

Appendix G
Public Outreach and Open House Materials

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Public Outreach



Website and digital engagement

Website Analytics

Big Stone South to Alexandria

Apr 1, 2023 - Jul 31, 2024

Website Analytics Staging site launched March 9, 2023.

Total users	New users	Engaged sessions	Views	Average Session Duration
4,393	4,345	4,119	13,294	00:01:25

Users by Acquisition Type

Direct	52.3%
Organic Search	32.8%
Referral	9%
Organic Social	
Unassigned	
Paid Social	

Users per Day

Total users

Referrals & Social Media Sources

Session source	Total users
1. m.facebook.com	171
2. alexandriatobigoaks.co...	143
3. mn.gov	53
4. echopress.com	50
5. otpco.com	45
6. l.facebook.com	25
7. lm.facebook.com	22

1 - 10 / 32

Users & Sessions by Regional Cities (MN)

City	Total users	Engaged sessio...
1. Minneapolis	339	310
2. Fergus Falls	157	291
3. Alexandria	195	198
4. Morris	90	87
5. Saint Paul	71	81

1 - 5 / 159

Users by Device Type

desktop	60.4%
mobile	36.9%
tablet	

Views by Page

Page path	Views
1. /thankyou/	56
2. /routing/	3,575
3. /library/index.html	6
4. /library/	1,040
5. /index.html	37
6. /events/index.html	1

1 - 9 / 9

Some sources have been filtered out for accuracy. Unsure of some of these terms? View this [Google Analytics Glossary](#).

Newspaper Advertisement Schedule

Newspaper advertisements

Newspaper	County	Run Dates
Alexandria Echo Press	Douglas County	April 17 & 24, 2023 October 6 & 11, 2023 January 31 & February 7, 2024 June 12 & 19, 2024
Dawson Sentinel	Lac Qui Parle County	April 19 & 26, 2023 October 4 & 11, 2023 January 31 & February 7, 2024 June 12 & 19, 2024
Swift County Extra Shopper	Swift County	April 15 & 22, 2023 October 6 & 13, 2023 February 3 & 10, 2024 June 15 & 22, 2024
Grant County Herald	Grant County	April 18 & 25, 2023 October 4 & 11, 2023 January 30 & February 6, 2024 June 11 & 18, 2024
Ortonville Independent	Big Stone County	April 17 & 24, 2023 October 3 & 10, 2023 January 29 & February 5, 2024 June 10 & 17, 2024
Pope County Tribune	Pope County	April 17 & 24, 2023 January 29 & February 5, 2024 June 6 & 7, 2024
Stevens County Times	Stevens County	April 18 & 25, 2023 October 3 & 10, 2023 January 30 & February 6, 2024 June 11 & 18, 2024
Swift County Monitor	Swift County	April 19 & 26, 2023 October 4 & 11, 2023 January 31 & February 7, 2024 June 12 & 19, 2024
West Central Tribune	Kandiyohi County	April 15 & 22, 2023 October 4 & 11, 2023 February 3 & 10, 2024 June 8 & 17, 2024

Phase 1 Public Open Houses



Mailings and advertisements

Big Stone South to Alexandria

Otter Tail Power Company and **Missouri River Energy Services** are proposing a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Otter Tail Power’s Big Stone South Substation in South Dakota and a substation owned by Missouri River Energy Services in Alexandria, Minnesota.

This project will **improve electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to renewable energy** in the region.

A lot has to happen before the Big Stone South to Alexandria 345-kV transmission line can be placed in service.

We are developing route options for the proposed line and look forward to your input.



▲ Study area is subject to change.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STEPS





HDR

1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

Join us at an open house to learn about the Big Stone to Alexandria 345-kV transmission line proposed by Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services.

LEARN MORE ON THE INSIDE



SCAN ME!

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com
connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com
(800) 598-5587

ALEXANDRIA

April 25, 2023
4:00-7:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn
5637 MN-29
Alexandria, MN 56308

ORTONVILLE

April 26, 2023
4:00-7:00 p.m.
Ortonville Community Center
200 Monroe Ave
Ortonville, MN 56278


BENSON

April 27, 2023
4:00-7:00 p.m.
McKinney's on Southside
300 14th Street South
Benson, MN 56215

You're invited to an open house for the Big Stone South to Alexandria 345-kV transmission line project. This project will improve electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather conditions, reduce transmission congestion, increase access to renewable energy, and improve long-term electric reliability in the region.




Social media post

 **Otter Tail Power Company**
★ Favorites · April 24, 2023 · 🌐

Join us this week!

Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line project open houses:


- Alexandria: Tuesday, April 25, 4-7 p.m.
- Ortonville: Wednesday, April 26, 4-7 p.m.... [See more](#)



The map displays the proposed transmission line route in orange, starting at Big Stone South and ending at Alexandria. A dashed black line indicates the state boundary between Minnesota (MN) and South Dakota (SD). Other locations shown include St. Cloud and Minneapolis. A legend in the top right corner identifies the orange area as 'BSSA - Western Segment' and the dashed line as 'State Line'.

BIGSTONESOUTHTOALEXANDRIA.COM

Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line
Minnesota's electric utilities are committed to delivering safe, reliable, cost-effective energy fo...

 4

Newspaper advertisement

Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line

JOIN US!

You're invited to our upcoming public meetings to learn more about the project, ask questions, and provide feedback.

Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services are proposing a new 345-kilovolt transmission line between Otter Tail Power's Big Stone South Substation in South Dakota and a MRES substation in Alexandria, Minnesota. The project will improve electric reliability in the Upper Midwest.

ALEXANDRIA

- 📅 April 25, 2023
- 🕒 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- 📍 **Holiday Inn**
5637 MN-29
Alexandria, MN 56308

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Big Stone South to Alexandria

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- ✉ connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com
- ☎ (800) 598-5587

SCAN ME!



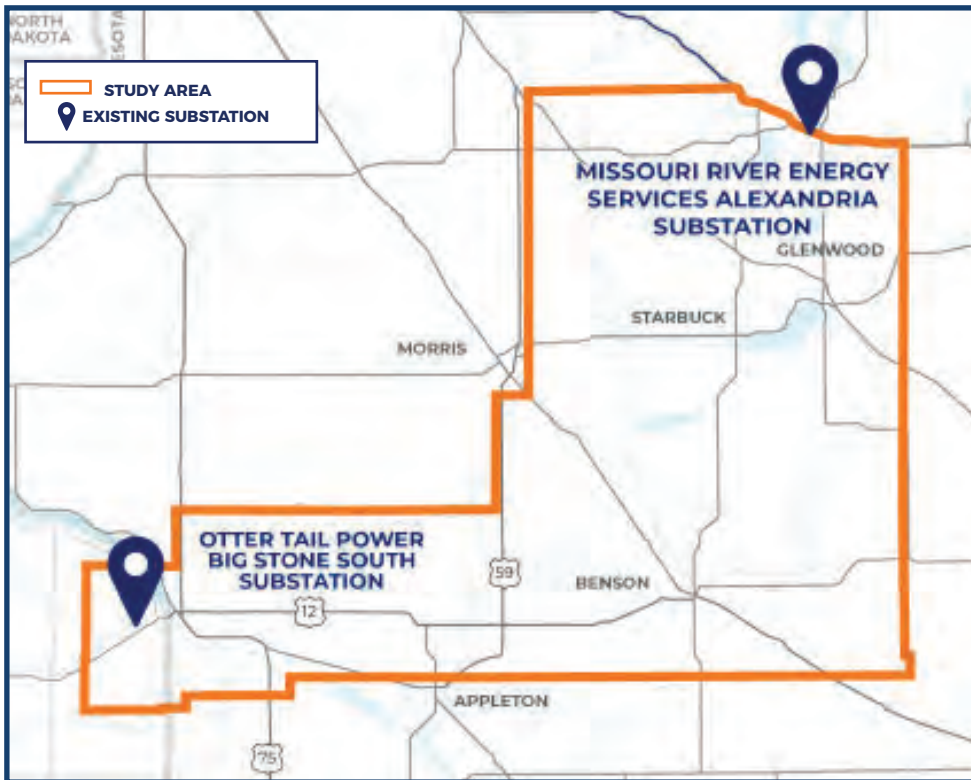
Open house materials

NEW 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE

Otter Tail Power Company and **Missouri River Energy Services** are proposing a new transmission line to connect the existing Big Stone South substation in northeast South Dakota and the existing Alexandria, Minnesota substation. We will work closely with landowners, communities, and local officials to identify potential routes and file route permits with appropriate regulatory agencies.

The BSSA transmission project will:

- Improve electric reliability
- Increase resiliency to extreme weather conditions
- Reduce transmission congestion
- Increase access to renewable energy



The Study Area is subject to refinement during project development.

Routing Process



1. Define Study Area



2. Identify Project Corridors

Host Public Open House



3. Develop Route Alternatives

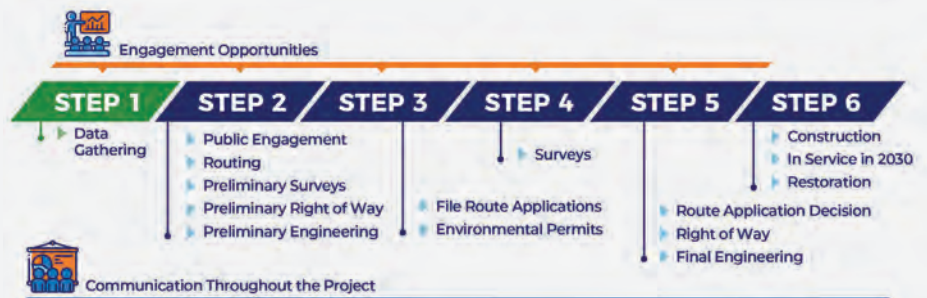
Host Public Open House



4. Select Preferred Route

Many steps need to take place between now and when the Big Stone South to Alexandria 345-kV Transmission Line is fully operational. See the timeline on the right for a snapshot of how this project will develop and when you will see different milestones!

