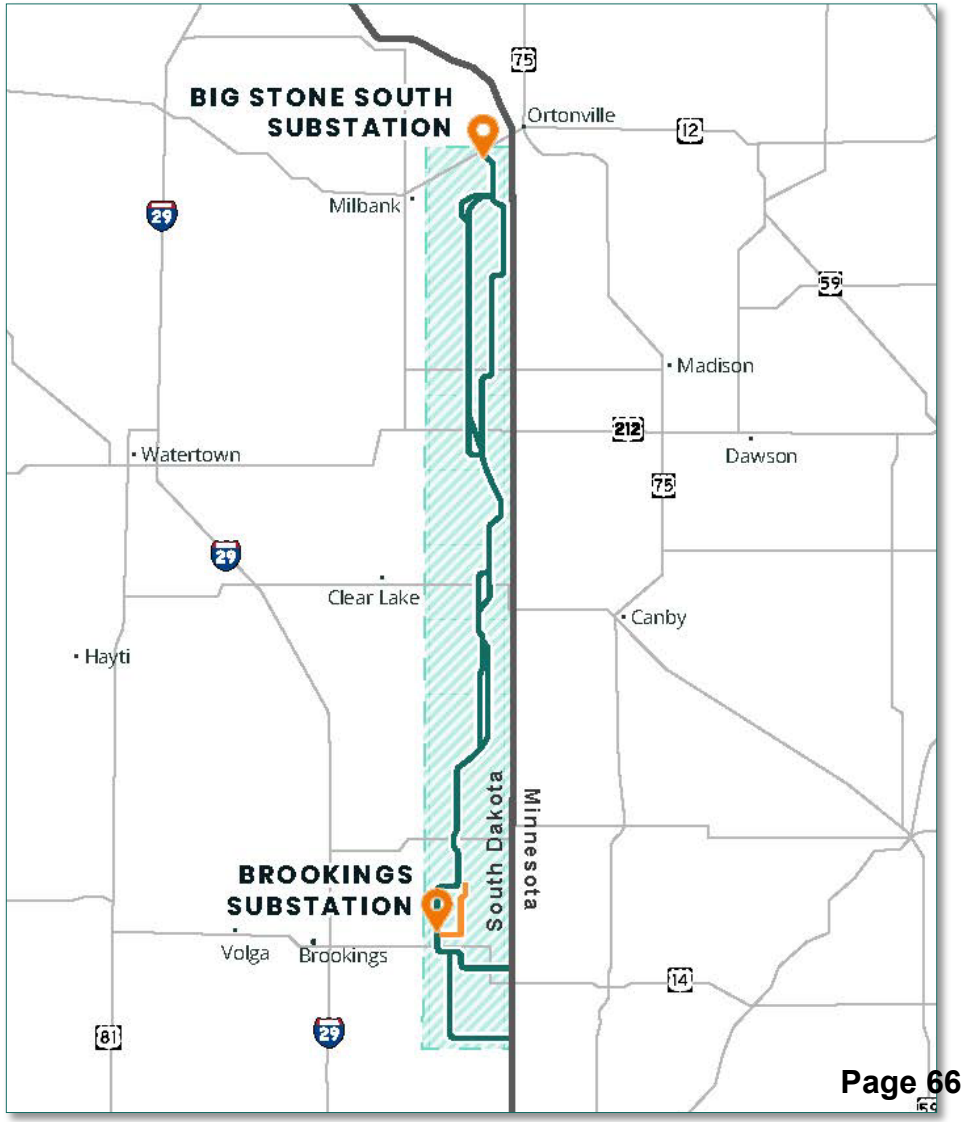
Project Segments:

- ***Big Stone South to Brookings County to SD/MN Border***- *765 kV* ***(South Dakota portion of LRTP#22)***
- South Dakota/Minnesota Border to Lakefield Junction – 765 kV ***(MN portion of LRTP#22)***
- Lakefield Junction to IA/MN border - 765 kV **(MISO LRTP#23)**
- Lakefield Junction to Pleasant Valley to North Rochester - 765 kV **(MISO LRTP#24)**
- Pleasant Valley to North Rochester to Hampton Corner - 345 kV **(MISO LRTP#25)**



PowerOn Midwest – South Dakota

Big Stone South to Brookings County to SD/MN Border- 765 kV (South Dakota portion of LRTP#22)



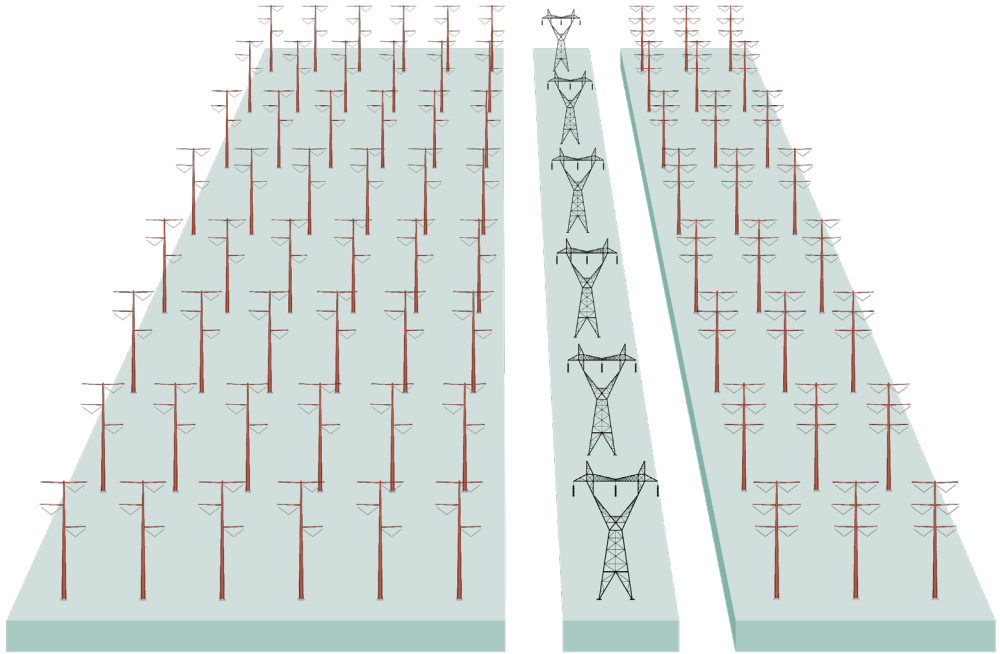
Technology

765 kV was recommended for several technology advantages:

- Efficiency
- Fewer Lines
- Lower impacts
- Meet growing power demands
- Resilient infrastructure
- Provide backup pathways

Per MISO, the electricity that can be moved by a single 765 kV line would be the same as:

- **Six single circuit 345 kV lines**
- **Or three double circuit 345 kV lines**



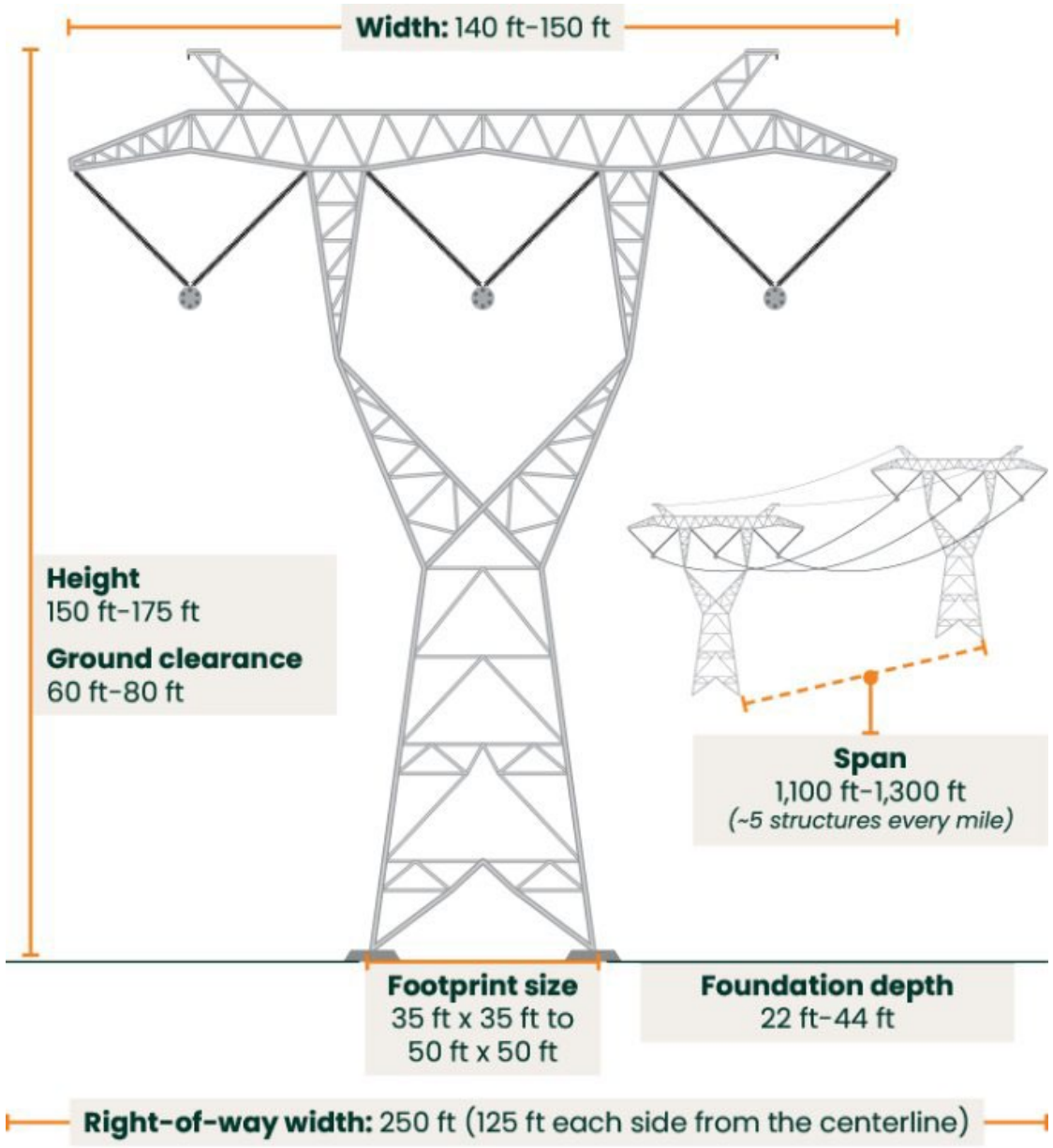
345 kV
SIX SINGLE CIRCUIT TOWERS
(900 ft of total right-of-way)

765 kV
ONE SINGLE CIRCUIT TOWER
(250 ft of total right-of-way)

345 kV
THREE DOUBLE CIRCUIT TOWERS
(450 ft of total right-of-way)

765 kV Structure

- Typical height: approximately 150 – 175 feet
- Width: approximately 140 – 150 feet Lattice style made of steel
- Foundation: 22 – 44 feet deep
- Right-of-Way: 250 feet
- Span: 1,100 – 1,300 feet (5 structures per mile
- Footprint (base): 35 x 35 ft to 50 x 50 ft



PowerOn South Dakota permitting

Requires approval from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Facility Permit) and applicable county approvals

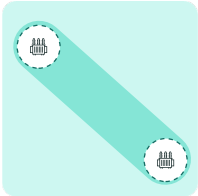
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Facility Permit

County approvals

(e.g., conditional use permit)

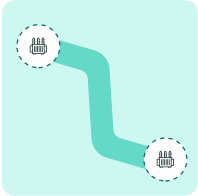
Route Development Process

The process for identifying a route for a new transmission line is a multi-step analysis that identifies potential route options that minimize impacts on humans and the environment. We'll follow South Dakota statutes and rules when selecting a route and work to minimize the impact on landowners and the environment.



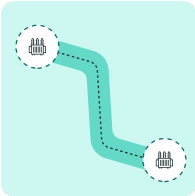
1. Identify route corridors

Using routing considerations and stakeholder input, we identified potential corridors for the Project.



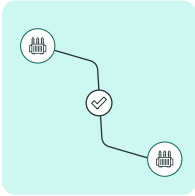
2. Refine to preliminary routes

With additional data and stakeholder input, we are refining route corridors into narrowed preliminary routes.



3. Identify proposed route

We'll identify a proposed route to submit in the Facility Permit Application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

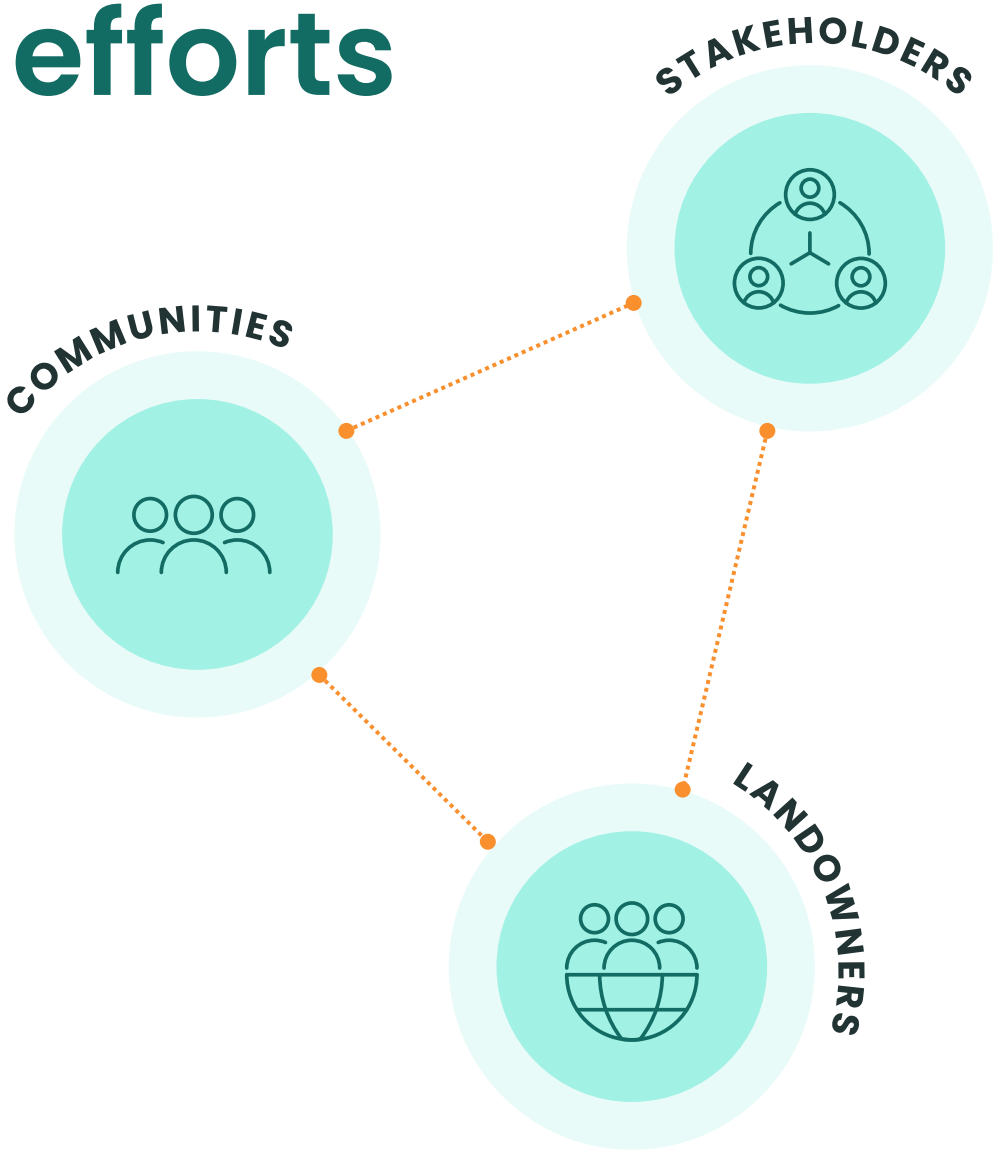


4. SD PUC determines final route

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will review the Facility Permit application and determine the final route.

