

# MIN ENERGY CONNECTION

## TRANSMISSION INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE UPPER MIDWEST CUSTOMERS

INFORMATION SHEET  
**MINNESOTA**



Xcel Energy is leading the clean energy transition with a plan that will reduce carbon emissions 85% by 2030 in pursuit of our vision of delivering 100% carbon-free electricity, and meeting Minnesota requirements to do so by 2040.

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 our customers. We can deliver this clean energy future while keeping bills affordable and ensuring reliable electricity in the Upper Midwest.

As part of our plan, Xcel Energy has proposed the Minnesota Energy Connection transmission line, a double-circuit 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. The project will connect new renewable energy in the wind-rich southwest Minnesota area to the existing grid connections at the Sherco power plant, which will be retired by 2030.

### Opportunities to participate

Minnesota laws governing this type of project requires two permits before construction can begin, a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. Both permits are reviewed by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and include numerous opportunities for public involvement.

The Certificate of Need was filed in March 2023 and determines if the new infrastructure is needed to serve Minnesota customers, the general location of the project, and if the line is in the state's interest to approve. The Commission will review information provided by Xcel Energy, including engineering studies, cost estimates, and other factors, including input from landowners, members of the public and other interested stakeholders. The first meetings to identify issues to be reviewed in an Environmental Report are expected to be held in summer 2023 with public hearings following later this year. A Commission decision on the Certificate of Need is expected in mid-2024.