Processes and timing vary from MN to SD. Our project team will refine the timing of these steps to be in compliance with each respective state's requirements.



We can't do this alone, and we're appreciative of your support and interest in the Big Stone South to Alexandria 345-kV Transmission Line project!

- www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com
- connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com
- (800) 598-5587

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code.



Project boards



**Big Stone South
to Alexandria**

WELCOME

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



BSSA Big Stone South to Alexandria

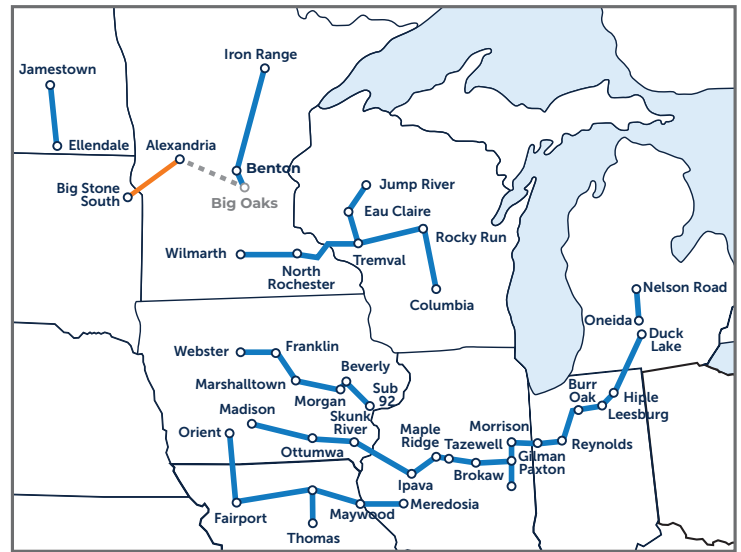
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



Both Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services belong to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator organization, also referred to as MISO.

MISO is a non-profit, member-based regional transmission organization that provides reliable, cost-effective electric systems and operations; dependable and transparent prices; open access to markets; and planning for long-term efficiency.

MISO has approved 18 new transmission projects throughout the Midwest that are needed by 2030 to ensure a **reliable** and **resilient** transmission system in the future.



BSSA Big Stone South to Alexandria

PROJECT BENEFITS

Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services are proposing a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Otter Tail Power's existing Big Stone South Substation and MRES's existing Alexandria Substation.

The project will benefit the region by:



Improving electric reliability



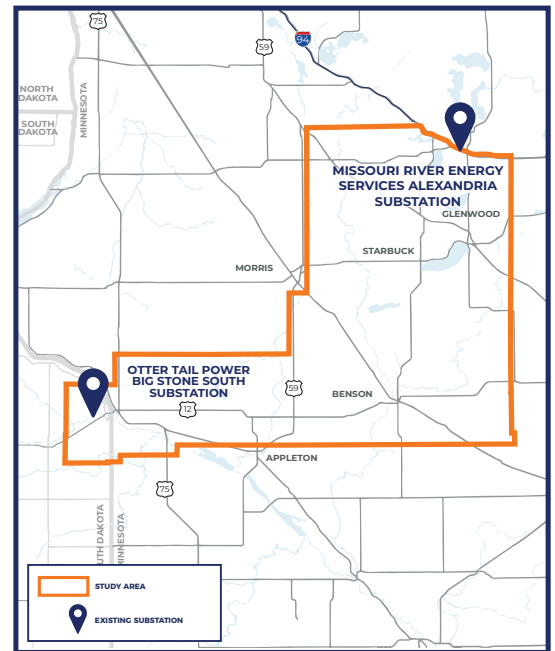
Reducing transmission congestion



Increasing access to renewable energy



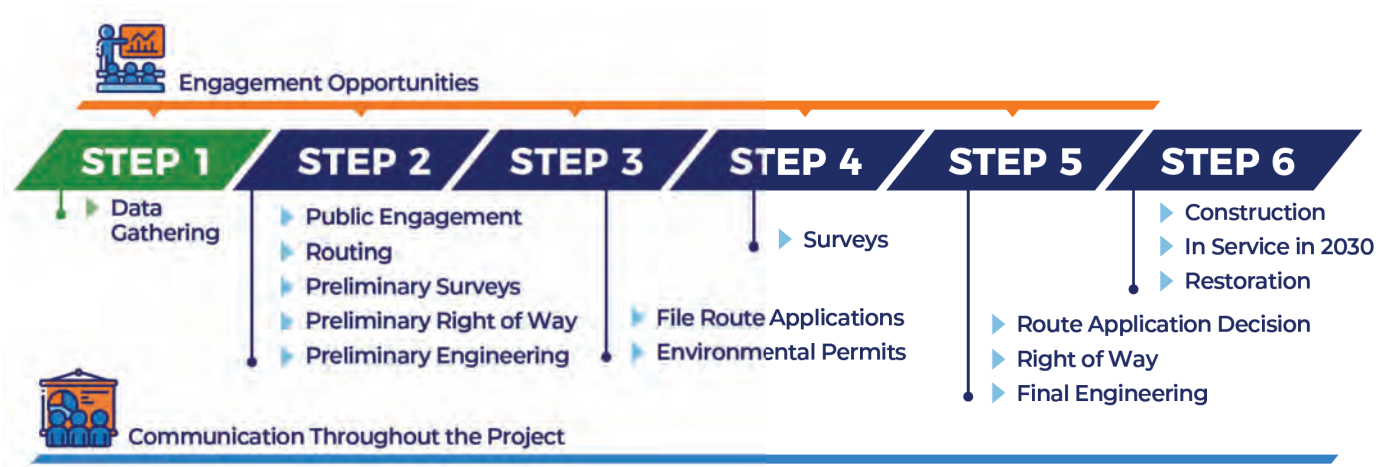
Increasing resiliency to extreme weather conditions



The Study Area is subject to refinement during project development.



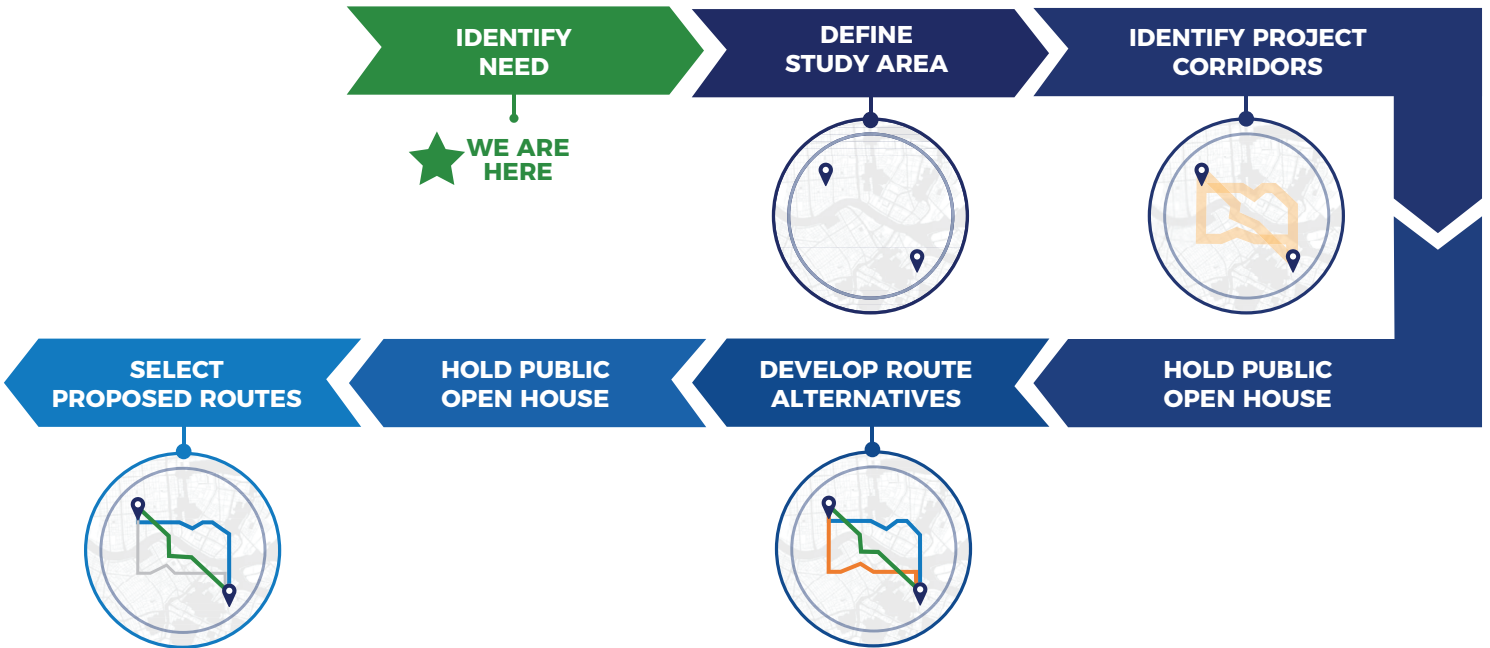
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STEPS



Processes and timing vary from MN to SD. Our project team will refine the timing of these steps to be in compliance with each respective state's requirements.



