

## WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS

### MANKATO-MISSISSIPPI RIVER TRANSMISSION PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET | MINNESOTA

Updated: May 2025

### Easement Acquisition and Survey Permission

- An easement is a permanent right authorizing a utility to use the Right-of-Way (ROW) to build and maintain a transmission line.
- Access may be needed for construction and long-term maintenance of the transmission line.
- To assist with transmission line engineering and design, temporary access or permission from landowners may be acquired to conduct surveys and soil sampling.
- Engineering, environmental, cultural, and land survey studies would be conducted.
- Market data from recent sales of similar properties is used to determine fair and appropriate landowner compensation.
- Every effort will be made to reach a fair and reasonable settlement. When negotiations are unsuccessful, which is rare, we may have to exercise our eminent domain authority.
- Minnesota's "Buy-the-Farm" law provides certain landowners with the right to request that a utility purchase some or all of their entire contiguous land parcel where a new transmission line above 200 kV is sited rather than purchasing an easement. Certain landowners may also be entitled to relocation assistance.

### Working in the Right-of-Way

- Generally, activities by landowners within the transmission line easement are not restricted, and can continue, including agricultural activities.
- Activities not permitted within the easement are those that jeopardize the integrity of the structures or reduce the ground-to-line clearance, such as construction of new buildings or tall-growth trees.
- Landowners should exercise caution when operating tall equipment, moving irrigation pipes, fueling vehicles, or conducting other activities within the easement to prevent electrical shock or contact with the transmission line.

### Easements and Agriculture

#### Irrigation

- Structures will be placed to avoid conflicts with irrigation equipment and its operation to the extent possible.
- Site-specific circumstances can be addressed with landowners.

#### Planting and Harvesting

- Land rights agents will work with individual landowners to determine when to avoid construction during planting and harvesting seasons.
- If crop damage cannot be avoided, compensation for crop loss will be offered.

#### Livestock

- In coordination with the landowner, segments of fences may be removed or access gates may be installed during line construction.
- Crews would construct temporary fences and work with landowners to minimize impacts to and protect livestock.
- If the landowner is in agreement, gates would be left in place to facilitate future maintenance activities.

