

Appendix C

Public Outreach and Open House Materials

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 Media Coverage

February 2026 Public Open Houses

Advertisements and Mailings

Newspaper	Published	Run Dates
Hankinson Richland County Monitor	Wednesday	1/28/2026, 2/4/2026
Ortonville Independent	Tuesday	2/3/2026, 2/10/2026
Milbank Grant County Review	Wednesday	1/28/2026, 2/4/2026
Milbank Valley Shopper	Monday	2/2/2026, 2/9/2026
Rosholt Review	Wednesday	2/4/2026, 2/11/2026
Sisseton Courier	Tuesday	2/3/2026, 2/10/2026



Big Stone South to
Hankinson to Bison
Transmission Line



JOIN US!

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

Imagine a future for North Dakota and South Dakota that's defined by a resilient, reliable electric grid that supports rural living and thriving communities. The Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison transmission line will help bring this future to life. Spanning approximately 150 miles, this 345-kilovolt (kV) line would run from Otter Tail Power's Big Stone South Substation in South Dakota to its Hankinson Substation in North Dakota, then continue to Xcel Energy's Bison Substation near Mapleton, North Dakota. Otter Tail Power will be the developer and construction manager.

MILBANK, SD

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

City Hall
1001 E 4th Ave
Milbank, SD 57252

INCLEMENT WEATHER DATE
February 19, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

WILMOT, SD

Thursday, February 12, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Community Center
516 Main St
Wilmot, SD 57279

INCLEMENT WEATHER DATE
February 18, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

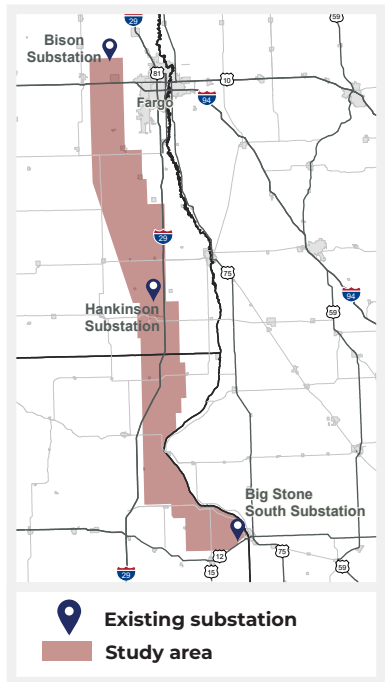
HANKINSON, ND

Thursday, February 12, 2026

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Community Center
112 Main Ave S
Hankinson, ND 58041

INCLEMENT WEATHER DATE
February 19, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Contact us

888-806-4743

www.BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com

Connect@BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com

SCAN ME!



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Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison
345-kV Transmission Line
C/O HDR
51 N. Broadway, Suite 550
Fargo, ND 58102

Learn more inside about the Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison 345-kV transmission line proposed by Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy.

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SCAN ME!

Have questions about the project?

- www.BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com
- Connect@BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com
- 1-888-806-4743

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 BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com.

Inclement Weather
If meetings are postponed due to inclement weather, they will be held on the following dates:

MILBANK, SD
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
City Hall
1001 E 4th Ave
Milbank, SD 57252

WILMOT, SD
Thursday, February 12, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Community Center
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Wilmot, SD 57279

HANKINSON, ND
Thursday, February 12, 2026
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Community Center
112 Main Ave S
Hankinson, ND 58041

Join us at an open house to provide your input

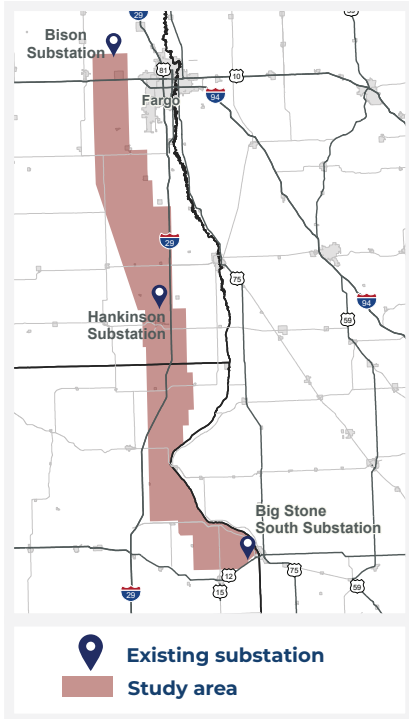
Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison (BSSHB) will add approximately 150 miles of 345-kV transmission line across North Dakota and South Dakota, helping to enhance electric reliability, increase resiliency to extreme weather events, reduce transmission congestion, and increase access to low-cost energy. You're invited to our upcoming open houses to learn more about the project and provide your input on potential corridors.

BSS-H-B Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

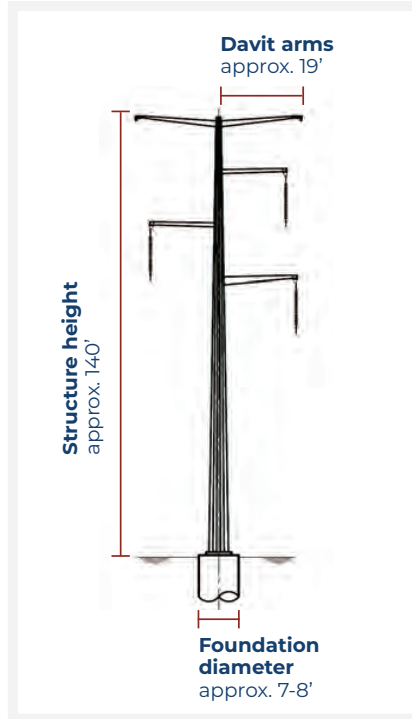
Imagine a future for North Dakota and South Dakota that's defined by a resilient, reliable electric grid that supports rural living and thriving communities. The Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison transmission line will help bring this future to life.