Public engagement efforts

PowerOn Midwest-South Dakota is employing a robust engagement approach that allows our team to connect with stakeholders, communities and landowners within the Study Area prior to filing the Facility Permit Application.



Schedule

2025
- Project planning
- Initial stakeholder and landowner engagement

2026 – 2027
- File Facility Permit Application
- Routing and public engagement
- Negotiating easements with landowners

2027 – 2029
- Regulatory review and engagement
- Engineering design
- Environmental surveys
- Real estate
- County CUP Applications

2030 – 2034
- Construction

2034
- Anticipated in-service (Individual segment in-service dates will vary)

This schedule is preliminary and subject to change.

Connect with us

PowerOnMidwest.com/South Dakota

SouthDakota@PowerOnMidwest.com

877-869-2087

Thank You

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

Xcel Energy®

3/13/2026

[Recipient Name]
[Title]
[Agency Name]
[Address]

Subject: Introduction to the Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project, a segment of PowerOn Midwest

Dear [Recipient Name],

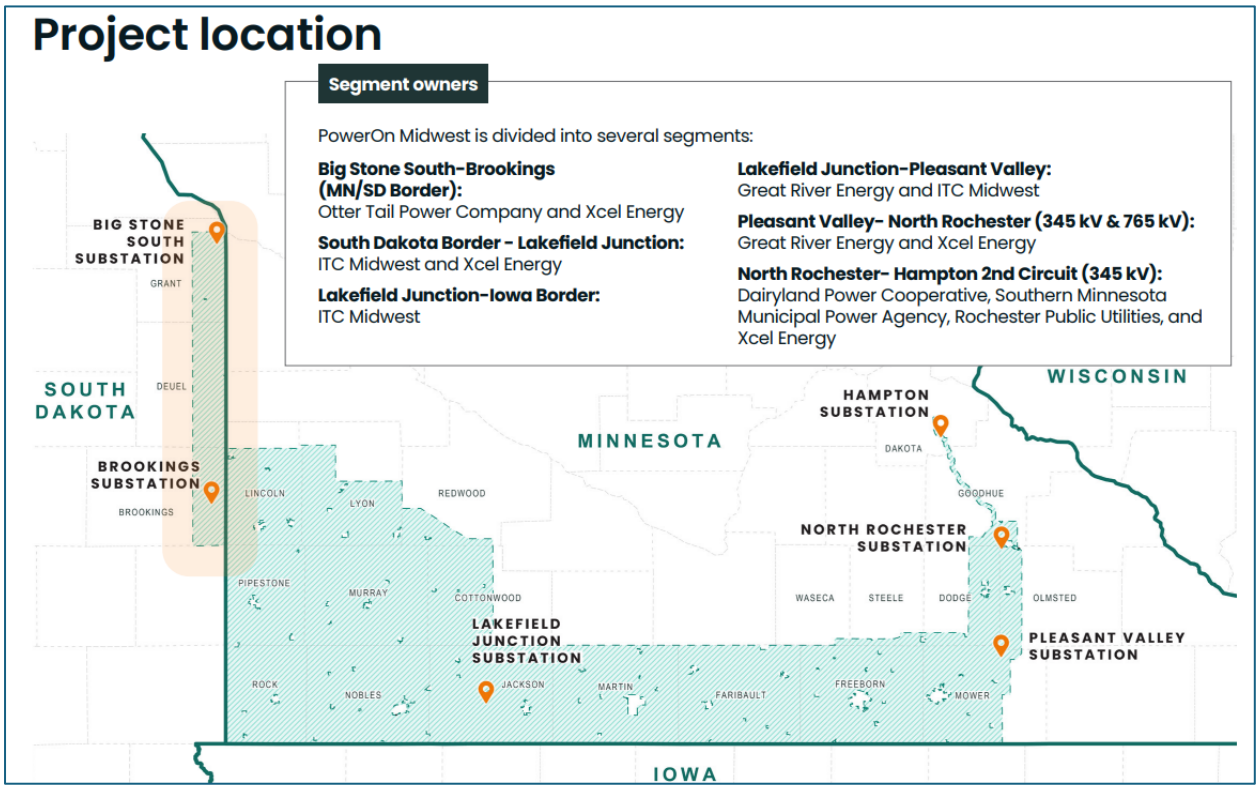
We are writing to introduce the proposed Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border transmission project (Project), a segment of the broader PowerOn Midwest Project. In South Dakota, the Project is being developed by Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company (Applicants). The Applicants would like to invite [Agency Name] to engage with us as we continue work through route development and the regulatory process in South Dakota.

About PowerOn Midwest
PowerOn Midwest is a series of proposed transmission infrastructure projects designed to strengthen the electric grid across southern Minnesota and eastern South Dakota. These projects include a new 765 kilovolt (kV) backbone transmission line and additional 345 kV lines that will carry large volumes of electricity over long distances. This investment is critical for delivering reliable electric service, supporting regional economic growth, and enabling access to new carbon-free generation resources.

Developed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Power Company, and Xcel Energy, PowerOn Midwest will help meet rising electricity demand, improve system resilience during extreme weather, and deliver significant economic benefits to the region. The initiative will also enable more than 24,000 megawatts of new generation, primarily renewable energy, helping states meet carbon reduction goals and support sustainability objectives for communities and businesses.

The projects that comprise PowerOn Midwest are still in the early planning and route development stages. The anticipated schedules vary by segment but generally anticipate that the South Dakota Facility Permit application to be filed in September 2026, with In-service date in 2034

Map 1 below depicts PowerOn Midwest overall and highlights the Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project.



Map 1 PowerOn Midwest project area; Big Stone South to Brookings segment highlighted in orange

About the Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project (Project)
Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy are developing the Project in South Dakota, with Xcel Energy leading permitting efforts. The Project is a 765 kV transmission line that would connect the existing Big Stone Substation to the Brookings County Substation and then cross the South Dakota/Minnesota border. The Project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator's Long Range Transmission Plan (LRTP) portfolio approved in December 2024, which was developed to address future reliability needs, integrate renewable generation, and strengthen the regional grid over the coming decades. The Project is the South Dakota portion of what is also referred to as LRTP-22. You can learn more about the project on our project website which is organized by segment.

The Project would consist of the new construction of a 765 kV transmission line through Grant, Deuel, and Brookings Counties, South Dakota. The Project also includes expansions of the existing Big Stone and Brookings Substations, as well as 345 kV lines connecting the existing and expanded substations. The Project will connect generation-rich areas to high-demand areas, improving reliability and efficiency across the Upper Midwest. The anticipated schedule for the Project is identified in the table below.

Milestone	Timeframe
Project planning, engagement, and route development	2025-2026
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Facility Permit Application Review	September 2026 – September 2027
Continued public engagement	2026-2030
Environmental surveys, local and environmental permitting	2026-2030
Start of construction	2030
In-service	2034

We are currently engaged in public outreach and route development and anticipate filing a Facility Permit Application with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in September 2026.

Public input and agency coordination will guide route development. The route development process begins by identifying a route corridor where possible routes could be located. We then start gathering input from local landowners, local government officials, Tribes, resource agencies, and other stakeholders. Throughout this process we also review federal, state, and local regulations, and identify opportunities and sensitives, and other issues that may affect eventual project route options.

Our Commitment to Agency Engagement
We recognize the importance of respectful and meaningful engagement. We invite you to participate in discussions, share feedback, and provide input on cultural and environmental considerations. Our goal is to build trust and foster partnerships that respect your values and resources.

We will maintain open communication throughout all phases of the Project, from early planning through construction, and are committed to offering meaningful opportunities for input and participation. We anticipate that opportunities for involvement will include but not necessarily be limited to meetings, natural resource surveys, and participation in public hearings.

We would be pleased to schedule an introductory meeting with you. In the meantime, if you have any questions or initial comments you wish to share, please contact Tim Rogers at

Timothy.g.Rogers@xcelenergy.com. We look forward to working together so that the Project reflects shared priorities and provides long-term benefits for all communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit: PowerOnMidwest.com/SouthDakota

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

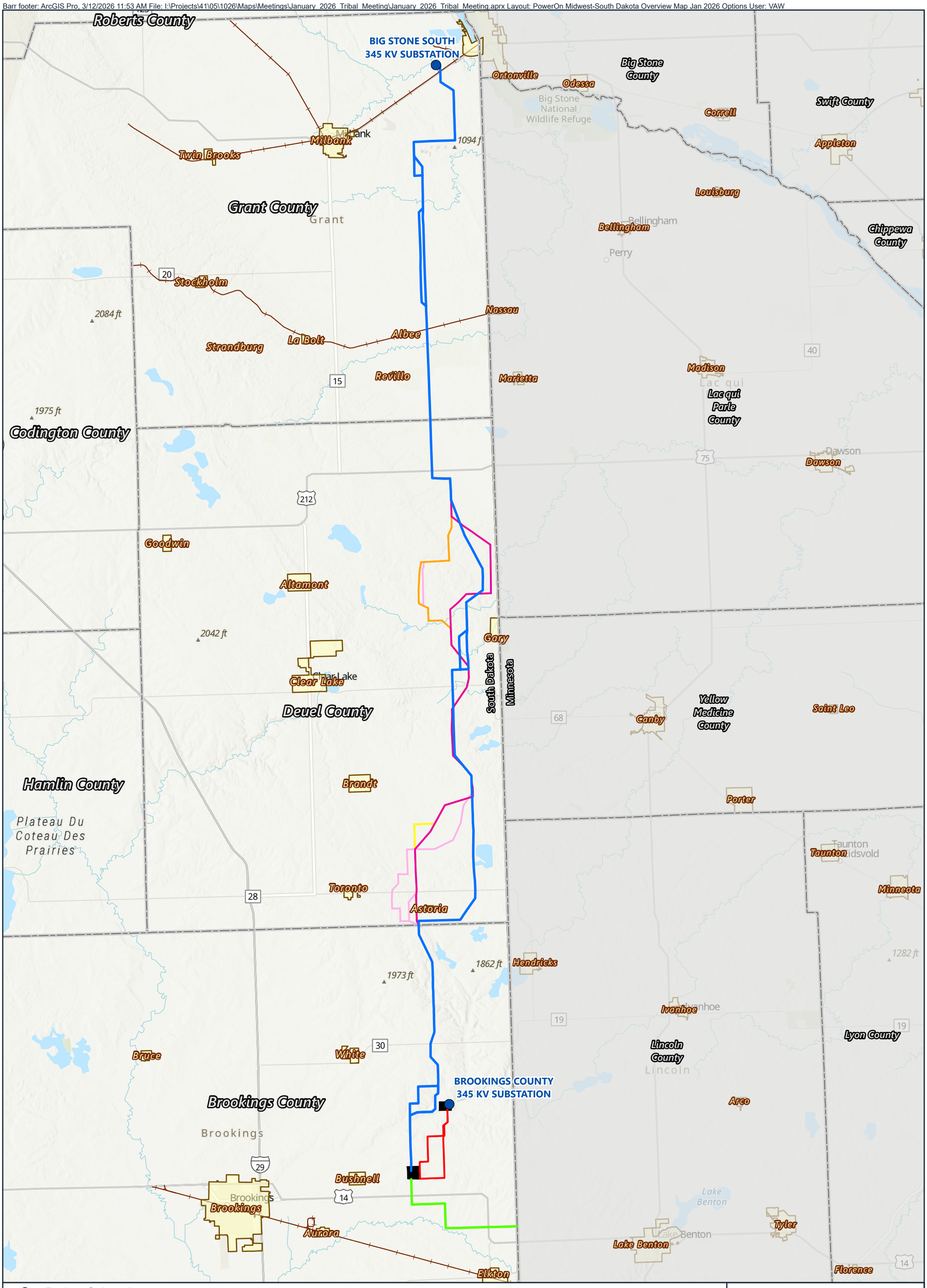
Thank you,

Tim Rogers
Senior Manager, Siting and Permitting
Xcel Energy

Enclosure: Figure 1 – Preliminary Route Options

Cc:

Steve Naylor - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - SDRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil
Luke Toso - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - southdakotafieldoffice@fws.gov
Bryce Ahlers - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - bryce_ahlers@fws.gov
Jessica Dowler - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – jessica_dowler@fws.gov
Chris Swanson - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - christopher_swanson@fws.gov
Mark A Herman - Bureau of Indian Affairs - Mark.Herman@bia.gov
Cyrus M. Western - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – r8eisc@epa.gov
Wayne Jensen - Federal Aviation Administration - Wayne.K.Jensen@faa.gov
Tony Sunseri - Natural Resources Conservation Service – tony.sunseri@usda.gov
Dale Thiel - Natural Resources Conservation Service – dale.thiel@usda.gov
Megan Johnson - Natural Resources Conservation Service – megan.johnson@usda.gov
Amy Engels - Natural Resources Conservation Service – amy.engels@usda.gov
Roger Chase – Farm Service Agency - roger.chase@usda.gov
Kristine Rademacher - Farm Service Agency – kristine.rademacher@usda.gov
Garry Guan - South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office - shpo@state.sd.us
Hunter Roberts - South Dakota DANR - DANRMail@state.sd.us
Ashley Brakke - South Dakota DANR - Ashley.Brakke@state.sd.us
Matt Brey - South Dakota Department of Transportation - matt.brey@state.sd.us
Algin Young - SD Department of Tribal Relations - Algin.Young@state.sd.us
Mandy Pearson - South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks - mandy.pearson@state.sd.us



- Project Substation
- Big Stone South to Brookings 765 kV Alignment Options
- Brookings to Minnesota Border 765 kV Alignment Options
- 345 kV Alignment Option
- Deuel Co Full Route Option #1
- Deuel Co Full Route Option #2
- Deuel Co Full Route Option #3
- Deuel Co Alternate Segments
- Substation Expansion Areas
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary

0 5 10
Miles

Preliminary Route Options
South Dakota

Figure 1

PowerOn Midwest™
Big Stone South to Brookings

Outlook

RE: Big Stone South to Brookings/ MN Border

From Jessica L. Butler <jbutler@barr.com>
Date Wed 3/18/2026 12:16 PM
To Bissonnette, Michelle <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>; Kim, Daniel H <daniel_kim@fws.gov>; Aaron M. Mielke <AMielke@barr.com>; Sarah L. Johnson <SJohnson@barr.com>; Rogers, Timothy G <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>

Hi Dan,
We have obtained an IPaC official species list for the project, the project code is: 2026-0064275.

Please let us know if you have any questions.
Thanks,
Jess

Jessica L. Butler

Senior Ecologist
JButler@barr.com | 952.832.2694

From: Bissonnette, Michelle <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 6:18 PM
To: Kim, Daniel H <daniel_kim@fws.gov>; Aaron M. Mielke <amielke@barr.com>; Sarah L. Johnson <sjohnson@barr.com>; Rogers, Timothy G <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>; Jessica L. Butler <jbutler@barr.com>
Subject: Re: Big Stone South to Brookings/ MN Border

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of your organization.

