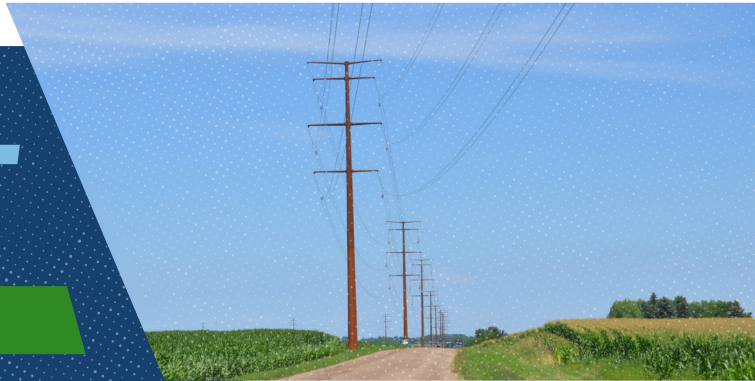


# BSSA CURRENT

NOVEMBER 2024



## GREETINGS FROM THE BSSA TEAM

Welcome to the first edition of the BSSA Current newsletter. Thank you for your continued participation in the Big Stone South to Alexandria (BSSA) project throughout the development phase and for your valuable feedback during the pre-application routing process. After carefully considering input and evaluating opportunities, constraints, permit requirements, and technical guidelines, the project team has identified one proposed route in South Dakota, and Proposed Route Options in Minnesota.

You're receiving this newsletter because you've been involved or shown interest in the BSSA project. We'll distribute this newsletter throughout the year to share project information and updates.

## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

Hunting season is upon us! To stay safe while hunting, please remember to stay in designated hunting areas. Don't forget to wear blaze orange or other bright-colored clothing to make yourself easily visible to others.

To learn more, contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at 651-296-6157 or visit [dnr.state.mn.us](http://dnr.state.mn.us)

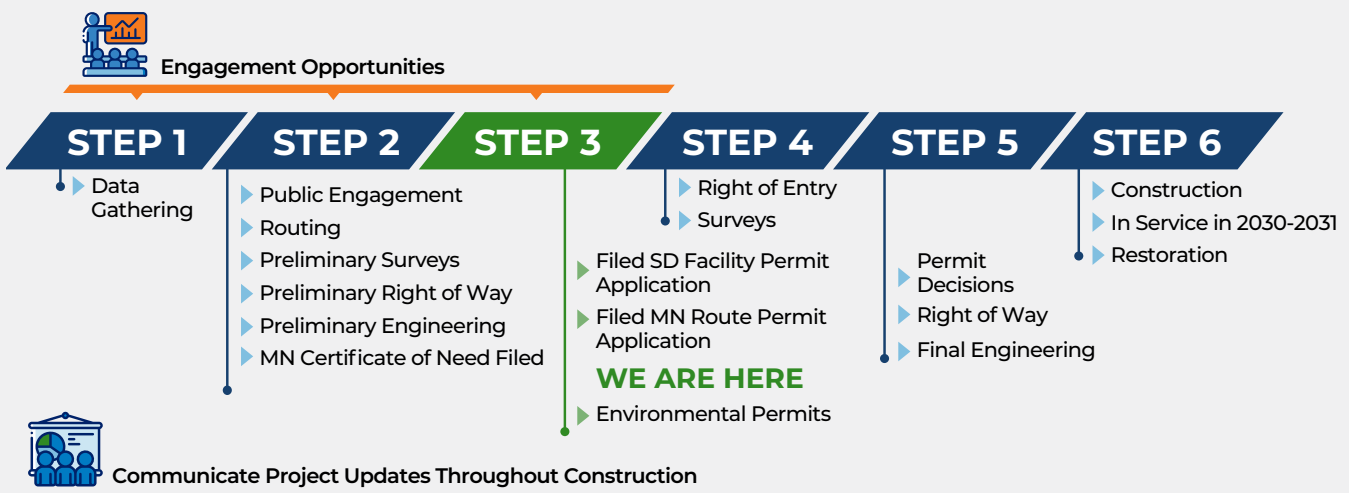
## MINNESOTA UPDATES

In early October, the MN PUC met and voted to issue a Certificate of Need for the BSSA Project. On October 22, 2024, we reached a major milestone and submitted our Route Permit application for the BSSA Project to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC). The MN PUC will now review the application and seek feedback from landowners and other interested stakeholders through upcoming public information/scoping meetings and public hearings.

