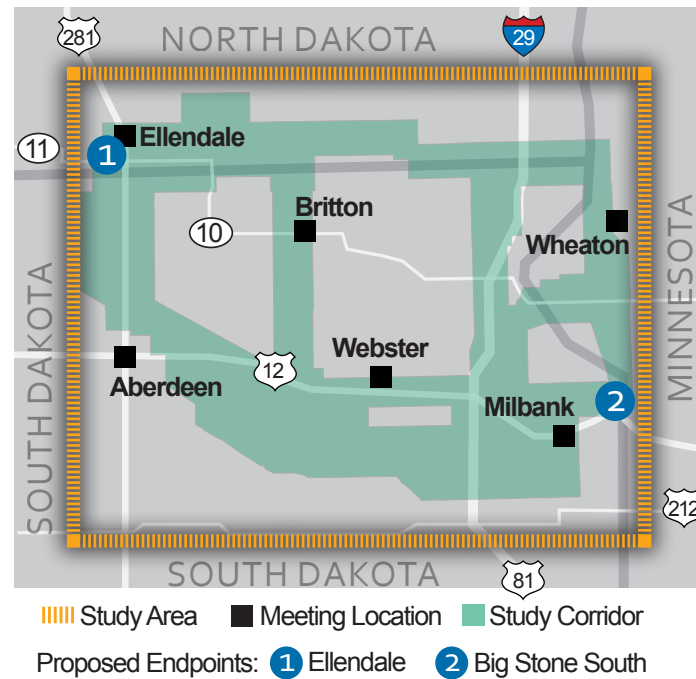


Public meetings held in October 2012 across the BSSE project area

A special thank you to those who attended one of our six open house meetings during the week of October 15, 2012. We had engaging conversations with more than 200 people throughout the week. At the open houses, the BSSE project team walked attendees through a series of informational boards, answered questions, and gathered input.

If you were unable to attend, the meeting boards and handouts are available online at www.BSSETransmissionLine.com, or by calling our hotline at 1-888-283-4678.



What we heard from you

The BSSE project team gathered a great deal of important feedback from meeting attendees. Key themes from the meetings included:

- Follow existing linear features where feasible (e.g., roads, railroads, section lines, utilities, etc.).
- Discuss important agricultural practices (i.e., center pivot irrigation and aerial spraying).
- Treat landowners with respect.
- Evaluate routing on both public and private lands to create a balance of land ownership.
- Consider the advantages and disadvantages of the different potential structure types.
- Consider ways to minimize land impacts during construction.

In addition to these major themes, we collected specific input from individuals regarding their land and communities, as well as answered questions about future wind generation projects. Our project is a transmission line project only and the location of any generation project is up to the developer. We will review all feedback collected and consider it during route development.



Want to find out more or submit feedback?

If you have additional comments or questions, feel free to use any of the following ways to reach our project team:



Visit our website: www.BSSETransmissionLine.com

Call our toll-free information line: 1-888-283-4678

Email us: info@BSSETransmissionLine.com

POWER DELIVERED

November 2012 Issue



Dear Readers,

Welcome to our first issue of the Big Stone South to Ellendale Transmission Line Project newsletter! We will send out this newsletter periodically to provide updates on the BSSE project.

Watch for upcoming newsletters in your mailbox or email inbox. To change your mailing preferences, visit our website at www.BSSETransmissionLine.com and click on Contact Us.

In this issue, we will provide an overview of the BSSE project, summarize our open house meetings hosted the week of October 15, 2012, and address some frequently asked questions about the BSSE project.

We look forward to sharing information with you.

The BSSE project team



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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- A summary of the route open house meetings hosted the week of October 15, 2012
- An overview of the BSSE project and a map of the study corridors
- Frequently asked questions from the public meetings

POWER DELIVERED

Frequently Asked Questions at the October 2012 Public Meetings

How much right-of-way is required on either side of the line?

The voltage and the transmission structure type determine the size of the right-of-way (ROW). For a 345 kV transmission line, the typical total ROW is up to 150-foot-wide, or 75 feet on either side of the centerline. In some areas, a temporary easement may be added to aid in construction activities.

Will the new transmission line interfere with radio, television, cell phone, or GPS reception?