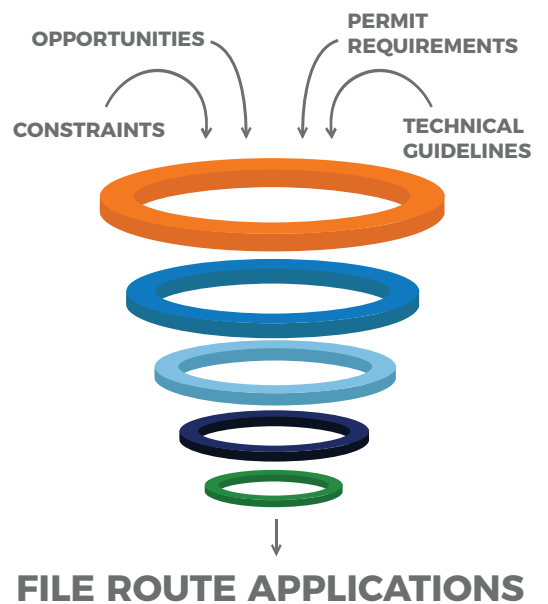
ROUTING PROCESS



ROUTING CONSIDERATIONS

We'll hold meetings with agencies and the public throughout the study area to gather feedback and information helpful to our routing team in developing potential line routes.

After carefully considering that input and evaluating opportunities, constraints, permit requirements, and technical guidelines, we'll identify project corridors.



RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION

What is Right of Way?

Right of way is a portion of land needed for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line, typically about 150-foot-wide. Right of way is typically secured through negotiation and acquisition of an easement agreement.

What is an Easement?


An easement is the legal document that allows Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services to construct, survey, and maintain transmission structures and lines on your property.


A **150-foot-wide easement** will be necessary to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed transmission line.


What is Right of Entry?


To assess potential routes and conduct the necessary environmental, engineering, and geologic studies/surveys, right-of-way agents will work with landowners and residents to acquire a temporary right-of-entry agreement. This agreement does not give permission for construction.

What can I expect? Right-of-way agents will reach out to landowners in potential routing areas to discuss right-of-way needs.

1  Landowners in the project area will be notified of the project and right-of-way agents will reach out to begin the acquisition process.

2  A right-of-way agent will present the landowner an easement based on the fair market value.

3  We'll work with landowners to resolve any questions or concerns, coming to an agreement to grant an easement.

4  Once the project receives final approval, the utilities construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line.

You will be involved throughout the process, and if you have any questions or concerns, our right-of-way agents will work with you!

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Stay Informed

To stay up-to-date on the project, you can visit our website at:



www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code.



Get Connected

Our next round of public meetings will be late 2023 – early 2024. We hope you are able to join us as we provide more information regarding the regulatory process for this project.

There will be many opportunities to participate throughout the project development and permitting processes. You can submit feedback, attend public meetings, ask questions, and learn more!



Questions or comments about the project?

connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com
(800) 598-5587



Media coverage

NEWS

Transmission project proposed in Alexandria area

On Tuesday, April 11, at the Holiday Inn members of the public were able to get information and talk to officials about the project.

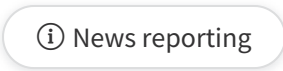
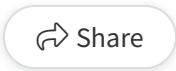


This map shows a portion of the area affected by an upcoming Alexandria-to-Becker transmission project. Contributed photo



By Travis Gulbrandson

April 19, 2023 at 8:24 AM



ALEXANDRIA — An open house was held last week in Alexandria on the Alexandria-to-Becker transmission project.

On Tuesday, April 11, at the Holiday Inn members of the public were able to get information and talk to officials about the project.

The project would put a 345-kV transmission line between the Alexandria substation and the planned Big Oaks substation, proposed to be built near the retiring Sherco power plant near Becker.

The transmission line project is designed to connect new renewable energy to the grid and enhance reliability. The bulk of construction would involve adding a second circuit to existing transmission structures from the completed CapX2020 project.

"We're able for the most part to add power lines onto existing structures," said Randy Fordice, spokesperson for Xcel Energy. "There will be I think 50 new structures or foundations that we'd have to build where we'd have two-pole structures versus the one-pole structure that you would see on most of I-94.

"But for the most part, it's just adding that second wire between Alexandria and Becker," he said.

Additionally, the Alexandria substation will be connected to the Big Stone South substation in South Dakota, Fordice said.

"This is probably one of the more straightforward projects that we'll ever do because we have the existing infrastructure in place, versus looking for a new point A to point B route, which is how most of our projects are," Fordice said.

A certificate of need will also be required to be filed with the state of Minnesota for the entire route from South Dakota to Becker, Fordice said.

"That tends to take about 10 to 15 months for the state review process," he said.

Following approval, there will be additional public hearings, along with a more detailed design and engineering, with construction to begin some time in the later 2020s, Fordice said.

"The technical, expected in-service date is 2030, but there's additional equipment that needs to be installed. The substation and things like that," he said. "We've got good lead time, but there's so much transmission being built, we wanted to make sure we can get out and start doing this early."

Richard Dahl of Missouri River Energy Services said another public meeting will take place in Alexandria on April 25, and more public outreach meetings will come later.

A route permit is also expected to be filed for the project in the fourth quarter of 2024, he said.

"There's a lot more work to be done," he said.

The open house was hosted by Xcel Energy.

 Share

 News reporting



By **Travis Gulbrandson**([https://www.echopress.com/Travis Gulbrandson](https://www.echopress.com/Travis-Gulbrandson))

Travis Gulbrandson covers several beats, including Osakis School Board and Osakis City Council, along with the Brandon-Evansville School Board. His focus will also be on crime and court news.

 Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/echo_press/)  Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/echopress>)

[Travis Gulbrandson](#)

Phase 2 Public Open Houses



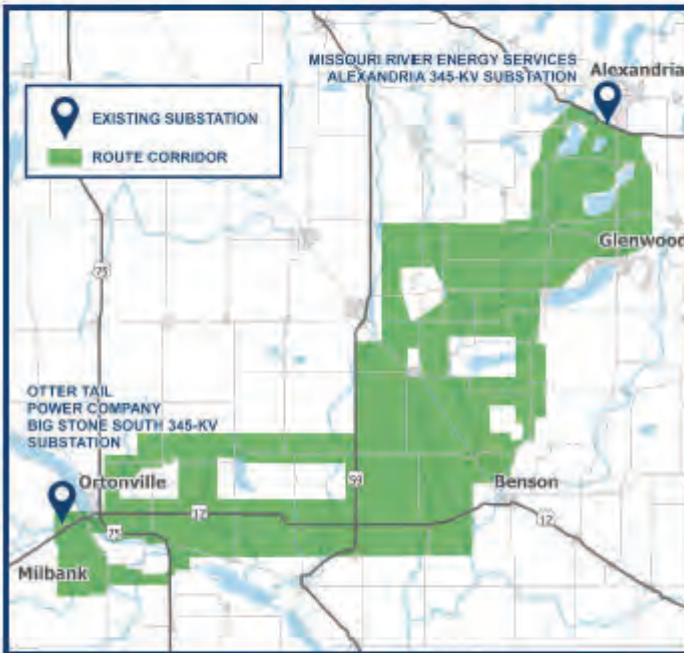
Mailings and advertisements

Postcard mailer

BSSA Big Stone South to Alexandria

Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services (representing Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own a new 345-kilovolt (KV) transmission line. The Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line (BSSA) will run between Otter Tail Power Company's Big Stone South Substation in South Dakota and the Alexandria substation owned by Missouri River Energy Services near Alexandria, Minnesota.

This project will improve electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather events, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to low cost energy in the region.



▲ Project corridor is marked in green on the map above and subject to change.




ROUTING PROCESS

1.  **DEFINE STUDY AREA**
2.  **IDENTIFY PROJECT CORRIDORS**
3.  **WE ARE HERE HOST PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES**
4.  **DEVELOP ROUTE CORRIDOR**
5.  **HOST PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES**
6.  **SELECT PROPOSED ROUTE**

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Developing and constructing a transmission line is a multi-year effort. We are gathering public feedback to refine the route corridor and select a proposed route, and we'll continue coordinating with landowners, local governments, agencies, and other stakeholders. The new line is tentatively scheduled to be in service in 2030-2031.



Scan the QR code to visit the project website.





C/O HDR
 1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600
 St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

Join us at an open house to learn about the Big Stone South to Alexandria 345-kV transmission line proposed by Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services.

LEARN MORE ON THE INSIDE



SCAN ME WITH YOUR PHONE CAMERA

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com

www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

ALEXANDRIA
 Oct. 23, 2023
 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 Broadway Ballroom Events Center
 115 30th Ave E, Alexandria, MN 56308

ORTONVILLE
 Oct. 24, 2023
 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 Ortonville Community Center
 200 Monroe Ave, Ortonville, MN 56278

MILBANK
 Oct. 16, 2023
 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 Milbank Community Room
 1001 E. 4th Ave, Ste 301
 Milbank, SD 57252

BENSON
 Oct. 17, 2023
 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 Benson Golf Club
 2222 Atlantic Ave
 Benson, MN 56215

GLENWOOD
 Oct. 18, 2023
 3:00-6:00 p.m.
 Central Square
 105 2nd Ave NE, Ste 111
 Glenwood, MN 56334

The Big Stone South to Alexandria (BSSA) transmission line will help ensure electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather events, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to low cost energy in the region. You're invited to our upcoming open houses to learn more about the project and provide your input to our team.

