

# BSSA CURRENT

FALL 2025



## ▶ GREETINGS FROM THE BSSA TEAM

The Big Stone South to Alexandria (BSSA) 345-kilovolt transmission line will play an important role in creating a stronger, more reliable energy future for our region. Our team has been busy meeting with landowners and coordinating with agencies, tribes and local units of government to make sure all stakeholders are informed as we move forward.

In Minnesota, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) and the Administrative Law Judge scheduled public hearings in late September and early October. These hearings are an opportunity to share your input with the MN PUC as they determine the final route.

In South Dakota, there aren't major updates to share since the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) approved the Facility Permit in January 2025, but we'll continue to keep you informed.

## SAFETY SPOTLIGHT

A new school year means new routines and more traffic at times. Stay extra alert, especially near schools and anywhere kids might be around. While school buses carry lots of students, we'll also see more kids walking, biking, and getting dropped off in school areas.

Kids sometimes act on impulse or get distracted, especially when they're excited. Take a moment to talk with them about staying aware and watching for vehicles before crossing the street or heading toward the bus. A quick



reminder for all of us can help keep everyone safe.

## ▶ ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE



Time frames are approximate and subject to change.

## ▶ PLANNING FOR TOMORROW: THE BSSA TRANSMISSION LINE

We're preparing for the future while supporting the needs of our communities today. As we continue meeting with landowners, local officials, tribes, and residents throughout the project area, we're taking a moment to reflect on why we're building the BSSA transmission line. This project is more than a transmission line between two substations. It's about creating a reliable, resilient, and flexible electric grid people across our region can count on every day.

Energy needs in Minnesota and South Dakota continue to grow, and a strong, dependable grid is essential to meet that demand. BSSA is designed to keep power flowing to homes, farms, schools, and businesses, even during major storms or high demand periods. BSSA will serve as a transmission backbone for the area, keeping electricity flowing when other parts of the system are out-of-service.

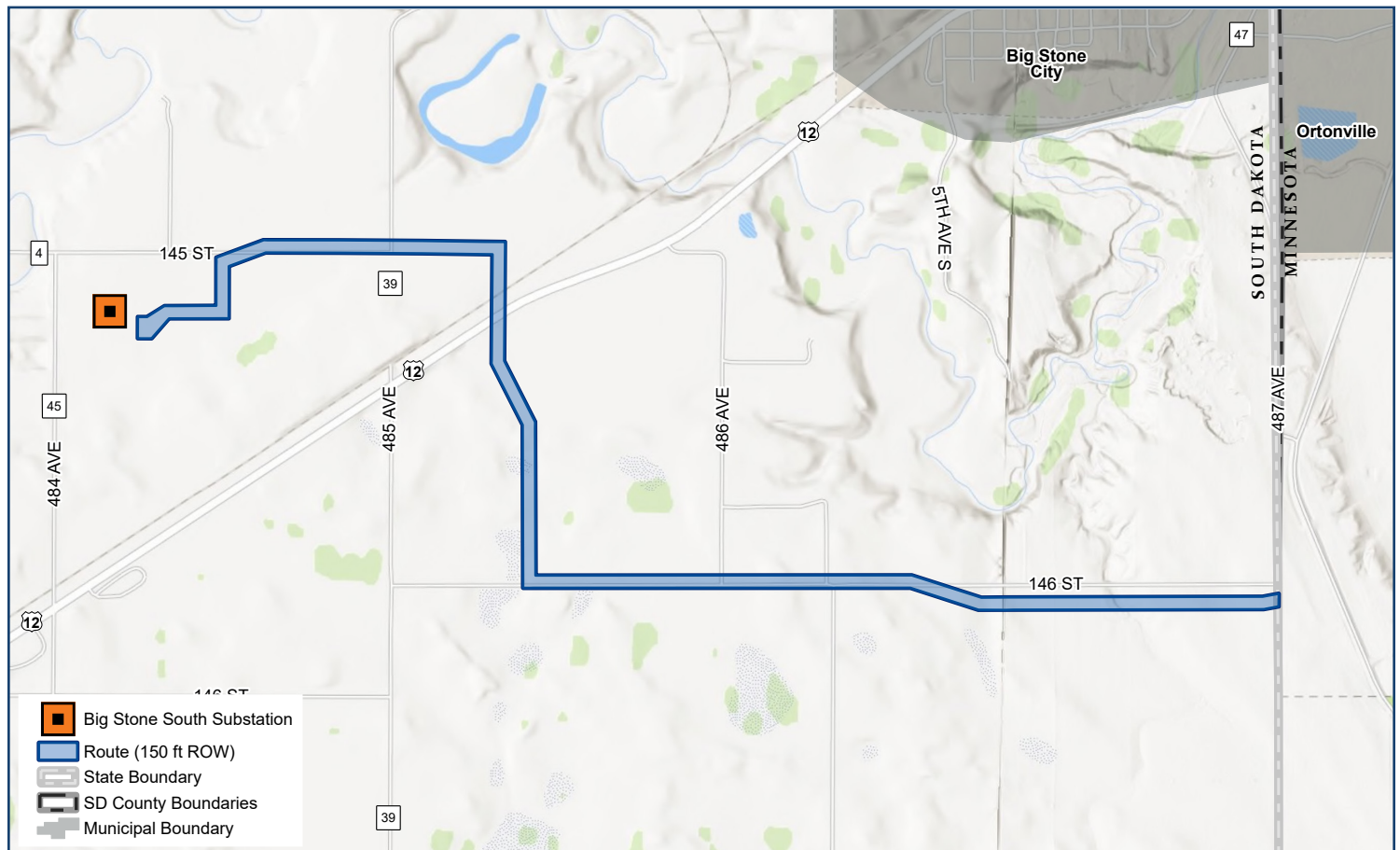
Since 2023 we've been talking with local governments, landowners, tribes, and community members, listening to concerns and adjusting route options in both states based on what we heard. After 17 open houses and thousands of conversations with stakeholders and landowners, we're finding the best path forward—together.

