



Nebraska Public Power District
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October 2020

R-Project 345,000 Volt



Transmission Line PROJECT

R-Project on Pause

On June 17, 2020, the United States District Court for the District of Colorado set aside the Incidental Take Permit granted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in June of 2019, thereby placing the R-Project (Project) on pause.

Because the underlying need for the Project has not changed, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) continues to work with the Service on a path forward for the Project. During this time, NPPD and its contractors have been performing Project stabilizing work as described below and as fully communicated to the Service. Completion of this work was necessary to stabilize currently disturbed sites, reduce the potential for long-term safety and environmental risks, comply with state stormwater permit requirements, and protect the integrity of equipment and other Project materials until such time as the construction work, or parts of it, may continue.

Right-of-way and substation stabilization activities

Stabilization activities on right-of-way areas included consolidating equipment, tools, rigging, and other supplies into yards that can be secured by fencing. The contractors cleaned up the right-of-way by loading and hauling away tree slash, chipping small trees and branches, grinding stumps, and replacing fencing and gates in areas where trees were previously cleared.

At all three substation sites, NPPD had previously purchased large pieces of equipment that were in the process of being shipped to Nebraska when the Court entered its decision. In order to protect the integrity of the equipment, NPPD will complete the foundations for placement of the components at the sites until construction can be completed.

At all three of the substation sites, because ungrounded fencing and equipment poses a safety hazard to the public, NPPD will complete the grounding grid and underground conduit, as well as the site fencing to protect the components and the public until construction can be completed. Installing crushed rock will be completed at all the sites to minimize impacts from fugitive dust.

At the Thedford substation, NPPD was early into the process of expanding the property, so in order to complete the above described stabilization activities, NPPD completed grading of the site.

The stabilization work performed at all three substation sites does not complete the remaining work needed at these substations to make them operational for the Project.

Other substation work

At NPPD's existing Thedford substation, upgrade work will need to be done in 2021. None of the upgrades are in support of the R-Project. Rather, Custer Public Power

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District is upgrading its existing electric system from 34.5 kilovolts to 69 kilovolts to better serve an increase in electric demand. Custer is an NPPD wholesale customer.

American Burying Beetle (ABB) survey activities

NPPD had previously committed to doing ABB surveys through the completion of construction. ABB surveys are required to take place during the first week of August each year. As part of its prior commitment, NPPD proceeded with ABB surveys in August 2020.

Annual ABB surveys, carried out by persons authorized under state and federal permits, have been completed each year from 2016 through 2020 with results reported to the Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. The same locations are surveyed each year. All survey locations are located on public road right-of-way.

Contact us

More information on the R-Project is available on our website at rproject.nppd.com. Questions may be sent to powerline@nppd.com or call toll-free **888-677-3412**.



As part of its work to stabilize sites, NPPD applied stock-piled topsoil, drilled a native seed mix, installed straw wattles, and applied hydromulch to the expanded Thedford substation.

The R-Project 345 kV Transmission Line Newsletter is published by NPPD's transmission project team. It is intended to provide a project overview and communicate project developments.

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