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Study area



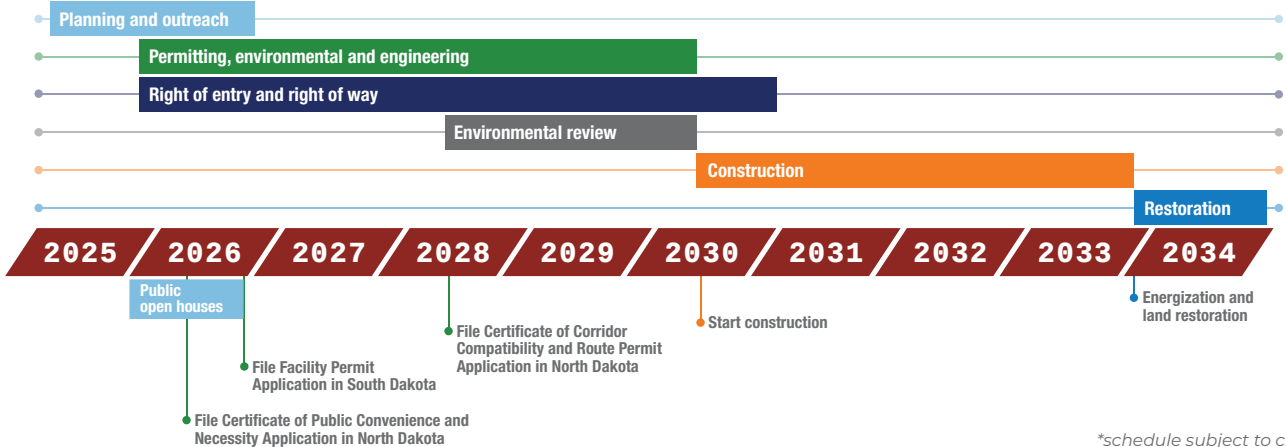
Typical structure



Routing process



Schedule Developing and constructing a transmission line is a multi-year effort. We'll coordinate with landowners, local governments, agencies, Tribal Nations, and other stakeholders throughout the development process.



**schedule subject to change*

Contact us

1-888-806-4743

www.BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com
Connect@BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com



Open House Materials



BIG STONE SOUTH TO HANKINSON TO BISON

WELCOME

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



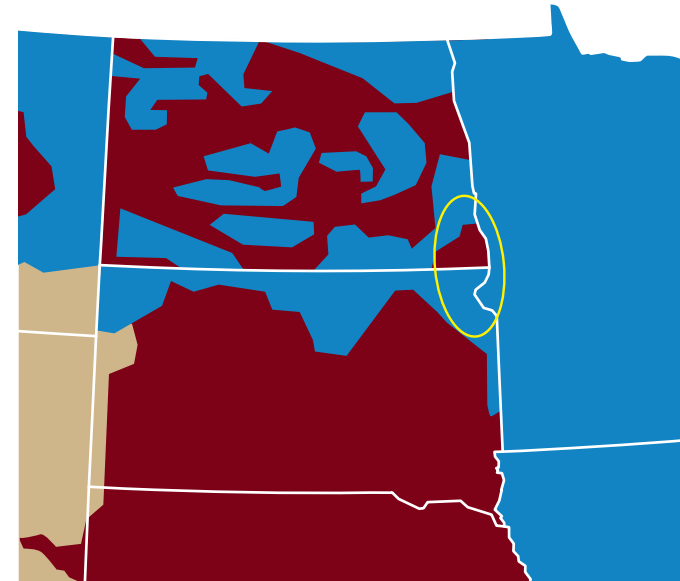


Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

PROJECT NEED

North Dakota and South Dakota are served by two regional transmission organizations, MISO and SPP, that manage generation and transmission in their respective footprints.

This project is designed to improve how MISO and SPP work together at their connection points. It helps relieve pressure on transmission lines that are currently overloaded, making it easier to connect new power sources.



Midcontinent Independent System Operator



Southwest Power Pool

February 2026





Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

BENEFITS

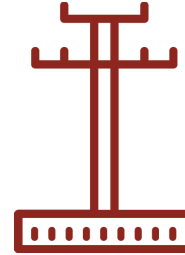
BSSHB will benefit the region:



Enhance electric
reliability



Increase resiliency
to extreme
weather events



Reduce
transmission
congestion



Increase access to
low-cost energy

February 2026





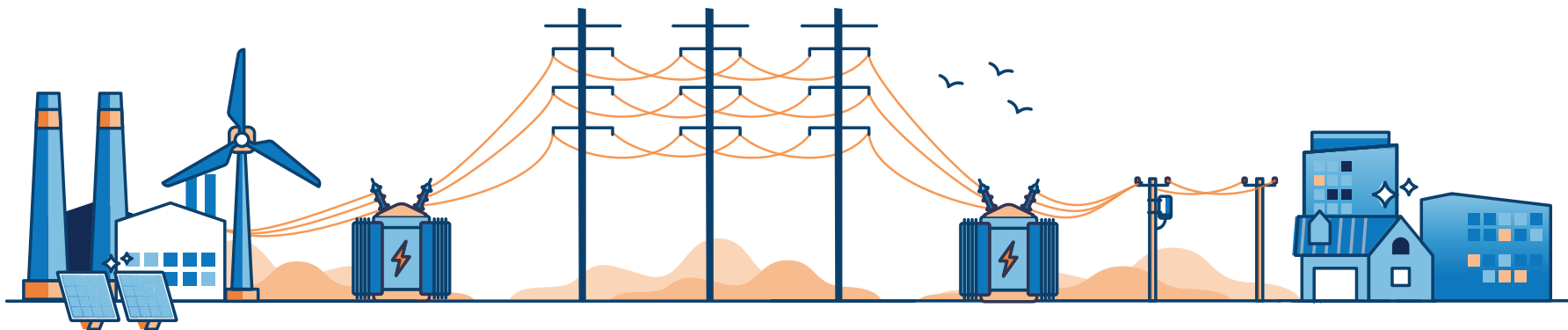
Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

TRANSMISSION BASICS

1 Electricity can be generated in many ways, including coal-fired plants, wind power, combustion turbines, solar power, and hydroelectric plants

