Gopher to Badger Link

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

Xcel Energy®

Gopher to Badger Link

The Gopher to Badger Link transmission line project is being proposed to deliver reliable power to homes, farms and businesses across the region. This project will strengthen the electric grid and facilitate access to new energy sources. Dairyland Power Cooperative and Xcel Energy will develop separate segments of this new 765/161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which will run from eastern Minnesota to the Mississippi River.

Project Benefits

ENHANCE THE RELIABILITY OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

Helps ensure the transmission system can deliver electricity to customers where and when it's needed, regardless of weather, demand or generation source.

HELP MEET GROWING ENERGY DEMAND

Supports the projected growth in electricity use over the coming decades by providing more capacity to deliver energy to customers.

EXPAND ACCESS TO MORE ENERGY RESOURCES

Improves access to energy sources throughout the region to create a stronger, more reliable power system for the future.

SUPPORT THE REGION'S GROWING ECONOMY

Creates opportunities for new jobs and business growth in the region.

Anticipated Schedule

Developing and constructing major transmission lines is a multi-year effort that begins with extensive planning. This includes identifying the project study area, meeting with landowners and federal, state, Tribal and local officials to explore potential route options. It also requires a thorough regulatory review by state authorities. As our schedule evolves, we will provide updated information.

2025–2026

- Initial public, landowner, agency, Tribal and stakeholder engagement

2026–2027

- File Certificate of Need (CON) application with Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC)
- Route development
- File Route Permit (RP) application with MPUC
- CON and RP application review process*

**Wisconsin will follow a separate filing process. For the proposed timeline for that process, please visit the MariBell Transmission Project website.*

2028–2030

- Detailed engineering design
- Environmental surveys and permitting
- Easement acquisition

2031–2034

- Pre-construction activities
- Construction
- Restoration

2034

- Anticipated in-service

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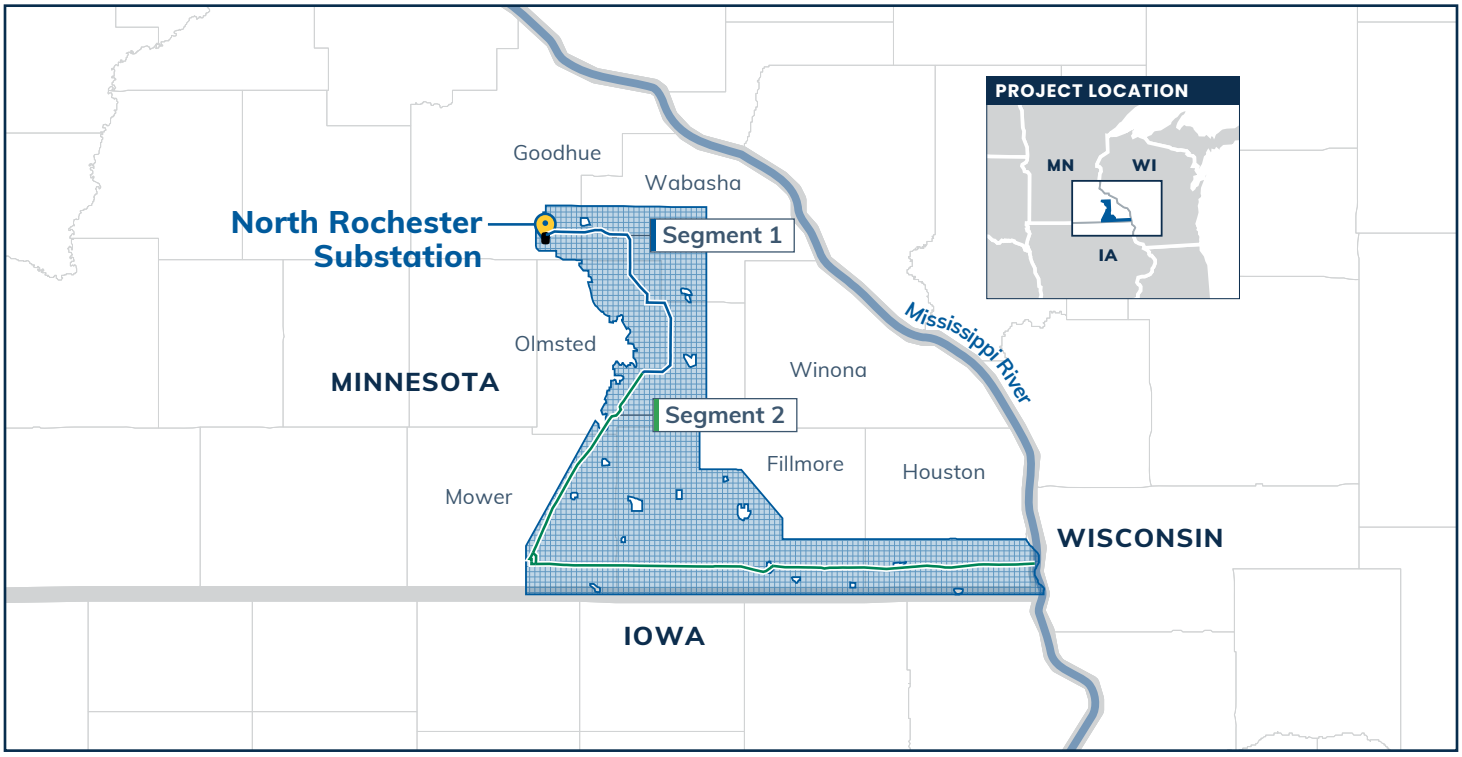
Route Options

We've received valuable feedback from landowners and stakeholders throughout the project area, and we appreciate everyone who has taken the time to share their input. For the North Rochester to Marion segment, the project team reviewed comments we've received and refined the preliminary route options that were shared in January. For the MariBell Segment (Marion to Mississippi River), we still anticipate proposing a route option that generally follows the existing 161 kV corridor.

After considering input received this spring and summer from landowners, local officials, state agencies and other stakeholders, we developed a Route Permit application and submitted it to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in November 2026.



The map above reflects the proposed route in the Route Permit application submitted to the PUC.

Scan to visit the MariBell Transmission Project website to learn more.