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

Social media advertisement

The image shows a screenshot of a Facebook advertisement. At the top, the Facebook logo and 'Facebook Feeds' are visible, along with an 'Expand' button. The ad is from 'Otter Tail Power Company' and is marked as 'Sponsored'. The text of the ad reads: 'We're partnering with Missouri River Energy Services (representing Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) to ...See more'. Below the text is a map of the project area in western Minnesota, with the project corridor highlighted in green. The map includes labels for 'PROJECT CORRIDOR', 'POTENTIAL SUBSTATION', 'OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY', 'BIG STONE SOUTH 345KV SUBSTATION', 'Alexandria', 'Cassville', and 'Sermoo'. A small note below the map states: 'Project corridor is marked in green on the map above and subject to change'. At the bottom of the ad, there is a link to 'bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com', the text 'Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission', and a 'Learn more' button. The ad also shows 3 likes and options to 'Like', 'Comment', and 'Share'.

Newspaper advertisement

Big Stone South to Alexandria

Join Us!

Provide Input for the Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line

MILBANK

Oct. 16, 2023 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Milbank Community Room
1001 E. 4th Ave., Suite 301
Milbank, SD 57252

BENSON

Oct. 17, 2023 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Benson Golf Course
2222 Atlantic Ave
Benson, MN 56215

GLENWOOD

Oct. 18, 2023 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Central Square
105 2nd Ave NE, Suite 111
Glenwood, MN 56334

ALEXANDRIA

Oct. 23, 2023 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Broadway Ballroom Events Center
115 30th Ave E,
Alexandria, MN 56308

ORTONVILLE

Oct. 24, 2023 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Ortonville Community Center
200 Monroe Ave
Ortonville, MN 56278

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HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

- www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com
- connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com
- [\(800\) 598-5587](tel:(800)598-5587)

CAN'T MAKE IT?

You can still provide input in several ways:

- Request a mailed or emailed information packet.
- Set up a meeting with our project team.
- Leave a comment on our online map at www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

Open house materials

Project handout

BSSA Big Stone South to Alexandria



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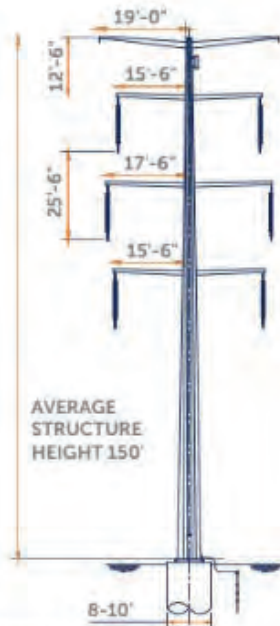


Image shown is an example of a similar double-circuit structure.

ROUTING PROCESS



DEFINE STUDY AREA



IDENTIFY PROJECT CORRIDORS



WE ARE HERE
HOST PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES



DEVELOP ROUTE CORRIDOR



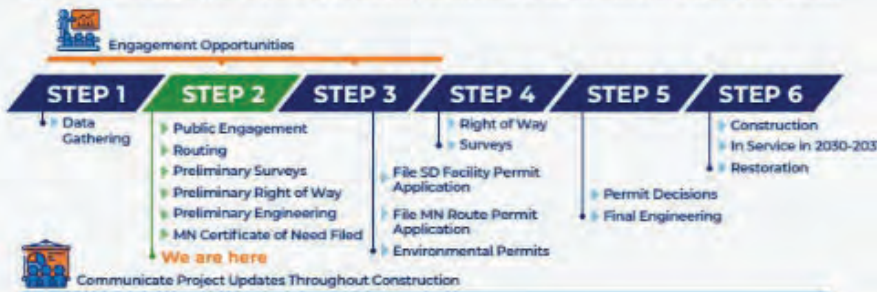
HOST PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES



SELECT PROPOSED ROUTE

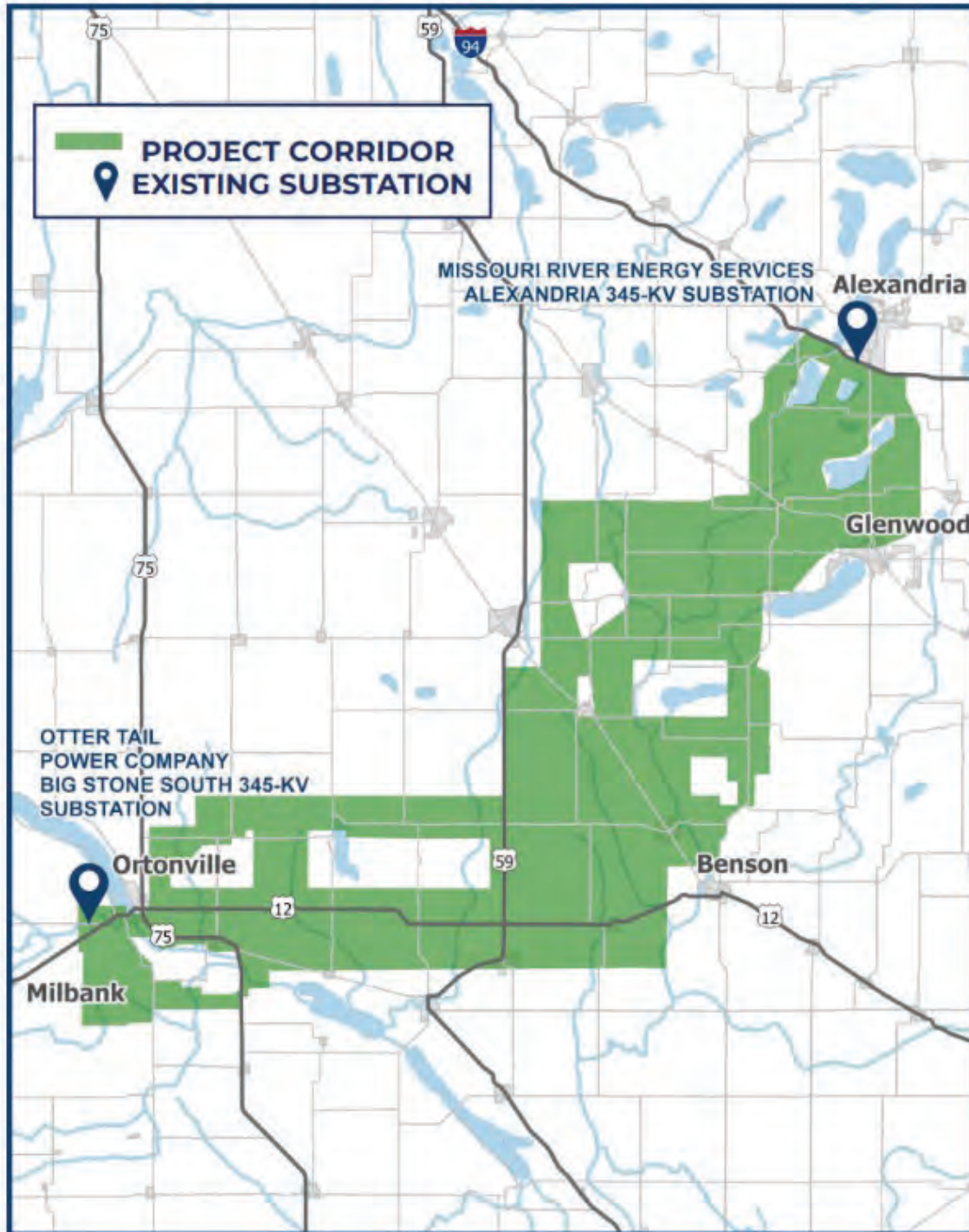
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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Scan the QR code to visit the project website.





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WELCOME

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

SECOND ROUND

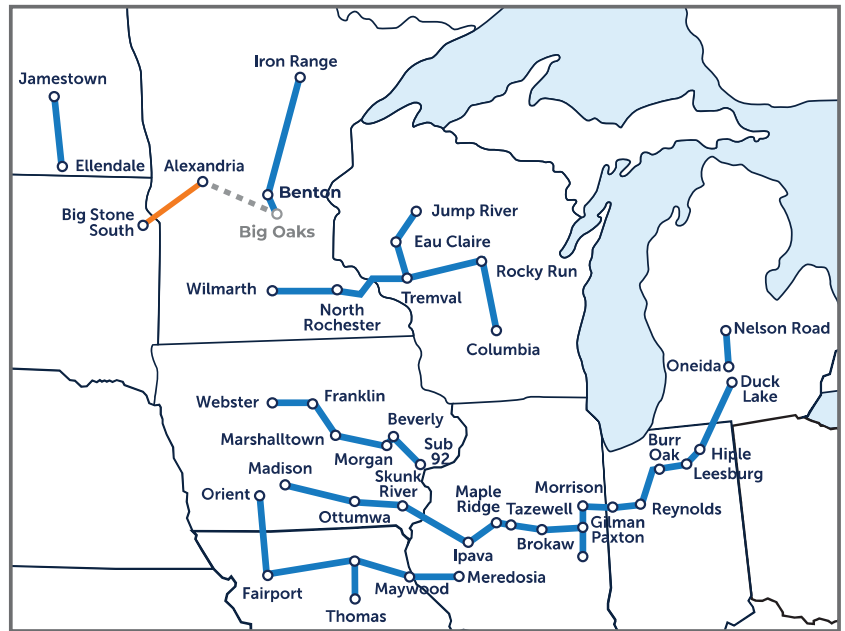




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MISO has approved 18 new transmission projects throughout the Midwest that are needed by 2030 to ensure a **reliable** and **resilient** transmission system in the future.



