

Northland Reliability Project



12300 Elm Creek Blvd N
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Local vendor spotlight

MORRISON COUNTY: The Pierz Ballroom and Lanes has played host to countless weddings, weekend dances, bowling leagues, and various meetings for the Northland Reliability Project throughout the permitting and approval process. The Ballroom welcomed new owners Nick and Crystal Ratke at the beginning of 2022, starting a new era of family ownership for the longtime event space in Pierz. The venue boasts a unique banquet hall-style wedding hall, as well as a bowling alley and arcade. Find them on Facebook at:

facebook.com/pierzballroom



Questions or suggestions

- ✉ connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com
- ☎ 218-864-6059
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Land agent information

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Northland Reliability Project



Greetings!

We appreciate you reading our first newsletter for the Northland Reliability Project. Our goal is to keep you up to date on the latest project information. We always welcome recommendations for topics to cover in future issues.



Project update

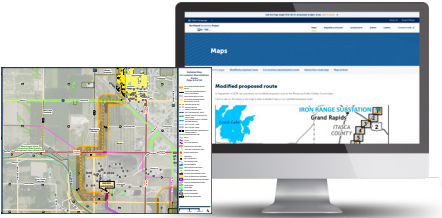
The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved the Certificate of Need and Route Permit on February 28, 2025. The project consists of two major segments and some additional project improvements:

- Segment one: new double circuit line**
 - Build about 140 miles of new 345-kV double-circuit transmission lines, generally located near existing transmission line corridors, from Itasca County to Benton County near St. Cloud.
- Segment two: replace two existing transmission lines**
 - Replace an approximately 20-mile 230-kV line with two 345-kV circuits from the Cherry Park Substation to the new Xcel Energy Big Oaks Substation along existing high-voltage transmission right-of-way on double-circuit 345-kV structures.
 - Replace an approximately 20-mile 345-kV line from the Cherry Park Substation to the existing Xcel Energy Sherco Substation in Sherburne County along existing high-voltage transmission right-of-way using double-circuit 345-kV structures.

To view more detailed maps, visit our website at northlandreliabilityproject.com/maps

To request a specific map or if you are unable to view the maps online, contact our project team:

- ✉ connect@northlandreliabilityproject.com
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- 🌐 northlandreliabilityproject.com



Thank you!

The Northland Reliability project team extends a thank you to all landowners, residents and local leaders for your continued participation throughout this routing and engagement process. Our priority is keeping you informed through each step of the project. Since we kicked off this project in the fall 2023, there were numerous opportunities to engage in the project and connect with the project team including:

20

open houses hosted by the Project Team with more than 450+ attendees

440+

public comments received and processed

15

open houses hosted by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Materials shared during the open houses are available on the events page of our project website.

Regulatory process

What was the approval process for this project?

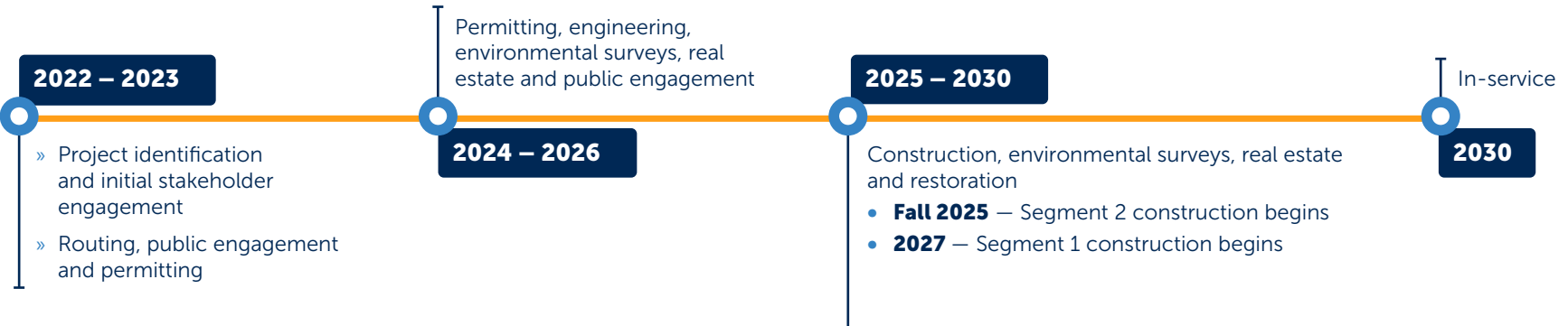
Routing a transmission line is no small task. The state of Minnesota has statutes and rules that guide the route development process and help minimize a project’s impact to people and the environment.

Input from you, landowners, residents, local leaders and agencies, as well as our own expertise, was critical in the development of the route we proposed in our application. Public participation during the regulatory process also led to refinements in the route.

- August 2023**
We submitted our proposed route to the Minnesota PUC.
- October 2023**
The PUC and Minnesota Department of Commerce held scoping meetings and identified route alternatives.
- June 2023**
An Environmental Assessment was published by the Department of Commerce.
- July 2024**
Public hearings were held.
- November 2024**
Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Recommendation were published.
- February 2025**
Certificate of Need and Route Permit was approved by the PUC.

Schedule

*The schedule is subject to change.



On the ground activities

What to expect in your area in 2025

Segment one

Beginning late this spring through fall 2026, crews will continue to conduct a variety of field surveys along the approved route. Field surveys can include:

Wetlands

Biological

Weeds

Soil borings

Cultural resources

Land

Soil borings may continue through the winter.

Segment two

In 2025, construction activities will begin along the southern portion of the project. On-going and upcoming milestones include:

Road Use Agreement and Road crossing/driveway permitting

Material delivery in August/September 2025

Cherry Park Substation grading activities in July 2025

Access matting September 2025

Foundation construction October 2025

On-going coordination with Sherburne County Parks & Trails

Four right-of-way phases

1 Right-of-entry for temporary access (2023 – 2024)

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

2 Easements (2024 – 2026)

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

3 Construction (2025 – 2030*)

We work closely with the landowner to resolve concerns and reach an agreement.

4 Restoration (2027 – 2031)

Our team works closely with landowners throughout the right-of-way process. Learn more by visiting the 'Landowners' page on our webpage:

northlandreliabilityproject.com/landowners