



POWER DELIVERED

April 2015

Dear Readers,

It's spring and the Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) transmission line project is shifting into the next phase—design and preconstruction.

We kicked off 2015 by mailing almost 600 landowner information packets to affected landowners and local officials explaining safety information, outlining anticipated survey and construction schedules, and providing regulatory approval documents. A printable version of the landowner information packet is available on the project website.

We'll continue to provide timely communication to landowners, local officials, commissioners, and agencies through each project phase.

In this newsletter you'll learn more about field surveys and the real estate acquisition process—and be sure to check out our new safety spotlight!

The BSSE project team



Big Stone South to Ellendale

HDR Engineering
701 Xenia Ave Suite 600
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Safety Spotlight
- Field Surveys
- Right-of-Way
 - Easements & Appraisal Process
 - Payments

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Safety Spotlight

Safety is our first priority. In February, we reached out to local emergency management organizations to provide them information about our work in their area and answer questions. This safety communication will continue throughout the project.

REAL ESTATE

When will the project begin acquiring easements?

We'll begin acquiring easements this summer and anticipate completion by the end of the year. We'll likely begin our process near Big Stone City, South Dakota, and continue toward Ellendale, North Dakota. Land agents will contact landowners to schedule meetings to review easement documents and exhibits showing structure locations. All boundary survey work is complete, allowing us to write legal descriptions defining the easement area.

When will payments be made?

We'll mail landowner payments within 60 days of signing the easement agreement. Landowners will receive a single payment in the full amount of the easement.

APPRAISAL PROCESS

We're working with a local appraisal firm to develop final purchase offers for parcels that do not have a signed option. See the process below.



A local third-party appraiser contacts the landowner to schedule the appraisal. The landowner can accompany the appraiser on their site visit.



The appraiser will complete a written appraisal within three to five weeks. We'll develop a final offer and a land agent will present the final offer to the landowner.



Landowners will be given a period of time to review the appraisal and final offer prior to being contacted by the land agent. Landowners may hire a separate appraiser at their own expense to provide an appraisal developed to the same standards for a comparison of value.



Once the review period ends, a land agent will contact landowners to find out if they accept the final offers. If a landowner decides to not accept the final offer, the project owners will determine a course of action to obtain the easement.



Field Surveys Continue

This spring we'll continue conducting field surveys to gather information used to design and construct the line. A project representative will call landowners **before the survey team conducts surveys on private property.**

Spring, Summer, and Fall Surveys

Wetland Surveys

Locate the boundaries of wetland areas

Geotechnical Surveys

Identify soil types and structures using soil borings

Natural Resource Surveys

Locate habitat, nesting sites, and soil resources. (We will conduct a soil assessment on cultivated fields for soybean cyst nematode)

Engineering Review

Field Review of roads, road approaches, preliminary structure locations, and constructability



Cultural Resource Surveys

Identify location of cultural or historic resources

WHY AM I RECEIVING PHONE CALLS?

Many landowners requested to receive notice prior to any survey teams accessing their property. So before entering the property, we require that personal contacts be made as soon as reasonably possible or about two weeks prior to the survey.

If you would prefer a different notification process, please let us know. Other options include website and postcard notifications.

For more information:



1-888-283-4678



info@BSSETransmissionLine.com



www.BSSETransmissionLine.com

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