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The project will benefit the region by helping to:



Ensure electric reliability



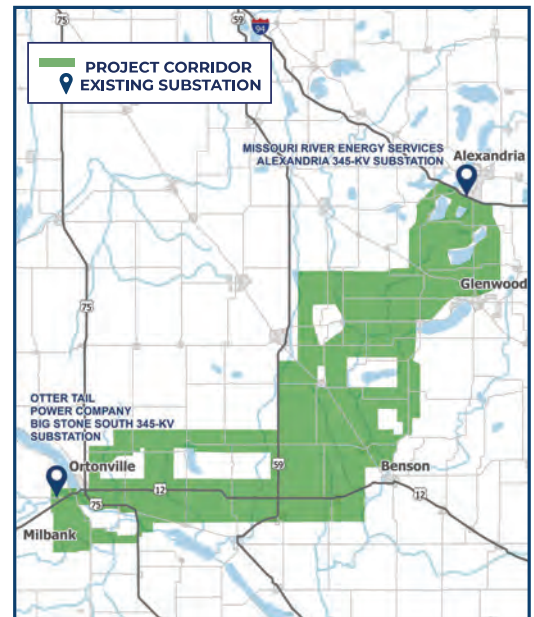
Reduce transmission congestion



Increase access to low-cost energy

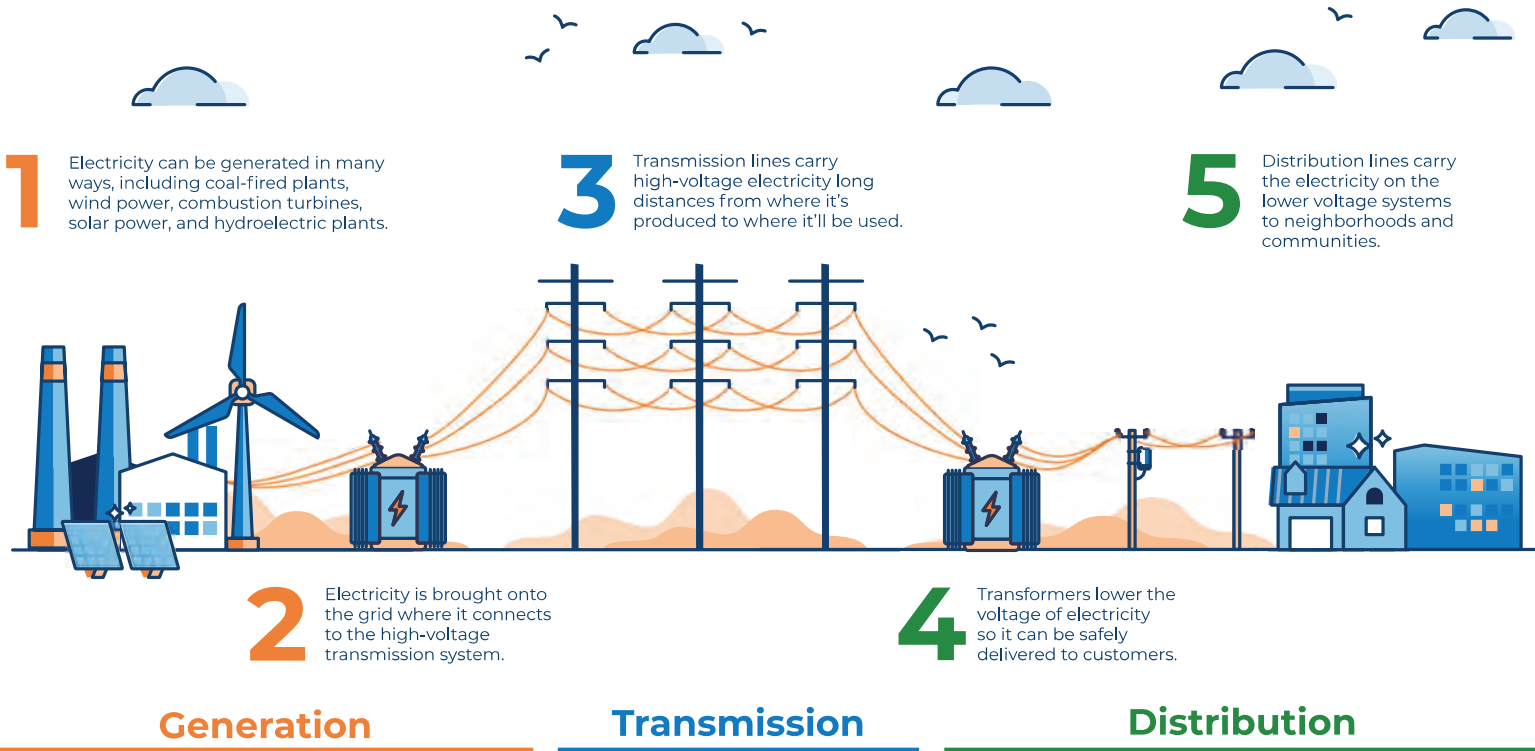


Increase resiliency to extreme weather events

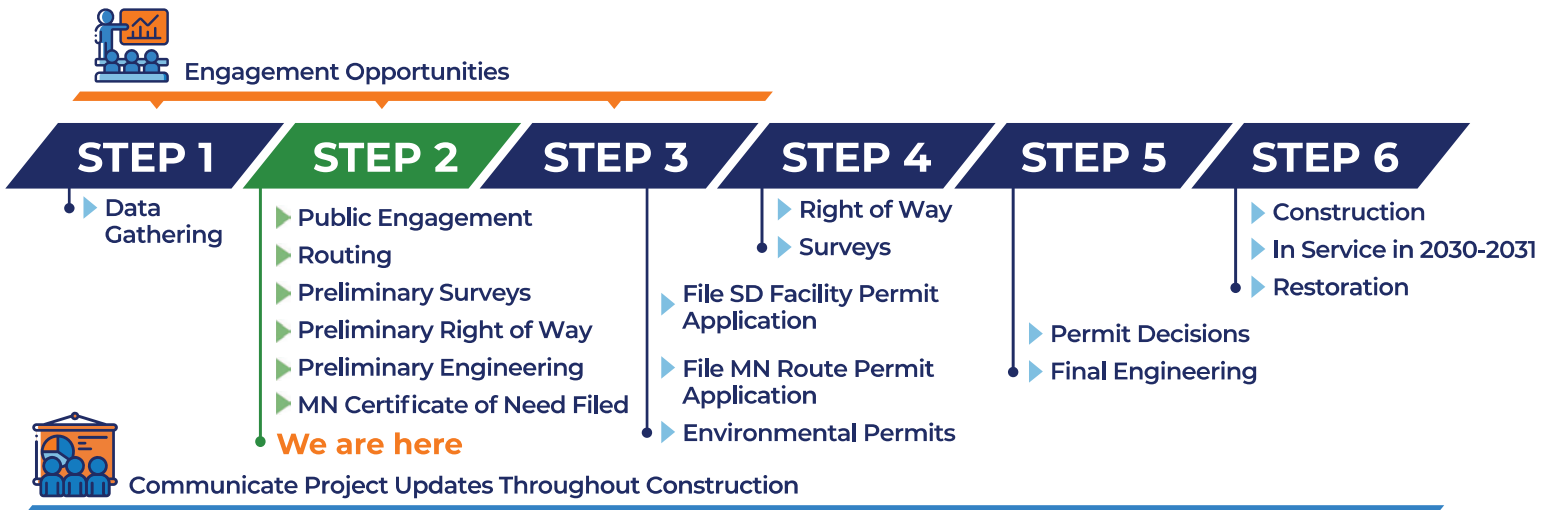


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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT STEPS



Processes and timing may vary from MN to SD. Our project team will refine the timing of these steps to be in compliance with each respective state's requirements.



The BSSA transmission line will be constructed in both Minnesota and South Dakota, and the two states have different processes and timelines. Both states consider compliance with relevant laws and rules, as well as its potential impacts on the environment, inhabitants in the routing area, and orderly development of the region. After we've filed, the PUCs in each state will provide opportunities for additional feedback through public meetings and hearings.



MINNESOTA

Two major approvals must be obtained from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) before a high voltage transmission line can be built: a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. The Certificate of Need proceeding examines whether the proposed facilities are necessary and what the appropriate size, configuration and timing of the project should be. In a separate Route Permit proceeding, the MN PUC determines the route and design of the line.



CERTIFICATE OF NEED

▶ Public meetings



ROUTE PERMIT

▶ Public meetings
▶ Public hearings



ROUTE PERMIT APPLICATION DECISION

Estimated timeline is 18-24 months from time of route permit application filing anticipated in Q4 of 2024.



SOUTH DAKOTA

There is one major approval that needs to be obtained from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) before a high voltage transmission line can be built: a Facility permit. The SD PUC reviews routing applications for high voltage transmission lines, and if approved, issues an order granting a Facility Permit authorizing the construction and operation of the facility.