3 Transmission lines move high-voltage electricity long distances from where it's generated to where it'll be used.

5 Distribution lines move low-voltage electricity to neighborhoods and communities.



2 Electricity connects to the high-voltage transmission system through a transformer.

4 Transformers lower the voltage of electricity for homes and businesses

Generation

Transmission

Distribution

February 2026

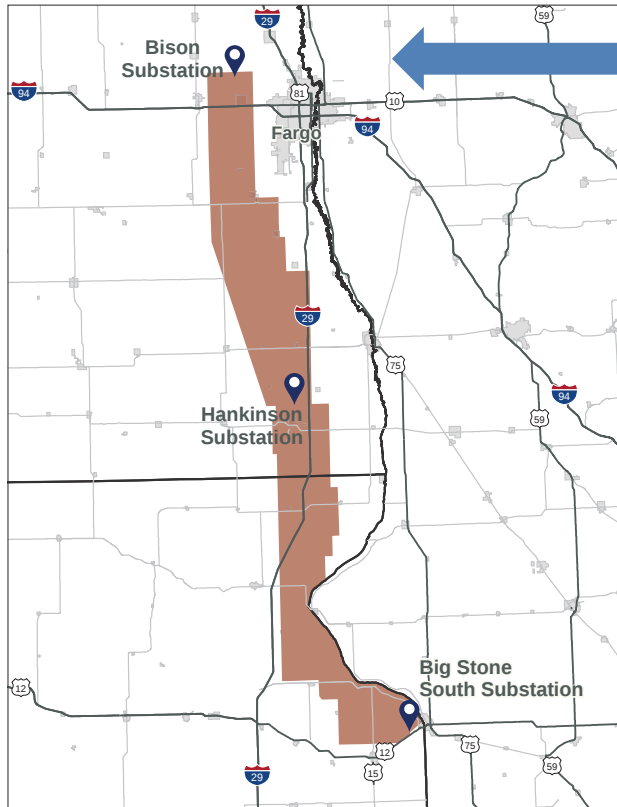




Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

STUDY AREA

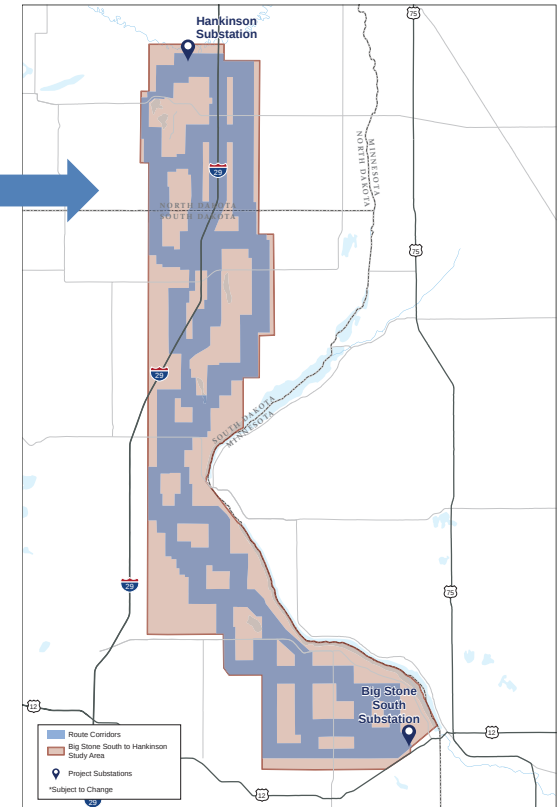
Study Area



A study area is the initial region we identified for potential routes.

We've also identified potential route corridors within the study area. These approximately 1.5-mile-wide corridors provide a more focused starting point for gathering public input, and evaluating environmental, cultural, and engineering factors before narrowing to specific routes.

Southern Segment Route Corridors



February 2026





Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

ROUTE CONSIDERATIONS

The examples below illustrate common considerations during route development.



Exclusion areas

Highly regulated areas including:

- National/state parks, historic sites, nature preserves.
- City/county parks and recreation areas.
- Areas critical to the life stages of the threatened or endangered animal or plant species.
- Required military buffers.



Avoidance areas

Used only if no reasonable alternative exists

- Wildlife areas, refuges, and grasslands.
- Geologically unstable areas.
- Reservoirs, municipal water supplies, and irrigation.



Impact reduction

We also evaluate and narrow routes to minimize impacts to:

- Agriculture (cropland, drainage, groundwater).
- People and communities (sound/visual considerations).
- Environment (wetlands, woodlands, wildlife).
- Health, safety, and reliability (engineering and buildability).

Your local knowledge helps us plan responsibly. The information below is especially valuable as we continue to refine the route.

Local land details

- Drainage issues
- Wet spots
- Tile lines
- Irrigation systems
- Livestock areas
- Seasonal field use
- Access challenges (gates, driveways, seasonal limitations).

Important things we may not see

- Family cemeteries
- Cultural/historic sites
- Private airstrips
- Quarries
- Shelterbelts
- Other locally significant places.

Community context

Let us know about any meeting or mailing challenges, concerns, or clarifications we should be aware of.

February 2026



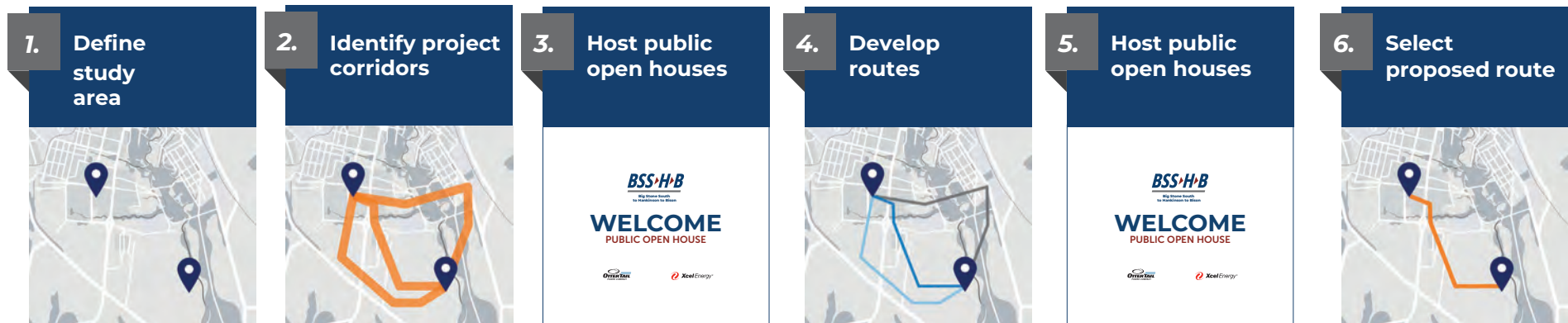


Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Now that the project corridors has been defined, we'll work with landowners, agencies, and other stakeholders to find the best route for the transmission line.

WE ARE HERE



The process includes:

- Identifying possible routes and challenges in the area.
- Hosting public open houses to get input from landowners.
- Coordinating with federal, state, and local government units.