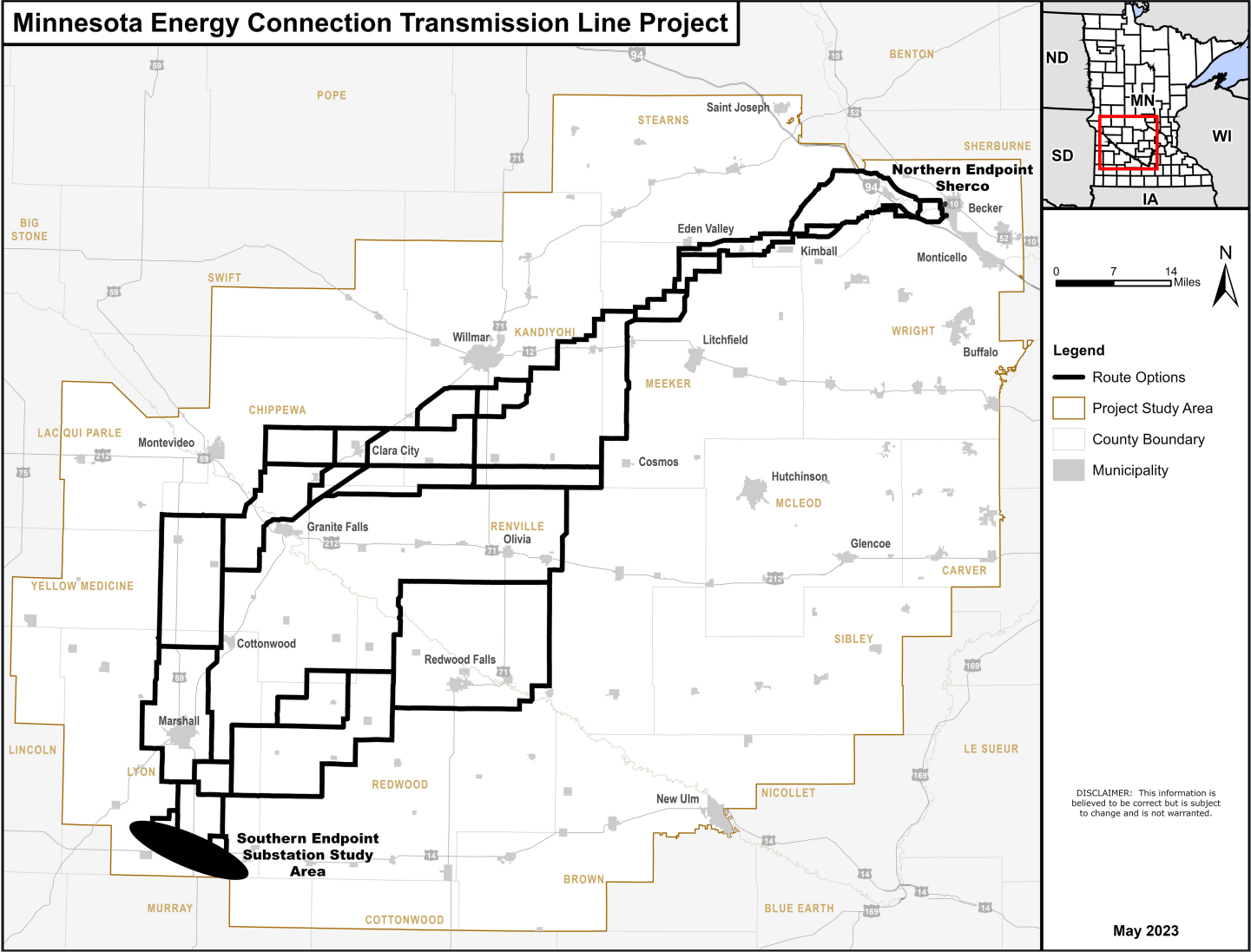
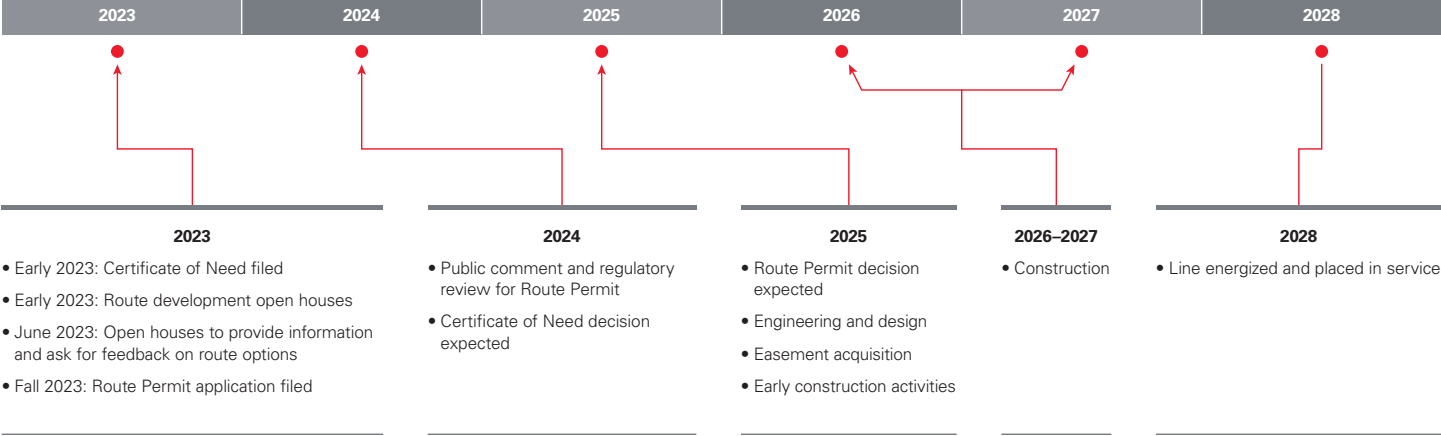
Xcel Energy will work with landowners, local governments, state agencies and other officials to identify potential routes for the project ahead of filing a Route Permit, expected in fall 2023. We evaluate potential routes based on several factors, including planned and existing land use, proximity to homes and buildings, environmental issues such as lakes, wetlands, wildlife and avian habitat, and other factors. After identifying initial route corridors and potential routes, we asked for feedback beginning in spring 2023. Using the feedback received, we refined the route options based on local input and data analysis to compare impacts between route alternatives.

Minnesota law requires utilities to propose at least two route options for the Commission to consider in the Route Permit application. We expect the review process to take approximately one year following a public process that includes public meetings and hearings.



Example of double-circuit 345-kV structure.

MN ENERGY CONNECTION TIMELINE



The Notice Area includes the project end points and areas where under consideration for the new infrastructure