FACILITY PERMIT

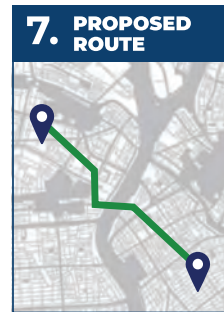
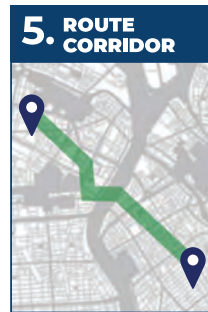
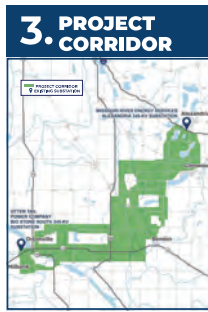
▶ Public hearing



FACILITY PERMIT APPLICATION DECISION

To be completed within 12 months from time of facility permit application filing anticipated in early Q2 of 2024.

WE ARE HERE



With an established project need from MISO, we identified a large study area that contained both substations.

A series of open houses were held to introduce the project and provide an opportunity to ask questions and provide input early.

The team utilized the input gathered to identify project corridors where construction may be possible.

Another series of open houses will gather input to help the team identify opportunities and constraints within the project corridor.

The project team will use the feedback received to continue narrowing the project corridor into a proposed route corridor.

A third and final series of open houses will be held to provide the opportunity for additional feedback on the route corridor.

A proposed route will be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission, who will review and hold a public hearing before making a decision on the route permit.



TRANSMISSION STRUCTURE

MONOPOLE

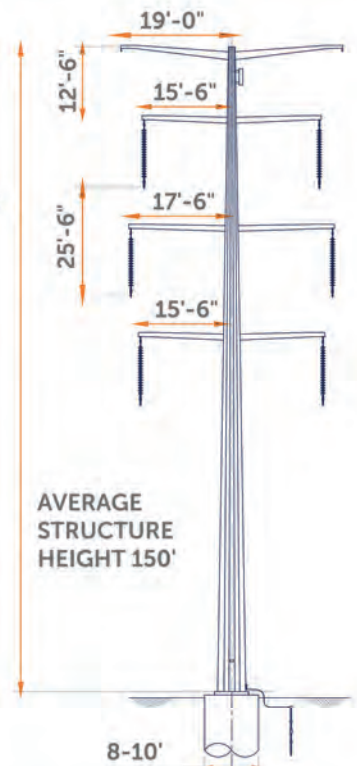


Image shown is an example of a similar double-circuit structure.

The typical structure will be 150 feet tall.

The structure type may vary across the project but primarily will be comprised of single pole, self-weathering steel with double circuit capability, meaning it can support a second set of conductors.

There will be three phases of conductors and two overhead shield wires—one will be an optical ground wire (OPGW) and the other stranded steel (overhead ground wire).



ONGOING OUTREACH

Long before construction begins, right-of-way agents will be out coordinating with landowners, local government agencies, and other stakeholders. You will be involved throughout the process, and if you have any questions or concerns, our project team will work with you!

1.



Surveys

2.



Temporary Access

3.



Foundation Drilling & Pouring

4.



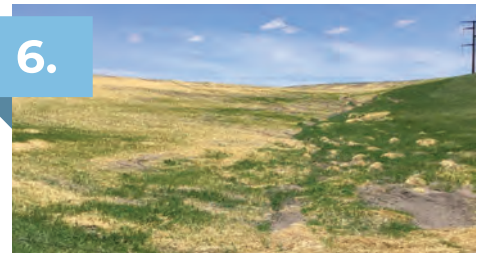
Structure Setting

5.



Conductor Stringing

6.



Restoration

? What is Right of Way?

Right of way is a portion of land needed for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the transmission line. Typically a width of 150 feet is needed for a 345-kV transmission line. Right of way is typically secured through negotiation and acquisition of an easement agreement.

? What is Right of Entry?

To assess potential routes and conduct the necessary environmental, engineering, and geologic studies/surveys, right-of-way agents will work with landowners and residents to acquire a temporary right-of-entry agreement. This agreement does not give permission for construction.

? What is an Easement?

An easement is the legal document that allows Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services to construct, operate, and maintain transmission structures and lines on your property.

A **150-foot-wide easement** will be necessary to construct, operate, and maintain the proposed 345-kV transmission line.

? Right-of-way agents will reach out to landowners in potential routing areas to discuss right-of-way needs.

1  Landowners in the project area will be notified of the project, and right-of-way agents will reach out to begin the acquisition process.

2  A right-of-way agent will present the landowner an easement based on the fair market value.

3  We'll work with landowners to resolve any questions or concerns and reach an agreement to grant an easement.

4  Once the project receives final approval, the utilities will construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line.

You will be involved throughout the process, and if you have any questions or concerns, our project team will work with you!

Stay Informed

To stay up-to-date on the project, you can visit our website at:



www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code.



Get Connected

Our next round of public meetings will be early 2024. We hope you are able to join us as we provide more information regarding the development of this project.

There will be many opportunities to participate throughout the project development and permitting process. You can submit feedback, attend public meetings, ask questions, and learn more!



Questions or comments about the project?

connect@BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

(800) 598-5587

Media coverage

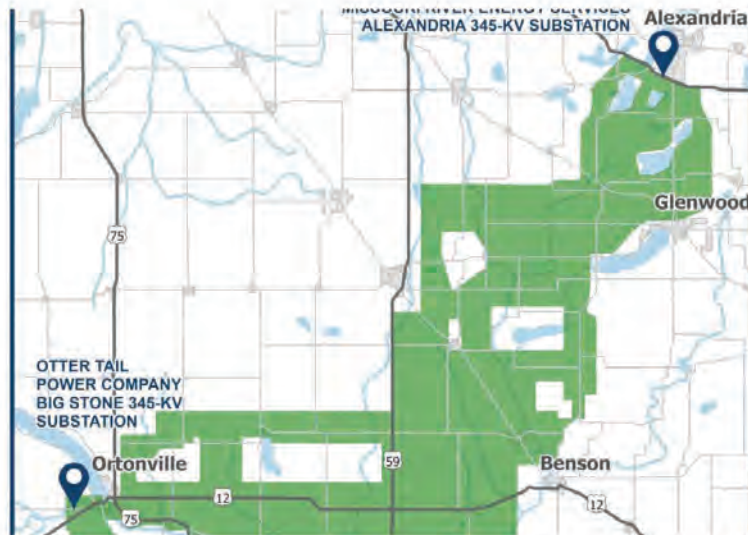
Media Coverage – Alexandria Echo Press

ECHO PRESS

NEWS LOCAL

Open house to provide information on transmission project that runs through Alexandria

It will take place Monday, Oct. 23 at the Broadway Ballroom, 115 30th Ave. E, Alexandria, from 3 to 6 p.m.



Otter Tail Power and Missouri River Energy Services are proposing a new transmission line to connect Otter Tail Power's Big Stone South Substation in northeast South Dakota and Missouri River Energy Service's Substation in Alexandria. Contributed map / Otter Tail Power and Missouri River Energy Services



By **Al Edenloff**

October 17, 2023 at 5:07 PM

Share

News reporting

ALEXANDRIA — An open house to provide more information about a proposed transmission line project — referred to as the Big Stone South to Alexandria route — will take place on Monday, Oct.

<https://www.echopress.com/news/local/open-house-to-provide-information-on-transmission-project-that-runs-through-alexandria?auth0Authentication...>

1/4

23 at the Broadway Ballroom, 115 30th Ave. E, Alexandria, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Other open houses are taking place in Milbank, Benson, Glenwood and Ortonville.

"Following public feedback from this spring, we've narrowed the project's study area to a project corridor," said Rebecca Michael, communications manager for Otter Tail Power Company, in a news release. "We're looking forward to sharing this information and hearing feedback from local landowners."

As reported in the Oct. 6 Echo Press, several Upper Midwest energy companies [filed plans on Friday, Sept.](#)

[29\(https://www.echopress.com/news/proposed-power-project-goes-through-alexandria-area\)](https://www.echopress.com/news/proposed-power-project-goes-through-alexandria-area) , with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to move forward with the transmission project in Minnesota and northeastern South Dakota.

The companies said the project, estimated to cost between \$600 and \$680 million, will deliver reliable energy to customers as older fossil fuel-based plants retire in the coming years and open new pathways for additional renewable energy proposed in the Upper Midwest.

The 345-kilovolt Big Stone South-Alexandria-Big Oaks project consists of two segments, with one running from Big Stone City, South Dakota, to Alexandria (western segment), and the other running from Alexandria to Becker, Minnesota (eastern segment).

The transmission project will provide additional capacity to mitigate current capacity issues, maintain electric system reliability, relieve congestion on the grid, and allow more low-cost wind power from western Minnesota and the Dakotas to reach customers throughout the region, according to the energy companies. Renewable energy has no fuel costs and contributes to

<https://www.echopress.com/news/local/open-house-to-provide-information-on-transmission-project-that-runs-through-alexandria?auth0Authentication...> 2/4

a diversified energy mix, which helps energy companies provide cost-effective electricity for customers, the companies said.

“This project will allow us to continue to operate a reliable transmission grid, bring low-cost, renewable energy to homes and businesses, further reduce carbon emissions and focus on meeting our customers’ energy needs,” the utilities said. “We look forward to working with our state regulators, landowners and local officials to make this project a reality.”

The Big Stone South-Alexandria-Big Oaks project will help ensure continued electric reliability and improved system resilience in the Upper Midwest, according to the utilities. In recent years, utilities have added new renewable energy, such as wind and solar, and several fossil fuel plants are expected to retire in the coming years as they reach the end of their expected useful lives.

As plants are retired, new transmission is needed to deliver energy from where it is generated, particularly widespread renewable energy, to where it is consumed, the utilities said. The project also supports efforts to meet each energy company’s carbon reduction goals and will help move towards meeting Minnesota’s carbon-free energy standard.