February 2026

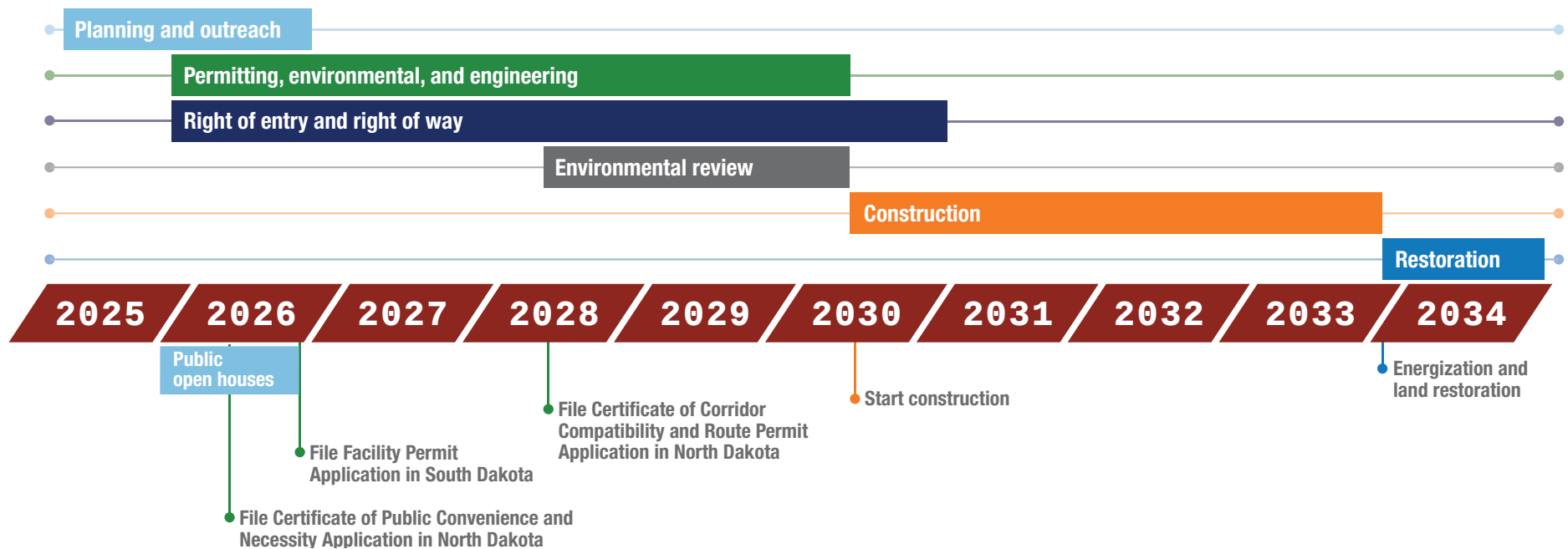




Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

PROPOSED TIMELINE

If approved the project would be built in the early 2030's and likely to be in-service in 2034.

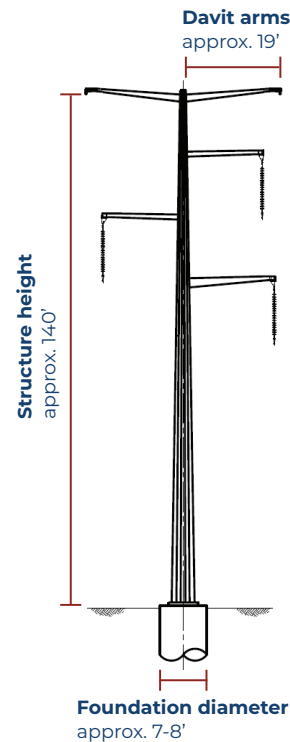


February 2026





Typical structure



The shape of each structure will vary depending on terrain, soil conditions, and other engineering constraints.

Key design specs

- Right-of-way: 150 feet
- Structure: Single-circuit, self-supporting monopole made of weathering Corten steel
- Height: 120–160 feet
- Base diameter: 3–9 feet

Foundation

- Concrete drilled pier
- Diameter: 6–12 feet
- Depth: 20–75 feet

Span between structures

- 700–1,200 feet

Conductor

- Vertically bundled twisted pair
- Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR)

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line



Right-of-way agents will reach out to landowners in potential routing areas to discuss right-of-way needs. You'll be involved throughout the process, and our project team will be available to help with your questions or concerns.

Landowners in the project area will be notified of the project, and right-of-way agents will reach out to begin the right of entry and discuss potential land agreements with interested landowners.



1

A right-of-way agent will work with landowners to address any questions or concerns.



2

Once we reach an easement agreement with the landowner the utilities will construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line.



3

February 2026



Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

WHAT'S NEXT

Stay connected

Our next round of public meetings will be Spring 2026 for the southern segment. We hope you're able to join us as where we will be collecting feedback that will help to identify the route we will include in our permit application.

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



www.BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com



[Connect@ BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com](mailto:Connect@BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com)



Project phone line: 888-806-4743



Scan the QR code to be directed to the website to learn more about the project and provide comments

February 2026



Media Coverage

https://www.wahpetondailynews.com/news_monitor/otter-tail-power-co-outlines-big-stone-to-bison-transmission-project/article_685c39ea-c80c-4e66-87fo-od6o879c96e2.html

TOP STORY

Otter Tail Power Co. outlines Big Stone to Bison transmission project

By MANISHA REDDY Reporter
Feb 13, 2026



Otter Tail Power Co. hosted a public meeting to inform residents about the proposed Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison transmission project and gather feedback on potential routes.

The meeting allowed residents to learn about the Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison transmission line, discuss why the project is being developed, review current route corridors and share input to help narrow those corridors into specific route alternatives.

BSSHB is a proposed 150-mile, 345-kilovolt. transmission line connecting substations near Big Stone City, South Dakota, Hankinson, North Dakota, and the Bison Substation near Mapleton, North Dakota. The project is designed to strengthen the connection between the region’s two major power grids, Midcontinent Independent System Operator and Southwest Power Pool, and improve reliability, storm resilience and access to lower-cost electricity.



Project planners said the need for additional transmission capacity was identified through long-term planning and confirmed by MISO modeling in 2020. Studies show the grid is under strain from rising electricity demand, extreme weather and additional generation sources connecting to the system.

In Richland County, a broad study area has been identified to evaluate potential route options. The exact route will be determined following environmental review, engineering analysis and community input. Additional open houses are planned this spring, including one for the southern segment in April and two for the northern segment later this year.

Landowners who may be affected will be contacted early in the process. No surveying or fieldwork will take place without permission. Officials said resident input will help guide route and structure placement. Community members are encouraged to share information about soil types, cultural sites, cemeteries, private airstrips, irrigation systems, drain tile and other features that could affect route decisions.

Common concerns include land use, impacts on farming, safety and visual effects. Officials said the goal is to minimize impacts while meeting safety standards.

The project remains in the early planning stage. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2030, with the line expected to be in service by late 2033.

