

FACT SHEET

August 2013 | MVP line 6

Big Stone South to Ellendale

NORTH DAKOTA & SOUTH DAKOTA

Transmission line project information

This transmission line is one of 17 Midwestern projects **designed to help bring more renewable energy onto the grid**, while also **increasing service reliability** to our homes and businesses. The line will help North and South Dakota **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 is a process that will be overseen by the North Dakota Public Service Commission and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, with the help of other agencies, 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), outlined by regional planning process (see over).

Project location and developer details (see figure 1)

The project consists of approximately 150-175 line miles, depending on the final route. The line will span between a new substation that will be built south of Ellendale, ND, connecting to a new substation being constructed south of Big Stone, SD (built as part of the Big Stone South to Brookings project). Montana-Dakota Utility Co. and Otter Tail Power Co. will construct and operate the line jointly.

Transmission development process overview

- The SD Public Utilities Commission is responsible for granting the Facility Permit, the only state permit needed to begin construction within SD, which must be approved within 12 months of the developers' application.
- The ND Public Service Commission requires three separate permits before construction: the Certificate of Public Convenience and Need, a Corridor Compatibility Certificate, and a Route Permit.

Getting involved

Developers held open house meetings with the public in October 2012 and February 2013. This input is being used to determine the preferred corridor set forth in the application filings to both commissions. SD will hold at least one public hearing in regards to this application, and ND will hold one public hearing in each "affected" county. Additionally, both states will offer a public comment period before a decision is made. A preferred route was selected in June 2013, available at <http://bssetransmissionline.com/maps>.

- **Sept. 1, 2013:** Utilities expected to file route permit at SD Public Utilities Commission
- **Winter 2013:** Utilities expected to file ND Public Service Commission application
- **Winter 2014:** Utilities expect permits to be finalized in both states

Quick Facts

Connection: Ellendale, ND substation to Big Stone, SD substation

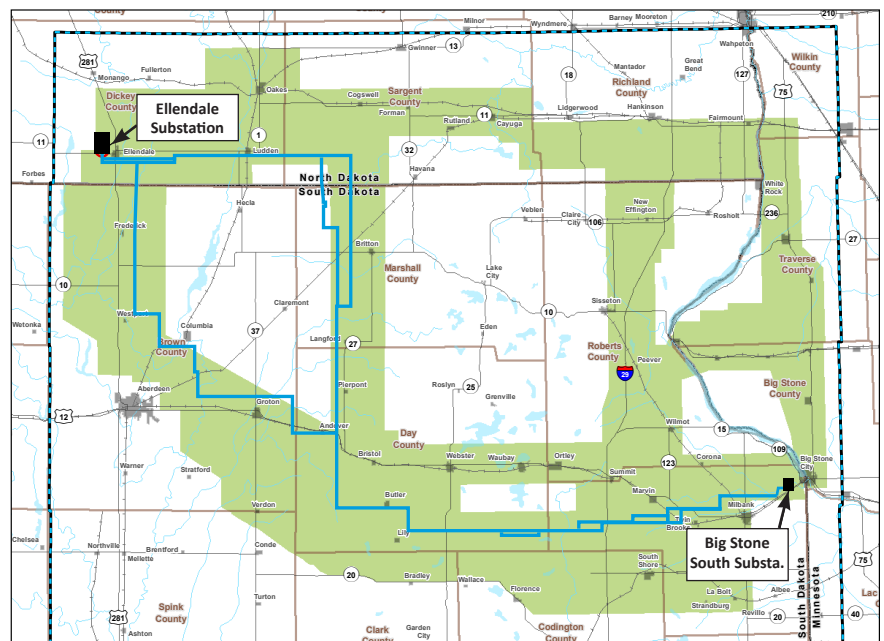
Line length: 150 to 175 miles

Line capacity: 345 kilovolts

Project owners/developers: Montana-Dakota Util. Co., Otter Tail Power Co.

Year in-service: Winter 2019

Figure 1. Project corridor and potential preferred route map





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 ten years Iowa and Minnesota have become the number two and number four producers of wind electricity in the U.S., 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 needed, as well as provide reliability benefits and reduce electricity costs.



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