MANKATO – MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRANSMISSION PROJECT

INFORMATION SHEET
MINNESOTA

January 2024

About

The Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project will strengthen the overall backbone of the transmission grid by improving reliability and resiliency, delivering new low-cost renewable energy and providing other benefits for Minnesota and the Upper Midwest region.

This project is part of a portfolio of long-range electric transmission projects identified by the regional grid operator, MISO, to improve reliability, make the grid more resilient during extreme weather, and ensure customers receive the electricity they need to power their homes and businesses.

Project Details

The Mankato-Mississippi River Transmission Project includes about 120 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines between the existing Wilmarth Substation near Mankato, Minnesota, and a connection point at the Mississippi River near Kellogg.

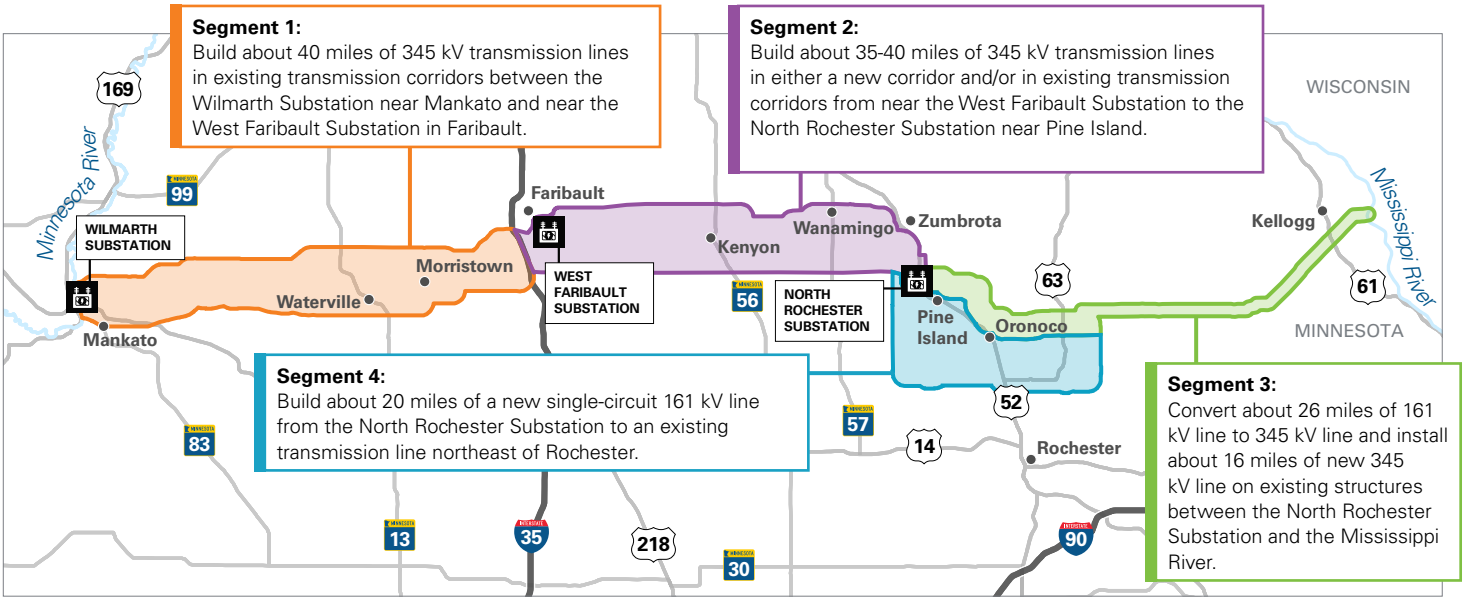
It also includes building about 20 miles of new 161 kV transmission lines between the existing North Rochester Substation near Pine Island, Minnesota, and an existing transmission line northeast of Rochester, which is being relocated from its existing alignment to install the new 345 kV infrastructure.

Routing Process

Our route selection process is a multi-step analysis that identifies route alternatives with minimal impacts to humans and the environment. Preliminary routes are evaluated to identify potential impacts, including proximity to homes, opportunities to share corridors (including roads and other transmission lines), impacts to agriculture, locations of protected lands and resources, aesthetics, and other concerns.

Once preliminary routes are identified, we gather input from the public, local governments, Tribes and resource agencies to help refine the routes. Your feedback about specific constraints or challenges on preliminary routes, or identification of alternative route opportunities, is especially helpful as we develop the project. This feedback will be considered in the preliminary routes, which will then undergo a more detailed comparative analysis. This will inform the selection of proposed routes, which we plan to submit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in early 2024 in a combined Certificate of Need and Route Permit application.

This project includes four segments:



This map is a general graphic and may not show exact locations.

Project Benefits

This project will provide several benefits in southern Minnesota and throughout the Upper Midwest:

- Adding transmission capacity to accommodate increasing amounts of renewable energy generation as aging traditional generation resources retire.
- Increasing the reliability and resilience of the energy grid by developing new high-voltage connections to key substations that serve customers.
- Enabling greater access to low-cost renewable electricity.
- Upgrading and updating infrastructure supports local businesses and industries with reliable, resilient power.
- When possible, we hire local construction workers and companies for construction services, including cement, concrete, equipment rentals and related services. Similar projects have shown that hundreds of workers and companies participate in these projects, providing benefits to the local economy.
- Building new transmission lines encourages construction of wind and solar power to bring more low-cost renewable electricity to help meet the electric needs of our state. These projects provide construction jobs, lease revenue for farmers and increased tax base to support communities.

Schedule

During this project, we'll conduct regular engagement efforts. Our current schedule, while subject to change, is expected to be the following:

2022

- Project identified by MISO

2023

- Route development process begins
- Public and stakeholder engagement
- Preliminary engineering

2024 – 2026

- Submit Certificate of Need and Route Permit Application
- Minnesota permitting review (including public engagement)
- Detailed engineering
- Negotiate with landowners to purchase easements
- Obtain other required permits
- Continued public and stakeholder engagement

2026-2028

- Construction

2028

- In-service and restoration

QUESTIONS?

We want to hear from you.

SCAN ME

Call: 800-853-3365

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