Residents can stay informed by attending upcoming open houses, watching for mailed notices and newspaper advertisements, visiting BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com, submitting comments via the interactive map, emailing Connect@BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com, or calling 888-806-4743.

Tags

Midcontinent Independent System Operator

Electrical Grid

Electric Power

Electric Power Transmission

manisha.reddy

April 2026 Public Open Houses

Advertisements and Mailings

Newspaper	Published	Run Dates
Hankinson Richland County Monitor	Wednesday	3/25/2026, 4/1/2026
Ortonville Independent	Tuesday	3/24/2026, 3/31/2026
Milbank Grant County Review	Wednesday	3/25/2026, 4/1/2026
Milbank Valley Shopper	Monday	3/23/2026, 3/30/2026
Rosholt Review	Wednesday	3/25/2026, 4/1/2026
Sisseton Courier	Tuesday	3/24/2026, 3/31/2026



Big Stone South to
Hankinson to Bison
Transmission Line



OPEN HOUSE

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The project team will be available to visit one-on-one. There is no formal presentation—stop by anytime during the open house.

HANKINSON, ND

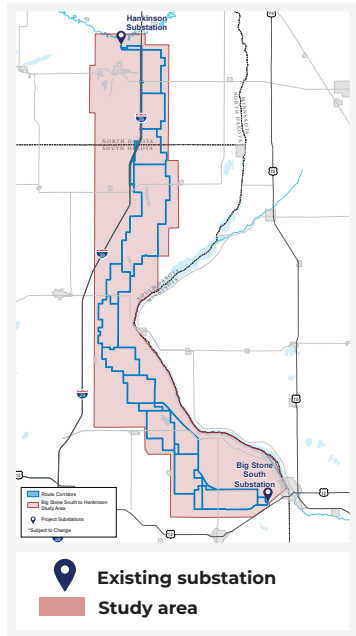
Tuesday, April 7, 2026
 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Community Center
112 Main Ave S
Hankinson, ND 58041

WILMOT, SD

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
 Community Center
516 Main St
Wilmot, SD 57279

MILBANK, SD

Wednesday, April 8, 2026
 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 City Hall
1001 E 4th Ave
Milbank, SD 57252



Contact us

888-806-4743

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SCAN ME!



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We're continuing the conversation—
and we'd like you to join us.

Open house dates

Tuesday, April 7

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Hankinson, ND Community Center

4 p.m. – 6 p.m. | Wilmot, SD Community Center

Wednesday, April 8

11 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Milbank, SD City Hall

Learn more



Contact us

☎ 888-806-4743

🌐 BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com

✉ Connect@BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com

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BSS H B

**Big Stone South
to Hankinson to Bison**

Project partners:



**Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison
345-kV Transmission Line**

C/O HDR

51 N. Broadway, Suite 550

Fargo, ND 58102

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FERGUS FALLS MN
PERMIT NO. 210

Sequence cont_id

Name

Address 1

Address 2

City State Zip

You're invited to an
OPEN HOUSE

to learn more about the
Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison 345-kV transmission line
proposed by Otter Tail Power Company and Xcel Energy.



HANKINSON, ND
Tue, April 7, 2026
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Community Center



WILMOT, SD
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Community Center



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Wed, April 8, 2026
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City Hall

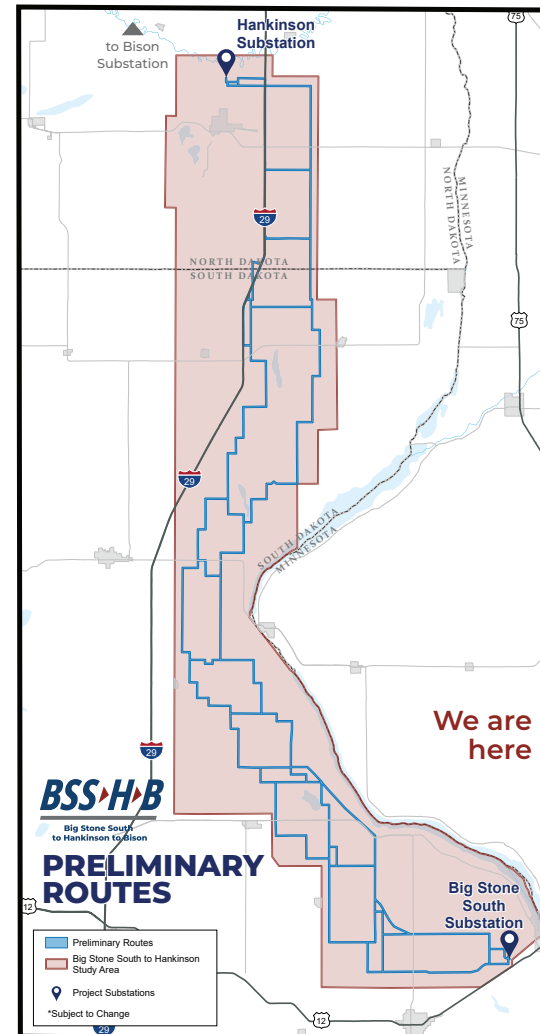
The project team will be available to visit one-on-one. There is no formal presentation—stop by anytime during the open house.

At these open houses, you can:

- ▶ View the preliminary routes
- ▶ Ask questions about the project
- ▶ Share additional input with the project team
- ▶ View your property on interactive maps with our GIS team

Can't attend?

Your feedback matters. Input from landowners, along with environmental review and field work, is helping shape preliminary route locations. As routes continue to take form, updates will be posted on our website.



