



Field work will begin this spring and will include 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 a major milestone. In January 2016, Minnesota's Administrative Law Judge recommended a route to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to consider for approval. On February 26, 2016 the MPUC approved the recommended route. The Final written Order from the MPUC is expected by April 2016.

In order to complete final design now that the final route has been approved, Minnesota Power is required to conduct field surveys to identify rare plants and species, cultural resources, wetlands and soils within the project area. These field surveys are scheduled to ramp up in spring 2016. 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. Minnesota Power would like to introduce Land Service Company who will be working on behalf of Minnesota Power on the right-of-way process for the Project. Our agents will call landowners and schedule in-person meetings to sit down and discuss surveys and address questions. Get to know your agent before you meet in person by reading their biography within this issue.

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

*Matt is married with two daughters and has over 10 years of experience in the real estate industry. He's been with Minnesota Power for 3 years. Turn the page to meet the rest of our real estate team!*

### New Real Estate Page on Project Website

NEW!

Visit [greatnortherntransmissionline.com](http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com) and check out the new Real Estate tab at the top of the page. This new page includes information relating to:

- Right-of-Entry
- Easement Negotiations
- Construction
- Restoration
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Factsheets
- Contact Information

### Right-of-Entry Process Begins

Minnesota Power's right-of-way (ROW) team will begin discussing right-of-entry (ROE) with landowners in the Project Area. ROE is an important step in the ROW process as it allows biological, cultural, and geo-technical surveys to be performed within and around the ROW. More information about ROW and the right-of-way agents can be found inside this issue of Great Northern News.

### CONTACT INFORMATION



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

### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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

## MN Public Utilities Commission Approved Route

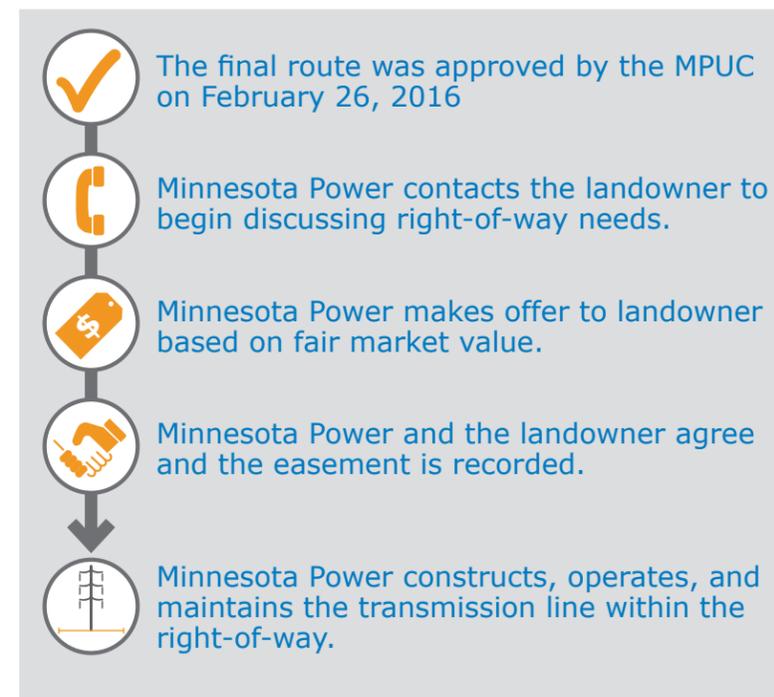


## Right-of-Way Easement Process

In early February 2016, the right-of-way agents began calling landowners along the MPUC Approved Route requesting an in-person meeting to discuss a right-of-entry or ROE agreement. The ROE allows Minnesota Power to access private property to conduct field surveys to identify rare plants and species, cultural resources, wetlands and soils required to finalize the design of the transmission line.

- Field surveys are scheduled to begin in early spring 2016
- All landowners will be notified prior to field crews accessing their property
- Let your right-of-way agent know the best way to contact you – phone, mail, text, or email

Now that a final route has been determined, Minnesota Power will follow the steps listed on the right to acquire right-of-way for this project.



## Meet the Right-of-Way Team

We are excited to introduce Land Service Company who will be working on behalf of Minnesota Power on the right-of-way process for the Project. Contact information for each agent including phone and email along with the location of our Grand Rapids Field Office is available on our Project website.

### Tom Leuker

Hometown: Madison, WI

Employer: Land Service Co.

Family: Married with two daughters and two dogs

Experience: Tom has 32 years of experience in the right-of-way industry, having served many electric utilities over the years. He is an owner of Land Service Company since 1994.

### Barbara Taves

Hometown: Tomahawk, WI

Employer: Land Service Co.

Family: Married with two children, son & daughter

Experience: Barbara has over 25 years of experience in the right-of-way industry and over 15 years of project management experience. She enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and all things outdoors.

### Joshua May

Hometown: Moorehead, MN

Employer: Land Service Co.

Family: Married with six children

Experience: Joshua has 26 years of customer service related experience and over the past 11 years has worked on numerous right-of-way projects in the Midwest.

### Pete Fontana

Hometown: Faithorn, MI

Employer: Land Service Co.

Family: Married with two children, son & daughter

Experience: Pete started in real estate marketing in 1992 and began his right-of-way career in 1997. Since then he's been working on high-profile electric and natural gas transmission lines.

### Scot Pulse

Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD

Employer: Land Service Co.

Family: Married with five children

Experience: Scot has over 10 years of right-of-way experience in negotiating property rights. Prior to entering the property rights field, he spent 12 years in law enforcement.



Great Northern Transmission Line right-of-way agent team. Back Row (left to right): Scot Pulse, Barbara Taves, Joshua May, and Matt Hagelin (Minnesota Power). Front Row (left to right): Tom Leuker and Pete Fontana

c/o HDR  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

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- Recent and Upcoming Activities
- [MPUC Approved Route Map](#)
- Project Schedule
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- Frequently Asked Questions

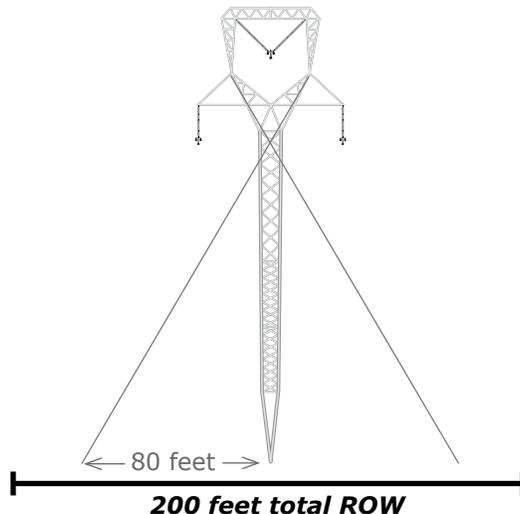
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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is right-of-way (ROW)?

**A:** The term right-of-way or ROW is typically a strip of land used for a specific purpose such as the construction, operation, and maintenance of a road or transmission line. The typical ROW width for this project is 200 feet. Additional ROW may be required surrounding each structure and around a turn structure. If additional ROW around structures or turn structures is required on your property, we will provide information on the additional width once design is finalized.



### Q: Who controls access to the ROW?

**A:** 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. If a gate is required and locked by the landowner, Minnesota Power would require a separate lock to allow access for Minnesota Power crews for operation and maintenance of the line.