The eastern segment proposes stringing a new transmission circuit primarily on existing structures originally built as part of the CapX2020 Fargo-St. Cloud and St. Cloud – Monticello projects between Alexandria and a new substation on Xcel Energy property near the Sherco power plant in Becker.

The western segment from Big Stone South to Alexandria proposes a new transmission line between Otter Tail Power’s Big Stone South substation in South Dakota and the Alexandria substation owned by Missouri River Energy Services.

The utilities jointly filed a Certificate of Need application for both segments and a Route Permit application for the eastern segment.

<https://www.echopress.com/news/local/open-house-to-provide-information-on-transmission-project-that-runs-through-alexandria?auth0Authentication...> 3/4

The western segment Route Permit application is expected to be filed in 2024 following a robust public outreach process, which is ongoing. Project participants include Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Missouri River Energy Services (which has 61 utility members, including ALP Utilities in Alexandria), Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy.

Share

News reporting

Tags



By **Al Edenloff** (<https://www.echopress.com/Al Edenloff>)

Al Edenloff is the editor of the twice-weekly Echo Press. He started his journalism career when he was in 10th grade, writing football and basketball stories for the Parkers Prairie Independent.

<https://www.echopress.com>
Twitter (<https://twitter.com/@AlEdenloff>) Instagram
https://www.instagram.com/echo_press/ Facebook
(<https://www.facebook.com/echopress>)

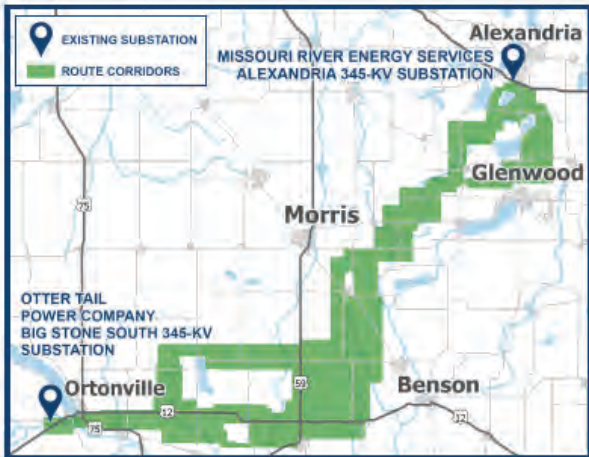
Phase 3 Public Open Houses



Mailings and advertisements

Postcard mailer

BSSA Big Stone South to Alexandria



Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services (representing Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line (BSSA) will connect Otter Tail Power Company's Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City in South Dakota to the Alexandria Substation owned by Missouri River Energy Services near Alexandria, Minnesota.

This project is needed to ensure electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather events, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to low-cost energy in the region.

Route corridors are marked in green on the map and are subject to change.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Developing and constructing a transmission line is a multi-year effort. We are gathering public feedback on the route corridors to help us develop a proposed route. We'll continue coordinating with landowners, local governments, agencies, and other stakeholders throughout the development process. The new line is tentatively scheduled to be complete in either 2030 or 2031.



ROUTING PROCESS



DEFINE STUDY AREA



HOST PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES



IDENTIFY PROJECT CORRIDORS



HOST PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES



DEVELOP ROUTE CORRIDORS



WE ARE HERE
HOST PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES



SELECT PROPOSED ROUTE



C/O HDR
1601 Utica Avenue South, Suite 600
St. Louis Park, MN 55416-3400

JOIN US FOR AN OPEN HOUSE

You're invited to our upcoming open houses to learn more about the project and provide your input to our team.

ORTONVILLE

Feb. 12, 2024 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Community Center
200 Monroe Ave, Ortonville, MN 56278

ALEXANDRIA

Feb. 13, 2024 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn
5637 Hwy 29 S, Alexandria, MN 56308

GLENWOOD

Feb. 20, 2024 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Central Square
105 2nd Ave NE, Ste 111, Glenwood, MN 56334

BIG STONE CITY


Feb. 21, 2024 3:00-6:00 p.m.
New American Legion
14521 485th Ave, Big Stone City, SD 57216


BENSON


Feb. 22, 2024 3:00-6:00 p.m.
McKinney's on Southside
300 14th St S, Benson, MN 56215

If we need to cancel due to inclement weather, we'll reschedule for the same time and location exactly two weeks later. Please check our website or call us for day-of updates.

QUESTIONS?

 www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

 connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com

 (800) 598-5587



SCAN ME

Newspaper advertisement

Join us!

Provide input for the Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line

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BIG STONE CITY

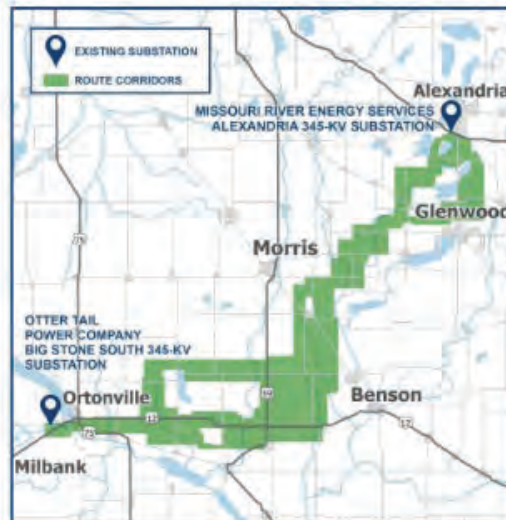
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McKinney's on Southside
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Otter Tail Power Company and **Missouri River Energy Services** (representing Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line (BSSA) will connect Otter Tail Power Company's Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City in South Dakota to the Alexandria Substation owned by Missouri River Energy Services near Alexandria, Minnesota.

This project is needed to ensure electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather events, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to low-cost energy in the region.



▲ Route corridors are marked in green on the map above and are subject to change.

If we need to cancel due to inclement weather, we'll reschedule for the same time and location exactly two weeks later. Please check our website or call us for day-of updates.

QUESTIONS?

www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com
connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com
 (800) 598-5587

CAN'T MAKE IT?

You can still provide input in several ways:

- Request a mailed or emailed information packet.
- Set up a meeting with our project team.
- Leave a comment on our online map. www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com

Social media ad

Otter Tail Power Company
Sponsored · 4h

We're partnering with Missouri River Energy Services (representing Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency) to [...See more](#)

bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com
Big South Stone to Alexandria Transmission... [Learn more](#)

4 2 comments 1 share

Like Comment Share

Email invite

From: [Big Stone South to Alexandria](#)
To: [Dominguez, Ruben](#)
Subject: [TEST] You're invited to attend our Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line (BSSA) project open houses
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 2:52:32 PM

You don't often get email from connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: [EXTERNAL] This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

BSSA Big Stone South to Alexandria



Hello,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and **Missouri River Energy Services** (MRES), (on behalf of Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency), invite you to attend our upcoming open houses for the Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line (BSSA) project. Please join us to learn more about the project and provide your input to our team:



Ortonville

Monday, February 12, 2024

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Community Center

200 Monroe Ave, Ortonville, MN 56278



Alexandria

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Holiday Inn

5637 Hwy 29 S, Alexandria, MN 56308

Glenwood

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.



Central Square

105 2nd Ave NE, Ste 111, Glenwood, MN 56334



Big Stone City

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

New American Legion

14521 485th Ave, Big Stone City, SD 57216



Benson

Thursday, February 22, 2024

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

McKinney's on Southside

300 14th St S, Benson, MN 56215

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- Visiting www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com to leave a comment on our online map.
- Emailing connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com.
- Calling **(800) 598-5587**.

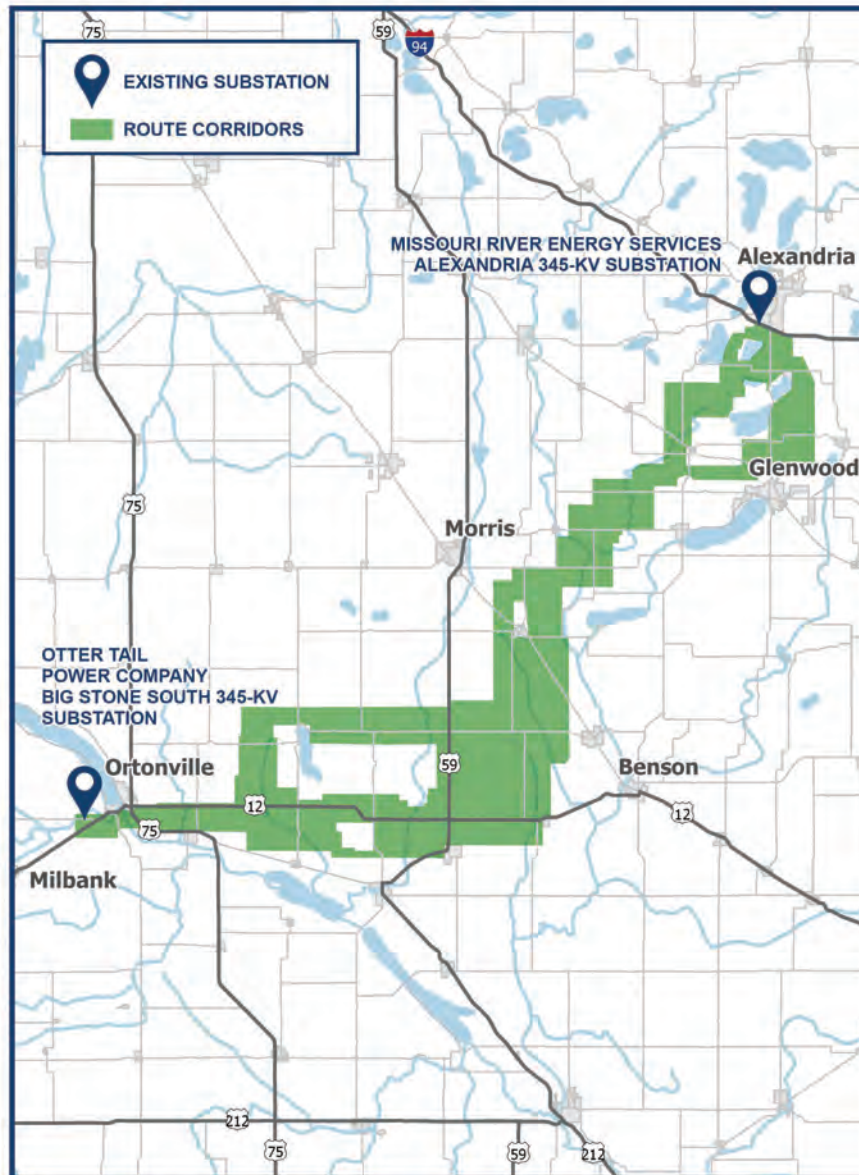
Through any of these outreach options, you can request a mailed or emailed information packet, set up a meeting with our project team, or leave a message.