ROUTING PROCESS

- 1 Define study area
- 2 Identify potential corridors
- 3 Host public open houses
- 4 Develop preliminary routes
- 5 Host public open houses
- 6 Propose route

Open House Materials



Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

Southern Segment



Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison (BSSHB) will add approximately 150 miles of 345-kV transmission line across North Dakota and South Dakota, helping to:



Enhance electric reliability



Increase resiliency to extreme weather events



Reduce transmission congestion



Increase access to low-cost energy

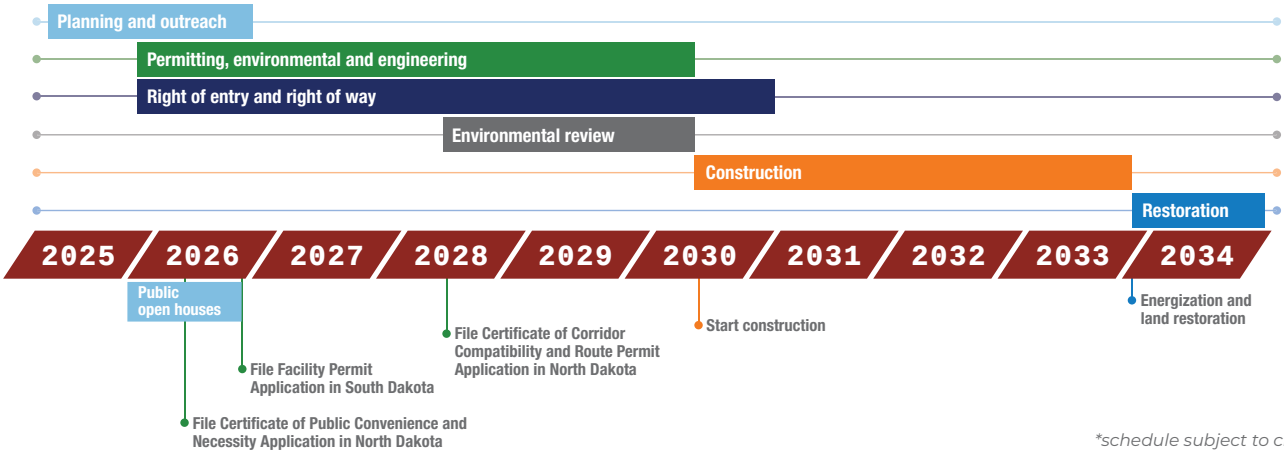
Powering progress across North Dakota and South Dakota

The electric grid began taking shape in the 1930s, when rural electrification brought power to farms and small towns. By the 1970s, the regional grid was developed, built strong enough to outlast its original purpose and even anticipate growth. Two generations later, electricity is integrated into our lives in ways those planners could never have dreamed.

Imagine a future for North Dakota and South Dakota that's defined by a resilient, reliable electric grid that supports rural living and thriving communities. The Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison transmission line will help bring this future to life. Spanning approximately 150 miles, this 345-kilovolt (kV) line would run from Otter Tail Power's Big Stone South Substation in South Dakota to its Hankinson Substation in North Dakota, then continue to Xcel Energy's Bison Substation near Mapleton, North Dakota. Otter Tail Power will be the developer and construction manager.

Schedule

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**schedule subject to change*

Contact us



1-888-806-4743



www.BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com



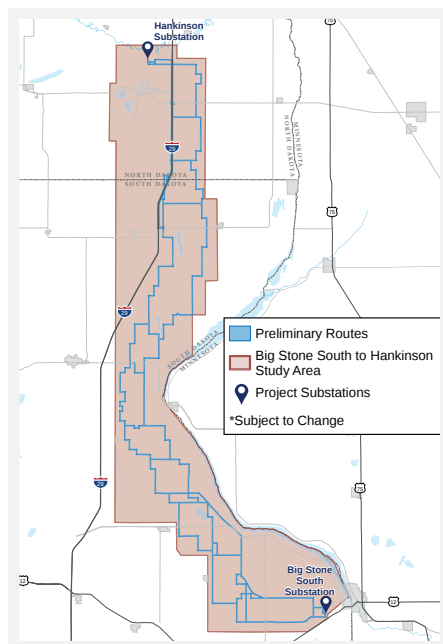
Connect@BigStoneSouthtoHankinsontoBison.com



Routing

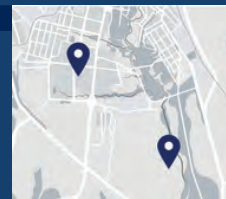
To plan a transmission line route, we start with a study area—a broad region between the substations. A study area typically includes several counties and communities, as you'll see on the map.

After evaluating public feedback and general constraints, we'll narrow down the study area to a one- to two-mile wide corridor where the transmission line could feasibly go. We'll then propose a route, or a specific path the transmission line will follow.

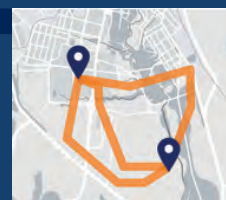


Routing process

1
Define study area



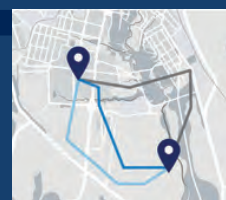
2
Identify potential corridors



3
Host public open houses



4
Develop route alternatives



We are here

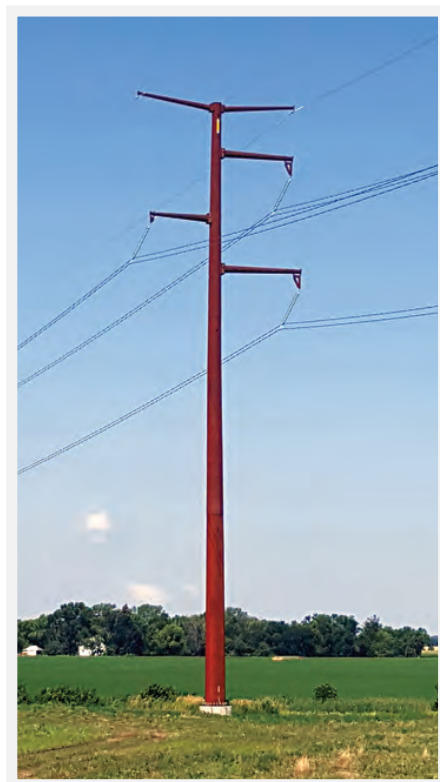
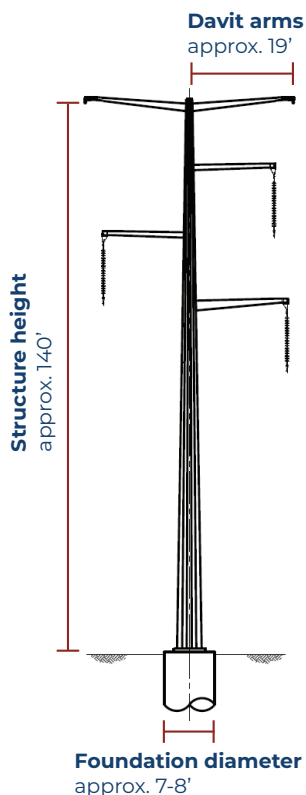
5
Host public open houses



6
Propose route



Typical structure



Acknowledgment: "This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office, under Award Number DE-GD0000931."

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this project.

SCAN ME!