Dan,

Thank you for your response to our letter regarding the Big Stone So to Brookings/MN Border Project. I am copying Aaron Mielke, Sarah Johnson, and Jessica Butler from Barr Engineering, our consultant for this project. Jessica will be sending you the route information to obtain the official species list and obtain an IPaC number.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Michelle Bissonnette

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Kim, Daniel H <daniel_kim@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Bissonnette, Michelle <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Big Stone South to Brookings/ MN Border

Ms. Bissonnette,

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Thank you for contacting the South Dakota Ecological Services Offices. We look forward to engaging with you over the Big Stone South to Brookings east to the MN border project. In general, the USFWS (the Service) recommends that any new lines are co-located with existing lines when possible. New lines should minimize impacts on grassland habitats, and avoid critical habitat for Dakota Skipper. In addition, staging areas for equipment should also avoid grassland areas, especially areas identified as native prairie. As the Service wishes to document all communications, please provide the IPaC number for this project so the progress maybe properly tracked through the USFWS system. Upon receipt of the IPaC number, the South Dakota ES office will provide an official return letter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments,

Dan

Daniel H. Kim Ph.D.
Grassland Bird and Prairie Pollinator Biologist
Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Cell Phone: (605)-280-6090
Fax: (605)-224-1416
Email: daniel_kim@fws.gov

Outlook

Fw: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Transmission Project

From Michelle Bissonnette <michelle.bissonnette@merjent.com>
Date Tue 3/17/2026 2:08 PM
To Veronica A. Parsell <vparsell@barr.com>; Aaron M. Mielke <AMielke@barr.com>; Sarah L. Johnson <sjohnson@barr.com>; Rogers, Timothy G <TIMOTHY.G.ROGERS@XCELENERGY.COM>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of your organization.

FYI, and for our files.
Michelle

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Bradford, Christie A <Christie.Bradford@bia.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:34:44 PM
To: Michelle Bissonnette <michelle.bissonnette@merjent.com>
Cc: Rogers, Timothy G <TIMOTHY.G.ROGERS@XCELENERGY.COM>; Aaron M. Mielke <AMielke@barr.com>; Hart, Raymond <Raymond.Hart@bia.gov>; Broken Leg, Nicole T <Nicole.BrokenLeg@bia.gov>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Re: [EXTERNAL] FW: Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Transmission Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Merjent.

Dear Ms. Bissonnette:

This is in response to your email of March 13, 2026, concerning the proposed Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border transmission project covering Deuel, Grant and Brookings Counties, in South Dakota. We have considered the potential for both environmental damage and impacts to archaeological and Native American religious sites on lands held by the United States of America in trust on behalf of the Tribe and within the administrative jurisdiction of the Great Plains Region. We have no environmental objections to the actions as long as the projects comply with all applicable laws and regulations. You should be aware; however, that Tribes or Tribal members may have lands in fee status near the sites of interest. These lands would not necessarily be in our databases, and the Tribes should be contacted directly to ensure all concerns are recognized. The actions considered have the following project names:

March 13, 2026 Project: PowerOn Midwest Project Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border transmission project covering Deuel, Grant and Brookings Counties, in South Dakota

We also find that the listed action will not affect cultural resources on Tribal or individual landholdings for which we are responsible.

Methodologies for the treatment of cultural resources now known or yet to be discovered – particularly human remains – must nevertheless utilize the best available science in accordance with provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (as amended), and all other pertinent legislation and implementing regulations.

Questions regarding environmental opinions and conditions can be addressed to Christie Bradford, Environmental Protection Specialist and Archaeological concerns can be addressed to Dr. Sebastian C. LeBeau II, Regional Archaeologist, Division of Environment and Cultural Resources Management, at (605) 226-7656.

Also, I would encourage you work with the Sisseton THPO on this project if any of the work occurs on tribal lands.

THPO: Dianne Desrosiers
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
PO Box 907
Sisseton, SD 57262-0907
205 Oak St. E. Ste. 121
Phone: (605) 698-3584
DianneD@swo-nsn.gov

Thank you,

Christie Bradford, Environmental Protection Specialist
Division of Environmental and Cultural Resource Management
Bureau of Indian Affairs, - Suite 200
801 Mt. Rushmore Road
Rapid City, SD 57701
christie.bradford@bia.gov
605.226.7656/605.216.5093

WARNING: This e-mail may contain some Privacy Act/Sensitive Data which is intended only for the use of the individuals to who it is addressed. It may contain information is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable laws. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any distribution of copies of this e-mail is strictly prohibited.

"ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION IS LIMITED TO AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY."
Information shall not be disclosed unless permitted pursuant to 43 CFR 2.56.

From: Michelle Bissonnette <michelle.bissonnette@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 5:14 PM

To: Bradford, Christie A <Christie.Bradford@bia.gov>
Cc: Rogers, Timothy G <TIMOTHY.G.ROGERS@XCELENERGY.COM>; Aaron M. Mielke <AMielke@barr.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Transmission Project

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Christie,

We are writing to introduce the proposed Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border transmission project, a segment of the broader PowerOn Midwest Project. This portion of the project is in South Dakota and is being developed by Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company. We value the perspectives and knowledge of your agency and are committed to meaningful, respectful, and ongoing engagement throughout the life of this project and would like to invite you to engage with us as we begin the planning and regulatory process in South Dakota. Please see the attached letter for additional information and details.

Michelle Bissonnette
Xcel Energy
Siting and Land Rights – Contractor (Merjent)
414 Nicollet Mall – 6th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401
P: (612) 598-2023
E: michelle.bissonnette@xcelenergy.com
MAKING ENERGY WORK BETTER

This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages from Merjent, Inc. may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.
This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages from Merjent, Inc. may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Subject: Introductory meeting
Date: March 19, 2026
Time: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: Teams
Project: PowerOn Midwest - Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border 41051026.00

Meeting attendees

South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources (DANR):

- Ashley Brakke, Air Quality Permitting and One-Stop Coordinator
- Sean Kruger, Water Quality Standards
- Aaron Ward, Administrator of Water Quality Program
- Steve Kropp, Senior Solid Waste
- Nick Kelly, Water Quality General Permit Team Lead
- Kelsey Newling, Contamination and EAs

Xcel Energy (Xcel) – Michelle Bissonnette
Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) – Aaron Mielke and Sarah Johnson

Meeting minutes

- Introductions were made, and Xcel Energy provided an overview of the transmission line project.

- Barr Engineering presented the current project route and noted that some route options are still under evaluation.

- Project team discussed construction activities, including anticipated earthwork, access routes, and flexibility in structure locations. Most earthwork will occur at structure and substation sites, and further details will be determined as the design progresses.

- Wetland and water resource considerations were reviewed, including plans for field and desktop-based wetland delineations and the potential for future state-level

database resources. The project aims to avoid impacts to wetlands and water resources where possible.

- Discussion included permitting needs and regulatory updates regarding wetlands, with a focus on maintaining communication with relevant agencies as the project advances.
- The depth of foundations for support structures and the management of excavated material were noted as important construction considerations.
- Stormwater management, dewatering, and construction-related water quality measures were discussed, along with the timeline for permit applications and compliance with state requirements.
- Solid waste management during construction was addressed, highlighting requirements for proper disposal, available landfill options, and procedures for handling contaminated soils if encountered.
- The online form requesting an Environmental Assessment was explained.
- The team confirmed that both transmission lines and substations are part of the project.
- The need to confirm whether any project support buildings will require septic systems was noted, with a commitment to follow up as needed.

Action items

Action item	Status
Ashley Brakke (SANR) will send contact information and a summary of our conversation after the meeting.	
Michelle (Xcel) will confirm no plans for septic tanks.	
Schedule a follow up meeting through Ashley if/when it makes sense as the project progresses.	

Outlook

RE: Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Transmission Project

From Young, Algin <Algin.Young@state.sd.us>
Date Mon 3/23/2026 1:42 PM
To Michelle Bissonnette <michelle.bissonnette@merjent.com>
Cc Rogers, Timothy G <TIMOTHY.G.ROGERS@XCELENERGY.COM>; Aaron M. Mielke <AMielke@barr.com>; Christie, Nicole <Nicole.Christie@state.sd.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of your organization.

Good afternoon Micelle,

Thank you for the email and for providing us information on your upcoming project. We don't have any specific concerns or comments at this time.

Thanks again,

From: Michelle Bissonnette <michelle.bissonnette@merjent.com>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 1:28 PM
To: Young, Algin <Algin.Young@state.sd.us>
Cc: Rogers, Timothy G <TIMOTHY.G.ROGERS@XCELENERGY.COM>; Aaron M. Mielke <AMielke@barr.com>
Subject: [EXT] Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Transmission Project

Dear Algin,

We are writing to introduce the proposed Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border transmission project, a segment of the broader PowerOn Midwest Project. This portion of the project is in South Dakota and is being developed by Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company. We value the perspectives and knowledge of your agency and are committed to meaningful, respectful, and ongoing engagement throughout the life of this project and would like to invite you to engage with us as we begin the planning and regulatory process in South Dakota. Please see the attached letter for additional information and details.

Michelle Bissonnette
Xcel Energy
Siting and Land Rights – Contractor (Merjent)
414 Nicollet Mall – 6th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401
P: (612) 598-2023
E: michelle.bissonnette@xcelenergy.com
MAKING ENERGY WORK BETTER

This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages from Merjent, Inc. may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient of it. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
SOUTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
28563 POWERHOUSE ROAD, ROOM 118
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-6174

March 25, 2026

Subject: Introduction to the Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project, a segment of PowerOn Midwest

Xcel Energy
Attention: Tim Rogers
414 Nicollet Mall, 6th Floor
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401

Dear Mr. Rogers,

This is in response to your solicitation letter received on March 13, 2026 requesting Department of the Army (DA), United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), South Dakota Regulatory Office comments on the proposed Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company, Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project, including a new 765 kV backbone transmission line and additional 345 kV lines, in addition to expanding the existing Big Stone and Brookings Substations. The project extends through Grant, Deuel and Brookings Counties in South Dakota.

Corps Regulatory Offices administers Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of dredge or fill material (temporarily or permanently) in waters of the United States. Waters of the United States may include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, ditches, coulees, lakes, ponds, and their adjacent wetlands. Fill material includes, but is not limited to, rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mines or other excavation activities and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in waters of the United States.

Enclosed for your information is the fact sheet for Nationwide Permit 57, Electric Utility Line and Telecommunications Activities. Utility lines are already authorized by Nationwide Permit 57 provided the utility line can be placed without any change to pre-construction contours and all other proposed construction activities and facilities are in compliance with the Nationwide's permit conditions and 401 Water Quality Certification. Please note the pre-construction notification requirements page 2 of the fact sheet. If a project involves any one of the seven notification requirements, the project proponent must submit a DA application. Furthermore, a project must also be in compliance with

the "Regional Conditions for the State of South Dakota", found on page 21 of the fact sheet.

In the event your project(s) requires approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and cannot be authorized by Nationwide Permit(s), a Standard or Individual Permit will be required. A project that requires a Standard or Individual Permit is intensely reviewed and will require the issuance of a public notice. A Standard or Individual Permit generally requires a minimum of 120 days for processing but based on the project impacts and comments received through the public notice may extend well beyond 120 days.

This correspondence letter does not approve the proposed construction work or does not verify the proposed project complies with the Nationwide Permit(s).

If any portion of the project requires a Section 404 preconstruction notification, please complete and submit the enclosed Department of the Army permit application (ENG Form 6082). Please refer to identification number NWO-2026-00433-PIE in any correspondence concerning this project. If you are unsure if an authorization is required, you may still submit a preconstruction notification; include a project location map, description of work, and construction methodology.

To submit a preconstruction notification, you may use the Regulatory Request System (https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs) or email a complete ENG Form 6082 to SDRegulatoryMailbox@usace.army.mil. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please feel free to contact this office at the above Regulatory Office email or telephone at (605) 224-8531. Please split large attachments (>25 MB) into multiple emails if need be. You can obtain additional information about the Regulatory Program and download forms from our website: http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/RegulatoryProgram/SouthDakota.aspx

Sincerely,

Nathan Morey
South Dakota Regulatory
Office Section Chief

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: April 1, 2026

Agency / Entity: South Dakota State Historical Society

Project: Big Stone South to Brookings Transmission Project

Purpose: Initial coordination meeting and discussion of cultural resources expectations for South Dakota permitting

Attendees

- Katie Wasley – Archaeologist, SD State Historical Society (reviews projects under SD state law)
- Duncan Trau – Architectural Historian, SD State Historical Society
- Veronica Parsell – Barr
- Aaron Mielke – Barr
- Tim Rogers – Xcel Energy
- Michelle Bissonnette – Xcel Energy

Summary of Discussion

- Barr and Xcel provided an overview of the proposed transmission project using PowerPoint and GIS mapping.
- The agencies discussed a one mile buffer visual effects analysis for both architectural and cultural resources.
    - This is consistent with past projects.
- Architectural history and cultural resources may be documented in a single combined report or in separate reports.
- Historic architectural resources defined as buildings constructed before 1976, with effects analyses focused on transmission line visibility.
- Submission of a cultural resources work plan in advance is not required.
- Coordination between the SD State Historical Society and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for the Facility Permit Application needs to be confirmed.

Action Items / Follow-Up

- Identify buildings within one mile of the project area that are visually obstructed by topography, vegetation, or other features and do not require visual effects analysis.
- Contact the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to confirm the preferred coordination process with the SD State Historical Society. Discussed during the call that report could be submitted to the PUC and SDSHS at the same time.
- Barr to provide Xcel Energy with an updated Cultural Resources proposal that includes an Architectural History Report.

April 15, 2026

Tim Rogers
Xcel Energy
5115 Excelsior Blvd #113
St. Louis Park, MN 55416

SDCL 1-19A-11.1 Consultation
Project: 260318004S – Big Stone South to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Transmission Project
Location: Brookings, Deuel, Grant
PUC - South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project pursuant to SDCL 1-19A-11.1. SDCL 1-19A-11.1 outlines a specific process that must be followed prior to any governmental action, including the issuance of permits, that may harm any historic property that is included in the National or State Registers of Historic Places. The South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) would like to provide the following comments concerning effect of the proposed project on the non-renewable cultural resources of South Dakota.

On March 18, 2026, the SHPO received your letter dated March 13, 2026, along with a map of the preliminary route options within the state of South Dakota regarding the above-referenced project to construct a new 765 kV transmission line through Grant, Deuel, and Brookings Counties in South Dakota along with expansions of the Big Stone and Brookings substations and construction of 345 kV lines to connect the existing and expanded substations. On April 1, 2026, SHPO attended an introductory meeting with the project proponents to learn more about the proposed project.

To assist the Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy in meeting the requirements of the South Dakota PUC permit Application, SHPO recommends that the applicant:

1. Provide a copy of the original official record search from the Archaeological Research Center that identifies the previously recorded cultural resources within one mile of the proposed project area.
2. Have a qualified archaeologist complete an intensive field survey of the project area.
3. Conduct an analysis of the visual effects that the transmission line and substation will have on cultural resources within one mile of the project area.
4. Follow up with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and Tribal governments that indicated an interest in cultural resources within or near the project area concerning the project's potential effects on Traditional Cultural Properties associated with American Indian Tribes and/or properties of religious and cultural significance to them.

Once the additional information has been obtained regarding historic properties and cultural resources which could be affected by the project, please submit that information to SHPO for review and comment under SDCL 1-19A-11.1.

Please note that this letter does not relieve the responsible party/parties of requirements regarding compliance with any other historic preservation laws. Should the project ever be federally funded, licensed, permitted, or approved, the project would be considered a federal undertaking for which the responsible federal agency must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Should you require any additional information, please contact Katie Wasley at Katie.Wasley@state.sd.us or at 605-773-2906. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Garry Guan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Katie Wasley

Katie Wasley
Review & Compliance Coordinator

Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Subject: Introductory meeting
Date: May 4, 2026
Time: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: Teams
Project: PowerOn Midwest - Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border 41051026.00

Meeting attendees

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFD):

- Mandy Pearson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Nongame Conservation & Environmental Review – coordinates state's environmental review
- Rocco Murano, Senior Waterfowl Biologist
- Chesley Pasbrig, Senior nongame aquatic biologist
- Lucas Zilverberg, Luke, senior grassland ecologist
- Ryan Wendinger

Xcel Energy (Xcel) – Michelle Bissonnette and Tim Rogers
Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) – Aaron Mielke and Sarah Johnson

Meeting minutes

- Introductions were made, and Xcel provided a general overview of the proposed Project.
- Barr reviewed the current route under consideration and noted that some routing options are still being evaluated.
- The group discussed route development considerations, including:
    - Environmental constraints and available datasets used to inform routing;
    - Consideration of intact grasslands and other sensitive resources;
    - Avoidance and minimization of wetland impacts;
    - General structure types and the ability to provide route data for agency review; and
    - Avoidance of state- and federally owned properties, where practicable.

