

What is the project?

The **Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) Transmission Line** is a proposed 150-175 mile transmission line from the proposed Big Stone South substation near Big Stone City, SD, to the proposed Ellendale substation near Ellendale, ND. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company will jointly manage the permitting, construction and operation of the line. The project is anticipated to cost approximately \$300 million - \$340 million and be in service by 2019.

Why is the project needed?

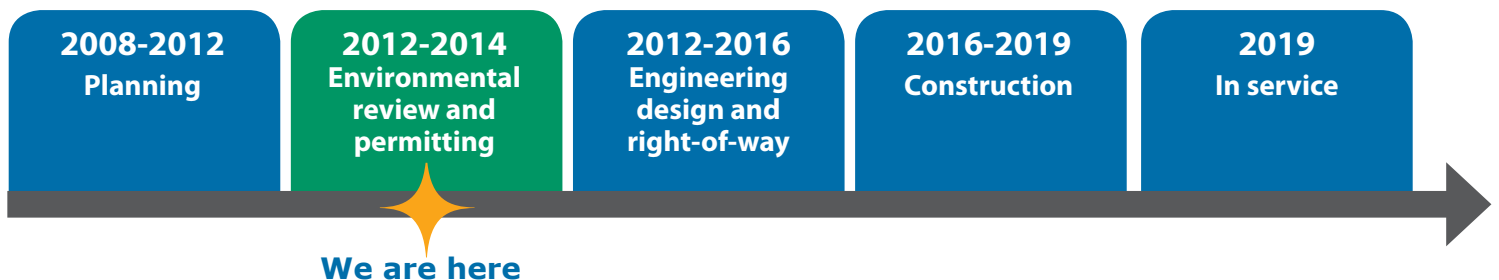
In December 2011, Mid-Continent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO), an independently governed organization tasked with ensuring transmission network reliability and efficiency, identified the BSSE transmission line as an important multi-value project (MVP). A transmission line is designated as an MVP if it can provide regional reliability, economic value and support for renewable energy public policy objectives. This project is one of 17 MVP transmission projects approved by MISO to improve the capacity and reliability of the regional transmission system.

What are the project benefits?

The BSSE transmission line will connect to other similar regional lines within MISO's transmission network. With these similar transmission lines, BSSE will:

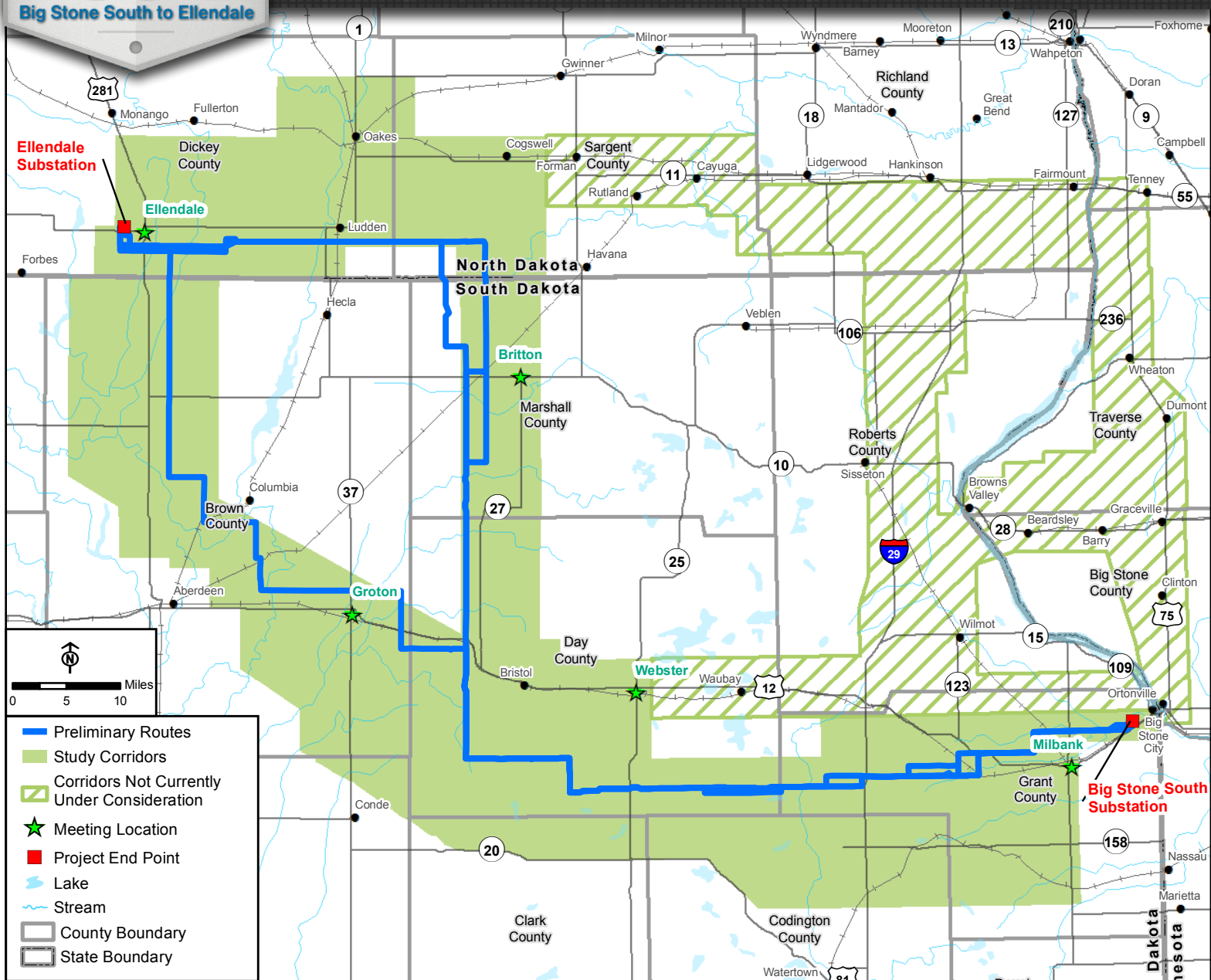
- **Improve reliability** of the regional power system.
- **Increase system capacity** to address the growth of regional demand.
- **Support public policy** by enabling integration of renewable energy into the system.
- **Boost regional economies** by creating jobs and supporting businesses.

What is the project schedule?



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What information was evaluated to develop the preliminary routes?

- Existing rights-of-way (transmission lines, pipelines, railways, or roads), survey lines, and natural division lines
- Populated areas/residences
- River crossing locations
- Public and private airports
- Length
- High density of natural features
 - » Surface waters/wetlands
 - » Cultural resources
 - » Biological resources
- Public and agency feedback
 - » Agricultural practices
 - » Routing on balanced land ownership
 - » Opportunities to minimize impacts during construction

CONTACT US

Email: info@BSSEtransmissionline.com

Call: 1-888-283-4678