



Willmar-Litchfield-Forest City-Hutchinson 115-kV Transmission Line

Great River Energy, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, City of Litchfield and Hutchinson Municipal Utilities, are proposing to construct approximately 70 miles of 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Willmar, Litchfield, Forest City, and Hutchinson Minn. (Project). A Certificate of Need and Route Permit will be required from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) before the line can be built. Additional project information will be provided at greatriverenergy.com/willmar-hutchinson.

Need

Existing transmission lines were constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s and need replacement. The project will also enhance reliability and allow for additional load growth throughout the project area and beyond.

Overview

The map on the back shows the proposed 115-kV transmission line route. Approximately 50 miles of the proposed route will overtake and replace existing 69-kV transmission lines with the new 115-kV transmission line. Approximately 20 miles of the new 115-kV transmission line will be constructed in new right-of-way.

The new transmission line will be constructed primarily with direct-embedded steel and wood poles, 70 to 90 feet above ground, generally 350 to 500 feet apart. Line angles and changes in direction might require the support of guy wires and anchors or steel poles on concrete foundations. A final design will determine the span distances and need for specialty poles.

Permitting and public involvement

Construction of the Project cannot begin until the MPUC issues a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. An environmental assessment will be prepared as part of the application. The MPUC will hold public meetings and



Typical 115-kV structures

hearings as part of their review, and interested parties are welcome to provide comments and input throughout the permitting process.

The utilities involved in the project will work with county, state and federal agencies to secure road crossing permits and any other required environmental or construction permits. Contact information for Great River Energy representatives is listed on the back of this page.

Easements

New or amended easements may be requested to provide adequate land rights for construction, operation and maintenance of the new line. Easement negotiations will begin once the route permit is issued and a copy has been provided to landowners. Property owners will be contacted by a project representative to review the permit and a new or amended easement. Negotiations include proposed pole locations, review of the easement and compensation, information on tree removal, construction access, crop damage payments, and restoration.

Schedule

PUC Permitting	Q2 2026 – Q3 2027
Easements	Q1 2028 – Q1 2029
Environmental permits	Q3 2027 – Q3 2028
Transmission line construction	Q1 2029 – Q4 2031

Quick facts

- Length** – Approximately 70 miles
- Voltage** – 115-kV
- Structures** – 70- to 90-foot-tall steel and wood poles
- Spans** – 350 to 500 feet apart
- Right of way** – 100-foot-wide right of way (50 feet on each side of the centerline)

Proposed project

