

Lakefield to Webster | MINNESOTA & IOWA

Transmission line project information

This transmission line in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa is one of 17 Midwestern projects **designed to help bring more renewable energy onto the grid and increase service reliability to homes and businesses. It will upgrade existing transmission lines in many places, better connect the regional grid and add new lines in key areas.** The line will help Minnesota and Iowa **capitalize on valuable wind resources, creating jobs and revenue for rural landowners and communities, and continue to build a cleaner and healthier energy future.**

After a line is planned, siting is the next step

- Siting for this project is a process overseen by the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) and the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC), during which routes will be considered and stakeholders will have the opportunity to give input. A route specifies exactly where a line will be constructed within a proposed corridor (the general linear area the line will traverse), as outlined by a regional planning process (see over).

Project location and developer details (see figure 1)

- International Transmission Company Midwest (ITC Midwest):** Constructing the northern 100 miles begins at a substation near Lakefield, in Jackson County, MN. The line turns south and crosses the border just west of Elmore, MN, continuing south until a substation near Burt, IA.
- MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican):** Constructing the southern 120 miles using many existing 161 kV transmission lines and begins in western Iowa at a substation east of Sanborn. The line continues east to meet the ITC Midwest segment near Burt, IA and then turns south, ending at the substation north of Fort Dodge in Webster County, IA.

Transmission development process overview

- Both MN and IA require the transmission developer to prove the *need* for a line during the siting process and to submit a preferred *route* option to be considered while making a decision about the application.
- In Minnesota, a Certificate of Need (CON) and Route Permit are granted separately, processes which may occur concurrently or in sequence.
- In Iowa, the need and route are approved together with what is called a Petition for Franchise. The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) regularly updates a short summary document on the status of petition applications, here: http://www.state.ia.us/government/com/util/docs/misc/S_and_E/E_Docket_Status.pdf

Getting involved

Minnesota: ITC Midwest submitted its route permit and Certificate of Need in April 2013, docket no. 12-1053. Public comments on the route permit (docket 12-1337) are accepted through Aug. 2, 2013, and on the certificate of need by Oct. 3, 2013, online at <http://www.puc.state.mn.us/puc/electricity/comment-on-an-issue/012412>. At least one public hearing will also take place.

Iowa: The IUB convenes a public information meeting in each county where the line is proposed, during which the IUB provides procedural information and the transmission developer provides information about the proposed line. The public can ask questions but not provide comments. The public can provide written comments in the dockets at the IUB to consider the developer's application for a transmission franchise. The IUB may conduct a formal hearing in one or more counties where the line is proposed. Landowners in the corridor where a line is proposed can expect to be contacted by the developer as well.

- MidAmerican** completed its public informational meetings and applied in late 2012 and early 2013 for the franchises for its segments of the line. Open dockets (one per county) have the following docket numbers assigned to them: Clay County, E-22103; Humboldt County, E-22104; Kossuth County, E-22105; O'Brien County, E-22106; Palo Alto County, E-22107; Webster County, E-22108
- ITC Midwest** is applying in 2013 for the franchises for its segments of the line. Docket numbers so far are Kossuth County, E-22116.
- The **Iowa Utilities Board** maintains an electronic filing system where all documents associated with a particular docket can be accessed online. The docket search page is here: <https://efs.iowa.gov/efs/ShowDocketSearch.do>

Quick Facts

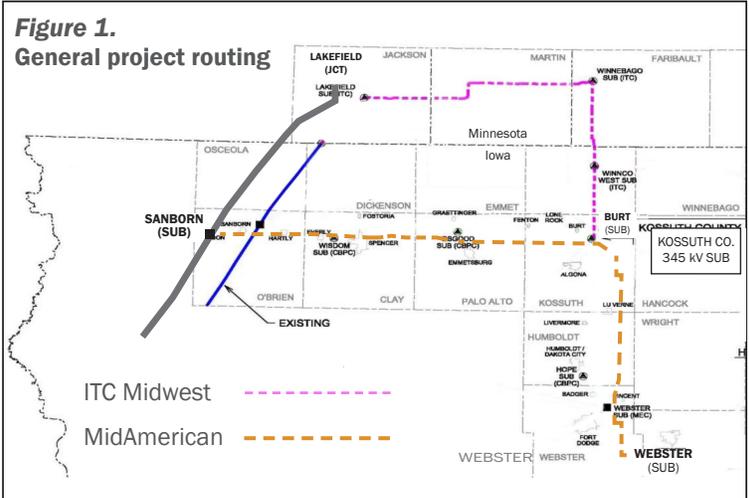
Connection: Lakefield, MN and Sanborn, IA to southern Webster Co.

