Gopher to Badger Link

DAIRYLAND POWER COOPERATIVE

Xcel Energy®

Route Development Process

Identifying a new transmission line route is a multi-step analysis that considers constraints, opportunities and alternatives that aim to minimize impacts on people and the environment. Input from landowners, community members, local leaders, Tribal representatives, state and federal agencies and the project team's own expertise all play a vital role in developing and finalizing a proposed route. Community feedback is essential at every stage, so we encourage you to stay engaged throughout the process.

1 Develop preliminary route options - January 2026

The first step in the process was to identify potential areas for transmission line routes using public data, system needs, and opportunities to reduce impacts. In January 2026, we shared preliminary route options with landowners and local officials to gather feedback.

2 Refine route options

Using public feedback and environmental review tools, we refined and narrowed the preliminary route options to develop the proposed route for the route permit application.

3 Identify a proposed route to submit in the application

We Are Here!

The project team used the information and public input gathered to develop a proposed route that was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) as part of the Route Permit application in November 2026.

4 MPUC issues a decision on a final route

The MPUC will issue a final determination on the route at the conclusion of the Route Permit application review process. Visit the website to learn more about the regulatory process: www.gophertobadgerlink.com.

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