## SOUTH DAKOTA UPDATES

We filed the SD Facilities Permit application with the SD PUC in April 2024.

## SCHEDULE



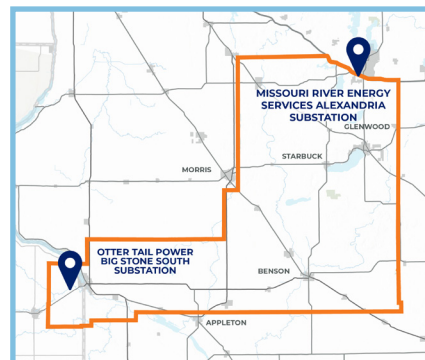
## ▶ OUR FILED ROUTES IN MN & SD

When developing the Proposed Route in South Dakota, and Proposed Route Options in Minnesota, we considered multiple factors such as community impacts, constructability, environmental analyses, field studies, and other key considerations. Your input as a landowner or public agency was important during the routing process.

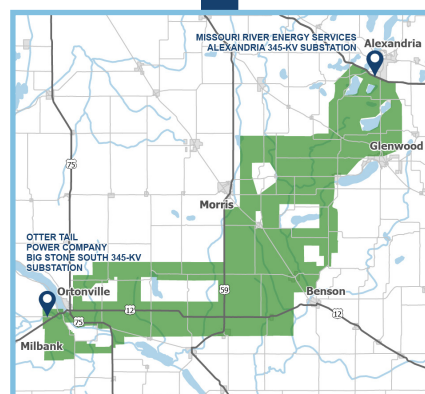
### Looking for a detailed map?

- Visit the website or contact us.

