



Nebraska Public Power District

Always there when you need us

June 2013

R-Project 345-kV



Transmission Line PROJECT

Corridor Open House Meetings Around the Corner

If you didn't get a chance to attend NPPD's first round of public open houses for the R-Project, the second round is right around the corner. Tentatively scheduled for late August, "corridor" public meetings will allow landowners and interested stakeholders to learn even more about the transmission line project NPPD is planning in central Nebraska. A corridor is a more defined area where the line could potentially be sited. The line is expected to run from NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station near Sutherland north to the Cherry County area and then east to interconnect with an existing 345-kV transmission line near the Holt/Antelope County line.

The corridor open houses are the second step in NPPD's comprehensive public involvement process, which includes three sets of public open houses and a public hearing. The first round of open houses were held at six different locations within the study area—Tryon, Hershey, Halsey, Mullen, Chambers and Ainsworth

"We saw a fantastic turnout with a combined 581 people at our open house meetings in January," said Senior Project Manager Craig Holthe. "Even if you already provided us with comments on your property, I encourage you to attend this second round of meetings to get the latest project status and information and share additional comments with us."

The project team is currently reviewing public comments from the first round of open houses and meeting with various agencies as it works to narrow the study area to corridors.

"When the corridors have been determined and the dates and locations of the second open houses are finalized, we will send another newsletter letting everyone within the study area know the details," said Holthe. "Those in the

narrowed, corridor areas will also receive a personal letter inviting them to an open house."

The public meetings are an opportunity for the public to provide feedback for NPPD to review as it selects alternative routes for the approximate 220-mile-long, 345,000-volt transmission line. Alternative routes selected will be made available for public review at the third round of public meetings to be held in the first or second quarter of 2014.

R-Project benefits are threefold

1. **Enhance reliability** – Last summer, NPPD saw record demands on its electric system. While NPPD was able to generate enough electricity from its various power plants to meet the needs of its customers, the District's transmission system—particularly in north central Nebraska—reached operational limits. In some areas, customers were asked to cut back on their electric usage to prevent overloading transmission lines.

"In addition to loading issues weather-related outages do occur from time-to-time and, while inconvenient, most people understand electric utilities are at the mercy of Mother Nature," said Holthe. "The R-Project will provide another means to deliver energy and enhance system reliability in this region and throughout Nebraska."

2. **Reduce congestion on existing power lines to allow for better system operation** – The R-Project will provide an additional avenue for power to get to where it is needed, thereby helping reduce congestion on other transmission lines and providing more efficient use of the entire electric system, including maximizing

Continued on back.



Nebraska Public Power District
Always there when you need us

P.O. Box 499
Columbus, NE 68602-0499

Address Service Requested

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
COLUMBUS NE
PERMIT NO. 3

R-Project Benefits are Threefold (cont.)

the use of the most efficient generation facilities connected to our system. This operational efficiency is a benefit to all Nebraskans.

- 3. Provide opportunities for interconnection of renewable generation resources** – Studies have identified certain regions within the project study area as prime candidates for wind development.

“While, there are presently no wind projects in the queue for this particular area, increases in wind power generation are being considered across the industry,” explained Holthe. “Even if wind energy opportunities were not one of the R-Project needs, we would find ourselves needing to construct additional power lines in this same area to meet the other two project needs—system reliability and reducing system congestion. While we are solving the congestion and reliability issues, it makes sense to be proactive and provide access for wind development in a high wind resource area of the state.”

The project was identified as needed in the Southwest Power Pool’s Integrated Transmission Plan. The pool is a regional transmission group mandated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure adequate transmission capacity.

Public comments on the R-Project are welcome. To share information regarding your property, please contact the project team at powerline@nppd.com or call 1-888-677-3412. All comments are documented and taken into consideration. Find more project details by clicking on Power Line Projects at www.nppd.com.



Nebraska Public Power District
Always there when you need us

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

Contributors: Senior Project Manager **Craig Holthe**. Project Team: **Al Beiermann, Brenda Blatchford, Ross DeBower, Larry Linder, Tom Pillen, Dennis Schroeder and Ron Starzec**.

Printing and artwork: **Bill Haack, Dan Zastera and Scott Margheim**. Editor: **Jill Novicki**. Contact us: powerline@nppd.com

Mailing address: R-Project 345-kV Transmission Line Project, NPPD, P.O. Box 499 Columbus, NE 68602-0499 Attention Jill Novicki **Phone (toll-free): 888-677-3412**