

A Word from Minnesota Power

Pre-construction activity has begun!

If you live or work near the route for the new Great Northern Transmission Line, you have likely seen equipment and crews preparing for construction. Pre-construction activities including tree clearing and soil boring started along a segment of the line in late January. This work is anticipated to continue through April 2017, depending on the weather. Learn more about pre-construction including schedules and locations inside this newsletter.

As we transition into pre-construction activities, Minnesota Power and its partner contractors are focusing on safety and communication.

Safety – Over the next four years during pre-construction and construction activities, safety is a top priority for Minnesota Power. All crews working on the Great Northern Transmission Line are trained to perform safe work practices everyday on the job site. We ask the local community to be aware of heavy construction equipment on the roads and to keep a safe distance from crews while they work to limit distractions.

Communication – We plan to keep the project community informed of work happening throughout the project area. This newsletter, our project website, and project emails will include updated information. If you have additional questions, our project team is ready to answer your questions – contact us by phone or email.

Moving into the pre-construction phase is a big milestone. Thank you for your ongoing collaboration on this important project for Minnesota Power and our region.

Sincerely,
Jim Atkinson
Minnesota Power, Environmental Lead



Clearing of the right-of-way and driving ice roads.



Timber mats protect wetlands and allow heavy construction equipment to cross uneven terrain.



Structure locations are staked and flagged.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.greatnortherntransmissionline.com



PRE-CONSTRUCTION

Tree clearing and soil boring has started in Segment 2.

How will Minnesota Power clear trees within the ROW?

Prior to construction, tree and brush clearing may occur within the full easement width. Tree removal is required to comply with National Electric Safety Code (NESC) and North American Electrical Reliability Corporation (NERC) standards and for the safe operation and maintenance of the line. Real estate agents will work with landowners if there is a question about tree clearing. In addition, danger trees, located off the right-of-way will be identified, trimmed or removed for safety during construction, operation and maintenance of the line.

Will Minnesota Power cut trees located within the right-of-way? Are you required to replace the trees?

Typically, tall trees and most woody vegetation will be removed from the right-of-way for construction, operation, and maintenance. Some low to the ground vegetation may grow under the transmission line following construction and once the construction area is restored. Minnesota Power will remove regrowth required by NERC standards and for the safe operation of the line on a regular basis.

Minnesota Power will work with landowners and agencies to determine suitable restoration and damages as necessary.

