

Open House Held September 19 in Norfolk

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) hosted an open house on September 19, 2023, from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Victory Road Assembly of God Church. There were 44 attendees who came to learn about the project's preferred and alternative routes, potential structure types, right-of-way acquisition process, and more. Additionally, the virtual open house had 23 participants.

"We were incredibly pleased with the turnout at the inperson and virtual open houses," said Project Manager Paul Brune. "At this point in the project, we are working to narrow down the preferred and alternative routes to a proposed route, so public comments are very important to us. We read through every comment submitted at our geographic information system (GIS) stations and from the physical and online comment forms. Each comment leads us closer to determining the final route."



Ron Starzec, Land Management Manager, speaks with landowners at September's open house.

Project Overview

The project consists of routing and siting a new 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Norfolk substation on the east side of Norfolk to the Stanton North substation northwest of Stanton. The line is estimated to be approximately eight miles long, with construction tentatively beginning in mid-2024 and ending late 2025.

Purpose and Need



Provide additional reliability and enhanced resiliency for the Stanton, Cuming, and Burt County areas

Public Feedback Will Help Determine Final Route

Transmission line routing involves trade-offs between different factors known as routing criteria. At the in-person and virtual open house, NPPD asked attendees to identify the top three criteria they believe the team should prioritize when determining the transmission line's route. According to Brune, "This activity provides valuable insights into community's preferences which help us better route the transmission line." The results of this activity revealed that the public prioritized residences/homes, agriculture, and irrigation/pivots as the top three criteria. Find complete results in the table below.

Criteria Prioritization Exercise Results

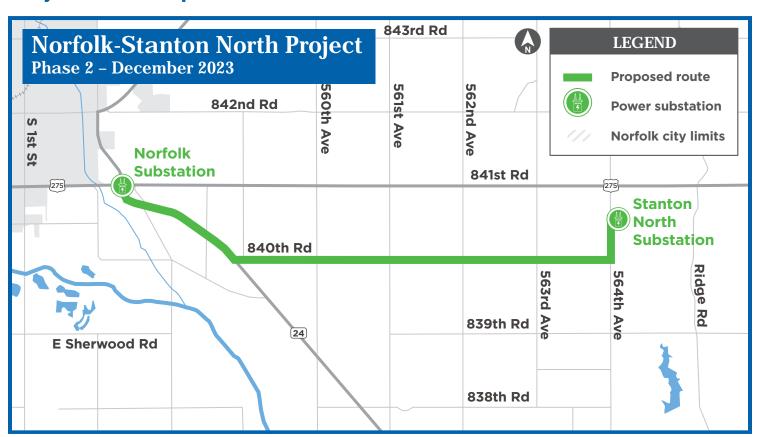
Routing Criteria	Total
Businesses •••••	6
Cemeteries	
Commercial/Industry • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	14
New/Plotted Developments ●●●●	5
Residences/Homes	35
Places of Worship	
Agriculture	18
Schools	
Parks & Recreation ●●●	3
Floodplains ••	2
Wooded Areas	
Wetlands/Waterways	
Conservation Areas	
Federal & State Lands	
Historic & Archaeological Sites ●●●●●●	7
Threatened & Endangered Species	
Airports ••	2
Railroads	
Irrigation/Pivots •••••••••	15
Wells ●●●●●●	7
Existing Infrastructure	5
Site Topography	
Constructability ••	2
Highways ●●	2
Structures (other)	1
Existing/Planned Utilities •••••	7
Cost	



Since the September open house, the project team has been reviewing public comments in order to narrow down the preferred and alternative routes to a proposed route, displayed on the map below.

The project team holds a routing session to review and discuss all of the feedback collected through the in person and virtual open house.

Project Area Map



Easement Compensation

Compensation for the easements will be determined by a Nebraska licensed independent real estate appraiser. The appraiser will view all properties and provide a value for each individual tract of land. Payment for any special consideration, such as shelterbelts, fences, gates, etc., will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, the landowner or tenant will be compensated for any damages to crops, fences, or other property that may occur during construction or any future required maintenance.

Public Hearings set for December 12

NPPD will host two public hearings to present the proposed route on December 12 in Madison and Stanton Counties. Open houses will be offered one hour prior to each hearing. The open houses will be self-paced, so attendees should allow approximately 15-20 minutes before the hearings begin. At the start of the hearings, authorized NPPD representatives will give a formal presentation, followed by an opportunity for public comments.

All landowners within the original project area received this newsletter. Landowners near the newly identified proposed route should have received a certified letter inviting them to the upcoming open houses and public hearings.

The Norfolk-Stanton North Project Newsletter is published by NPPD's transmission project team. It is intended to provide a project overview and communicate project developments. If you no longer wish to receive project updates, please send an email to norfolk-stantonnorth@nppd.com.



Public Hearings

Date: December 12, 2023

Time: Open House: 12-1 p.m., CST Public Hearing: 1-3 p.m., CST

Location: Victory Road Assembly of God Church

200 N Victory Rd, Norfolk, NE 68701

Date: December 12, 2023

Time: Open House: 6-7 p.m., CST Public Hearing: 7-9 p.m., CST

Location: St. Peter's Catholic Church

1504 Ivy St, Stanton, NE 68779



Virtual Open House

Date: Runs December 12, 2023 - January 11, 2024

Link: norfolk-stantonnorth.nppd.com



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