This project represents our commitment to reliability and strengthening our energy system for today and generations to come.

## ▶ REGULATORY PROCESS

### South Dakota (Docket number: EL24-015)

The SD PUC approved a Facility Permit for the project's route shown in blue. This portion of the project's route is about 3.5 miles long.



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

## Public Hearings

On September 4, 2025, the MN PUC released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Next, the MN PUC and the Administrative Law Judge will hold six public hearings this fall to gather input. We encourage you to attend and share your comments. If you aren't able to attend, you can submit written comments during the public comment period (see below).

## In-Person Hearings

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 Douglas County	10:00 a.m. (pre-meeting hour) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (formal hearing)	<b>Broadway Ballroom</b> 115 30th Avenue E Alexandria, MN 56308
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 Pope County	5:00 p.m. (pre-meeting hour) 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (formal hearing)	<b>Lakeside Ballroom</b> 180 S Lakeshore Drive Glenwood, MN 56334
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 Stevens County	10:00 a.m. (pre-meeting hour) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (formal hearing)	<b>Hancock City Hall</b> 662 6th Street Hancock, MN 56244
Wednesday, October 1, 2025 Swift County	5:00 p.m. (pre-meeting hour) 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (formal hearing)	<b>Benson Northside Elementary School</b> 1800 Nevada Avenue Benson, MN 56215
Thursday, October 2, 2025 Big Stone County	10:00 a.m. (pre-meeting hour) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (formal hearing)	<b>Sioux Historic Pavilion</b> 1079 Lakeshore Drive Ortonville, MN 56278
Thursday, October 2, 2025 (virtual option)	No pre-meeting 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. (formal hearing)	<b>Virtual Option</b> Login information available on our website

There will be a “pre-meeting” hour before each hearing for attendees to review project materials, ask questions, and submit written comments into the MN PUC record. The formal hearing includes a presentation on the state’s permitting and environmental review processes, information about the project, and opportunities for attendees to provide oral or written comments. Each hearing will present the same information.

## Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted by the MN PUC through 4:30 p.m. on October 20, 2025. Please include the docket number (shown above) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the MN PUC. Topics for comment include:

- Should the MN PUC grant a route permit for the proposed 345-kV transmission Line?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in the route permit?
- What information needs to be clarified or included in the Draft EIS to ensure that the Final EIS is complete and accurate?

More information on how to view and comment on the Draft EIS and the project will be available on the MN PUC’s website at [puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/15867](https://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/15867).

SCAN ME





215 S. Cascade Street  
P.O. Box 496  
Fergus Falls, MN  
56538-0496

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

### What's inside:

- Safety message from the project team
- Latest project schedule
- Public hearings schedule
- Regulatory process updates
- Frequently asked questions

## 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

### Can I submit comments to the MN PUC at any time and will they be part of the record for this project?

Yes, landowners and all interested stakeholders are welcome to submit comments to the MN PUC at any time. However, if you submit comments outside of an official comment period, the MN PUC may mark them as “outside the comment period” in the public record. To make sure your input is timely, we encourage you to submit your comments during an official public comment period. The next opportunity to share your feedback and make your voice heard will be this fall during a comment period that will begin in early September and end October 20, 2025.

### Will this project help only the customers near the line?

No, this project helps customers throughout the broader region by connecting to the existing transmission system. By adding another transmission path for electricity to travel, the BSSA line will enhance reliability when other lines are out of service. It also will help keep costs more stable for customers because the line will allow the transmission system to support the delivery of low-cost energy across the region.

### Will this line be used right away when it's completed?

Yes, the new line will begin delivering power when construction is complete. The amount of energy flowing through the line will vary depending on system conditions.

