

»»» Gopher to Badger Link

The Gopher to Badger Link transmission line project is being proposed to deliver reliable power to homes, farms and businesses across the region.

This project will strengthen the electric grid and facilitate access to new energy sources. Dairyland Power Cooperative and Xcel Energy will develop separate segments of this new 765/161 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, which will run from eastern Minnesota to the Mississippi River.

Project Benefits



ENHANCE THE RELIABILITY OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

Helps ensure the transmission system can deliver electricity to customers where and when it's needed, regardless of weather, demand or generation source.



HELP MEET GROWING ENERGY DEMAND

Supports the projected growth in electricity use over the coming decades by providing more capacity to deliver energy to customers.



EXPAND ACCESS TO MORE ENERGY RESOURCES

Improves access to energy sources throughout the region to create a stronger, more reliable power system for the future.



SUPPORT THE REGION'S GROWING ECONOMY

Creates opportunities for new jobs and business growth in the region.

Anticipated Schedule

Developing and constructing major transmission lines is a multi-year effort that begins with extensive planning. This includes identifying the project study area, meeting with landowners and federal, state, Tribal and local officials to explore potential route options. It also requires a thorough regulatory review by state authorities. As our schedule evolves, we will provide updated information.

2025-2026

- Initial public, landowner, agency, Tribal and stakeholder engagement

2026-2027

- File Gopher to Badger Link Certificate of Need (CON) application with Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC)
- CON application review process
- Route development
- File Route Permit applications with MPUC
- Route Permit application review process*

2028-2030

- Detailed engineering design
- Environmental surveys and permitting
- Easement acquisition

2031-2034

- Pre-construction activities
- Construction
- Restoration

2034

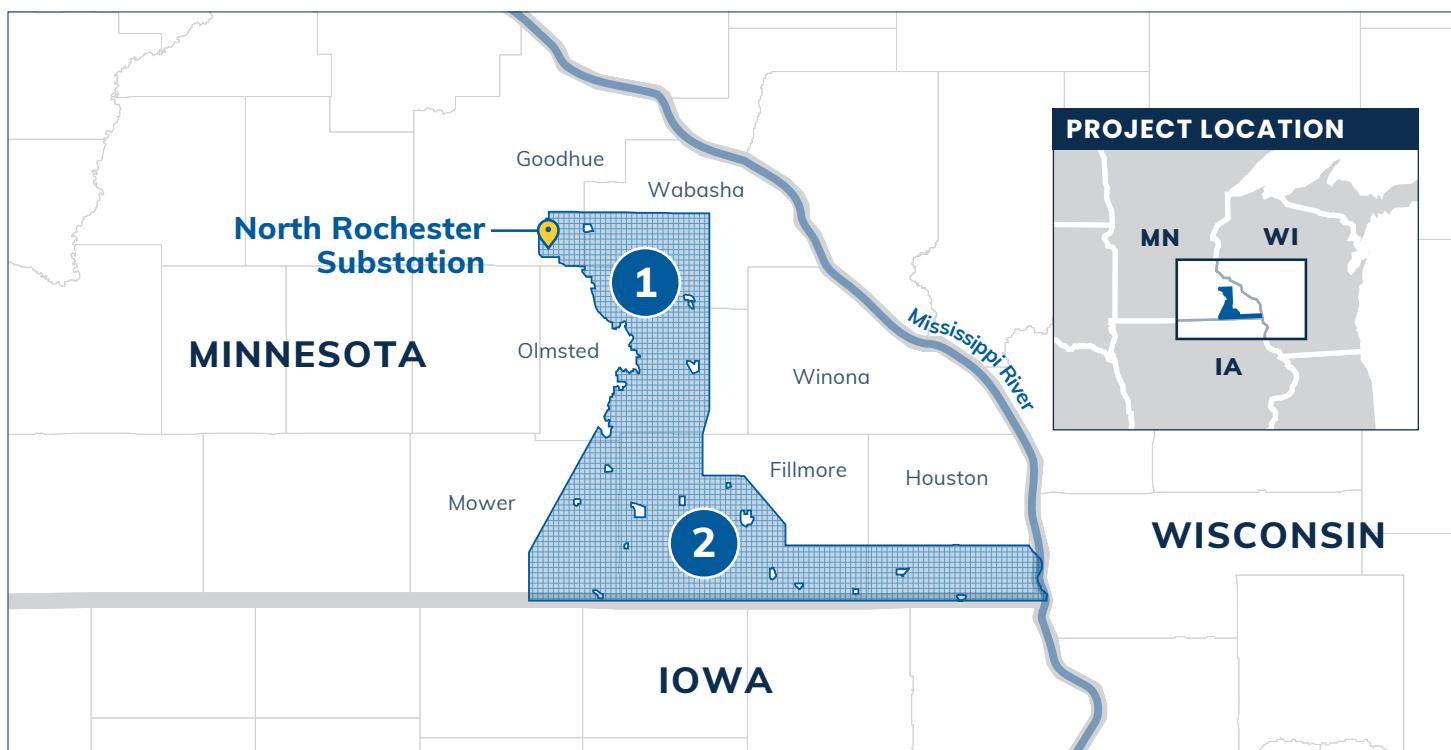
- Anticipated in-service

*Wisconsin will follow a separate filing process. For the proposed timeline for that process, please visit the MariBell Transmission Project website.

Project Area

This map shows the area that will be studied during the route development process where the project is likely to be located.

This project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc.'s (MISO) proposed, approximately 273-mile North Rochester – Columbia 765 kV transmission line, which is a broader effort to build a 765 kV transmission 'backbone' across the Midwest. MISO has divided responsibilities for the Gopher to Badger Link between Dairyland Power Cooperative and Xcel Energy.



Segments

1 NORTH ROCHESTER TO MARION

Xcel Energy is developing approximately 35 miles of a new single-circuit 765 kV transmission line that will run from the North Rochester Substation near Pine Island to Marion, Minn.

2 MARION TO MISSISSIPPI RIVER (MARIABELL TRANSMISSION LINE)

Dairyland Power Cooperative is developing the MariBell segment of the project, which will extend from Marion, Minn. to the Mississippi River. This segment will replace an existing 161 kV transmission line with a new 765/161 kV double-circuit transmission line.

[Scan to visit the MariBell Transmission Project website to learn more.](#)