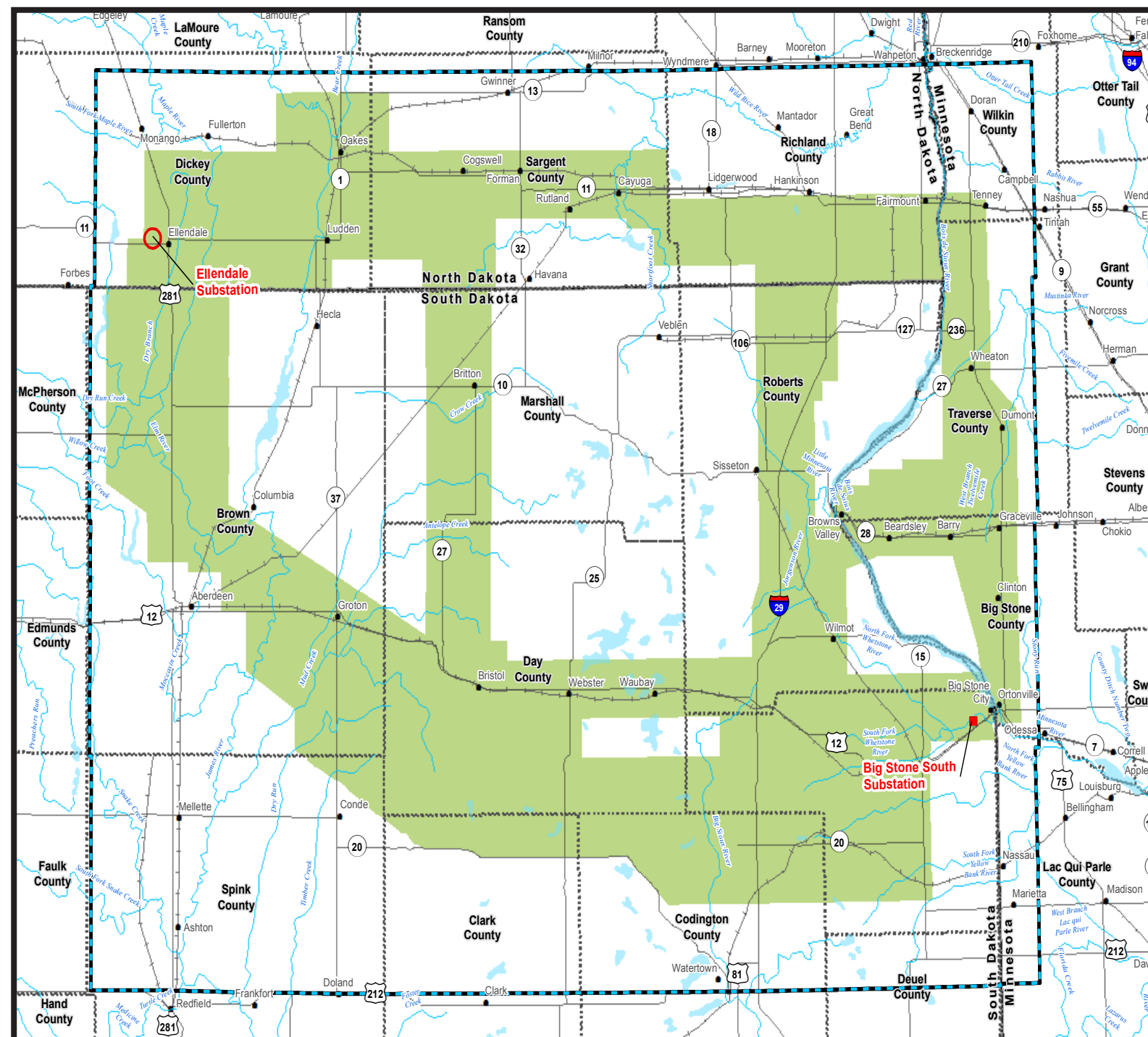
Television interference is unlikely but may occur if a transmission structure is between your receiver and a weak distant signal. Most reception is now digital, allowing for multiple paths to a signal.

GPS signal interference should generally not occur. GPS devices continually pull signal from a number of satellites, not just one. If farming equipment has a GPS unit, the equipment should work properly with a high degree of accuracy underneath the transmission line. There is a potential for a signal to be blocked temporarily and come back within a few seconds as the farm equipment continues to move.

How much wind development will be associated with this line?

The need for this project was determined in part due to the interest in wind development projects in both North Dakota and South Dakota. However, BSSE has no knowledge of which projects may or may not be moving forward at this time.

BSSE STUDY CORRIDORS

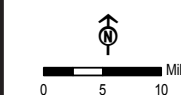


Project Basics:

- New 345 kV transmission line
- End points: proposed Ellendale substation and proposed Big Stone South substation
- Project Development Team: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company.
- In service by 2019
- Approximate cost: \$300 million - \$340 million

LEGEND

- Study Area
- Project End Point Area
- Project End Point
- Study Corridors
- Lake
- Stream
- County Boundary
- State Boundary



Project Schedule:

November 2012
Review corridor input

Winter 2012-13
Develop route alternatives

Early 2013
Host open houses

Spring-Summer 2013
Refine route alternatives and develop state application. Begin engineering design and right-of-way process.

2013 - 2016
Obtain environmental permits, refine engineering design, and continue right-of-way process

2016-2019
Construction

2019
Project in service

We are here