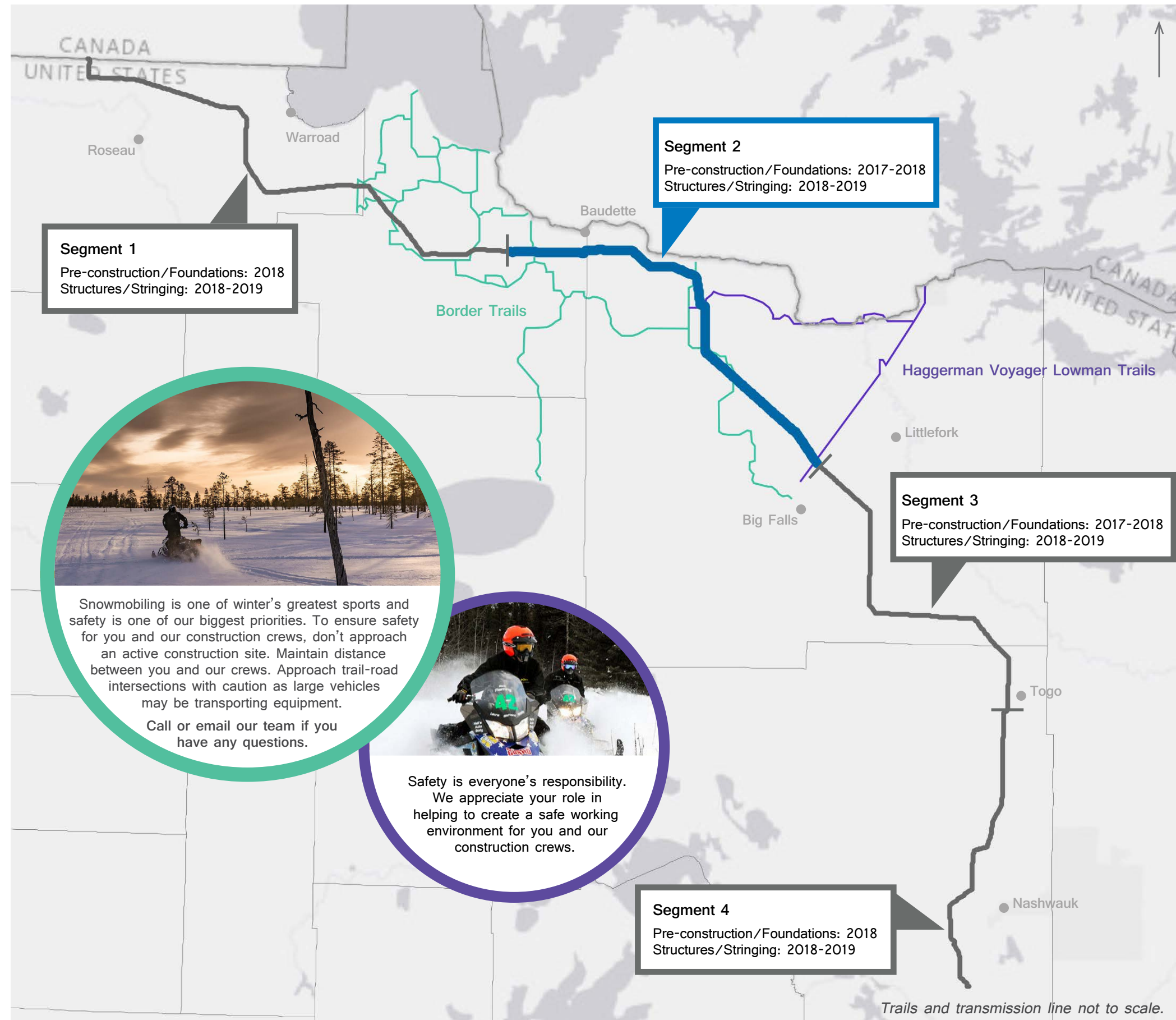


SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Tree clearing activities may require temporary closures of the Border Trails and Haggerman Voyager Lowman Trails where they intersect with the Great Northern Transmission Line or associated access roads. Please obey posted signs if construction activities are near to the trail.

In order for riders to continue use of the snowmobile trails, a base layer of snow, consistent with the snow conditions in surrounding areas, will be maintained on the snowmobile trails where they intersect access roads. A minimum 6-inch base will be maintained, as practical. Since heavy construction equipment will be present in the project area, please maintain safe speeds through the construction area.

Construction of the Great Northern Transmission Line Project will occur in stages, starting with Segment 2. Construction dates may change due to weather.





AN ALLETE COMPANY

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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- A Word from Minnesota Power
- Project Completion Status
- Anticipated Construction Schedule Map
- Snowmobile Trail information
- Construction Processes

GREATNORTHERNnews

PRE-CONSTRUCTION/CONSTRUCTION PROCESSES



Access & Clearing

Tree and brush clearing may occur within the full easement width. Trees will be cut at ground level and stacked next to the right-of-way, while brush will be mowed or chipped and spread evenly throughout the right-of-way. A soil boring will also occur at each structure site.



Foundations & Anchors

Helical pile screws and concrete foundations may be used depending on the terrain and other engineering considerations. Helical piles and anchors are screwed into the ground using specialized drilling equipment.



Structure Assembly & Setting

Structures will either be guyed (anchored) or un-guyed and will be installed by conventional ground methods or by aerial equipment (helicopters). There are generally two types of guyed and three types of un-guyed structures.



Wire Stringing

Overhead ground wires and conductor lead lines are pulled through the structures via helicopter. Wire stringing sites will be staged along the ROW approximately every few miles. The final process of construction is reclamation and restoration of all disturbed areas.