- The group discussed use of the state environmental review tool to support early agency coordination.
    - The Project team plans to upload route data in draft form for agency review.
    - Agency staff indicated that draft information can help identify potential resource overlaps and areas where additional review may be warranted.
    - Agency staff noted that the tool generates a report based on the Project area and applicable resource buffers.
- A formal review will be needed as the Project advances.
- Potential natural resource considerations were discussed, including:
    - State-owned lands and federal encumbrances;
    - Wetlands and grasslands;
    - High-use waterfowl areas;
    - Tree removal;
    - Potential habitat impacts;
    - Invasive species prevention;
    - Use of native seed mixes; and
    - Potential mitigation or compensation for habitat impacts, if applicable.
- The Project team noted that the current intent is to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive resources where practicable through route refinement, micrositing, and other Project planning measures.
- Agency staff asked whether seasonal restrictions may be considered for certain activities. The Project team indicated that avoidance and minimization of resource impacts would continue to be considered as the Project is refined.
- The Project team noted that coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has occurred regarding relevant federal resource considerations, including wetland and grassland easements.
- Agency staff indicated that additional survey recommendations or resource considerations may be provided after review of the draft Project information.
- Next steps include:

Action items

Action item	Status
Barr to send a zipped shapefile of the routes under consideration	
Barr to uploading Project route information to the environmental review tool in draft form	
Mandy (SDGFD) to review Project route in draft form	
Michelle (Xcel) to arrange a follow up meeting for a second discussion	

Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Subject: Introductory Meeting with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Date: May 13, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Teams
Project: Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border 41051026.00

Meeting attendees

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Cyrus Western (Mountains and Plains Regional Adminstrator), Christy Woodward (Region 8 Chief of Staff), Adrienne Sandoval (Director of Air and Radiation Division), Carolyn Gleason (Region 8 Acting NEPA Program Manager)
Xcel Energy (Xcel) – Michelle Bissonnette and Tim Rogers
Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) – Aaron Mielke and Sarah Johnson

Meeting minutes

Project team representatives met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 to provide an overview of the proposed Project and discuss potential federal considerations.

- Project Overview and Transmission Role: The Project was discussed in the context of regional transmission planning and grid operations, including how it may support movement of energy across the system rather than serving a single generation source.
- Regional Capacity and Planning Considerations: EPA representatives asked questions regarding long-term capacity and future demand. The Project team noted that broader regional studies (e.g., MISO planning efforts) evaluate transmission needs over long-term planning horizons.
- Federal Review (NEPA): The Project team indicated that federal environmental review under NEPA is not anticipated based on current information, as the Project is not expected to involve federal lands or triggers requiring federal authorization.
- Potential Federal Agency Involvement: EPA indicated that involvement would generally be limited to circumstances where federal lands, tribal lands, or other federal interests are implicated.
- Route Development Status: The Project team provided a high-level overview of the routes under consideration and noted that routing continues to be refined.

Meeting Summary

Subject: Introductory Meeting

Date: May 13, 2026

Project: PowerOn Midwest – Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border

Overview

Project team representatives met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 8 to provide an overview of the proposed Project and discuss potential federal considerations.

Key Discussion Topics

- Project Overview and Transmission Role: The Project was discussed in the context of regional transmission planning and grid operations, including how it may support movement of energy across the system rather than serving a single generation source.
- Regional Capacity and Planning Considerations: EPA representatives asked questions regarding long-term capacity and future demand. The Project team noted that broader regional studies (e.g., MISO planning efforts) evaluate transmission needs over long-term planning horizons.
- Federal Review (NEPA): The Project team indicated that federal environmental review under NEPA is not anticipated based on current information, as the Project is not expected to involve federal lands or triggers requiring federal authorization.
- Potential Federal Agency Involvement: EPA indicated that involvement would generally be limited to circumstances where federal lands, tribal lands, or other federal interests are implicated.
- Route Development Status: The Project team provided a high-level overview of the routes under consideration and noted that routing continues to be refined.

Next Steps

- The Project team will continue to refine the route and project design.
- Federal agency coordination will proceed as needed if federal triggers are identified during Project development.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Subject: Follow up meeting, draft Environmental Review Tool
Date: May 13, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Location: Teams
Project: PowerOn Midwest - Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border 41051026.00

Meeting attendees

South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFD) - Mandy Pearson, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Nongame Conservation & Environmental Review – coordinates state's environmental review
Xcel Energy (Xcel) – Michelle Bissonnette and Tim Rogers
Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) – Aaron Mielke, Sarah Johnson, and Jess Butler

Meeting minutes

Project team representatives met with the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) to review draft route information provided through the state Environmental Review Tool and to discuss preliminary agency feedback.

- Draft Route Review: SDGFP reviewed draft routes and provided initial feedback based on available environmental data and internal coordination. The tool was used to identify potential resource overlaps and areas that may warrant additional evaluation.
- Grassland and Wildlife Habitat: Intact grassland areas and associated species (e.g., sharp-tailed grouse) were identified as important considerations. SDGFP emphasized minimizing fragmentation of native prairie and avoiding priority habitat where practicable. Potential seasonal timing considerations may apply. One specific area was reviewed where the unbroken grasslands are mapped however given review of aerial photography, the area has been subject to prior disturbance (e.g., planting of wind break trees).
- Aquatic Resources (Topeka Shiner): Consideration of streams and waterways supporting Topeka shiner habitat was discussed. Additional coordination and data

requests may be needed to identify specific stream segments where the species occurs.

- Wetlands and Federal Easements: Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding wetland easements remains ongoing. Project routing will continue to avoid wetland fill and minimize impacts where practicable.
- Avian and Bat Considerations: Tree clearing and construction activities may be subject to seasonal timing restrictions to protect migratory birds and bats. Where timing restrictions cannot be met, alternative minimization or mitigation measures may be considered. Discussed use of bird diverters and existing infrastructure near waterfowl production area.
- Brookings 765 kV Expansion Substation: Project team reviewed proposed area and noted total area of anticipated disturbance. No concerns were noted for the planned siting area.
- General Agency Feedback: SDGFP indicated no significant constraints at this stage that would preclude advancement of the Project. Continued avoidance and minimization of impacts through route refinement and project design was encouraged.

Action items

Action item	Status
Mandy will send a list of streams where Topeka Shiner has been documented.	
The Project team will submit a preferred route through the Environmental Review Tool for formal agency review. SDGFP will provide written feedback following review of the finalized submittal.	

Meeting Summary

Subject: Follow-up Meeting – Draft Environmental Review Tool

Date: May 13, 2026

Project: PowerOn Midwest – Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border

Overview

Project team representatives met with the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks (SDGFP) to review draft route information provided through the state Environmental Review Tool and to discuss preliminary agency feedback.

Key Discussion Topics

- Draft Route Review: SDGFP reviewed draft routes and provided initial feedback based on available environmental data and internal coordination. The tool was used to identify potential resource overlaps and areas that may warrant additional evaluation.
- Grassland and Wildlife Habitat: Intact grassland areas and associated species (e.g., sharp-tailed grouse) were identified as important considerations. SDGFP emphasized minimizing fragmentation of native prairie and avoiding priority habitat where practicable. Potential seasonal timing considerations may apply.
- Aquatic Resources (Topeka Shiner): Avoidance of streams and waterways supporting Topeka shiner habitat is a key consideration. Additional coordination and data requests may be needed to identify specific stream segments where the species occurs.
- Wetlands and Federal Easements: Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding wetland easements remains ongoing. Project routing will continue to avoid wetland fill and minimize impacts where practicable.
- Avian and Bat Considerations: Tree clearing and construction activities may be subject to seasonal timing restrictions to protect migratory birds and bats. Where timing restrictions cannot be met, alternative minimization or mitigation measures may be considered.
- General Agency Feedback: SDGFP indicated no significant constraints at this stage that would preclude advancement of the Project. Continued avoidance and minimization of impacts through route refinement and project design was encouraged.

Next Steps

- The Project team will submit a preferred route through the Environmental Review Tool for formal agency review.
- SDGFP will provide written feedback following review of the finalized submittal.
- Additional coordination may occur to support resource-specific considerations, including aquatic habitat data needs.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Subject: Introductory meeting
Date: March 19, 2026
Time: 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Location: Teams
Project: PowerOn Midwest - Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border 41051026.00

Meeting attendees

FPAC-NRCS:

- Dale Thiel, District conservationists in Milbank (grant county)
- Jessica Michalski, State conservationist
- Megan Johnson, Business operationist (Brookings)
- Valorie Dupraz, Assistant state conservationist
- Michelle Burke, Asisstnat state conservationist (brookings) field operationist
- Deron Ruesch, Resource unit conservationist (Sioux falls – 5 county which includes brookings)

Xcel Energy (Xcel) – Michelle Bissonnette
Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) – Aaron Mielke and Anna Kadrie

Meeting minutes

- Introductions and Xcel-provided project overview
- Barr reviewed current route and where some options are still being evaluated
- Valorie - How you identify your easements? What database and which agency easements did you review?
    - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State – can't remember the exact dataset
    - Includes both easements and lands owned in fee
    - Land agents start pulling titlework information for all of the properties to review the easements.

- There are questions on what it is telling us it is sometimes (wetland vs grassland). Sometimes unsure if covers the entire parcel or just a portion of the parcel, which wetlands, etc.

- Valorie – There was recently an instance where cooperator was pulling title and completing work on title information and the easement did not show up on the title search. How you would like to coordinate to review the proposed line to ensure that is no oversight?
- Michelle – Can send over the project shapefile for review.
- Aaron – what are the easement types that you manage?
    - Valorie – It is a type of federal easement, wetland reserve easements. The rights that are purchased with those may vary from other types of easement (like USFW). The process is different if you are crossing an easement associated with NRCS and have different restrictions. The process would be different to request a structure be placed on an easement. Agricultural land easements (versus wetland) are less restrictive. Not many on eastern side of state and don't expect that they would be crossed. If there is an issue it would be due to a wetland related easements.
- MIchelle – USFW discussed that as long as we don't put a pole in easement, the project can still cross the land. Is there a definition or rule of thumb to help understand?
    - Valorie – No not directly, have not processed the overhead easement types before so will need to research more. To place a pole in the wetland easement would be difficult and takes a long time to process. Anything that would disturb ground on easement is a NEPA process.
- Michelle – who should we coordinate with in sending the shapefiles?
    - Valorie will get back us on which contact to send to .
        - *Valorie added her email in the chat to send the shapefile (.shp) or file geodatabase to.*
- Jessica – At some point in time are you going to be looking at farmland protection policy act? Whats the plan around that? Is there anything Michelle needs from local field staff?

- Michelle – We haven't met yet with the farm service center, that is the next and last meeting with agencies. As far as any information that can be provided, anything that we should include in the application would be helpful.
- Aaron – More information is needed on this. Routing has followed the criteria to minimize impacts to farming by following parcel and field boundaries, etc. and working with landowners to move lines based on landowners requests. That was an issue that was brought up with the Deuel County ordinance – requiring setback wasn't always the best thing for landowners because pushing it 2000 feet from a house would limit where you could put it on the property. Landowners can sign a waiver to allow it to go closer to the residence.

- Jessica – farmland protection policy act is about permanently converting prime farmlands to non agricultural use. What is the footprint of the amount of the land for each of the towers for permanent conversion?
  - 50 x 50 feet and the span is about five towers per mile.
  - Aaron – part of the application is working with SSURGO soil dataset and calculating approximately how much land would be converted. We calculate how much land is prime farmland within the ROW and estimate how much will be impacted.
- Michelle – If there is information or literature that should be directed to us that would be appreciated. We are looking at applications that have been completed for PUC and CUP previously but anything that can be shared with us is appreciated.
- Jessica – Can send over anything they think is helpful. Anything else that the field office staff need to be aware of other than just a broad understanding of the project? Will look at easements from the state office. Anything else we should be thinking of?
  - Michelle – once shapefiles are received, comparing with what they have for easement data and information and finding any gaps will be helpful.
  - Aaron – Easement review is most important so that we can route the project effectively and avoid NEPA requirements and easements.

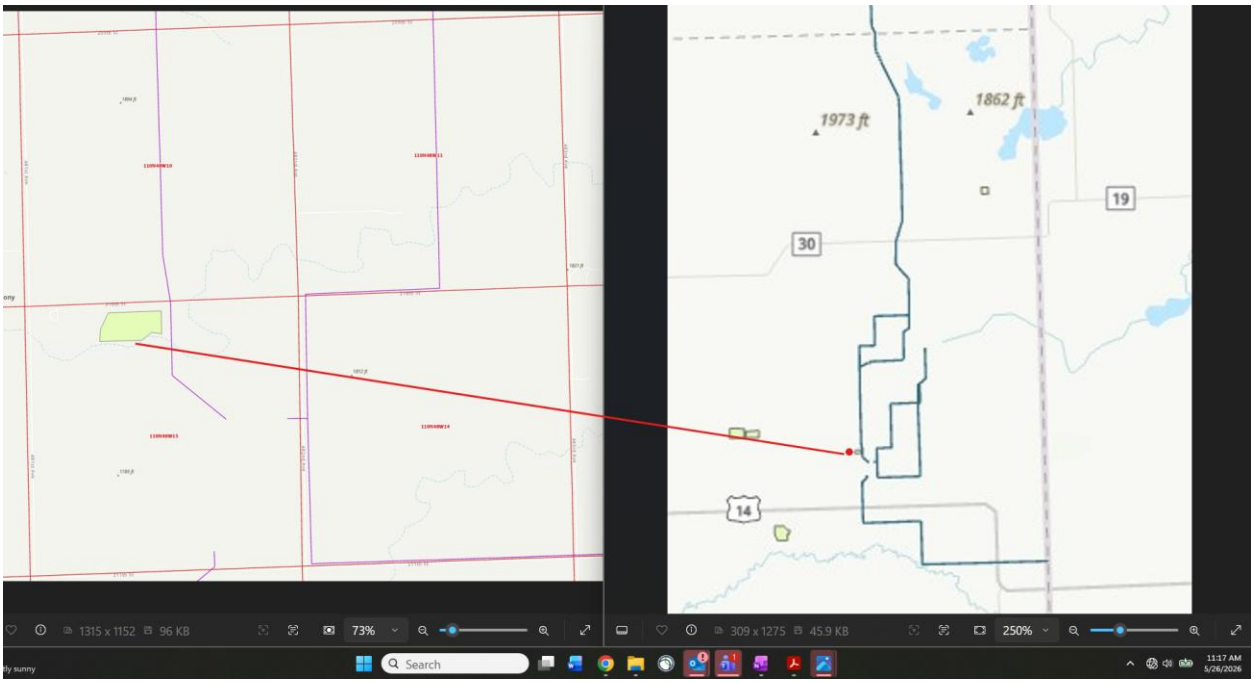
Action items

Action item	Status
Barr will send a shapefile to valorie.dupraz@usda.gov	
FPAC – NRCS will review shapefile for easements that would be impacted	

From: Dupraz, Valorie - FPAC-NRCS, SD [valorie.dupraz@usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 3:24 PM
To: Aaron M. Mielke[AMielke@barr.com]
CC: Bissonnette, Michelle[Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com]; Michalski, Jessica - FPAC-NRCS, SD[jessica.michalski@usda.gov]; Flanery, David - FPAC-NRCS, SD[david.flanery@usda.gov]
Subject: Easement Verification
Attachments: Screenshot 2026-05-26 094526.jpg; Screenshot 2026-05-26 094657.jpg; Screenshot 2026-05-26 100505.jpg; Screenshot 2026-05-26 100551.jpg; Screenshot 2026-05-26 100948.jpg; Screenshot 2026-05-26 101040.jpg

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of your organization.