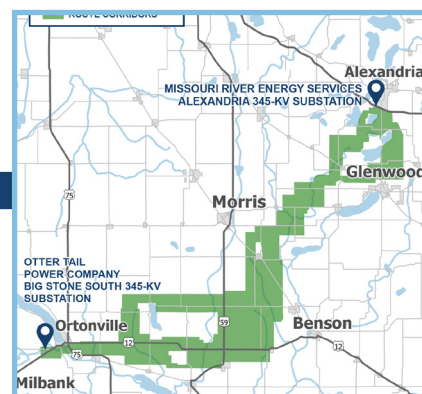
## ▶ HOW WE NARROWED DOWN OUR ROUTES



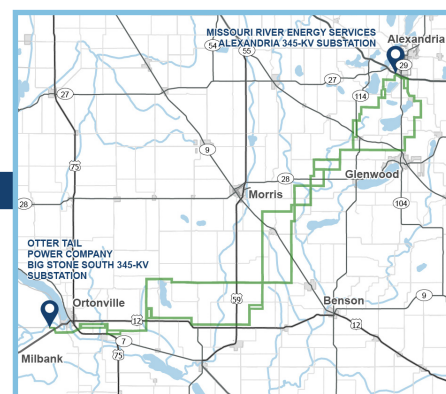
Study Area



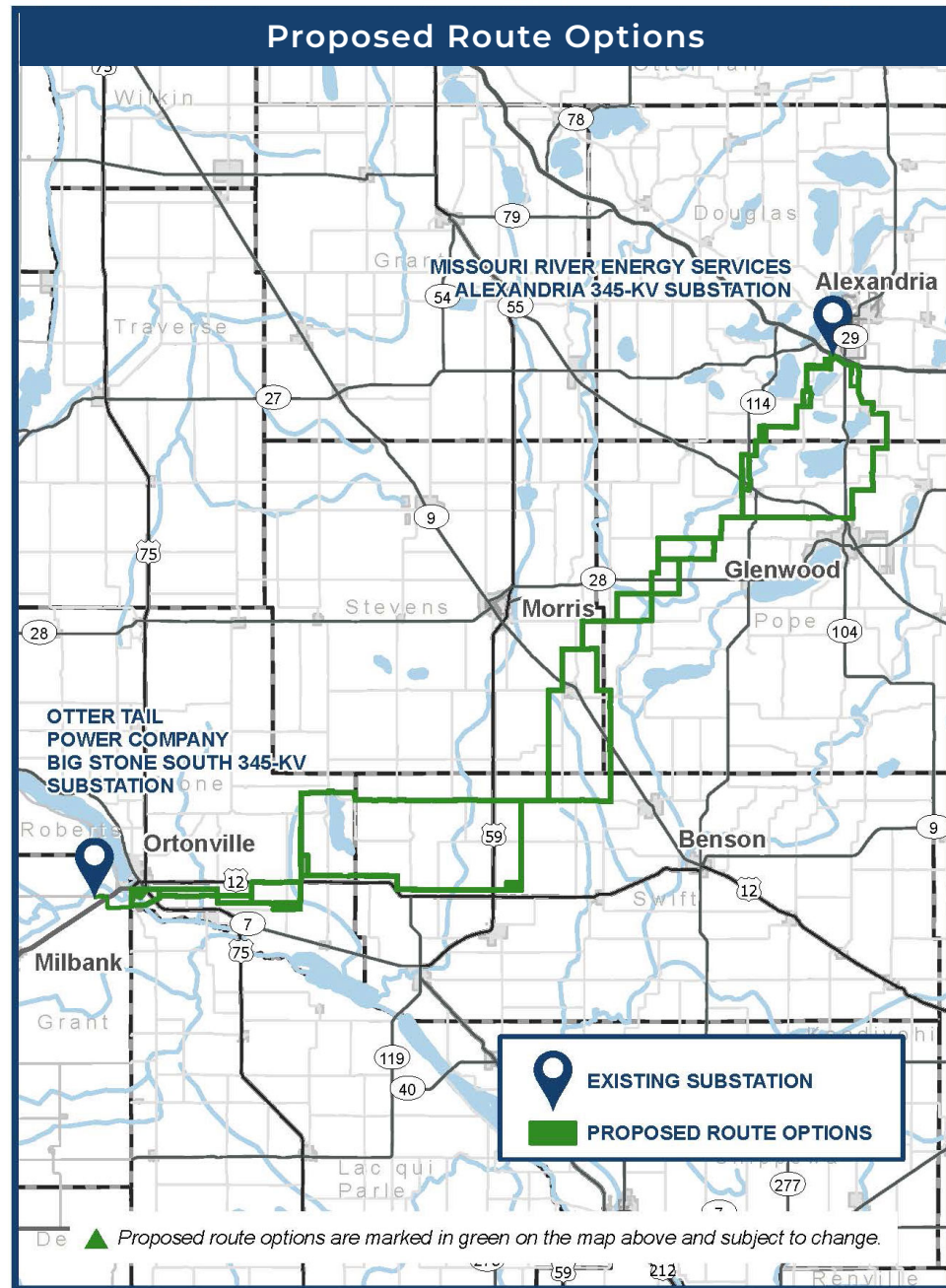
Project Corridors



Route Corridors



Route Segments



## ▶ REGULATORY PROCESS

### Minnesota (Docket number: E017, ET10/TL-23-160)

The next steps in the regulatory process for the BSSA transmission line include a completeness review of our Route Permit application, then the MN PUC will hold public information and environmental scoping meetings, prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), hold meetings on the EIS, and hold another round of public hearings before deciding the final route. A visual step-by-step graphic of the MN PUC permitting process is available on our website.

