

Forks – Rost (Jackson County) 161 kV Transmission Line Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW

ITC Midwest is planning to build a new 161 kV (161,000 volt) electric transmission line that travels between ITC Midwest's proposed Forks Substation and the proposed Rost Substation that will be built by Great River Energy in Jackson County. The proposed line is approximately 8.7 miles long. The construction of ITC Midwest's proposed Forks Substation is also part of the project.

The route for the transmission line may change and the final route will be determined by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). (Please see map of the proposed route in Jackson County on the back.)

Why is this line needed?

The Forks – Rost 161 kV line is a reliability-driven project that will improve transmission system reliability in the Jackson and Nobles County, Minnesota areas. The project was the outcome of a joint area reliability study between Great River Energy, Missouri River Energy Services and ITC Midwest.

The Forks – Rost project will provide numerous benefits and drive value for electric consumers locally and regionally. When completed, this transmission line will:

- Increase transmission capacity to **improve system reliability**
- Enhance grid resilience to better **withstand extreme weather**
- **Better serve current and future needs** through increased system capacity
- **Reduce electric system congestion** and improve grid efficiency

Whose approval is required to build this line?

ITC Midwest will submit a route permit application to the PUC. After the application is submitted, the PUC and Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC EERA) staff will facilitate public meetings and provide other opportunities for input from the public and regulatory agencies. The DOC EERA will prepare an environmental assessment for the project. Construction cannot begin until a route permit is granted by the PUC.

What is being done to ensure this line will be safe?

This line will be designed to meet and even exceed the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC), the nationally-recognized design standard in the United States. Among other things, these codes require construction to meet clearance requirements and withstand extreme weather conditions. As the line owner, ITC Midwest will make sure that the line is clear of trees and other vegetation.

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What is ITC Midwest doing to minimize impact on landowners and current land uses?

ITC Midwest seeks to minimize the impact of the project on existing land uses. ITC Midwest will follow the routing criteria set forth in Minnesota Rules 7850.4100 through 7850.4400 in designing ITC Midwest's proposed route. ITC Midwest is committed to protecting the environment and will fully compensate landowners for any damages that occur during the construction process. To minimize the footprint of the line, ITC Midwest plans to use steel monopoles.

How will ITC Midwest work with landowners?

Landowner outreach will begin at our open houses where ITC Midwest representatives will discuss explain the process and their rights. ITC Midwest representative will work with landowners to secure voluntary easements upon receiving the route permit from the PUC.

Landowners are compensated for permitting ITC Midwest to secure an easement on their property. ITC Midwest understands and appreciates the impact that new line construction has on landowners and pledges to treat *all* landowners with the utmost respect during this important process.

Forks – Rost project proposed route corridor route in Jackson County



Project Contacts

If you have questions, you can contact ITC Midwest using our toll-free customer line at 1-877-482-4829. Once construction begins, Ryan DeSotel and Chris Davidson will be ITC Midwest's project leads.



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