

## FIELD SURVEYS

Ottertail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities are conducting various field surveys as part of the Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line project. Environmental, cultural, and land surveys allow the project team to verify or collect new information about the proposed route to help minimize impacts on proposed structure locations and construction of the transmission line.

Field surveys began in 2023 and will continue into 2025. Some surveys may be required through construction depending on the need for ongoing monitoring. Field surveys will be conducted at different times of the year depending on the type of survey. Survey permission will be requested from landowners prior to survey teams accessing private property. Our land agents will continue to coordinate with landowners and upon request, tenants, prior to and during field surveys.

| Survey Type   | Survey Location  | Survey Description   | Anticipated Survey Timeframe*  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Sharp-Tailed Grouse leks (dancing grounds for mating season)</b> | Approximately 1-mile from each side of the proposed transmission line  | Survey crews survey sharp-tailed grouse leks during the lekking season. If leks are present, construction will be seasonally restricted in that location.<br>Property access required for walking.                                 | March – May 2024*<br><i>*will be required each season during construction</i>                          |
| <b>Wetland Delineations</b>   | Within 150 ft. from each proposed transmission line structure location | Survey crews verify wetland boundaries so the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can determine, if any, are Jurisdictional Wetlands.<br>Property access required for walking and soil sampling.  | Spring – Fall 2024,<br>Spring – Fall 2025  |
| <b>Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat surveys</b>            | Approximately 250 ft. from each side of the proposed transmission line | Survey crews identify potential habitat for various protected species including Dakota skipper, northern long-eared bat, piping plover, rufa red knot, and whooping crane.<br>Property access required for walking.                | Spring – Fall 2024,<br>Spring – Fall 2025<br><i>*may require additional survey during construction</i> |
| <b>Cultural Resources</b>   | Approximately 250 ft. from each side of the proposed transmission line | Survey crews, along with representatives of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, review areas with high probability for archaeological and architectural history resources.<br>Property access required for walking.                 | Spring – Fall 2024,<br>Spring – Fall 2025  |
| <b>Tree Inventory</b>   | Approximately 75 ft. from each side of the proposed transmission line  | Survey crews record the number of species of trees and shrubs that may be removed within the right-of-way.<br>Property access required for walking.  | Spring – Fall 2024,<br>Spring – Fall 2025  |
| <b>Land</b>   | Approximately 75 ft. from each side of the proposed transmission line  | Survey crews verify land parcel boundaries, easement area boundaries and specific structure locations.<br>Property access required for walking.  | Spring – Winter 2025   |
| <b>Soil Borings</b>   | Within 50 ft. of each proposed transmission line structure location    | Survey crews perform soil borings at each structure location by collecting soil samples to determine soil characteristics and support the transmission line structure design.<br>Property access required for walking and vehicle. | Fall 2024 – 2025   |

*\*All surveys may be conducted now and through construction*

## CONTACT US

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