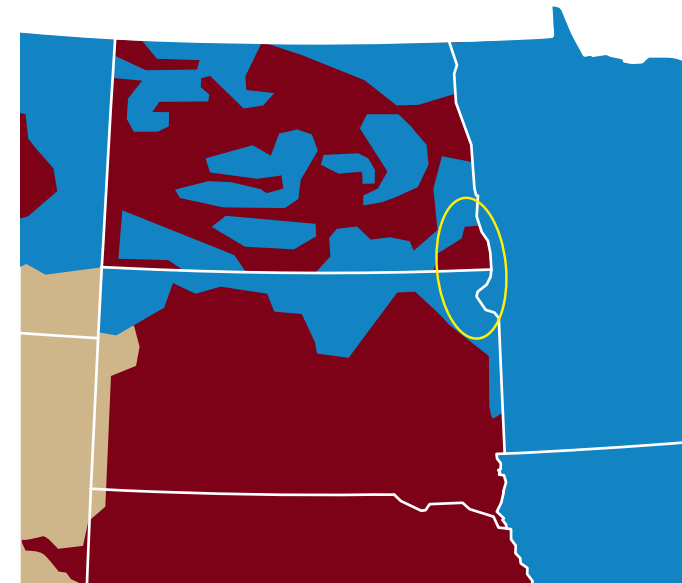
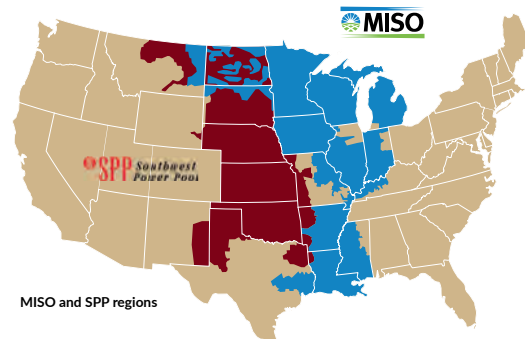


Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

PROJECT NEED

North Dakota and South Dakota are served by two regional transmission organizations, MISO and SPP, that manage generation and transmission in their respective footprints.

This project is designed to improve how MISO and SPP work together at their connection points. It helps relieve pressure on transmission lines that are currently overloaded, making it easier to connect new power sources.



April 2026

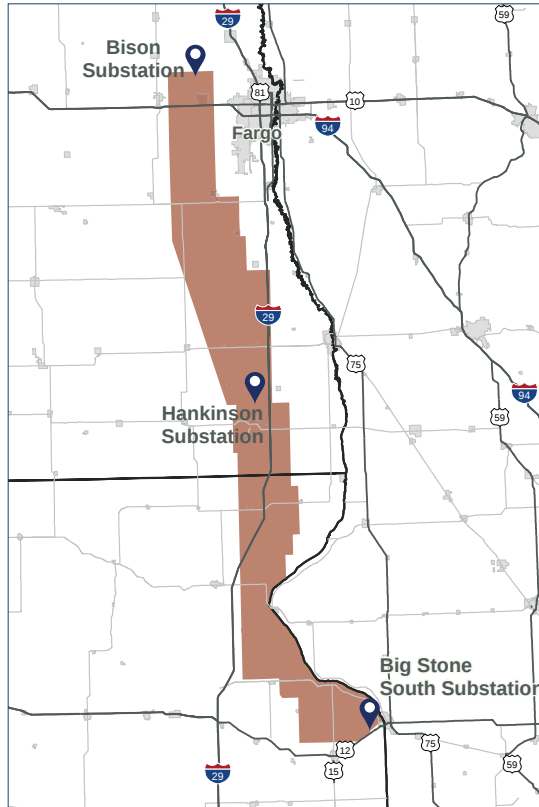




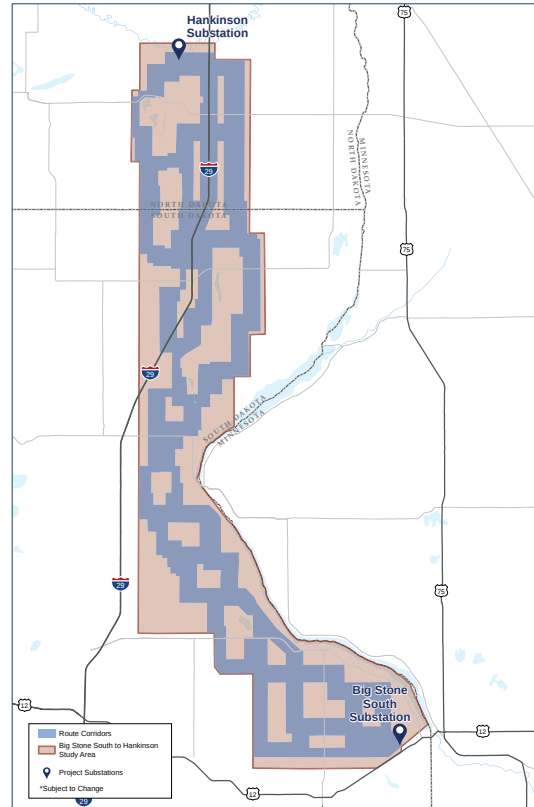
Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

