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FIRST QUARTER 2016

Construction Begins on Minnesota-Iowa Electric Transmission Project

Minnesota-Iowa
345 kV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Dear Neighbors:

After more than three years of significant planning, outreach and regulatory proceedings, ITC Midwest has started construction of the Minnesota-Iowa 345 kV electric transmission line project. When it is completed next year, the line will contribute to a stronger electric transmission system, ensuring more reliable electric service to serve the growing energy needs of Minnesota and the surrounding region.

Following the November 2014 decision by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) approving the Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the project, ITC Midwest initiated its design and permitting process to prepare for construction activities. Late last year, we mobilized resources to begin constructing the line. The company has selected M.J. Electric as the primary contractor to build the first segment of the line, from the Lakefield Junction substation to the Fox Lake area about 27 miles to the east. Crews began removing an existing 161 kV line along the route that will be rebuilt with the new line. Foundation crews have begun digging holes between 17 and 70 feet deep for the foundations for the new structures. Vendors have begun delivering sections of the 130-foot to 180-foot-long steel structures to the company's construction staging area. The first of the 448 structures needed for this project were delivered during November, with more materials arriving every week.

Pre-Construction Activities Underway

As construction begins on the western end of the project, field crews have begun working east to complete pre-construction activities. That includes meeting with landowners to review ingress and egress points to each structure location. Other pre-construction activities taking place on affected properties may include surveying and staking the route to identify the specific locations for each of the transmission structures.

In addition, ITC continues to obtain the necessary permits, licenses and approvals from federal, state and local agencies for future phases of the project. The Route Permit issued by the MPUC requires that we provide landowners and residents contact information at least 14 days before we start construction on a segment. That information was provided to landowners and residents along Segment 1 in September 2015. We'll provide similar information to landowners and residents along Segments 2 through 4 as we get closer to starting construction on those portions of the project. *[continued on page 2]*



Doug Sabinash,
Project Engineer

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superhighway*

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Committed to Landowners and Neighbors

ITC Midwest and its contractors recognize that we have a critical responsibility to provide reliable electric service, and do it in a way that treats our neighboring landowners with respect. As we begin line construction, we are committed to working with you during this process. We will do our best to address any issues that arise during construction. We also pledge to continue our communications throughout the construction process. Agents from our contractor, JCG Land Services, will continue to be involved, working with landowners to discuss preferences for accessing property and the timing of construction. ITC's project field supervisor, Bill Broghammer, also will be contacting landowners in anticipation of construction activities. In the meantime, if there is anything we should know about your property or area, please contact us.

We appreciate your support for this project. We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the construction process. Please contact Senior Real Estate Specialist Jeanne Archie at (319) 297-6764 if you have any questions about our plans or timing. ■

Sincerely,
Doug Sabinash,
Project Manager



Minnesota-Iowa 345 kV Electric Transmission Project Route



The approved route for the Minnesota-Iowa project is shown in orange on the above map.

Construction Follows Standard Process

Through years of experience, ITC Midwest employees and contractors have developed a consistent process to effectively and efficiently build new transmission lines. The work begins with surveying the route and taking soil borings to test the ground for the foundation work, before moving on to actual construction. The construction process generally proceeds as follows:

1. Surveyors stake the locations along the line route to identify the specific location for each structure.
2. Crews will begin to prepare the route for easy access to the right of way from the roads and adjoining properties. They will consult with landowners and with county officials to identify the most direct access to the worksite, to limit damage to property and roads. This stage also will include trimming and removing trees that will conflict with line construction and operation of the electric transmission system.
3. Crews will install temporary guard structures as needed to protect the public and facilities during construction. These structures form an “H” shape to ensure that new construction does not come into contact with other lines or roads.
4. Once the large holes are excavated for the structure foundations, crews will deliver anchor bolt assemblies and rebar cages to each structure location. These cages provide added strength to the concrete and anchor the transmission poles to the foundations.
5. Once the foundations are poured, the concrete will need 30 days to cure.
6. Steel structures will be delivered to the structure locations.
7. Using cranes, crews will set the steel structures onto the concrete foundations and attach insulators and stringing rollers to the structures.
8. Crews will string the conductor or line on the rollers, pulling it to tension before permanently attaching the line to the insulators.
9. Crews will remove any previous structures and conductor from the site.
10. Crews will clean the site, remove temporary guard structures and road entrances, and begin restoring the property.
11. When all construction and restoration activities are completed, land agents will meet with property owners to inspect the property and settle any property or crop damages. ■



Line Construction Includes Work Above and Below Ground

While the structures are the most visible part of a transmission line, the underground foundation gives the structure the strength to do its job. The first step in construction is excavating the dirt and rock to make way for those foundations. In most cases along the Minnesota-Iowa Project line, those concrete foundations will be poured at depths of approximately 25 feet or more and generally be between 8 and 14 feet in diameter. The concrete is poured over rebar cages, steel reinforcing bars that are fashioned into tubes and placed in the foundation hole. These rebar cages are larger than a pickup truck. Some rebar cages may be built on site, but crews also may build them offsite and deliver them to where they are needed. ■



123 Fifth Street SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

Return Service Requested

Minnesota-Iowa

345 kV

TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT



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Construction By-Products Offer Benefits to Landowners

The process of constructing the Minnesota-Iowa Project line will create by-products that may benefit landowners near the line route. ITC Midwest is willing to make available to landowners dirt and spoils excavated to accommodate the structure foundations. This material is usually hauled away, but ITC is willing to accommodate landowners who want to use the material for fill on their property. Landowners interested in acquiring the soil should speak with the crews. ITC will ask the landowner to sign documents to accept responsibility for the materials. Please be aware that we will do our best, but not all requests can be accommodated. ■

Do you have new contact information?

ITC Midwest wants to make sure we have your current contact information so we can reach you as construction activities move into your area. If you have updated information, please contact Senior Real Estate Specialist Jeanne Archie, at (319) 297-6764 or jarchie@itctransco.com. We want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you informed of our activities. Thank you!



Get to Know...

Name: Bill Broghammer
Hometown: West Union, Iowa
Title: Field Supervisor

Years in utility industry: 31 years, having previously worked as a line mechanic, substation/relay technician, field engineer, construction manager, electric operations manager, and senior electric and gas zone manager.

Describe your duties: As the field supervisor, I oversee all of the construction activities. I work closely with the contractors to make sure the work follows the design specifications, and work with landowners to ensure we are addressing any issues that may arise during construction.

Hobbies: I enjoy boating, watching NASCAR racing and taking vacations to tropical locations.