Aaron,
Thank you for the shape file! There are no easements within the proposed route/s you shared. Some easements are close but none overlap.
I've included some rough screen shots to serve as a reference if the route is edited. I pasted a screen shot below of the planned route location relatively close to an existing easement for your awareness.
I also followed up regarding any restrictions for overhead lines. In most cases, the agency has no restriction to the lines suspended over the easement. If ground disturbing activities occurred on the easement, we'd require a NEPA assessment and an extensive easement administrative action process.
Please let me know if you have any questions.

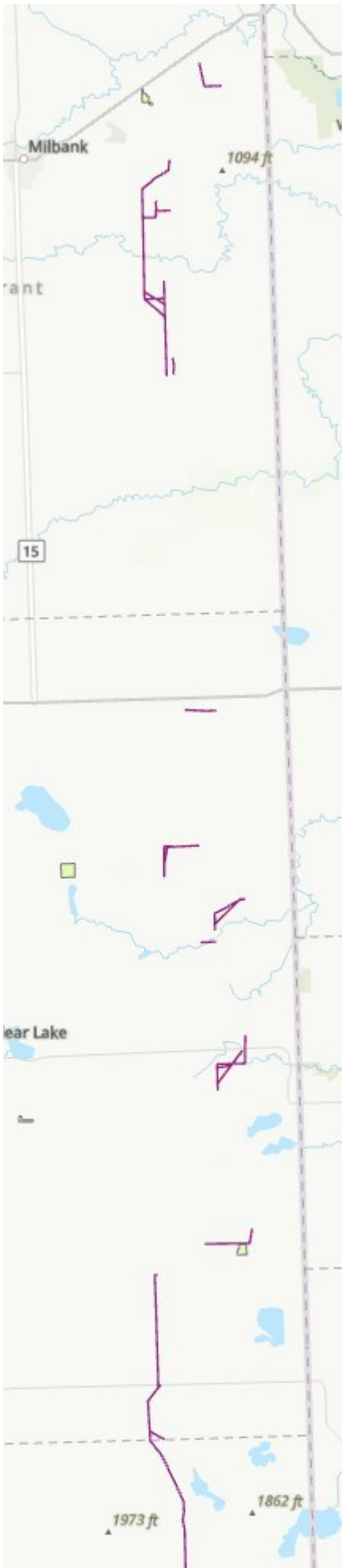


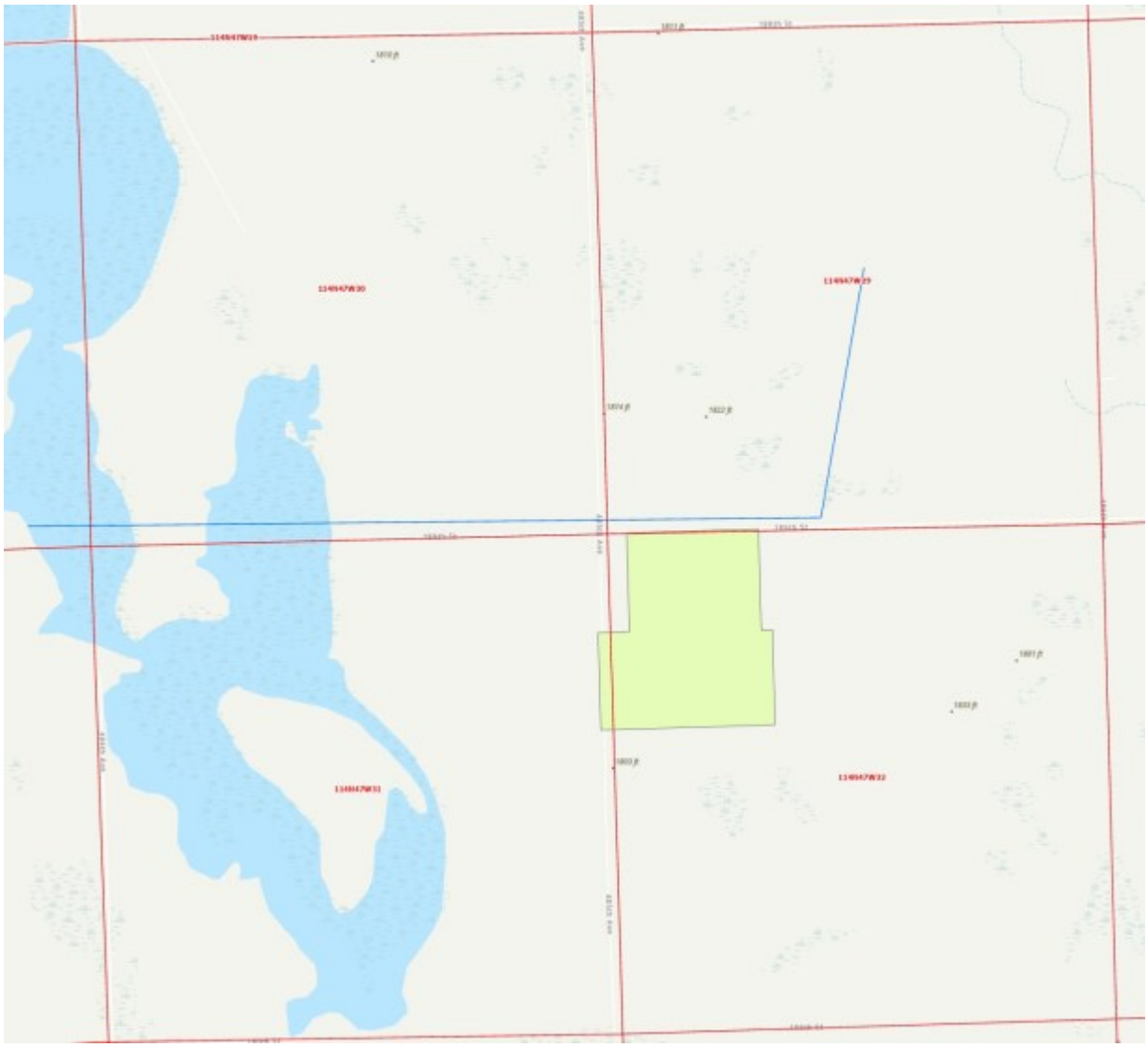
Valorie Dupraz
Assistant State Conservationist for Programs
USDA-NRCS | South Dakota

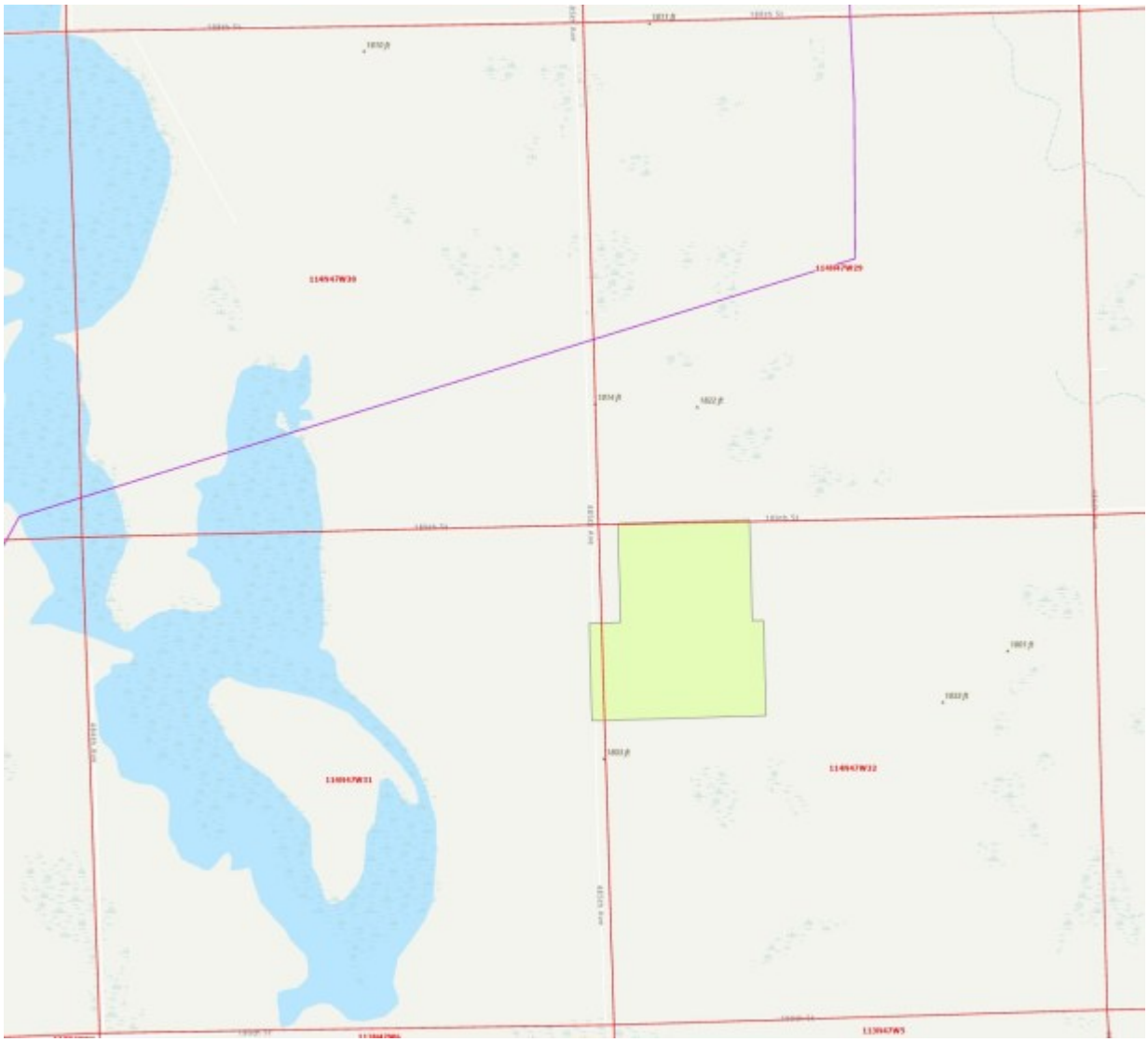
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service
200 4th ST SW Suite 203, Huron, SD 57350
Office Number: (605) 352-1226
c: (605) 690-6724

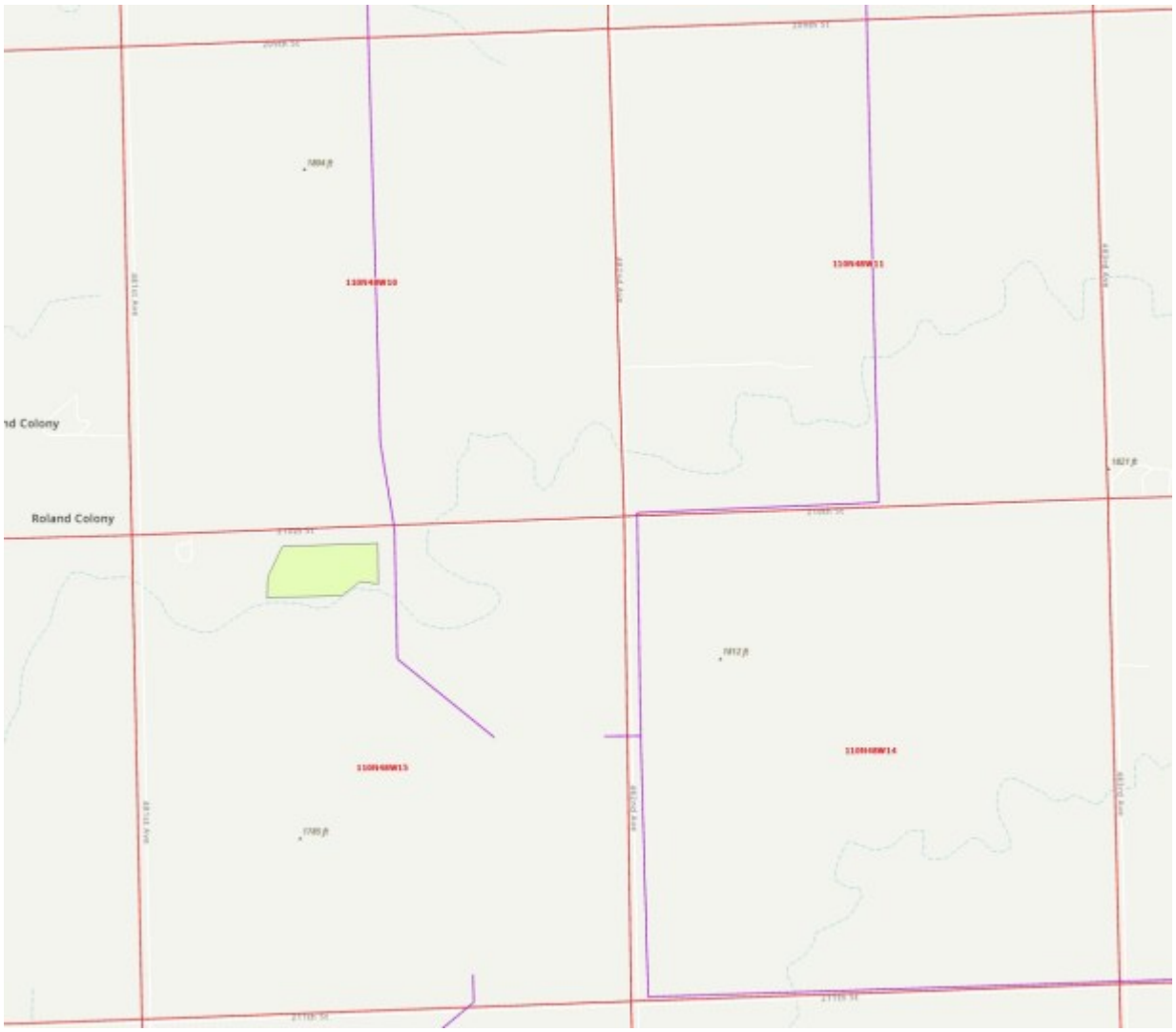
This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

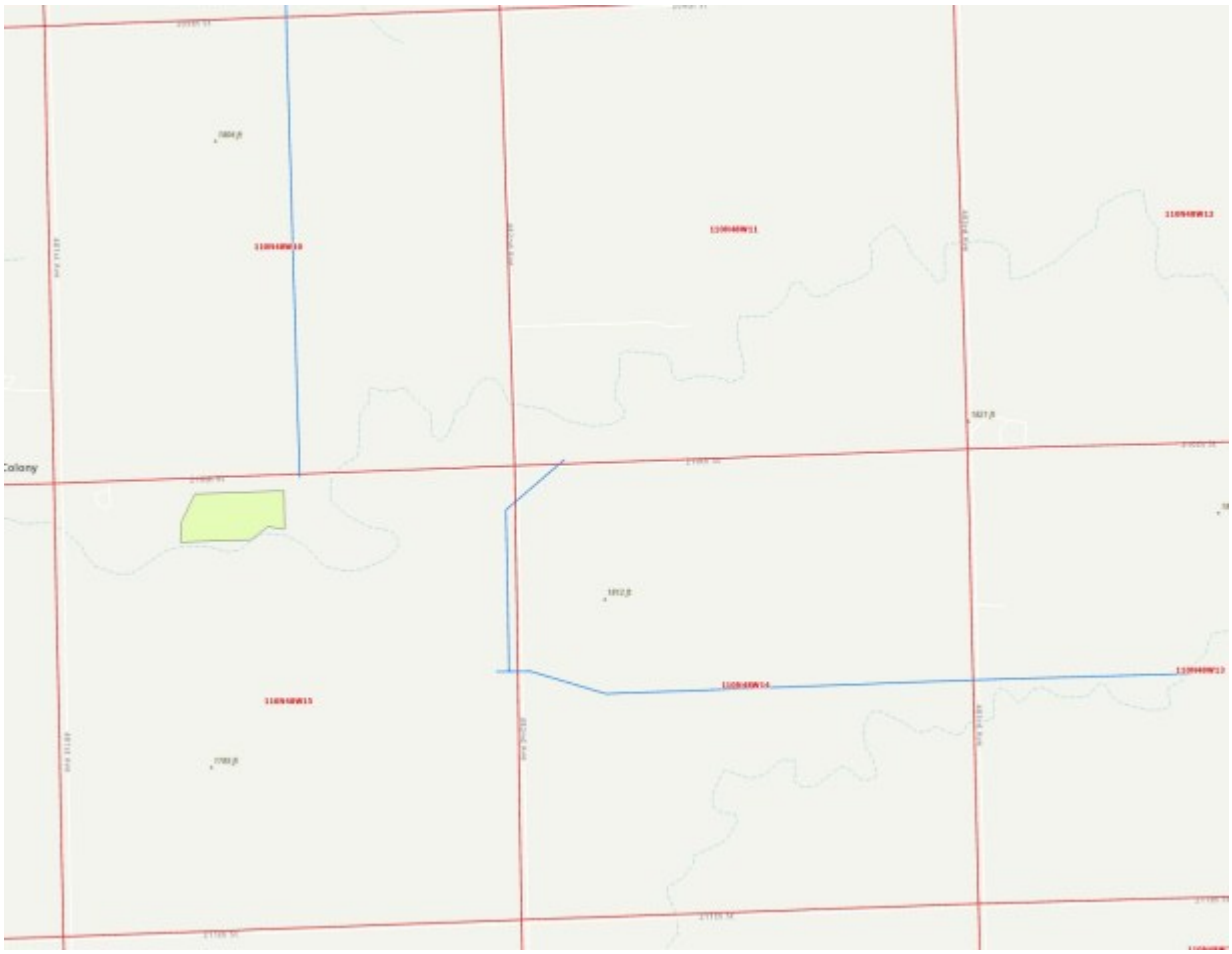
Big Stone
National
Wildlife Refuge
Milbank
1094 ft
Grant
15
212
Clear Lake
68
1862 ft
1973 ft


