



Field work began this spring and includes wetland, rare plant, and cultural resources surveys, land surveys, and soil borings.

## A Word from Minnesota Power

The Great Northern Transmission Line Project has met another major milestone. In April 2016, the Final written Order from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) was published. Minnesota Power continues to work with landowners and agencies to fine-tune the final transmission line alignment. Minnesota Power expects the final Department of Energy Presidential Permit approval in September 2016.

Field surveys have been well underway since Spring 2016. Field crews are conducting rare plants, cultural resources, wetland, and soil surveys within the project area. Some of these surveys will need to be conducted on private property. Before Minnesota Power accesses private property for field surveys, our right-of-way agents will reach out to each landowner along the MPUC Approved Route to discuss survey access permission and sign a right-of-entry agreement. Our agents will call landowners and schedule in-person meetings to sit down and discuss surveys and address questions.

With field surveys advancing in earnest, we anticipate the process to acquire permanent easements along the transmission line route to begin in this fall. Right-of-way agents will be contacting landowners that are along the transmission line route to discuss the easement required to accommodate the Great Northern Transmission Line facilities. For further information regarding the acquisition process visit the Real Estate tab on our project website.

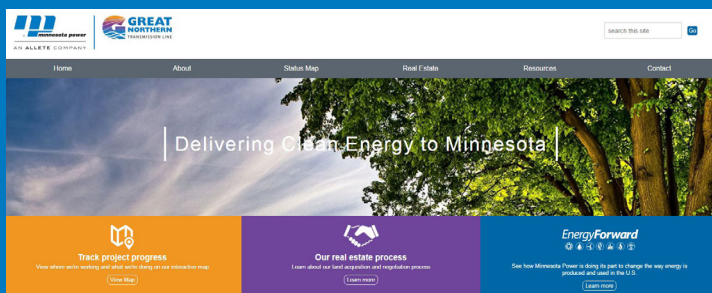
We will continue to use these newsletters to update landowners and the community as the project progresses. Please use the project contact information to reach out if you have any questions.

**Matt Hagelin**  
Minnesota Power, Property and Right-of-Way Agent

### New Project Website!

NEW!

Visit [greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com) and check out the new website!



On the new website you'll be able to view an interactive map showing fieldwork locations, learn more about the Real Estate process, review important permits and documents, and leave a comment.

### CONTACT INFORMATION



Email: [info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com](mailto:info@greatnortherntransmissionline.com)  
Information Hotline: 877.657.9934

VISIT OUR **NEW** WEBSITE!

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

## FIELD SURVEYS HAVE STARTED - See what our crews are up to!

### Cultural Resources (Archaeological)



Teams of four to six people will conduct cultural surveys to assess the likelihood that a cultural resource or historic property may be present in the project area. Most areas will require only walk-over survey. Manual shovel testing may be required. If artifacts are found, they are collected, bagged, and analyzed for reporting purposes. The survey team will be in communication prior to any shovel testing.



May -  
Oct 2016

### Weeds



Teams of two people will conduct weed surveys to identify locations of noxious weeds so that spread of weeds during construction can be minimized. Occurrences of noxious weeds will be mapped using a GPS unit.



Summer - Fall  
2016 & 2017

### Wetlands



Teams of two to three people will identify wetlands within the project area. The surveys typically involve observing soils to depths of 24 inches using a hand auger or drain spade. Other survey activities include walking the boundary with a GPS unit, collecting photographs and, in some cases, marking the wetland edge with wire flags or lath and ribbon.



Spring -  
Fall 2016

### Rare Plants



Teams of two people will conduct rare plant surveys to identify the presence and location of state listed species within the project area. Surveys will occur within the ROW, but may expand beyond the ROW in order to identify the extent of the population for design considerations.



Summer - Fall  
2016 & 2017

### Soil Borings



Teams of 3 to 4 people will conduct soil borings to identify hydrogeologic and geotechnical soil data used to design and construct the foundations for the transmission line structures. The survey consists of drilling 8-inch diameter borings approximately 40 to 50 feet below the surface. A temporary work area of approximately 40 by 40 feet will be required at each boring location.



Spring -  
Winter 16/17

### Land Surveys

Teams of two people will conduct land surveys to identify section corners, road and utilities crossings, and assist with staking locations for soil borings and structures for engineering review. The survey will occur on the project right-of-way.





## You asked, we answered: Right-of-Way (ROW) FAQs

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

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

### ▶ Who controls access to the ROW?

The landowner continues to control access to the ROW subject to the terms of the easement. The ROW will not be available for public use as the land will remain private property. The landowner may fence across the ROW. Minnesota Power will work with landowners if a gate is required.

### ▶ What activities are allowed within the ROW?

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

- Buildings and other structures are not permitted within the ROW.
- Modification to the existing land grade are not permitted within the ROW.
- Storage of flammable materials is not permitted within the ROW.

In general, the land can continue to be used as before, provided that the use does not interfere with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. Minnesota Power encourages landowners to contact a land agent to discuss activities permitted in the ROW.

### ▶ Will Minnesota Power clear trees within the ROW?

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

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

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

ROW  
PROCESS



Right of Entry



Easements



Construction



Restoration



AN ALLETE COMPANY

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



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- A Word from Minnesota Power
- Recent and Upcoming Activities
- Field Survey Descriptions
- Right-of-Way FAQs
- Project Schedule

## GREATNORTHERNnews

# GREATNORTHERNnews

### Project Facts

- The Great Northern Transmission Line will carry hydropower from Manitoba Hydro to Minnesota Power's customers.
- The line will pass through Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, and Itasca counties.
- The total length is approximately 224 miles.
- Pre-construction activities will begin in winter 2016/2017.
- The line will be in service in June 2020.

### Upcoming Milestones

Fall  
2016



Presidential Permit Approval



Field Surveys



Real Estate Activities



Final Design

Winter  
2016/  
2017



Pre-construction Activities



Tree Clearing



Real Estate Activities