



Xcel Energy is leading the clean energy transition with a plan that will affordably reduce carbon emissions 85% by 2030 as we pursue our vision of delivering 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050.

We'll accomplish these industry-leading goals by retiring coal plants in the region, continuing to operate our carbon-free nuclear plants, and adding new wind and solar energy for customers.

The Minnesota Energy Connection transmission line will re-use the existing grid connections at the Sherco coal-fired power plant to deliver renewable energy from southern and southwest Minnesota to customers throughout the Upper Midwest, saving money compared to building new infrastructure.

Xcel Energy will file applications for a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, both of which must be approved before the line can be built. We will work closely with local governments, landowners and other stakeholders when developing route proposals and look forward to building this important project for our Upper Midwest customers.

Transmission infrastructure to serve Minnesota

Xcel Energy proposes to build two new 345-kiloVolt transmission lines from the renewable-rich areas in southern and southwest Minnesota to connect to the existing grid at the Sherco power plant, which will retire its coal generation by the end of the decade. We're proposing to build a double-circuit transmission line using a single pole structure with wires on either side of the pole.

Re-using the connections saves customers money compared to building entirely new substations, while also providing a connection to the grid that has built up over the last 50 years in central Minnesota to deliver electricity to customers in the region.

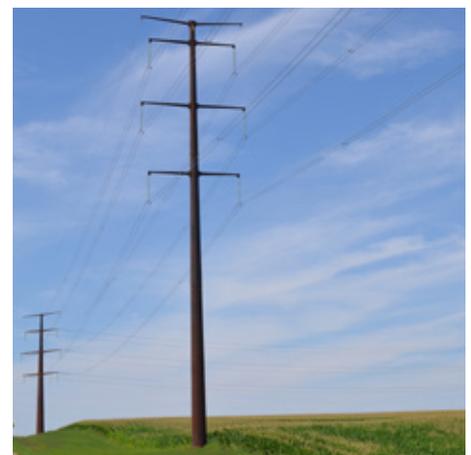
Opportunities to participate

Xcel Energy must receive two permits before building the new transmission line—a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit.

The Certificate of Need, expected to be filed in mid-2022, determines what type of power line can be built, the general locations it will begin and end, and if the line is in the state's interest to approve. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission reviews information from the proceeding, including engineering studies, cost estimates, public input and other factors, and makes a decision based on the evidence presented. A decision from the Commission is expected in late 2023 or early 2024.

The Commission must also grant a Route Permit to Xcel Energy before we can build the infrastructure.

Minnesota law requires utilities to identify two route options for the Commission to consider in the Route Permit. We expect to file that permit application in early 2024 following significant public outreach and engagement with a decision expected in 2025.



Example of double-circuit 345-kV structure.

Contact us:
Comments can always be submitted to Xcel Energy by phone, email or website at
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