Milbank
1094 ft
15
ear Lake
1973 ft
1862 ft




114W29
114W32
114W31
113W5


Roland Colony


Colony

From: Jessica L. Butler [JButler@barr.com]
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 2:18 PM
To: Kim, Daniel H[daniel_kim@fws.gov]
CC: Bissonnette, Michelle[Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com]; Rogers, Timothy G[Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com]; Sarah L. Johnson[SJohnson@barr.com]; Aaron M. Mielke[AMielke@barr.com]
Subject: RE: Big Stone South to Brookings/ MN Border

Hi Dan,
I just wanted to let you know that I just submitted a new IPaC query for the Big Stone South to Brookings project. I added you as a member in IPaC but here is the project code: 2026-0096918

The shapefile I uploaded today is the most current version of the proposed route. There is a possibility that things could change in certain areas as the project progresses.

Please let us know if you have any questions.
Thanks,
Jess

Jessica L. Butler

Senior Ecologist
JButler@barr.com | 952.832.2694
Minneapolis, MN | barr.com

From: Jessica L. Butler
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 1:16 PM
To: 'Bissonnette, Michelle' <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>; Kim, Daniel H <daniel_kim@fws.gov>; Aaron M. Mielke <AMielke@barr.com>; Sarah L. Johnson <SJohnson@barr.com>; Rogers, Timothy G <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: RE: Big Stone South to Brookings/ MN Border

Hi Dan,
We have obtained an IPaC official species list for the project, the project code is: 2026-0064275.

Please let us know if you have any questions.
Thanks,
Jess

Jessica L. Butler

Senior Ecologist
JButler@barr.com | 952.832.2694

From: Bissonnette, Michelle <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 6:18 PM

To: Kim, Daniel H <daniel_kim@fws.gov>; Aaron M. Mielke <amielke@barr.com>; Sarah L. Johnson <sjohnson@barr.com>; Rogers, Timothy G <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>; Jessica L. Butler <jbutler@barr.com>
Subject: Re: Big Stone South to Brookings/ MN Border

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of your organization.

Dan,

Thank you for your response to our letter regarding the Big Stone So to Brookings/MN Border Project. I am copying Aaron Mielke, Sarah Johnson, and Jessica Butler from Barr Engineering, our consultant for this project. Jessica will be sending you the route information to obtain the official species list and obtain an IPaC number.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Michelle Bissonnette

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Kim, Daniel H <daniel_kim@fws.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:36 AM
To: Bissonnette, Michelle <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>
Subject: Big Stone South to Brookings/ MN Border

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Ms. Bissonnette,

Thank you for contacting the South Dakota Ecological Services Offices. We look forward to engaging with you over the Big Stone South to Brookings east to the MN border project. In general, the USFWS (the Service) recommends that any new lines are co-located with existing lines when possible. New lines should minimize impacts on grassland habitats, and avoid critical habitat for Dakota Skipper. In addition, staging areas for equipment should also avoid grassland areas, especially areas identified as native prairie. As the Service wishes to document all communications, please provide the IPaC number for this project so the progress maybe properly tracked through the USFWS system. Upon receipt of the IPaC number, the South Dakota ES office will provide an official return letter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments,

Dan

Daniel H. Kim Ph.D.
Grassland Bird and Prairie Pollinator Biologist
Ecological Services

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
420 South Garfield Avenue, Suite 400
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Cell Phone: (605)-280-6090
Fax: (605)-224-1416
Email: daniel_kim@fws.gov

June 8th, 2026
PowerOn Midwest SD Segment WAPA Meeting
2:30pm-3:30pm CST

Attendance:

WAPA

- Benjamin Hammer
- Jessica Williams
- Sara baker – PM
- Todd Meyers
- Cory Huber

Xcel Energy/Barr

- Michelle Bissonnette
- Tim Rogers
- Aaron Mielke
- Anna Kadrie
- Tim Mauseth
- Jesse Lyon
- Eric Farnsworth
- Shauna Braun

Meeting Agenda: Brief overview of PowerOn Midwest, introductions, maps and engineering questions, questions about process, environmental discussion, timelines, final questions.

- PowerOn Midwest SD slideshow – Michelle
- ArcGIS online review – Aaron
    - Verifying Xcel's Brookings County substation is expanding, not the WAPA substation.
        - Yes, it is an expansion to the substation in Brookings County Substation to the North. As well as an expansion that is at a more southwestern parcel.
- Four crossings are being requested, but there are actually eight crossing options that WAPA would need to send data for.
    - 1) Deuel County Crossing - one crossing (two potential options) in Deuel County that are still on the table
        - East side crossing: Close to the line, 230 kV double circuit line. Lattice tower somewhat close to the line.
        - Average structure height on the double circuit 230 is 155 ft top of steel structure.

    - 2) Brookings County - one crossing (two potential options) by 48rd and 202nd street.
        - Crossing the 345 kV line, structure is 300 feet off the crossing and likely 150 ft tall.
        - Average height of 345 line is 85 ft to top of steel structure
    - 3) Brookings County - two route options for a 345kv line connecting the substation expansion to the substation expansion parcel.
        - There is going to be another 115 kV line from the WAPA substation that will need to be crossed. Design will start in 2027. Might have to cross twice with the 345kv and the 765kv.
    - 4) Brookings County - One crossing (unclear on where in that area) area by Medary Creek.
- Questions from Xcel:
    - Are there any restrictions on the crossings themselves? Does Xcel need to keep the WAPA structures outside of the ROW or any other restrictions for spotting the structures?
        - Typically WAPA doesn't want other structures in ROW – 125 ft.
            - That should be manageable, span lengths are 1200-1400 feet, so would be able to span the ROW.
            - If Xcel is going tall to cross, the span lengths would shrink so that the structures can stay as low as they can.
    - Could the WAPA facilities be modified in any way to lower them and help the PowerOn structures stay below 250?
        - WAPA has not ever modified/lowered crossings.
    - How tall are the existing WAPA facilities? This would help understand how tall PowerOn facilities need to be.
        - Can get basic tower design and what the heights are. Majority is modeled in PLS, some might not be.
- Action Item: Barr will send the potential routes as a KMZ.
- Action Item: WAPA wants a written request for data and shapefiles and non-disclosure agreement.
    - WAPA can get a half mile KMZ file per segment to cover both potential routes at each crossing point.
    - Send to Todd and Cory, CC everyone else on the email.
- Action Item: Environmental permitting person is not on the call, PowerOn group to send slide deck over for their review with any other environmental questions/context.

- Unsure with changes to NEPA, but WAPA does not think that there should be anything permitting-wise.
    - If structures need to change and be lowered then that would be a different issue and permitting might have to happen then.
    - Lowering structures they would have to do some kind of environmental because of the change and would have to move dirt.
    - WAPA estimates three years minimum if structures need to be changed because we would have to acquire ROW, go through design, and environmental review.
    - Because of staffing capacity it will take a long time for WAPA to work on the project.
- WAPA wondering if there are safety concerns for maintenance when they are near their lines?
    - PowerOn is doing a generalized induction study and will look at specific locations when final route is selected.
- WAPA voiced concern on amount of time and effort this will be on their part. If more than minimal effort, WAPA would need a formal agreement with compensation. WAPA would not charge for a simple crossing agreement.
    - Recurring meetings are not proposed at this point with WAPA. PowerOn is at the point with landowners to try to find the most viable route. We are looking for information to how we get across the WAPA line to determine if they are feasible. If a crossing is more finalized, then at that point there is the potential to need a more formal agreement and compensation.
    - Once NDA is sent and shapefiles are sent, assume that there would be a follow-up point for a call and will have a good idea whether or not a more formal agreement with compensation needs to be drafted.

From: Aaron M. Mielke [AMielke@barr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 7:46 AM
To: owen.fagerhaug@usda.gov[owen.fagerhaug@usda.gov]; Bissonnette, Michelle[Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com]; jennifer.chavez@usda.gov[jennifer.chavez@usda.gov]
CC: Mauseth, Timothy S[Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com]; Sarah L. Johnson[SJohnson@barr.com]
Subject: Re: FSA Contact
Attachments: 20260608_Barr_Current_Alignment.zip

Owen,
The route won't be finalized until the permit is issued by the PUC as we are still working with landowners to acquire easements. The attached zip file contains a shapefile of our current route for the Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project. This may change but is our best guess at this time. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Aaron M. Mielke

Senior GIS/Environmental Consultant
AMielke@barr.com | 952.832.2965 | Cell: 952.412.2845
Minneapolis, MN | barr.com

From: Bissonnette, Michelle <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 7:18 AM
To: Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Fagerhaug, Owen - FPAC-FSA, SD <Owen>; Neugebauer, Larissa - FPAC-FSA, SD <Larissa.Neugebauer@usda.gov>
Cc: Byers, Dawn - FPAC-FSA, SD <dawn.byers@usda.gov>; Littlefield, Steven - FPAC-FSA, SD <steven.littlefield@usda.gov>; Chavez, Jennifer - FPAC-FSA, SD <jennifer.chavez@usda.gov>; Rogers, Timothy G <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>; Aaron M. Mielke <amielke@barr.com>; Sarah L. Johnson <sjohnson@barr.com>
Subject: RE: FSA Contact

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of your organization.

Hi Owen,

Thank you for the information you provided below. We are finalizing the route, and should be ready to send the kmz file to you in a week or so. I have been setting up introductory meetings with South Dakota state and federal agencies. Would you and your team have time to meet with us virtually the week of June15? Please send a couple of dates/times that work for you, and I will be happy to set up a meeting to review the project and route.

Thank you,

Michelle Bissonnette
Xcel Energy
Siting and Land Rights – Contractor (Merjent)
414 Nicollet Mall – 6th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401
P: (612) 598-2023
E: michelle.bissonnette@xcelenergy.com
MAKING ENERGY WORK BETTER

From: Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2026 3:21 PM
To: Fagerhaug, Owen - FPAC-FSA, SD <owen.fagerhaug@usda.gov>; Neugebauer, Larissa - FPAC-FSA, SD <Larissa.Neugebauer@usda.gov>
Cc: Byers, Dawn - FPAC-FSA, SD <dawn.byers@usda.gov>; Littlefield, Steven - FPAC-FSA, SD <steven.littlefield@usda.gov>; Chavez, Jennifer - FPAC-FSA, SD <jennifer.chavez@usda.gov>; Bissonnette, Michelle <Michelle.Bissonnette@xcelenergy.com>; Rogers, Timothy G <Timothy.G.Rogers@xcelenergy.com>; Aaron M. Mielke <amielke@barr.com>
Subject: RE: FSA Contact

Good afternoon, Owen – thank you the additional feedback noted below. This is very helpful information for our team as we continue with our efforts on landowner engagement regarding Options For Easements.

I've cc'd Michelle Bissonnette, Tim Rogers, and Aaron Mielke onto this email thread. Michelle, Tim, and Aaron are heavily involved with the routing and permitting efforts for this project. They have been reaching out and meeting with local, state, and federal agencies to introduce the project. I'll hand it over to them to provide you with a shapefile/kmz of the project route and provide you with further project details.

Best regards,

Tim Mauseth
Xcel Energy
Principal Land Agent, Siting & Land Rights
414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55345
P: 612.216.9371 **C:** 612.554.5396
E: timothy.s.mauseth@xcelenergy.com
MAKING ENERGY WORK BETTER

From: Fagerhaug, Owen - FPAC-FSA, SD <owen.fagerhaug@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:49 AM

To: Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>; Neugebauer, Larissa - FPAC-FSA, SD <Larissa.Neugebauer@usda.gov>
Cc: Byers, Dawn - FPAC-FSA, SD <dawn.byers@usda.gov>; Littlefield, Steven - FPAC-FSA, SD <steven.littlefield@usda.gov>; Chavez, Jennifer - FPAC-FSA, SD <jennifer.chavez@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FSA Contact

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Mr. Mauseth, thanks for reaching out. Please see responses below in red. I have included additional FSA specialists as each have their own area of expertise as it relates to this project. Please let me know if you have any additional concerns or questions.

Owen Fagerhaug
Program Manager
Farm Service Agency | SD State FSA Office

USDA U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Farm Service Agency
200 Fourth St SW, Room 308, Huron, SD 57350
p: (605) 352-1175 | c: (605) 350-0497

From: Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 3:37 PM
To: Neugebauer, Larissa - FPAC-FSA, SD <Larissa.Neugebauer@usda.gov>
Cc: Fagerhaug, Owen - FPAC-FSA, SD <owen.fagerhaug@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: FSA Contact

Hi Larissa – thanks for your time this afternoon and for the follow up email. Here is a link to our project website which includes an interactive route map. PowerOn Midwest | South Dakota

Here are high level project details:

- Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power are partnering to construct a new 765kV Transmission Line from Brookings County (near White) to Big Stone City. Once the route is finalized, please send the GIS shapefile to myself and Jennifer Chavez, this will allow us to identify the affected footprint of construction and resulting easement.
- Timeline:
    - Route Development (including open houses and public engagement): Q4 2025 – present
    - Option For Easement Acquisition: Q2 2026-2028
        - The Option for Easement will give the utility the right to exercise the Option For Easement in the future after project approvals are received.
    - Submit State Facility Permit: Q3 2026
        - Expect 12+month process

        - Local CUP Permit to be submitted during this timeframe or proceeding approval
    - Easement Acquisition and Design Engineering: Q4 2027 – 2028
    - Construction 2029 – 2032

We are in the early stages of acquiring Options For Easements and as we're engaging landowners, we have encountered at least one property with land in CRP. We plan to include language in our Option Agreement that will explain how the project will compensate the landowner (make them whole) for any impacts the transmission line and construction of the line would have to their CRP contract. Your feedback will help us draft the appropriate language. I'd like to confirm the following information:

- What is the FSA policy on the partial takings of CRP land for transmission line projects and compliance related issues for the landowner? The local County FSA Committees can approve to allow the permissive use of the CRP acreage for public benefit and improvements to the infostructure. The construction will only be allowed to be conducted outside the primary nesting season dates of May 1- Aug 1. Any request to conduct during the primary nesting season dates will not be approved unless the CRP contract acreage is terminated prior to construction. Partial terminations can be approved if the approved cover has been established and CRP contract is at least 2 years old.
    - Temporary construction impacts – Entire project/construction impact will have to be evaluated to allow the activity.
    - Permanent footprint impacts from lattice structure locations – These lattice structure locations will have to be terminated, as the cover cannot be maintained according to the conservation plan on the affected acreage.
    - Restoration requirements – If the activity is approved to allow the construction outside the Primary Nesting Season, any destruction of cover must be restored at the participants expense. The restoration will get the acreage back to the required cover identified in the conservation plan of operation.
- We plan to keep CRP related costs/impacts separate from the easement payment to the landowner. Would we pay the landowner directly for CRP related costs/expenses or would we pay the FSA directly? FSA considers the CRP contract signatories with a share greater than 0% to be responsible for staying compliant with the terms and conditions of the conservation plan. If there is any reductio of payment because of the construction activity the receivables will be established in the participants name. Probably best to pay the landowner, as the landowner will be responsible for the outstanding recievable.
- Attached is a draft Preliminary Easement Sketch showing where we're proposing to route the line on a specific property. We won't know what the actual impacts will be until we exercise the easement and construct the line. Once the route is finalized, FSA will need a copy to determine the impacts of the project on CRP acreage.

