

ROUTE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Our route development process is a multi-step analysis that identifies route alternatives that minimize impacts to humans, the environment and land uses.

The route selection process generally includes:

Developing preliminary route options

- 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 landowners, the public, local governments, Native American Tribes and resource agencies to help refine the preliminary routes. The feedback provided about specific constraints or challenges on preliminary routes, or identification of alternative route opportunities, is especially helpful during project development.

Refining and field verifying preliminary route options

- Feedback gathered during the development of preliminary route options undergoes a more detailed analysis. Input about specific constraints or challenges on preliminary routes, or identification of alternative route opportunities, is especially helpful as we refine and field-verify preliminary route options. This step also includes verifying information collected and the analyses completed through site visits.

Submitting proposed routes to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

- The information we review and comments we receive will help identify the routes that we include in our Route Permit. The State of Minnesota rules require we submit at least two route options for their consideration. The Minnesota Public Utilities will review our permit and make a decision on the final route following its public review process.



Note: this process is flexible and steps may be revisited based on additional data and feedback from landowners, the public, local governments, Native American Tribes and resource agencies.