STUDY AREA

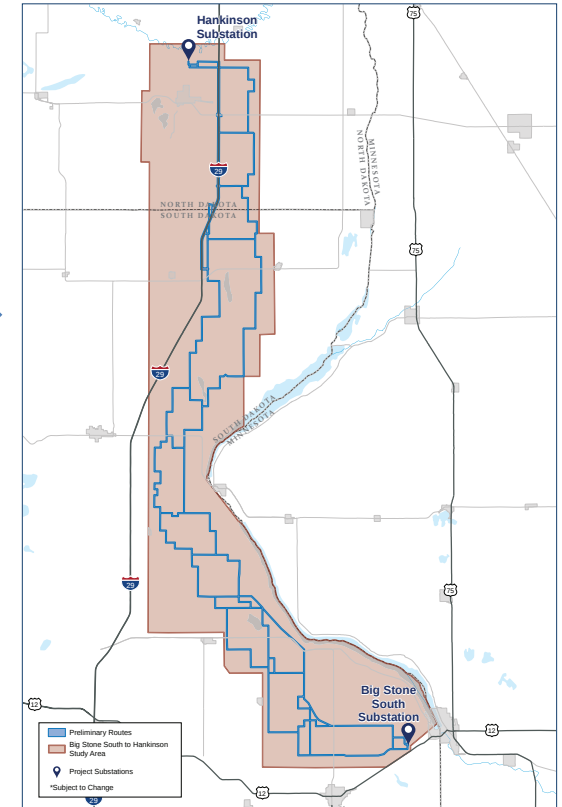
Full study area



Southern segment potential corridors



Route alternatives



**Northern segment routing process will proceed later in 2026*

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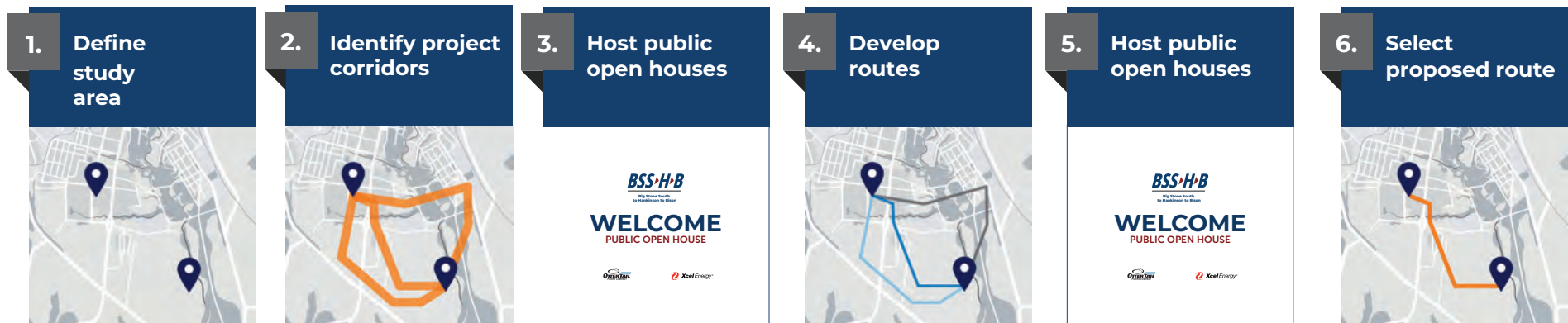


Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Now that the project corridors has been defined, we'll work with landowners, agencies, and other stakeholders to find the best route for the transmission line.

WE ARE HERE



The process includes:

- Identifying possible routes and challenges in the area.
- Hosting public open houses to get input from landowners.
- Coordinating with federal, state, and local government units.

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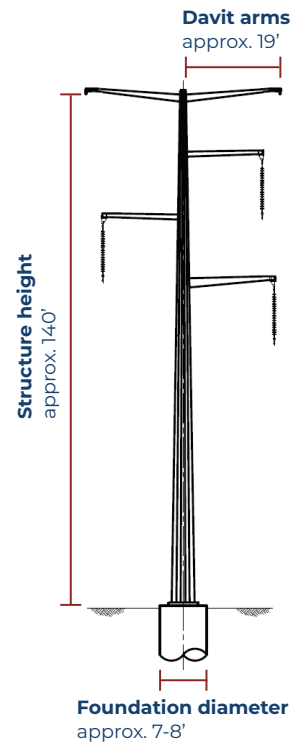
Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

TYPICAL STRUCTURE



The shape of each structure will vary depending on terrain, soil conditions, and other engineering constraints.

Typical structure



Key design specs

- Right-of-way: 150 feet
- Structure: Single-circuit, self-supporting monopole made of weathering Corten steel
- Height: 120–160 feet
- Base diameter: 3–9 feet

Foundation

- Concrete drilled pier
- Diameter: 6–12 feet
- Depth: 20–75 feet

Span between structures

- 700–1,200 feet

Conductor

- Vertically bundled twisted pair
- Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR)
- Minimum ground clearance: 26 feet



Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison Transmission Line

CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Ongoing outreach

Long before construction begins, right-of-way agents will be coordinating with landowners, local government officials, 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.



Survey



Temporary access



Foundation drilling and pouring



Structure setting



Conductor stringing



Restoration

April 2026



Media Coverage

https://www.myxlg.com/news/local/open-house-meetings-set-for-proposed-bi-state-transmission-line-project/article_b11fb415-552b-47a9-bf54-3f2a3307bff9.html

Open House Meetings Set for Proposed Bi-State Transmission Line Project

Holly McKernan
Apr 2, 2026

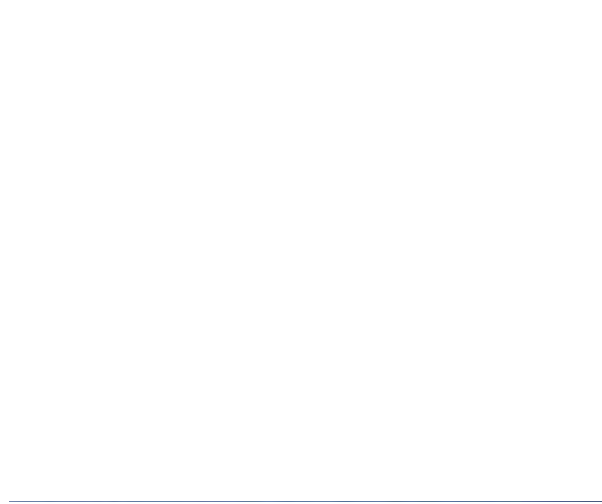


Local News

DOWNLOAD THE KXLG APP TO STAY CONNECTED

{KXLG, Big Stone City, SD} Community members in Grant and Roberts counties will have the opportunity next week to learn more about a major regional energy infrastructure project. Otter Tail Power and Xcel Energy have announced a second round of public open houses regarding the proposed Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison (BSSH-B) transmission line.

On Tuesday, April 7, a meeting will be held in Wilmot, SD, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Wilmot Community Center. A second session will take place in Milbank, SD, on Wednesday, April 8, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Milbank City Hall.



The BSSHB project involves the construction of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line spanning approximately 150 miles. The route is designed to connect the Big Stone South Substation in South Dakota to the Hankinson Substation in North Dakota, ultimately extending to the Bison Substation near Mapleton, ND.

According to project officials, the new line is intended to bolster the electric grid, ensuring the continued delivery of reliable, low-cost electricity to customers across both states. Otter Tail Power is serving as the lead developer and construction manager for the initiative.

These sessions are designed as informal open houses with no scheduled formal presentation. Residents are encouraged to drop in at any time during the meeting windows to review updated routing information, engage in one-on-one conversations with the project team, and provide local feedback to help guide the next steps of the development process.

Whether residents attended previous sessions in February or are hearing about the project for the first time, the project team emphasizes that public input remains a vital component of the routing process. For those unable to attend, additional project details and interactive maps are available on the official project website.

Holly McKernan

News Director