Any other feedback you can provide would be greatly appreciated. In past projects with different municipalities, the municipality has obtained a written statement from the landowner to allow the release of the personal identifiable information regarding the CRP contract specifics. If that statement is obtained FSA can share the information directly with the municipality.

Best regards,

Tim Mauseth
Xcel Energy
Principal Land Agent, Siting & Land Rights
414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55345
P: 612.216.9371 **C:** 612.554.5396
E: timothy.s.mauseth@xcelenergy.com
MAKING ENERGY WORK BETTER

From: Neugebauer, Larissa - FPAC-FSA, SD <Larissa.Neugebauer@usda.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 3:11 PM
To: Mauseth, Timothy S <Timothy.S.Mauseth@xcelenergy.com>
Cc: Fagerhaug, Owen - FPAC-FSA, SD <owen.fagerhaug@usda.gov>
Subject: FW: FSA Contact

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Hi Tim,

You can send information regarding the powerline here- I have CC'd Owen with our State Office on that will have to be in the loop with this as well.

Thanks!

Larissa Neugebauer
Program Analyst
Brookings County FSA

Farm Service Agency
205 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006
p: (605) 692-8003

From: Neugebauer, Larissa - FPAC-FSA, SD
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 2:03 PM

To: timothy.s.mauseth@excelenergy.com
Subject: FSA Contact

Hi, you can send communications here!

Thanks!

Larissa Neugebauer
Program Analyst
Brookings County FSA

Farm Service Agency
205 6th Street, Brookings, SD 57006
p: (605) 692-8003

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

20250624
12003400
1.0
FALSE

CalculateField Proposed_Alignments County "Grant" VB #
UpdateSchema "CIMDATA=<CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection
xsi:type='typens:CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection'
xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance'
xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.3.0'><FeatureDataset>BSS_2_BOK_Rout
ing_Data</FeatureDataset><WorkspaceConnectionString>DATABASE=I:\Projects\41\05\1026\C
urrent_Project_Data\GeoDatabases\Project_Data.gdb</WorkspaceConnectionString><Workspace
Factory>FileGDB</WorkspaceFactory><Dataset>BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments</Dataset
><DatasetType>esriDTFeatureClass</DatasetType></CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection>"
<operationSequence><workflow><AddField><field_name>Mileage</field_name><field_type>D
OUBLE</field_type><field_is_nullable>True</field_is_nullable><field_is_required>False</field
_is_required></AddField></workflow></operationSequence>
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS to BOK Proposed Alignments" "Mileage LENGTH" "US
Survey Miles" #
GEOGCS["GCS_WGS_1984",DATUM["D_WGS_1984",SPHEROID["WGS_1984",6378137.0,2
98.257223563]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]] "Same as
input"
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS to BOK Proposed Alignments" "Mileage LENGTH" "US
Survey Miles" #
PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D
_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Gree
nwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PAR
AMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Cen
tral_Meridian",-
99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["
Meter",1.0]] "Same as input"
UpdateSchema "CIMDATA=<CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection
xsi:type='typens:CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection'
xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance'
xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.4.0'><FeatureDataset>BSS_2_BOK_Rout
ing_Data</FeatureDataset><WorkspaceConnectionString>DATABASE=I:\Projects\41\05\1026\C
urrent_Project_Data\GeoDatabases\Project_Data.gdb</WorkspaceConnectionString><Workspace
Factory>FileGDB</WorkspaceFactory><Dataset>BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments</Dataset
><DatasetType>esriDTFeatureClass</DatasetType></CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection>"
<operationSequence><workflow><AddField><field_name>Type</field_name><field_type>TEX
T</field_type><field_length>40</field_length><field_is_nullable>True</field_is_nullable><field
_is_required>False</field_is_required></AddField></workflow></operationSequence>
UpdateSchema "CIMDATA=<CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection
xsi:type='typens:CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection'
xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance'
xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.4.0'><FeatureDataset>BSS_2_BOK_Rout
ing_Data</FeatureDataset><WorkspaceConnectionString>DATABASE=I:\Projects\41\05\1026\C
urrent_Project_Data\GeoDatabases\Project_Data.gdb</WorkspaceConnectionString><Workspace
Factory>FileGDB</WorkspaceFactory><Dataset>BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments</Dataset
><DatasetType>esriDTFeatureClass</DatasetType></CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection>"

<operationSequence><workflow><AddField><field_name>Name</field_name><field_type>TEXT</field_type><field_length>40</field_length><field_is_nullable>True</field_is_nullable><field_is_required>False</field_is_required></AddField></workflow></operationSequence>
CalculateField "Big Stone South to Brookings" Name !Route_Name! PYTHON3 # TEXT NO_ENFORCE_DOMAINS
DeleteField "Big Stone South to Brookings" County;Route_Name DELETE_FIELDS
CalculateGeometryAttributes "Big Stone South to Brookings" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_15N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-93.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["Meter",1.0]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateField "BSS to BOK Updated Routes" Type "Crossing Option" VB #
CalculateGeometryAttributes "LRTP22 BSS-BOK 20250119" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["Meter",1.0]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateGeometryAttributes "PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS\LRTP22 BSS-BOK 2-2-2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transverse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cartesian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing (Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateGeometryAttributes "PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS\LRTP22 BSS-BOK 2-2-2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transverse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cartesian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing (Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateField "PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS\LRTP22 BSS-BOK 2-2-2026" Name "March 2026" PYTHON3 # TEXT NO_ENFORCE_DOMAINS
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments April2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transv

erse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cartesian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing (Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments May 2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["WGS 1984 UTM Zone 14N_1",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_WGS_1984",DATUM["D_WGS_1984",ELLIPSOID["WGS_1984",6378137.0,298.257223563]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transverse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",1640416.666666667,LENGTHUNIT["Foot_US",0.3048006096012192]],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0,LENGTHUNIT["Foot_US",0.3048006096012192]],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cartesian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing (Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Foot_US",0.3048006096012192]] SAME_AS_INPUT CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments April 2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transverse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cartesian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing (Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT ExportFeatures "LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments" I:\Projects\41\05\1026\Data_Submittals\Xcel\20260608_Barr_Current_Alignment\LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment.shp # NOT_USE_ALIAS "Description "Description" true true false 200 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments,Description,0,199;SHAPE_Length "SHAPE_Length" false true true 8 Double 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments,SHAPE_Length,-1,-1;Mileage "Mileage" true true false 8 Double 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments,Mileage,-1,-1;Type "Type" true true false 40 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments,Type,0,39;Name "Name" true true false 40 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments,Name,0,39;Segment "Segment" true true false 20 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments,Segment,0,19" #

file://\\barr.com\gis\Projects\41\05\1026\Data_Submittals\Xcel\20260608_Barr_Current_Alignment\LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment.shp
Local Area Network

LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment
002
0.000

Projected
GCS_North_American_1983
Linear Unit: Meter (1.000000)
NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N

<ProjectedCoordinateSystem xsi:type='typens:ProjectedCoordinateSystem' xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance' xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema' xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.6.0'><WKT>PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["Meter",1.0],AUTHORITY["EPSG",26914]]</WKT><XOrigin>-5120900</XOrigin><YOrigin>-9998100</YOrigin><XYScale>450445547.3910538</XYScale><ZOrigin>-100000</ZOrigin><ZScale>10000</ZScale><MOrigin>-100000</MOrigin><MScale>10000</MScale><XYTolerance>0.001</XYTolerance><ZTolerance>0.001</ZTolerance><MTolerance>0.001</MTolerance><HighPrecision>true</HighPrecision><WKID>26914</WKID><LatestWKID>26914</LatestWKID></ProjectedCoordinateSystem>

20260608
11280800
20260608
11280800

Microsoft Windows 10 Version 10.0 (Build 26100) ; Esri ArcGIS 13.6.3.59530

LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment

Shapefile

0.000

dataset

EPSG
6.11(3.0.1)

0

Simple

FALSE
0
FALSE
FALSE

LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment
Feature Class
0

FID
FID
OID
4
0
0
Internal feature number.
Esri

Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.

Shape
Shape
Geometry
0
0
0
Feature geometry.
Esri

Coordinates defining the features.

Descriptio
Descriptio
String
200
0
0

SHAPE_Leng
SHAPE_Leng
Double
19
0
0

Mileage
Mileage
Double
19
0
0

Type
Type
String
40
0
0

Name
Name
String
40
0
0

Segment
Segment
String

20
0
0

20260608

20250624
12003400
1.0
FALSE

CalculateField Proposed_Alignments County "Grant" VB #
UpdateSchema "CIMDATA=<CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection
xsi:type='typens:CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection'
xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance'
xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.3.0'><FeatureDataset>BSS_2_BOK_Rout
ing_Data</FeatureDataset><WorkspaceConnectionString>DATABASE=I:\Projects\41\05\1026\C
urrent_Project_Data\GeoDatabases\Project_Data.gdb</WorkspaceConnectionString><Workspace
Factory>FileGDB</WorkspaceFactory><Dataset>BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments</Dataset
><DatasetType>esriDTFeatureClass</DatasetType></CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection>"
<operationSequence><workflow><AddField><field_name>Mileage</field_name><field_type>D
OUBLE</field_type><field_is_nullable>True</field_is_nullable><field_is_required>False</field
_is_required></AddField></workflow></operationSequence>
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS to BOK Proposed Alignments" "Mileage LENGTH" "US
Survey Miles" #
GEOGCS["GCS_WGS_1984",DATUM["D_WGS_1984",SPHEROID["WGS_1984",6378137.0,2
98.257223563]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]] "Same as
input"
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS to BOK Proposed Alignments" "Mileage LENGTH" "US
Survey Miles" #
PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D
_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Gree
nwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PAR
AMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Cen
tral_Meridian",-
99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["
Meter",1.0]] "Same as input"
UpdateSchema "CIMDATA=<CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection
xsi:type='typens:CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection'
xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance'
xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.4.0'><FeatureDataset>BSS_2_BOK_Rout
ing_Data</FeatureDataset><WorkspaceConnectionString>DATABASE=I:\Projects\41\05\1026\C
urrent_Project_Data\GeoDatabases\Project_Data.gdb</WorkspaceConnectionString><Workspace
Factory>FileGDB</WorkspaceFactory><Dataset>BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments</Dataset
><DatasetType>esriDTFeatureClass</DatasetType></CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection>"
<operationSequence><workflow><AddField><field_name>Type</field_name><field_type>TEX
T</field_type><field_length>40</field_length><field_is_nullable>True</field_is_nullable><field
_is_required>False</field_is_required></AddField></workflow></operationSequence>
UpdateSchema "CIMDATA=<CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection
xsi:type='typens:CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection'
xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance'
xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.4.0'><FeatureDataset>BSS_2_BOK_Rout
ing_Data</FeatureDataset><WorkspaceConnectionString>DATABASE=I:\Projects\41\05\1026\C
urrent_Project_Data\GeoDatabases\Project_Data.gdb</WorkspaceConnectionString><Workspace
Factory>FileGDB</WorkspaceFactory><Dataset>BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments</Dataset
><DatasetType>esriDTFeatureClass</DatasetType></CIMFeatureDatasetDataConnection>"

<operationSequence><workflow><AddField><field_name>Name</field_name><field_type>TEXT</field_type><field_length>40</field_length><field_is_nullable>True</field_is_nullable><field_is_required>False</field_is_required></AddField></workflow></operationSequence>
CalculateField "Big Stone South to Brookings" Name !Route_Name! PYTHON3 # TEXT NO_ENFORCE_DOMAINS
DeleteField "Big Stone South to Brookings" County;Route_Name DELETE_FIELDS
CalculateGeometryAttributes "Big Stone South to Brookings" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_15N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-93.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["Meter",1.0]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateField "BSS to BOK Updated Routes" Type "Crossing Option" VB #
CalculateGeometryAttributes "LRTP22 BSS-BOK 20250119" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["Meter",1.0]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateGeometryAttributes "PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS\LRTP22 BSS-BOK 2-2-2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transverse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cartesian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing (Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateGeometryAttributes "PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS\LRTP22 BSS-BOK 2-2-2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transverse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cartesian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing (Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateField "PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS\LRTP22 BSS-BOK 2-2-2026" Name "March 2026" PYTHON3 # TEXT NO_ENFORCE_DOMAINS
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments April2026" "Mileage LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude (lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude (lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transv

erse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],P
ARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-
99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cart
esian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing
(Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments May 2026" "Mileage
LENGTH" MILES_US # PROJCRS["WGS 1984 UTM Zone
14N_1",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_WGS_1984",DATUM["D_WGS_1984",ELLIPSOID["WGS_1
984",6378137.0,298.257223563]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude
(lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude
(lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transv
erse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",1640416.666
666667,LENGTHUNIT["Foot_US",0.3048006096012192]],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0,
LENGTHUNIT["Foot_US",0.3048006096012192]],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-
99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cart
esian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing
(Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Foot_US",0.3048006096012192]] SAME_AS_INPUT
CalculateGeometryAttributes "BSS_to_BOK_Proposed_Alignments April 2026" "Mileage
LENGTH" MILES_US #
PROJCRS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",BASEGEOGCRS["GCS_North_American_1983",DA
TUM["D_North_American_1983",ELLIPSOID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIM
EM["Greenwich",0.0],CS[ellipsoidal,2],AXIS["Latitude
(lat)",north,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Longitude
(lon)",east,ORDER[2]],ANGLEUNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],CONVERSION["Transv
erse_Mercator",METHOD["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],P
ARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-
99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0]],CS[Cart
esian,2],AXIS["Easting (X)",east,ORDER[1]],AXIS["Northing
(Y)",north,ORDER[2]],LENGTHUNIT["Meter",1.0],ID["EPSG","26914"]] SAME_AS_INPUT
ExportFeatures "LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments"
I:\Projects\41\05\1026\Data_Submittals\Xcel\20260608_Barr_Current_Alignment\LRTP22_SD_
Barr_Proposed_Alignment.shp # NOT_USE_ALIAS "Description "Description" true true false
200 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed Alignments,Description,0,199;SHAPE_Length
"SHAPE_Length" false true true 8 Double 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD Proposed
Alignments,SHAPE_Length,-1,-1;Mileage "Mileage" true true false 8 Double 0 0,First,#,LRTP22
SD Proposed Alignments,Mileage,-1,-1;Type "Type" true true false 40 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22
SD Proposed Alignments,Type,0,39;Name "Name" true true false 40 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22 SD
Proposed Alignments,Name,0,39;Segment "Segment" true true false 20 Text 0 0,First,#,LRTP22
SD Proposed Alignments,Segment,0,19" #
PairwiseBuffer LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment
I:\Projects\41\05\1026\Data_Submittals\Xcel\20260608_Barr_Current_Alignment\LRTP22_SD_
Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer.shp "500 Feet" ALL # GEODESIC "0 Meters"
UpdateSchema "CIMDATA=<CIMStandardDataConnection
xsi:type='typens:CIMStandardDataConnection'
xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance'
xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema'
xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.6.0'><WorkspaceFactory>Shapefile</Wor
kspaceFactory><Dataset>LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer</Dataset><Data
setType>esriDTFeatureClass</DatasetType></CIMStandardDataConnection>"
<operationSequence><workflow><AddField><field_name>Name</field_name><field_type>TE
XT</field_type><field_length>255</field_length><field_is_nullable>False</field_is_nullable><f
ield_is_required>False</field_is_required></AddField></workflow></operationSequence>

file://\\barr.com\gis\Projects\41\05\1026\Data_Submittals\Xcel\20260608_Barr_Current_Alignment\LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer.shp
Local Area Network

LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer
002
0.000

Projected
GCS_North_American_1983
Linear Unit: Meter (1.000000)
NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N
<ProjectedCoordinateSystem xsi:type='typens:ProjectedCoordinateSystem' xmlns:xsi='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance' xmlns:xs='http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema' xmlns:typens='http://www.esri.com/schemas/ArcGIS/3.6.0'><WKT>PROJCS["NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_14N",GEOGCS["GCS_North_American_1983",DATUM["D_North_American_1983",SPHEROID["GRS_1980",6378137.0,298.257222101]],PRIMEM["Greenwich",0.0],UNIT["Degree",0.0174532925199433]],PROJECTION["Transverse_Mercator"],PARAMETER["False_Easting",500000.0],PARAMETER["False_Northing",0.0],PARAMETER["Central_Meridian",-99.0],PARAMETER["Scale_Factor",0.9996],PARAMETER["Latitude_Of_Origin",0.0],UNIT["Meter",1.0],AUTHORITY["EPSG",26914]]</WKT><XOrigin>-5120900</XOrigin><YOrigin>-9998100</YOrigin><XYScale>450445547.3910538</XYScale><ZOrigin>-100000</ZOrigin><ZScale>10000</ZScale><MOrigin>-100000</MOrigin><MScale>10000</MScale><XYTolerance>0.001</XYTolerance><ZTolerance>0.001</ZTolerance><MTolerance>0.001</MTolerance><HighPrecision>true</HighPrecision><WKID>26914</WKID><LatestWKID>26914</LatestWKID></ProjectedCoordinateSystem>

{"type":"CIMLayerDocument","version":"3.6.0","build":59530,"layers":["CIMPATH=KMZ_Conversion/LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer.json"],"layerDefinitions":[{"type":"CIMFeatureLayer","name":"LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer","uRI":"CIMPATH=KMZ_Conversion/LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer.json","sourceModifiedTime":{"type":"TimeInstant"},"useSourceMetadata":true,"description":"LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer","layerElevation":{"type":"CIMLayerElevationSurface","elevationSurfaceLayerURI":"CIMPATH=69275abf67234b7d860513e1762c374e.json"},"expanded":true,"layerType":"Operational","showLegends":true,"visibility":true,"displayCacheType":"Permanent","maxDisplayCacheAge":5,"showPopups":true,"serviceLayerID":-1,"refreshRate":-1,"refreshRateUnit":"esriTimeUnitsSeconds","blendingMode":"Alpha","allowDrapingOnIntegratedMesh":true,"autoGenerateFeatureTemplates":true,"featureElevationExpression":"0","featureTable":{"type":"CIMFeatureTable","displayField":"Id","editable":true,"dataConnection":{"type":"CIMStandardDataConnection"},"studyAreaSpatialRel":"esriSpatialRelUndefined","searchOrder":"esriSearchOrderSpatial"},"htmlPopupEnabled":true,"selectable":true,"featureCacheType":"Session","displayFiltersType":"ByScale","featureBlendingMode":"Alpha","layerEffectsMode":"Layer","labelClasses":[{"type":"CIMLabelClass","expression":"$feature.OBJECTID","expressionEngine":"Arcade","featuresToLabel":"AllVisibleFeatures","maplexLabelPlacementProperties":{"type":"CIMMaplexLabelPlacementProperties","featureType":"Polygon","avoidPolygonHoles":true,"canOverrunFeature":true,"canPlaceLabelOutsidePolygon":true,"canRemoveOverlappingLabel":true,"canStackLabel":true,"centerLabelAnchorType":"Symbol","connectionType":"Unambiguous","constrainOffset":"NoConstraint","contourAlignmentType":"Page","contourLadderType":"Straight","contourMaximumAngle":90,"enableConnection":true,"featureWeight":0,"fontHeightReductionLimit":4,"fontHeightReductionStep":0.5,"fontWidthReductionLimit":90,"fontWidthReductionStep":5,"graticuleAlignmentType":"Straight","keyNumberGroupName":"Default","labelBuffer":15,"labelLargestPolygon":false,"labelPriority":-

1,"labelStackingProperties":{"type":"CIMMaplexLabelStackingProperties","stackAlignment":"Choose
Best","maximumNumberOfLines":3,"minimumNumberOfCharsPerLine":3,"maximumNumberOfChar
sPerLine":24,"separators":[{"type":"CIMMaplexStackingSeparator","separator":"
","splitAfter":true},{"type":"CIMMaplexStackingSeparator","separator":",","visible":true,"splitAfter":t
rue}],"trimStackingSeparators":true,"preferToStackLongLabels":true},"lineFeatureType":"General","li
nePlacementMethod":"OffsetCurvedFromLine","maximumLabelOverrun":80,"maximumLabelOverru
nUnit":"Point","minimumFeatureSizeUnit":"Map","multiPartOption":"OneLabelPerPart","offsetAlong
LineProperties":{"type":"CIMMaplexOffsetAlongLineProperties","placementMethod":"BestPositionA
longLine","labelAnchorPoint":"CenterOfLabel","distanceUnit":"Percentage","useLineDirection":true}
,"pointExternalZonePriorities":{"type":"CIMMaplexExternalZonePriorities","aboveLeft":4,"aboveCen
ter":2,"aboveRight":1,"centerRight":3,"belowRight":5,"belowCenter":7,"belowLeft":8,"centerLeft":6},
"pointPlacementMethod":"AroundPoint","polygonAnchorPointType":"GeometricCenter","polygonBo
undaryWeight":0,"polygonExternalZones":{"type":"CIMMaplexExternalZonePriorities","aboveLeft":
4,"aboveCenter":2,"aboveRight":1,"centerRight":3,"belowRight":5,"belowCenter":7,"belowLeft":8,"ce
nterLeft":6},"polygonFeatureType":"General","polygonInternalZones":{"type":"CIMMaplexInternalZ
onePriorities","center":1},"polygonPlacementMethod":"HorizontalInPolygon","primaryOffset":1,"pri
maryOffsetUnit":"Point","removeAmbiguousLabels":"All","removeExtraWhiteSpace":true,"repetition
IntervalUnit":"Map","rotationProperties":{"type":"CIMMaplexRotationProperties","rotationType":"Ar
ithmetic","alignmentType":"Straight"},"secondaryOffset":100,"secondaryOffsetUnit":"Percentage","st
rategyPriorities":{"type":"CIMMaplexStrategyPriorities","stacking":1,"overrun":2,"fontCompression":
3,"fontReduction":4,"abbreviation":5},"thinningDistanceUnit":"Point","truncationMarkerCharacter":".
","truncationMinimumLength":1,"truncationPreferredCharacters":"aeiou","polygonAnchorPointPerime
terInsetUnit":"Point"},"name":"Class 1","priority":-
1,"standardLabelPlacementProperties":{"type":"CIMStandardLabelPlacementProperties","featureType
":"Line","featureWeight":"Low","labelWeight":"High","numLabelsOption":"OneLabelPerName","line
LabelPosition":{"type":"CIMStandardLineLabelPosition","above":true,"inLine":true,"parallel":true},"l
ineLabelPriorities":{"type":"CIMStandardLineLabelPriorities","aboveStart":3,"aboveAlong":3,"above
End":3,"centerStart":3,"centerAlong":3,"centerEnd":3,"belowStart":3,"belowAlong":3,"belowEnd":3},
"pointPlacementMethod":"AroundPoint","pointPlacementPriorities":{"type":"CIMStandardPointPlace
mentPriorities","aboveLeft":2,"aboveCenter":2,"aboveRight":1,"centerLeft":3,"centerRight":2,"below
Left":3,"belowCenter":3,"belowRight":2},"rotationType":"Arithmetic","polygonPlacementMethod":"
AlwaysHorizontal"},"textSymbol":{"type":"CIMSymbolReference","symbol":{"type":"CIMTextSymb
ol","blockProgression":"TTB","depth3D":1,"extrapolateBaselines":true,"fontEffects":"Normal","fontE
ncoding":"Unicode","fontFamilyName":"Tahoma","fontStyleName":"Regular","fontType":"Unspecifi
ed","haloSize":1,"height":10,"hinting":"Default","horizontalAlignment":"Left","kerning":true,"letterW
idth":100,"ligatures":true,"lineGapType":"ExtraLeading","symbol":{"type":"CIMPolygonSymbol","sy
mbolLayers":[{"type":"CIMSolidFill","enable":true,"color":{"type":"CIMRGBColor","values":[0,0,0,
100]}}],"angleAlignment":"Map"},"textCase":"Normal","textDirection":"LTR","verticalAlignment":"
Bottom","verticalGlyphOrientation":"Right","wordSpacing":100,"billboardMode3D":"FaceNearPlane"
}},"useCodedValue":true,"visibility":true,"iD":-
1}],"renderer":{"type":"CIMSimpleRenderer","sampleSize":10000,"patch":"Default","symbol":{"type
":"CIMSymbolReference","symbol":{"type":"CIMPolygonSymbol","symbolLayers":[{"type":"CIMSo
lidStroke","enable":true,"colorLocked":true,"capStyle":"Butt","joinStyle":"Round","lineStyle3D":"Stri
p","miterLimit":10,"width":1,"height3D":1,"anchor3D":"Center","color":{"type":"CIMRGBColor","va
lues":[110,110,110,100]}},{"type":"CIMSolidFill","enable":true,"color":{"type":"CIMRGBColor","va
lues":[0,100,255,36.8627433776855469]}}],"angleAlignment":"Map"}}},"scaleSymbols":true,"snapp
able":true}]}

20260608
11292800
20260608
11292800

Microsoft Windows 10 Version 10.0 (Build 26100) ; Esri ArcGIS 13.6.3.59530

LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer

Shapefile

0.000

dataset

EPSG
6.11(3.0.1)

0

Simple

FALSE
0
FALSE
FALSE

LRTP22_SD_Barr_Proposed_Alignment_500ft_Buffer
Feature Class
0

FID
FID
OID
4
0
0
Internal feature number.
Esri

Sequential unique whole numbers that are automatically generated.

Shape
Shape
Geometry
0
0
0
Feature geometry.
Esri

Coordinates defining the features.

Id
Id
Integer
6
6
0

20260608

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF
GAME, FISH AND PARKS
523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE | PIERRE, SD 57501

June 12, 2026

Jessica Butler
Barr Engineering Co
4300 Market Pointe Drive, Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55435

RE: Big Stone to Brookings to South Dakota/Minnesota Border

Dear Ms. Jessica Butler or whoever it may concern.

Thank you for contacting the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) regarding the proposed construction of a new 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission line extending from the existing Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, through the Brookings Substation near Brookings, South Dakota, as well as 345 kV lines connecting the existing and expanded substations.

You conducted a finalized search of the South Dakota Nongame Conservation Database, formerly the South Dakota Natural Heritage Database, for the above-referenced project on 6/1/2026. This database tracks species at risk, including those legally designated as threatened or endangered, as well as rare species. Rare species are those with restricted distributions, specialized habitat requirements, declining populations, or populations that are isolated due to geographic or climatic factors. Please note that many areas of South Dakota have not been surveyed for rare or protected species, and the absence of a species from the database does not preclude its presence.

Additionally, GFP met with staff from PowerOn Midwest and Barr Engineering Co on 5/4/2026 and 5/13/2026 to discuss mitigation techniques and survey recommendations.

Based on the information provided from these meetings and from the database search, no significant impacts to fish and wildlife resources are anticipated. We expect this determination to remain unchanged provided the following recommendations are considered during project planning and construction:

Fish Recommendations

- Several streams within the project area contain Topeka shiner (*Notropis topeka*; federally endangered) and , as well as support several additional rare fish species identified within the database search.
- If any work is proposed within streams, or if fish passage could be blocked during construction, fish surveys should be completed beforehand and fish should be relocated from affected areas as necessary. Please coordinate with GFP if this is needed.

Wetland and Riparian Habitat Recommendations

- Avoid placing towers within streams or riparian areas adjacent to streams.
- Disturbance to riparian and wetland areas should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- If riparian vegetation is removed, it should be quantified and replaced on-site. Seeding with native species should occur immediately following construction to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Power structures located within one-half mile to one mile of a water body should include perch and nest deterrents, as well as effective insulating covers over energized equipment. Line markers to reduce avian collisions should be considered in areas known for bird migration or travel corridors, particularly near wetlands and river crossings.

Grassland Habitat and General Habitat Recommendations

- Avoid further fragmentation of native prairie and intact grassland habitat. There are several high-quality grassland areas within the project area. Transmission lines should be routed outside intact grasslands whenever possible and placed within existing rights-of-way (ROWs), this will also help reduce the impact on rare plant species.
- A site-specific sediment and erosion control plan should be developed for the project.
- Any disturbed grassland habitat should be reseeded with native species following construction.

Grouse Recommendations

- To minimize disturbance to lekking grouse, avoid construction activities adjacent to known leks from March 25 through April 30 when feasible. If construction must occur during this period, activities should begin after 10:00 a.m. when possible.

Migratory Bird and Nesting Recommendations

- The Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) published "Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines" and "Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: State of the Art" in 2012. We recommend following applicable APLIC guidance.
- If tree clearing is necessary, particularly between May 1 and August 1, trees should be inspected for active bird nests prior to removal. Active nests of state-protected birds (SDCL 41-11-10) and federally protected birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

(MBTA) may not be moved, disturbed, or destroyed until nesting activity has concluded (SDCL 41-11-7).

- We recommend raptor surveys within the same season as project construction to ensure the onsite conditions match the time of construction. If surveys encounter bald eagle nests, or other nests protected under the MBTA, we recommend coordinating with USFWS and SDGFP for proposed buffer distances for infrastructure placement.

Bat Tree-Clearing Recommendations

- Tree clearing should be avoided from June 1 through August 15 to prevent impacts during the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; federally endangered) pup-rearing season. During this time, most bat species may have non-volant young, and tree removal can be detrimental. If tree clearing during this period cannot be avoided, surveys should be conducted to determine whether bat roosts are present. If bat roosts are identified, please notify GFP as soon as possible to discuss appropriate next steps.
- If you suspect that the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat (*Pipistrellus subflavus;* proposed federally endangered) are using trees that need to be removed, please coordinate with USFWS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project. Please keep GFP involved in future correspondence regarding project planning and implementation. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 605.394.6052.

Sincerely,

Mandy Pearson

Mandy Pearson
Senior Wildlife Biologist
4130 Adventure Trail
Rapid City, SD 57702
mandy.pearson@state.sd.us

From:	SD.gov Portal
To:	Sarah L. Johnson
Subject:	Your Request for Records has been received
Date:	Wednesday, June 24, 2026 8:14:22 AM
Attachments:	image

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of your organization.

Thank you for your formal public records request. A public record officer will respond to your request within ten (10) business days pursuant to SDCL 1-27-37(1).

Please click here to access your request.

PUBRECREQ0006237

Ref:MSG2483946_WkHxmuMefVtGre7IOYwP