

# Northland Reliability Project



12300 Elm Creek Blvd N  
Maple Grove, MN 55369

# Northland Reliability Project



## Breaking ground!

Leaders from Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Minnesota Department of Commerce, state and local representatives, partner utilities, and others gathered to celebrate the beginning of construction. The Northland Reliability Project is the first major transmission project from MISO's Tranche 1 to break ground. Thank you for your support of this transformative investment in Minnesota's energy future.

## Local vendor spotlight


**CROW WING COUNTY:** The Taconite Canteen and Event Center in Ironton, Minnesota hosts various events, including multiple meetings for the Northland Reliability Project before it was granted its route permit. The venue came to life in 2019, and features space for up to 280 people, with the option of in-house catering. The Taconite Canteen and Event Center is a great space to hold meaningful gatherings, or to stop in for a bite at their historical restaurant showcasing Ironton's mining heritage. Visit their website or find them on Facebook at:

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



## Questions or suggestions

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 218-864-6059

 [northlandreliabilityproject.com](http://northlandreliabilityproject.com)



Scan me

## Land agent information

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**Cody Dierks**  
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Pictured, from left to right, are: Brian Tulloh, executive director, external affairs, MISO; Pat Michels, CEO and president, Michels Corporation; Steve Lawler, regional transmission project manager, Great River Energy; Greg Schutte, director, portfolio delivery, Great River Energy; Katie Sieben, chair, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; Priti Patel, vice president and chief transmission officer, Great River Energy; Josh Skelton, chief operating officer, Minnesota Power; Audrey Partridge, commissioner, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission; Bethany Owen, president, chief executive officer and chair, ALLETE, Inc.; Dan Gunderson, vice president, transmission and distribution, Minnesota Power; Dan Agenes, director of enterprise projects, Minnesota Power; Kent Ogston, director of engineering services, Minnesota Power; Pete Wyckoff, deputy commissioner of energy resources, Minnesota Department of Commerce.

## Our project contractors

You may see crews from these companies performing work in your area.





# What to expect in your area






## Segment one

Construction activities will begin in the fall of 2026. Current pre-construction activities include:

-  Soil borings
-  Local road use agreements and road crossing/driveway permitting
-  MnDOT and MPCA permitting

## Segment two

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







-  Material delivery began in August
-  Foundation construction began this month, October
-  Cherry Park Substation grading activities began in July
-  On-going coordination with Sherburne County Parks & Trails
-  Access matting and staking began in September



## On the ground activities

Be on the lookout for increased traffic in Segment two now that construction activities have begun. Construction on the Cherry Park Substation is underway and the affected landowners were notified. Notifications will continue as construction progresses.

We will do our best to minimize impacts during construction. However, the following temporary impacts will occur:

-  Noise, dust and lights for nearby residents
-  Equipment (such as pick-up trucks, tree-clearing machines, anchor-drilling trucks and wire-stringing vehicles), materials and construction crews located along the road and in project right-of-way
-  Removal of all trees and other tall vegetation within the easement area
-  Temporary lane and road closures
-  Work during daylight hours with potential for some work to be completed outside normal working hours, which are 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
-  Erosion control measures will be taken to reduce impacts to streams and wetland areas

## Get to know the land agents

Building 180 miles of 345-kV double-circuit transmission lines is no small feat and the first step of undertaking such a massive project is securing the space to be able to do it. During a power transmission project, a land agent acts as a key intermediary who secures the necessary property rights from landowners for the construction, operation, and maintenance of power lines. Land agents also serve as “boots on the ground” before construction begins, taking soil borings, going door to door, and other work that makes construction possible.

For this project, we have enlisted a team of land agents, whom more than 90% of landowners along the route have already worked with. Let’s meet the team:

- **Sam Shepard**
- **Ethan Kippes**
- **Cody Dierks**
- **Rich Felts**
- **Trey Bowman**
- **Jay Manders**

These land agents have experience varying from two to 21 years. Each of the land agents say they like helping landowners feel comfortable as they work through property right agreements. The land agents also report that they enjoy being able to help build our local energy grid and believe in the Northland Reliability Project and its role in helping improve the energy framework for years to come. Land agent Trey Bowman said, “This project is paramount to our critical infrastructure, because we know that there is going to be an enormous amount of energy needed in the years to come - by adding these transmission lines to our power grid we are assuring that the supply side will meet that demand”.

To learn more about our project acquisition team visit their websites: Land Service Company, [landservicecompany.com](https://landservicecompany.com) and JCG, [jcgland.com](https://jcgland.com).

## How are structures constructed?

If you live in Segment two areas, you may begin to see Michels, the construction contractor, vehicles and staff as construction begins. Michels follows this four-step construction process when building transmission lines.

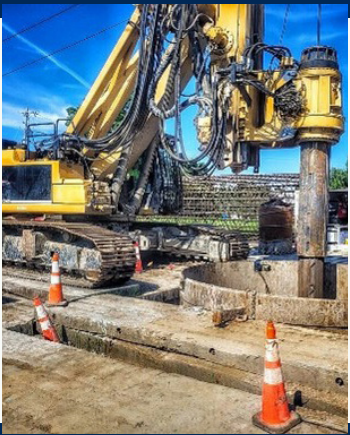
1

The first step is the site preparation. After the Michels crews get to work clearing the area and making necessary improvements to facilitate access to the site.



2

The second step is foundation construction. The construction process that will be used on our project goes from the bottom up. The construction begins with a concrete foundation where a crew will auger four holes for lattice steel towers (LSTs) and one hole for tubular steel poles (TSPs). According to Michels environmental manager Clint Wendt, foundation work will begin on Segment two during the first two weeks of October. “Two foundation drilling crews will excavate soil and pour concrete for foundation piers that ultimately support the transmission line towers and line,” explained Wendt. Michels will use this process to ensure a strong base for the transmission line. After this base is created, construction of the line is ready to begin.



3

The third step is structure construction. Once a solid foundation is created, Michels will “build up”. While there are times where the structure is placed all at once, crews will usually build the tower in sections and use a crane to drop them into place. On occasion, helicopters can be used when cranes cannot reach high enough. As far as which structures are placed first, Wendt said, “Our crews will work in a linear fashion from south to north.”



4

The fourth and final step is the wire-stringing operations. This process is anything that has to do with the installation of primary conductors, or the wires that carry electricity over the long distances needed. Helicopters string the cables through the transmission structures before starting the process of “sagging and dead-ending” where the crew will create tension in the cable. Construction will include splicing cables together to connect them. To ensure that everything is running smoothly, construction includes using “clipping-in or spacers”. Once this is complete, all the towers are linked with wires.



After all four construction steps are complete, it’s time to clean up. Work areas will be restored as close as possible to their original condition. A project representative will assess damages incurred during construction and contact each property owner to settle claims for any such damages. Landowners will be fairly reimbursed if damage occurred to crops, fences or other property during construction.