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Minnesota Power and American Transmission Co. file application for new high-voltage transmission line to strengthen regional grid

DULUTH, Minn. – Minnesota Power and American Transmission Co. (ATC) have filed a combined application for a Certificate of Need and Route Permit to build a high-voltage transmission line in Itasca and St. Louis counties in Minnesota to bolster reliability of the regional grid, expand transmission capacity and support growing energy needs.

The application for the 345-kV Iron Range-St. Louis County-Arrowhead Transmission Line (ISA) was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on Jan. 5.

Project overview

The ISA Project includes approximately 67.5 miles of new transmission infrastructure designed to enhance the reliability, efficiency, and transfer capability of the grid. The proposed route runs from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation near Grand Rapids to its St. Louis County Substation near Hermantown, with a connection to ATC's adjacent Arrowhead Substation. About 92% of the route follows or replaces existing transmission corridors, minimizing environmental and land-use impacts. The project includes three key segments:

- **Segment 1:** 32.7 miles of new 345 kV line along existing rights-of-way from the Iron Range Substation to the Floodwood area.
- **Segment 2:** Replacement of 33.3 miles of 230 kV line with 345 kV double-circuit structures from the Floodwood area to the St. Louis County Substation.
- **Segment 3:** 1.5 miles of new double-circuit 345 kV line connecting Minnesota Power's St. Louis County Substation to ATC's Arrowhead Substation.

The project also includes expansions of ATC's Arrowhead Substation and Minnesota Power's St. Louis County Substation to accommodate new connections and modifications to Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation.

Long-range planning

The ISA Project is part of the MISO Long-Range Transmission Plan Tranche 2.1 Portfolio, approved in 2024. It will:

- Strengthen the regional transmission grid as operating conditions become more variable.
- Increase grid efficiency as energy is transferred from where it is produced to where it is needed.

- Support integration of renewable generation and meet growing demand for clean energy.

“ISA is a great example of robust utility planning over nearly a decade that prepares the transmission system to serve in new and expanded ways. This project is an investment in our communities and in the future as the way energy is produced and used continues to evolve and the operation of the grid becomes more dynamic,” said Josh Skelton, Minnesota Power chief operating officer. “Reliable transmission infrastructure is essential for connecting renewable resources and meeting the region’s growing energy needs. ISA will help ensure we can deliver electricity where and when it’s needed.”

Over the past year, Minnesota Power hosted a series of public open houses and provided other opportunities for discussion with landowners; local, state, and federal agencies; and Tribal Nations to get feedback about the project and the proposed route.

Timeline

- **Construction start:** Late 2027, subject to regulatory approvals.
- **In-service date:** No later than 2032.

For more information, see the project’s website.

About Minnesota Power
Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

About ALLETE, Inc.
ALLETE, Inc. is an energy company headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. In addition to its electric utilities, Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power of Wisconsin, ALLETE owns ALLETE Clean Energy, based in Duluth, Minnesota; BNI Energy in Bismarck, North Dakota; and New Energy Equity, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland; and has an 8% equity interest in the American Transmission Co. More information about ALLETE is available at www.allete.com. *ALE-CORP*

About ATC
ATC is a Wisconsin-based company that moves energy along the regional electric grid in parts of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Illinois, serving more than 5 million electric consumers. We are experts at what we do: planning, maintaining, operating, and protecting the grid. As the electric industry moves toward renewable generation sources, we are transforming our system to continue delivering energy reliably and safely. We proudly support STEM education programs that empower youth with the skills needed to succeed in tomorrow’s energy workforce. For more information, visit www.atcllc.com.

ALLETE calculates and reports carbon emissions based on the GHG Protocol. Details in ALLETE’s Corporate Sustainability Report.

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