What's Next?

As previously mentioned, NPPD plans to host two public hearings in early 2027 in Ainsworth and Bassett. Following the public hearings, a 30-day comment period will take place. Landowners and interested parties may submit any additional comments during this time. After the 30-day comment period, NPPD will review all comments and select a final line route based upon multiple routing criteria.

Landowners along the final line route will receive a letter informing them of the route. All landowners within the original study area will receive a newsletter announcing the final line route.

Shortly thereafter, right-of-way agents will be in contact with the landowners on the final line route to acquire a right-of-entry. The right-of-entry allows NPPD and subcontractors onto landowner's property to conduct such work as survey, soil borings, and general engineering activities. Right-of-way agents will remain in contact with the landowners throughout the project.

Easement acquisition is tentatively scheduled to begin September 2027.

Field Survey Activities Planned

NPPD has retained JEO Consulting Group (JEO) to conduct field surveying for the project. Due to the lack of section corner records, JEO will begin preliminary field survey work along road right-of-way on the preferred and alternative line routes the week of Nov. 2, 2026. The survey data will be used to develop the exhibits that will accompany the right-of-way easements.

Once the field survey is completed, the information is filed with the county for public record.



Stay Involved!

NPPD encourages landowners and community members to continue following project developments through the project website, project phone line, and future project communications.

Public participation remains an important part of the routing process as the project moves toward the next phase.

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SCAN TO VIEW WEBSITE



Ainsworth Wind-Bassett 115kV Transmission Line Project

Project Update
October 2026

Second Round of Open House Meetings Completed

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) recently hosted a second round of public open houses in Ainsworth and Bassett to gather feedback on the preferred and alternative line routes presented for the project. Thank you to all who attended the open houses or went through the virtual open house to learn more about this project and provided information about their property.

Public Input Contributes to the Routing Process

The project team is reviewing comments submitted through the open houses, project website, phone line, and mail. Public feedback will be considered alongside engineering, environmental, land-use, and other routing criteria as route evaluations continue.

Based upon the aforementioned, NPPD will identify a proposed route, which is expected to be announced in late 2026 or early 2027. The proposed route will be reviewed in detail at two public hearings tentatively scheduled for early 2027. Landowners along the proposed route will receive certified letters to the public hearings. The public hearings are in accordance with Nebraska law. Public hearings provide an opportunity for landowners and community members to learn more about the proposed route and provide comments for consideration.

Project Overview

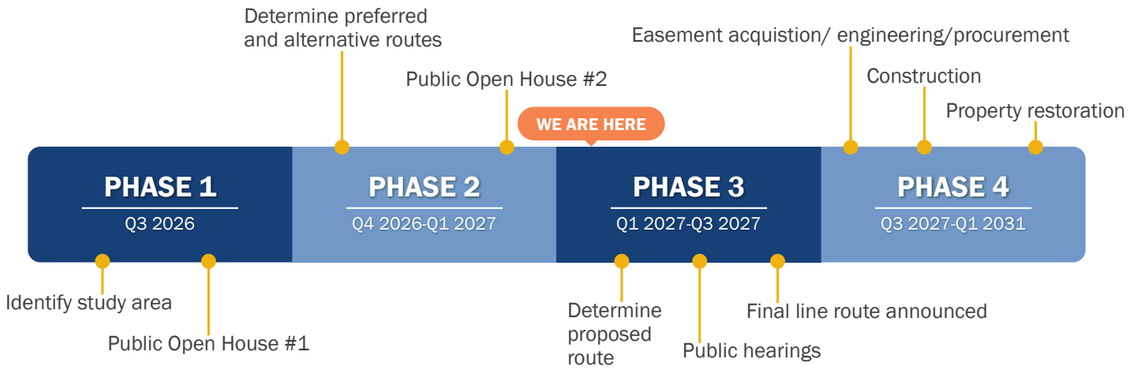
The project consists of routing and siting a new 115kV transmission line from NPPD's existing Ainsworth Wind Substation located south of Ainsworth to the existing Bassett Substation located south of Bassett.

