After Construction

Construction crews will minimize potential damage and clean up the right of way after work is completed. Before the last crew leaves, all work areas and access roads not required for line maintenance will be restored, as nearly as practical, to their previous condition. Construction refuse and scrap material will also be removed.

Landowners will be compensated for crop and for property damage that occurs as a result of construction or maintenance of the transmission line. If a landowner believes that damage has occurred and has not been recognized, he or she should contact Basin Electric's land services specialist.

Maintenance

After the line is energized, maintenance crews will periodically inspect, repair, and maintain its components. Transmission lines are inspected from the air and on the ground. Aerial inspections are routinely performed, particularly after wind, ice, or lightning storms. Ground inspections are usually performed annually to detect items needing repair or replacement that are not found by aerial inspections.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like a map showing the line route in your area, please contact:

Nathan Kleyer
Basin Electric Headquarters
701-557-5456
nkleyer@bepc.com

Mike Murray
Basin Electric Headquarters
701-557-5454

Bobby Nasset
Basin Electric Headquarters
701-557-5673

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503-0564

Project information for landowners along the proposed Neset-to-North Shore Transmission Line

Neset-to-North Shore Transmission Project

Introduction

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is an electric power generation and transmission cooperative, headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota. Basin Electric generates and transmits wholesale electricity to 140 member rural electric cooperatives located in a 9-state service area, serving 3 million customers on their respective systems. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative is the local electric cooperative which depends upon affordable and reliable power from Basin Electric to serve their customers' power needs.

The need for an additional 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line is due to load growth in the area. As electric load continues to develop in the region between Tioga and New Town, the existing transmission network is unable to maintain loading and voltage criteria during contingency events. The Neset-to-North Shore 230-kV transmission project is required to meet reliability standards and projected electrical demands. The addition of this transmission line will allow continued reliable operation of the transmission system to accommodate additional load growth in the region. The project would provide more reliable service to electric cooperative customers as well as diversify power resources on the larger transmission system.

Southwest Power Pool (SPP) is the regional transmission organization that administers bulk electric transmission system reliability upgrades and generation interconnections. Basin Electric received a Notification to Construct (NTC) Approved Reliability Network upgrades notice in June, 2020, from SPP. Basin Electric is the designated transmission owner for the upgrade, which includes a new 230-kV substation named North Shore, and an approximate 30-mile long transmission line from the existing Neset substation to the proposed North Shore substation.

Permitting

The permitting requirements of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) must be met. Related work began in 2020 and included surveys to look for biological or cultural resources and studies to assess impacts on other resources. A number of factors will influence the transmission line route selection. These include environmental impacts, engineering, land use patterns, economics, electrical requirements, reliability, and existing electric transmission facilities.

Actual line and substation construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2022. It is anticipated that construction will take approximately one year.

Landowner Relations

Initially, a land services specialist will request permission to enter property to conduct surveys and studies. This work may be performed by Basin Electric employees as well as people who are under contract to Basin Electric. The work will be conducted in a manner that minimizes disturbances to the landowner or tenant. Should any damage to crops, fences, or other property occur as a result of these surveys and studies, the landowner will be fairly compensated or the damage will be repaired. Multiple routes may be considered. Once the preferred transmission line route is determined, a specific centerline is located. A combination of aerial surveys, environmental and engineering field studies and geologic investigations are then conducted. Finally, pole or tower locations are selected to satisfy structural design criteria, maintain adequate line-to-ground clearance, and minimize impacts to the property being crossed. Landowner input is encouraged and welcomed throughout this process.

A land services specialist will contact all landowners potentially crossed by the project. This specialist will explain the steps involved in route and pole location selection, land acquisition, and construction. If any proposed construction activities interfere with land use, the land services specialist will discuss those concerns and try to accommodate landowner's concerns.

A 125- to 150-foot wide easement will be acquired for the transmission line. In addition, easements for access roads, typically 30-feet wide, may be acquired in certain areas to access the transmission line. These easements are needed to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line. They will be purchased through negotiations with landowners. The landowner retains title to the land and may continue to use the property in ways that are compatible with the transmission line as long as care is taken to prevent damage and maintain access to transmission line structures.

No buildings or structures may be erected within the easement because they could impede the safe operation of the line or interfere with access needed for line maintenance. For safety reasons, pumps, wells, swimming pools, and flammables must not be placed in the easement area. Basin Electric also has other requirements for transmission rights of way to maintain system reliability, such as federal regulations on vegetation management intended to prevent trees on the right of way from causing fires or transmission line outages.

Landowners are presented with a written offer, based on a market analysis of similar type and use of property in Mountrail County. Basin Electric's land services specialists explain the easement and offer of compensation as the basis for payment. Every effort is made to obtain an agreement that is fair and reasonable to both parties. Once the conditions of the agreement are met, the transactions are processed as efficiently as possible. Basin Electric will make full payment or annual installments for up to five years for easements to landowners and pay all fees for recording the easement and any title insurance.

Design and Construction

Basin Electric designs, constructs, operates, and maintains transmission lines and substation facilities to meet or exceed the requirements of the National Electric Safety Code. These standards provide for the safety and protection of landowners and their property, the general public, and utility employees.

Basin Electric will keep landowners apprised of the construction schedule. Reasonable attempts will be made to take into account the use and condition of the land, such as any planting, irrigation and harvest schedules, to minimize any inconvenience. Preparing the right of way for construction may require gates and culverts be installed, vegetation cleared, trees trimmed or removed, and structures removed that reduce adequate ground clearance for the conductors or access to the right of way. It may also be necessary to build access roads in hilly or rough terrain.

Where required, foundations are constructed by digging or drilling holes, which are filled with steel-reinforced concrete. Steel tower components are then transferred to the site and assembled. Completed towers are raised by a crane and set on foundations or directly embedded in the ground. Finally, conductor wires are installed.