

Winthrop area 69-kV transmission rebuild

Great River Energy proposes to rebuild an existing 9.25-mile 69-kV transmission line located in McLeod and Sibley counties (see map on back). This rebuild is necessary to improve the reliability of the transmission system in the area, and reduce risks associated with low voltage and transmission line overloading.

Overview

The existing transmission line extends from McLeod Cooperative Power Association's Winthrop Substation located in Section 30 in Penn Township to an existing Great River Energy switch structure located in Section 1 in Cornish Township. Much of the line is currently located within the east State Highway (Highway) 15 right-of-way (ROW) and is proposed to be removed and rebuilt on private property, which would be 3 to 5 feet outside of the edge of the road right of way. As the edge of the east Highway 15 ROW is congested with underground utilities, the transmission line is proposed to be rebuilt primarily on the west side of Highway 15. In addition, the existing section of line that is within the City of Winthrop is proposed to be relocated to the west side of Highway 15.

The transmission line generally requires a 70-foot wide easement, being 35 feet on each side of the transmission centerline. Wood poles will be primarily used, steel and/or laminate poles may be needed in some locations based on engineering design needs. Poles will be placed to not interfere with agricultural land uses to the extent possible.

In areas where tall-growing vegetation exists, it will be necessary to remove the vegetation within the easement area for the safe operation and maintenance of the line, which will be discussed with landowners during easement negotiations.



Typical 69-kV single circuit structure

Public involvement

Prior to any permitting, Great River Energy will hold a virtual open house to share additional project information with landowners in the project vicinity, local government officials and other permit authorities. Local project approval will be required by McLeod and Sibley counties for the respective section of line in each county. Additional permits from road authorities, environmental agencies and other utilities will begin once the project has local approval and preliminary design is complete.

Schedule

Notifications	Summer 2021
Survey/design	Fall 2021
Local project approval	Fall/Winter 2021
Easement acquisition	Spring to Fall 2022
Transmission line construction	Spring 2023 to Spring 2024
Energization	Spring 2024

Quick facts

Length	9.25 miles
Voltage	69-kV
Structures	Primarily wood poles with laminate and/or steel structures in some areas.
Spans	325 to 375 feet apart
Right of way	70-foot-wide right of way being 35 feet on each side of the centerline.

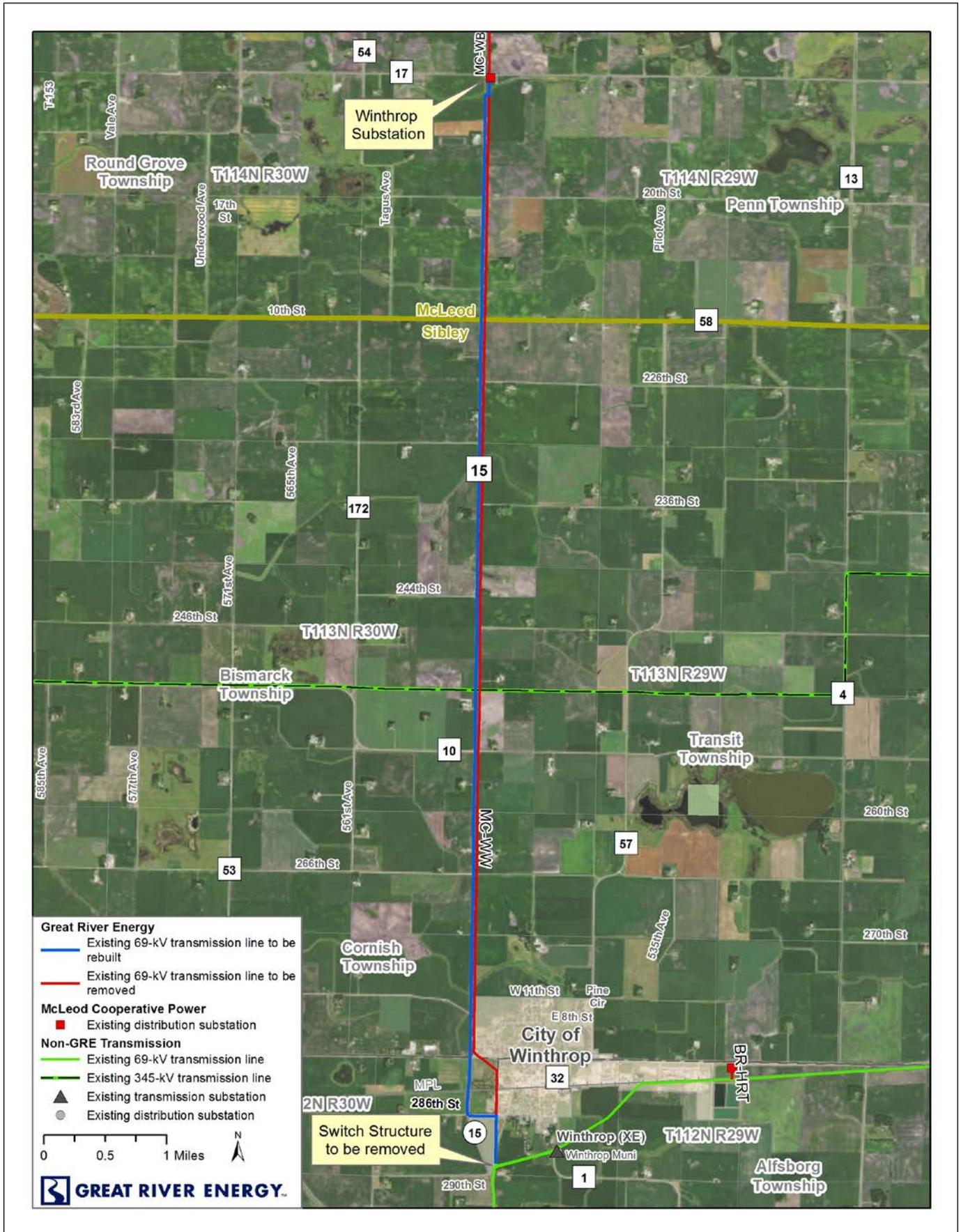
Great River Energy representatives

For project updates and information, visit greatriverenergy.com/winthrop or contact:

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Proposed project



About Great River Energy

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative which provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, our systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 700,000 families, farms and businesses.