



Maple River - Cuyuna

MR-C 345 kV TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Project overview

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy (collectively the Applicants) are proposing to construct an approximately 160-mile-long, single-circuit 345 kV transmission line on double-circuit structures from Minnesota Power's Cuyuna Substation near Riverton, Minnesota, to Otter Tail Power Company's Maple River Substation in eastern North Dakota.

The Maple River – Cuyuna (MR-C) Transmission Project is one in a portfolio of transmission projects approved by the regional grid operator, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), in its 2024 Long-Range Transmission Planning portfolio. As a part of this larger portfolio, the MR-C Transmission Project will:



Enhance the reliability of the regional transmission system as the way we produce and use electricity changes



Increase transmission system capacity to reliably deliver energy from where it's produced to where it's used



Meet growing electrical demand and enhance resiliency during extreme weather events



Enable cost-effective regional energy transfers supporting economical grid operations

Schedule

2025

Stakeholder engagement and routing

2026-2028

Permitting, engineering, environmental surveys, ROW acquisition, and public engagement

2029-2032

Construction

2033

Anticipated in-service

**The schedule is subject to change.*

Regulatory process

Approximately 95% of the Project is in Minnesota and subject to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) regulatory process. In February 2025, the Applicants filed a notice of intent (NOI) with the MPUC to apply for a Certificate of Need from the State of Minnesota. Under current state regulations, the Applicants have 12 months from the date of the NOI to file the Certificate of Need application. The Applicants anticipate applying to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit during the third quarter of 2026. Other state and federal permits will also be required depending on the final route and project design.

The remaining 5% of the Project is in North Dakota and subject to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) regulatory process, as well as local permitting. This process includes obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit from the NDPSC and a county/township land use permit. Other state and federal permits may also be required. The Project anticipates filing these applications with the NDPSC in 2026 to 2027.

Public involvement

Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power Company, and Great River Energy will continue to gather information from the public to support the development of potential routes for the Project. There will also be additional opportunities for any interested parties to ask questions and provide comments during the permitting process.

Connect with us

Stay up to date on the project by signing up for email updates or talking to a Project team member.

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MR-C Transmission Project Study Area