We look forward to connecting with you!

Sincerely,

Jason Weiers

Manager, Transmission Project Development



▲ Route corridors are marked in green on the map above and subject to change.

More about the project

Otter Tail Power and MRES are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line (BSSA) will connect Otter Tail Power Company's Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City in South Dakota to the Alexandria Substation owned by Missouri River Energy Services near Alexandria, Minnesota. This project is needed to ensure

electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather events, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to low-cost energy in the region.

The BSSA project is one of 18 transmission projects recently identified by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), our regional grid operator, as part of the first phase of the multi-year Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) initiative. These LRTP projects are needed to ensure a reliable and resilient transmission system in the future.

Developing and constructing transmission lines takes many years, and we're currently proposing an in-service date in 2030 or 2031. Otter Tail Power and MRES began coordinating with landowners and residents, local governments, agencies, and other interested stakeholders in spring 2023 and will continue to seek input from stakeholders throughout the development process.

Would you like to change how you receive these emails?

Please [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this mailing list](#).

January 17, 2024

Re: You're invited to attend our Big Stone South to Alexandria transmission line (BSSA) project open houses

Dear Stakeholder,

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), (on behalf of Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency), invite you to attend our upcoming open houses for the BSSA project. We're providing you information in advance of notifying the communities and constituents about these open houses so you can be prepared if you're contacted with questions. We expect you'll receive an official invitation to these open houses the week of January 22, 2024.

Based on input gathered during the open houses in April and October 2023, coordination with interested agencies, and review of technical data and requirements, we have narrowed project corridors to route corridors. The upcoming open houses will help us refine the route corridors into a proposed route and an alternative route. We'll include these routes in our Route Permit application to be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in the fourth quarter of 2024. We'll also include the routes in our Facility Permit application to be filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in the second quarter of 2024. **The enclosed map shows our route corridors.** Detailed maps will also be available at the open houses.

The table below lists our upcoming open house dates, times, and locations. We will not have a formal presentation but instead, encourage you to come when it works best for your schedule. Each open house will provide the same information, including project displays and detailed maps to review and collect input.

City	Date	Time	Location
Ortonville	Monday, February 12	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Community Center 200 Monroe Ave Ortonville, MN 56278
Alexandria	Tuesday, February 13	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Holiday Inn 5637 Hwy 29 S Alexandria, MN 56308
Glenwood	Tuesday, February 20	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Central Square 105 2 nd Ave NE, Ste 111 Glenwood, MN 56334
Big Stone City	Wednesday, February 21	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	New American Legion 14521 485 th Ave Big Stone City, SD 57216
Benson	Thursday, February 22	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	McKinney's on Southside 300 14 th St S Benson, MN 56215

If you or any constituents cannot attend an open house, we encourage you to connect with us by:

- Visiting www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com to leave a comment on our online map.
- Emailing connect@bigstonesouthtoalexandria.com.
- Calling **(800) 598-5587**.

Through any of these outreach options, you can request a mailed or emailed information packet, set up a meeting with our project team, or leave a message.

More about the project:

Otter Tail Power and MRES are partnering to develop, construct, and co-own a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line, known as the BSSA project. The new line will connect Otter Tail Power's Big Stone South substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, to a substation owned by Missouri River Energy Services near Alexandria, Minnesota. The BSSA project is needed to ensure electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather events, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to low-cost energy in the region. In addition, the BSSA project will create construction jobs and provide economic benefits to local areas through tax revenues.

The BSSA project is one of 18 transmission projects recently identified by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), our regional grid operator, as part of the first phase of the multi-year Long-Range Transmission Planning (LRTP) initiative. These LRTP projects are needed to ensure a reliable and resilient transmission system in the future.

Developing and constructing transmission lines takes many years, and we're currently proposing an in-service date in 2030 or 2031. Otter Tail Power and MRES began coordinating with landowners and residents, local governments, agencies, and other interested stakeholders in spring 2023 and will continue to seek input from stakeholders throughout the development process.

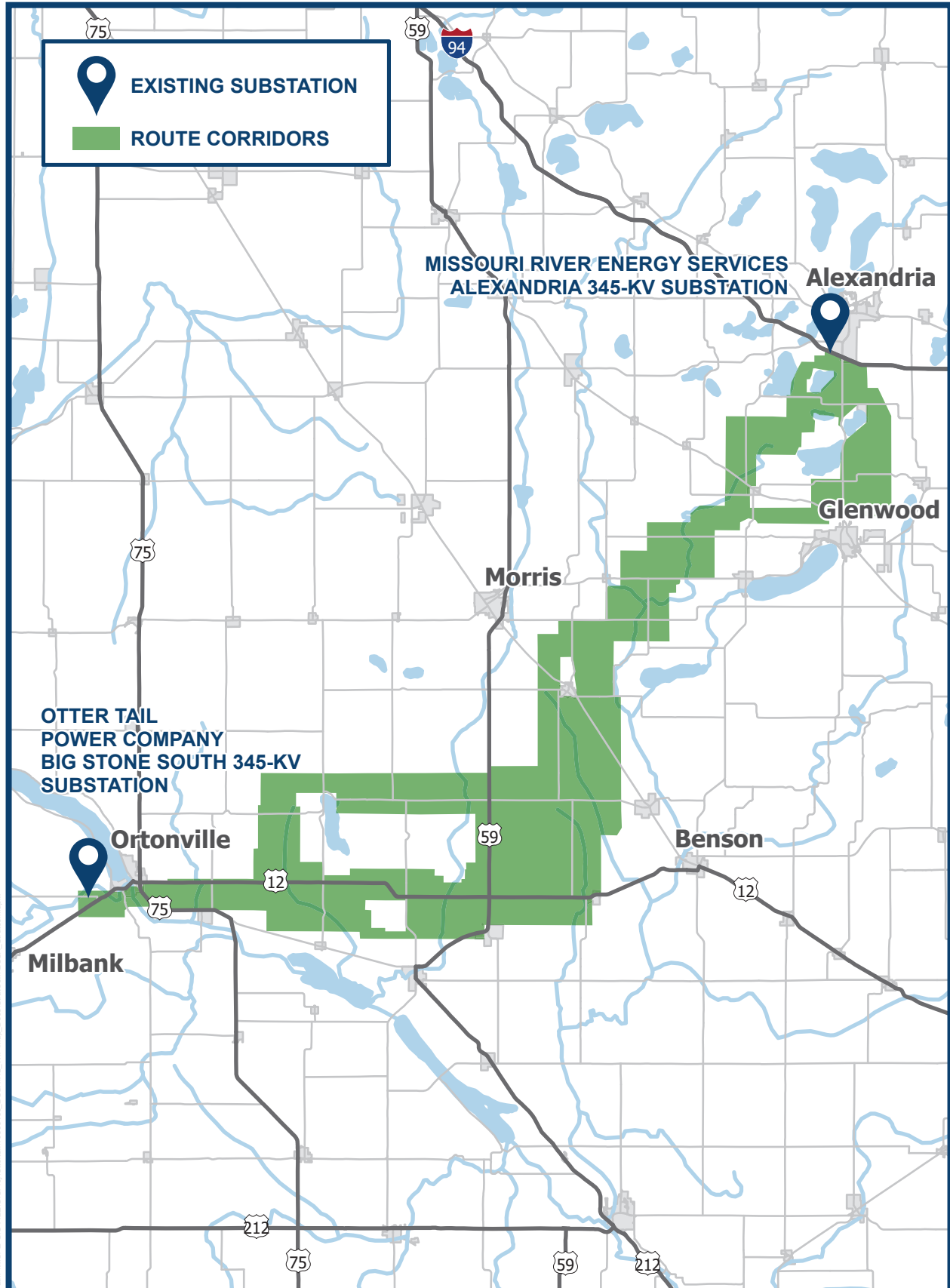
We look forward to connecting with you!

Sincerely,



Jason Weiers
Otter Tail Power Company
Manager, Transmission Project Development

Enclosure: BSSA Route Corridors Map



▲ Route corridors are marked in green on the map above and subject to change.

Open house materials