

GRID FORWARD- CENTRAL WISCONSIN PROJECT RESTORATION AND SEEDING

Xcel Energy is committed to responsible construction practices that minimize environmental impact and prioritize thoughtful land restoration. We recognize that construction activities can temporarily disrupt soils, vegetation, and surrounding ecosystems, and we take that responsibility seriously.

Our approach emphasizes working with the natural landscape, supporting ecological recovery, and maintaining the long-term usability of the land for property owners and communities. Through careful planning, adaptive management, and collaboration with landowners, we aim to restore disturbed areas in an environmentally sound and practical manner.

After construction, our goal is to restore disturbed areas by stabilizing soils, reestablishing herbaceous vegetation, and keeping the process practical and cost-effective. In many cases, the seedbank will revegetate without the need for supplemental seeding, but in some situations, supplemental mixes will be seeded to reestablish vegetation.

How we choose seed mixes

We select seed mixes that are as similar as possible to the pre-existing vegetation or the surrounding landscape. These mixes may be adjusted as we learn more during construction and restoration. Landowner input is welcome and considered when feasible.

After construction, you can continue to use your property as before, provided it is compatible with the safe operation of the line. Agricultural land can be returned to farming, and mowed lawn areas can be restored to turfgrass.

Types of seed mixes planned for the project

Temporary cover crops:

Installed shortly after construction to stabilize soil — especially on slopes or near waterways. Depending on season and location, this may include oats or winter wheat. A cover crop vegetates relatively quickly, providing short-term stabilization while allowing the permanent species more time to establish.

Permanent seed mixes:

The project has identified several permanent mix options for use outside of crop fields or maintained lawns.

- **Pasture mix:** a combination of cool-season grasses that will provide stabilization in a variety of non-sensitive areas, including highway rights-of-way, pastures, and adjacent to farm fields.
- **Dry soil economy mix:** a combination of native grasses and a few flowering species that do well in a range of mesic to dry or sandy soil conditions.
- **Hybrid stabilization mix:** a combination of native and non-native grasses that establish quickly, along with a variety of flowering species that support pollinators.
- **Prairie seed mix:** three different prairie seed mixes that differ slightly for use in the southern, central sands, and northern portions of the project area. Each prairie mix includes a variety of native grasses and flowering plants tailored to regional conditions. One of these will be selected when the pre-existing habitat is a high-quality grassland or prairie.
- **Wetland seed mix:** a combination of native wetland species for use in wetlands that are disturbed by construction. Many wetlands will revegetate naturally without the need for supplemental seeding.

About the Grid Forward-Central Wisconsin project

The Grid Forward–Central Wisconsin Project represents one segment of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator’s (MISO) Tranche 1 portfolio — a series of transmission projects designed to expand access to renewable energy and improve reliability across the Midwest. The project will also help relieve constraints on the electric grid, improve reliability, and provide access to lower-cost energy, including renewable generation.

To learn more about Xcel Energy’s Grid Forward project, scan the QR code or visit XcelEnergyTransmission.com/Projects/GridForward.

