

PIGS EYE LAKE REBUILD PROJECT

PROPOSAL WILL REBUILD INFRASTRUCTURE TO MEET CONTINUED RELIABILITY IN THE REGION



The existing 115 kV transmission network near Pigs Eye Lake Regional Park was built in the 1960s and has reached the end of its expected operational life. Xcel Energy plans to rebuild the infrastructure to meet continued electric reliability in the region. The project will modernize and enhance the performance of the transmission lines, ultimately improving reliability and minimizing the risk of outages.

The project entails separating the existing two transmission lines into separate circuits onto their own structures to ensure redundancy and reliability for customers in the area. By replacing failing poles and separating this line into separate single circuit transmission lines, the risk of unplanned outages will be significantly reduced.

Additionally, in recent years, national electric codes have been updated, and infrastructure that was built in previous decades may not meet current requirements. New and rebuilt lines will be upgraded to meet these new code requirements.

Project Status

Learn what's next for the Pigs Eye Lake Rebuild Project

Current Status: In Summer 2024, Xcel Energy began working with local and state agencies to apply for permits to rebuild the project. Agencies involved include Ramsey County, the City of St. Paul, Army Corps of Engineers and others.

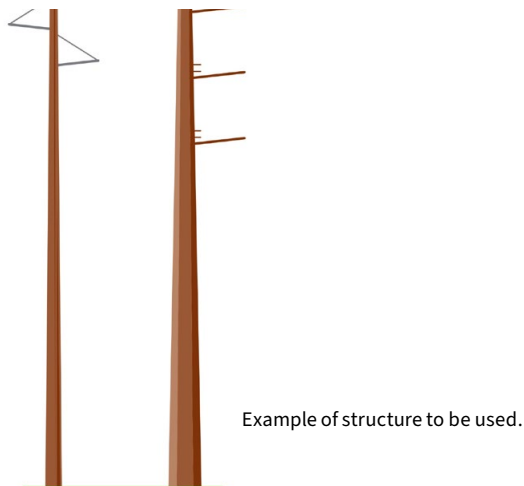
What's Next: Construction is slated to begin in August 2025 with a targeted completion date set for March 2026. Due to the nature and location of the transmission lines near Pigs Eye Lake, Xcel Energy will rebuild the infrastructure in the winter when access is easier due to the frozen conditions. Additionally, construction during the winter months does not impact seasonal bird migration.

Community Engagement

Xcel Energy offers several ways to provide comments about the project

Xcel Energy is currently working with state and local agencies to coordinate opportunities for the public to participate in the process. We currently do not have any public meetings scheduled. When appropriate, a meeting schedule will be posted here, as well as mailed to landowners and advertised in local newspapers. We encourage you to continue to submit feedback.

The project is near Pigs Eye Lake, a Mississippi River backwater area located a few miles downstream of St. Paul, Minnesota.



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Site Considerations

Addressing cultural and environmental factors

The Pigs Eye Lake site has a complex history which requires cultural and environmental considerations. Until 1837, the area was the site of a seasonal Mdewakanton Dakota village. However, during the 1960s, the area served as a dumping ground for refuse and hazardous waste materials. Since then, the former landfill was remediated and turned into a park featuring a 500-acre lake, hiking trails, and bird watching areas. It is important to Xcel Energy that our work does not disturb these areas of consideration nor negatively impact the environment. We will work closely with local tribal organizations and other historic preservation organizations when planning and completing construction activities.

Cultural considerations

Pigs Eye Lake is situated within an area that once served as a seasonal Mdewakanton Dakota village, overseen today by the U.S. National Park Service's Mississippi National River & Recreation Area. The historic Mdewakanton Village of Kaposia occupied the northern end of Pigs Eye Lake until 1837, when it was relocated across the Mississippi River to what is now South St. Paul. While none of the previously identified historic sites are situated along the lake's shoreline or within the project area, Xcel Energy is actively engaged in close collaboration with state and tribal authorities to meticulously identify and protect any cultural sites within the vicinity.

Environmental considerations

To safeguard the species in the area, Xcel Energy is implementing several precautions to protect species in the area. By implementing these measures, the project aims to minimize its impact on the local ecosystem and protect the species inhabiting the area.

1. Environmental Impact Assessment: Working with state agencies, Xcel Energy is conducting thorough environmental impact assessments to identify vulnerable species and habitats in the project area.
2. Habitat Preservation: Measures will be implemented to protect critical habitats and nesting areas of endangered or threatened species. Of note is the osprey nest in the southwest corner of the lake.
3. Seasonal Restrictions: Construction activities will be conducted in the late fall and winter. This timing will enable easier access to the project during frozen conditions and minimize disruption during sensitive periods such as breeding seasons or migration periods for birds and other wildlife.
4. Pollution Control: Xcel Energy will implement strict erosion control protocols to prevent contamination of water bodies and habitats.
5. Habitat Restoration: Xcel Energy will replant the areas where trees are removed with native plants to help protect the lake and park area.

Monitoring and Compliance: Regular monitoring of construction activities to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to promptly address any issues that arise.

