



The clearing process involves both hand-cutting and machine-cutting trees at their base.



Excavator clearing trees, working off of timber mats to lessen impact in sensitive/wet areas.



Laydown yard, a storage location for construction equipment and material.

A Word from Minnesota Power

PRE-CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES THIS FALL

The first half of 2017 has been successful for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. Tree clearing started in Segment 2 (see map on next page) and is approximately 66% complete.

Pre-construction activities will begin in the fall 2017 in Segments 1, 2, and 3. Tree clearing will resume in Segment 2 at the end of 2017 and start in Segments 1 and 3 in the winter 2017/2018.

The GNTL Project Team will use helicopters for overhead operations throughout the upcoming construction process. More information about helicopter construction can be found inside.


Thank you for your ongoing collaboration on this important project for Minnesota Power and our region.

We will continue to use these newsletters to update landowners and the community as the project progresses. Please use the project contact information to reach out if you have any questions.

Jim Atkinson
Minnesota Power, Environmental Lead

CONTACT INFORMATION

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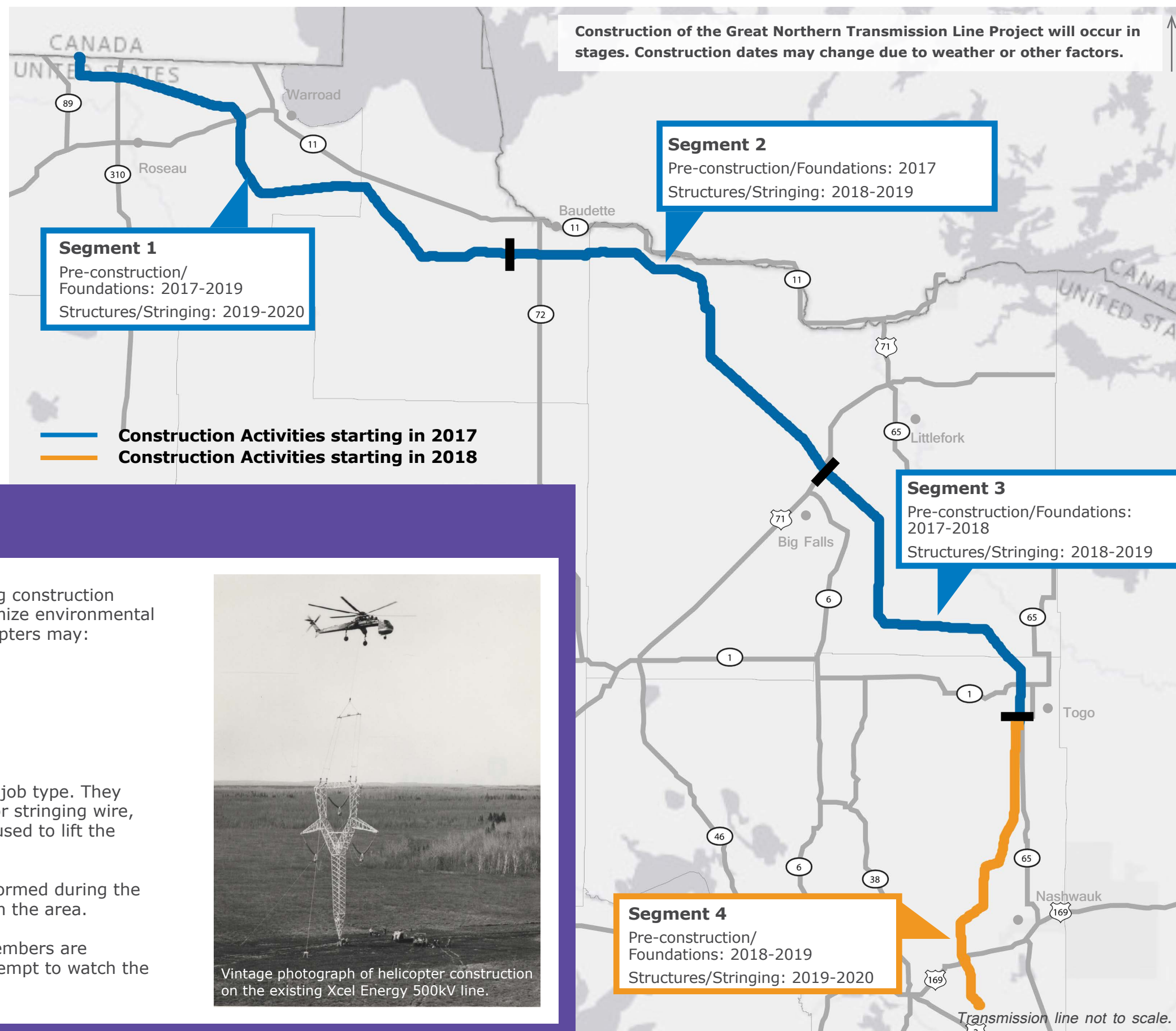
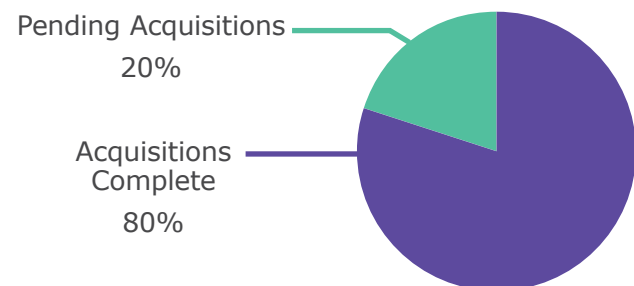
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RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITIES

Due to the diligence of the project team and the much appreciated cooperation of the community, right-of-way activities are now approximately 80% complete. This progress has allowed the team to clear trees and brush in preparation for construction, a process that began in January 2017.

The team will continue to work with landowners and community members to complete this part of the process, and be available as landowners have questions or feedback.



HELICOPTER CONSTRUCTION

The GNTL Project Team will use helicopters throughout the upcoming construction process. By doing so, they save time, decrease expenses, and minimize environmental impacts. In collaboration with team members on the ground, helicopters may:

- Move structures from the assembly yard to the right-of-way
- Set structures onto their foundations
- Deliver the transmission line/conductor to each structure
- Transport and install equipment and materials, including linemen

Conventional construction methods may be used where applicable.

Different helicopters are used during construction depending on the job type. They can vary from ones that have a lift capacity of 2,500 pounds used for stringing wire, to larger models that can lift up to 28,000 pounds, which would be used to lift the structures.

For safety and efficiency, stringing and tensioning activities are performed during the daylight. We do not expect helicopter work to interrupt road traffic in the area.

Safety is the team's top priority. As a precaution, community members are encouraged to stay out of and away from work areas and do not attempt to watch the helicopter while driving or from the side of the road.





AN ALLETE COMPANY



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WHAT'S INSIDE?

- A Word from Minnesota Power
- Right-of-Way Activities
- Helicopter Construction
- Construction Map
- Safety
- Upcoming Milestones

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SAFETY

The Great Northern Transmission Line Team will be using helicopters for construction.

This kind of work will be exciting and potentially distracting. We encourage you to:



Focus on the road.



Refrain from taking photos while driving.



Maintain a safe distance from crews.

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Summer
2017



Finalize engineering



Obtain final construction permits



Real Estate activities



Pre-construction activities

Fall/
Winter
2017



Construct access roads



Foundation construction