Need and Benefits

- Provide enhanced reliability and resiliency for NPPD customers
- Provide for a transmission path in north central Nebraska to serve future projected loads in the area
- Address local area contingency events to support voltage levels from Ainsworth – Bassett – O'Neill
- Meet projected reliability needs identified by the Southwest Power Pool Integrated Transmission Plan
- Provide the most effective transmission alternative to meet the North American Electric Reliability Corporation reliability standards in this area

Anticipated Project Timeline

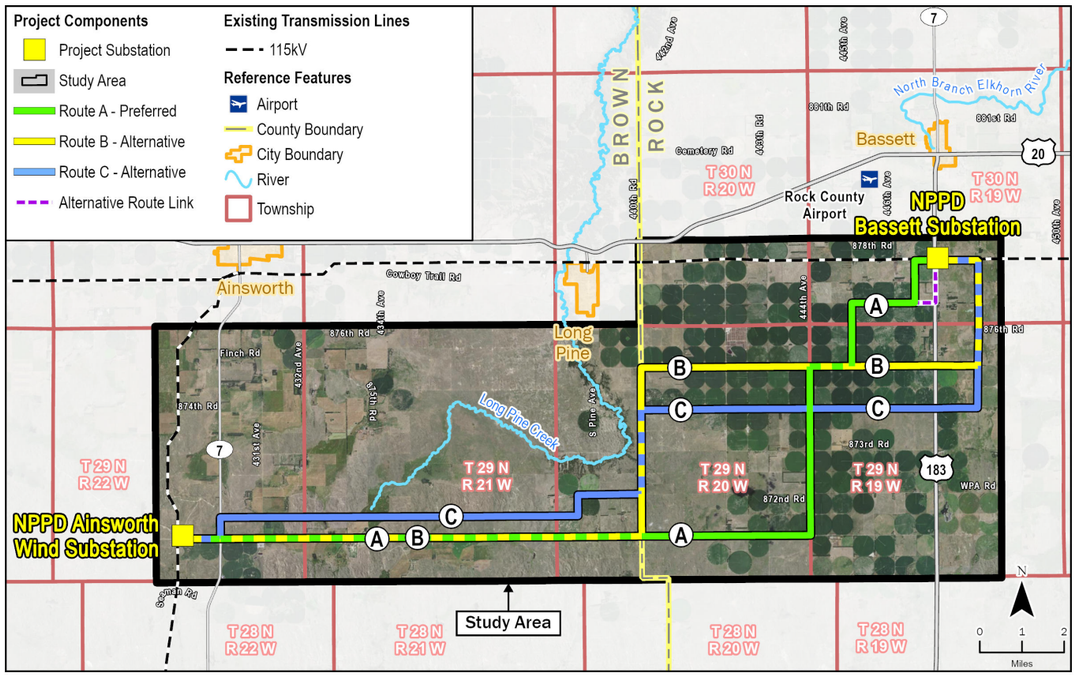
The graphic below shows the current project schedule.



Preferred and Alternative Routes

The map shows the preferred and alternative routes presented during the July open houses. The project team will continue evaluating these routes as engineering reviews, environmental studies, field surveys, and public comment analysis progress.

A final route has not been selected.





Vice President of New Construction Art Wiese reviews project information with KBR Rural Public Power District General Manager Bob Beatty during the July 2026 open houses.

Line Design

NPPD plans to use single pole structures along the line route. Once a final line route is announced, NPPD will begin discussions with landowners as engineering and survey activities take place. Once these activities are completed, a right-of-way easement will be presented to the landowner. Easement compensation will be determined by an independent licensed Nebraska land appraiser.

Transmission lines are routed along the section and half-section lines. Structures can typically be placed to avoid residences, buildings, pivots, and lateral irrigation systems.