Line length: 220 miles (approx.)

Line capacity: 345 kilovolts

Project owners/developers: ITC Midwest, MidAmerican

Year in-service: ITC: 2016-2018 (antic.), MidAmerican: Dec 2017 (antic.)





The Benefits of Transmission Line Development

Thoughtful and informed transmission line siting that engages all stakeholders can provide the Midwest with grid updates that are a smart investment for future generations, while also providing substantial benefits to rural communities, and the environment.

Why new transmission in the upper Midwest?

The Midwest has some of the nation's richest wind resources along with significant solar potential. In the last 10 years Iowa and Minnesota have become the number two and number four producers of wind electricity in the United States, with both South and North Dakota also ranking high on the list.

However, the growth of this rural-based wind industry is hindered by **insufficient capacity of our current transmission system**, preventing wind from powering homes and businesses. Additionally, the existing grid, that was designed to bring electricity from large generator facilities, is not built to support the large quantities of geographically diverse clean, **renewable energy shaping our new energy economy**.

Few large transmission lines have been constructed in the Midwest since the 1970s and 1980s. Costing hundreds of millions of dollars, it is necessary that transmission planning and siting balance a number of important issues: reliability, state renewable energy standards and goals, proximity to areas rich with renewable energy potential, impact to local lands. **Clean energy development is important – to creating jobs, to our communities and to protecting our air and water.** The 17 projects MISO, the regional grid operator, designated as Multi-Value Project lines, are intended to bring the greatest value to each state and regional expansion of renewables at the lowest cost. **Now, through local siting stakeholder engagement, local concerns must be balanced to determine an acceptable final route.**

Landowners

- Leasing small portions of land to wind developers offers landowners and farmers hundreds or thousands of dollars each month in potential revenue that would otherwise go unrealized.

Job creation

- Clean energy jobs, like construction and manufacturing, will be created across the Midwest, using our already strong Midwest supply chain to strengthen local economies.

Rural communities

- Rural communities will have tremendous economic growth opportunities. Direct and indirect benefits will be brought to communities through tax revenue, investments, and job growth that will help grow local resources and amenities, retaining and/or growing populations that have been diminishing over the last 25 years.

Protecting our air and water

- Connecting more renewable energy sources to the grid will alleviate the need to build more large fossil fuel facilities. This will help mitigate rising costs associated with the impacts of climate change, including health care and insurance costs. In parallel, it will reduce pollution in our air and water.

Lowering customer bills

- Developing more renewable energy will help keep future costs of electricity lower, maintaining the Midwest competitive edge in low electricity rates.

Clean energy transmission lines

Transmission lines have long been associated with carrying dirty power, such as that being generated by coal plants. Although not all transmission projects are designed as clean transmission lines, this project is designed to enable more renewable energy sources, like wind, to power homes and businesses. Though energy efficiency is an important part of meeting our energy needs, these lines are needed to bring clean, renewable energy to where it's used, as well as provide reliability benefits and reduce electricity costs.



CONTACT

IOWA: NATHANIEL BAER
515-244-1194 x 206
baer@iaenvironment.org
www.iaenvironment.org

MINNESOTA: DUANE NINNEMAN
320-269-2984
duane@cureriver.org
www.cureriver.org

GENERAL: ERIN STOJAN RUCCOLO
651-726-7567
ruccolo@fresh-energy.org
www.fresh-energy.org