It is highly recommended that landowners sign up for the state's project mailing list and subscribe to the docket:

1. Sign up for the State's project mailing list
  - a. Email [eservice.admin@state.mn.us](mailto:eservice.admin@state.mn.us) or call (651) 201-2246.
  - b. For the Route Permit mailing list, email [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us) or call (651) 296-0406 or (800) 657-3782.
  - c. Please include the docket number, your full name, mailing address and email address. You may request to receive notices by email or U.S. Mail.
2. Subscribe to the Docket
  - a. Visit: [edockets.state.mn.us/subscriptions/verify](http://edockets.state.mn.us/subscriptions/verify), select Subscribe to eDockets and follow the prompts.
3. Contact the State:
  - a. MN PUC Staff Analyst, Sam Lobby, at [sam.lobby@state.mn.us](mailto:sam.lobby@state.mn.us) or (651) 201-2205 or (800) 657-3782 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)
  - b. MN DOC Environmental Review Manager, Jenna Ness, at [jenna.ness@state.mn.us](mailto:jenna.ness@state.mn.us) or (651) 539-1693 or (800) 657-3710 or visit [mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities](http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities)

### South Dakota (eDocket #: EL24-015)

To track this submission or subscribe to receive updates from the SD PUC, please visit [puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2024](http://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2024) and search for our docket number.

## ▶ COORDINATING WITH LANDOWNERS



Meet George Vinson, Land Rights Supervisor at the Otter Tail Power Company and our project's Right-of-Way Lead. Retiring as Captain and serving the Fargo Police Department for nearly 20 years and the City of Harwood as a Council Member for three years, he brings a wealth of knowledge about local regulations and community needs to ensure that all stakeholder input is thoughtfully considered. In his free time, he is dedicated to community support through his volunteer work at the Boy Scouts of America, the National Law Enforcement Cancer Support Foundation, the city of Fergus Falls Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and The United States Police Canine Association.

Long before any construction on the BSSA transmission line begins, our right-of-way agents will conduct ongoing outreach with landowners, local government officials, and other stakeholders. Our process will follow these steps:

1. If you are a landowner along one of the Proposed Route Options, our right-of-way agents will reach out to you to request right of entry to conduct various pre-construction surveys.
2. We will work with you to resolve questions or concerns.
3. Once we receive the final approval with a designated route from the MN PUC, a right-of-way agent will present you with an easement agreement and monetary offer based on fair market value.
4. We will construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line.








Return Address Name  
 Address  
 Address Line 2  
 City, State ZIP

## ▶ WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF BSSA CURRENT!

### What's inside this issue:

- Message from the project team
- Latest project schedule
- Map of the Proposed Route Options filed
- Regulatory review process
- Coordination with landowners

## HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT?

-  [www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com/contact](http://www.BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com/contact)
-  [connect@BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com](mailto:connect@BigStoneSouthtoAlexandria.com)
-  (800) 598-5587

SCAN ME!



## ▶ FREQUENTLY ASKED RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) QUESTIONS

### When and how will we be notified if we're on the Proposed Route Options? (MN Side Specific)

Property owners within and adjacent to the Proposed Route Options identified in the application should have received a notice from our project team. The Commission will also use this same list to notify landowners of the upcoming public information/scoping meetings and the public hearings. If additional route alternatives are identified during the regulatory process (scoping/input meetings), the MN PUC will update the landowner list to include those within and adjacent to the additional route alternatives.

### When and how will we be notified if we're on the Final Route? (MN Side Specific)

Once the MN PUC determines the route, it will publish its final permit decision in the State Register within 30 days and publish notice in the Environmental Quality Board Monitor. Notices will also be sent to those on the project contact list, those living along the designated route, and posted on the MN PUC's website.

### What is Right of Entry (ROE)?

To assess Proposed Route Options and conduct the necessary environmental, engineering, and geologic studies/surveys, right-of-way agents will work with landowners and residents to acquire a temporary right-of-entry (ROE) agreement. This agreement does not give permission for construction.

### How much of an easement will be needed?

Typically, a 150-foot-wide easement (75 feet on each side of the transmission line centerline) will be necessary to construct, operate, and maintain a 345-kV transmission line. Sometimes, this width overlaps road ROWs or other ROWs. We may also need to obtain other rights, such as:

- Access easements for temporary or permanent access to the 150-foot-wide ROW.
- Construction workspace easements for temporary or permanent rights to conduct certain construction and maintenance-related activities (e.g., conductor stringing areas, staging areas).

