

# Elkhorn River Valley

Transmission Project



ISSUE 05

SPRING 2017



## For More Information

Visit the Elkhorn River Valley Transmission Project website at:  
[www.ERVTransmissionProject.com](http://www.ERVTransmissionProject.com)

If you would like to leave a general comment for the project team or contact the right-of-way team, please call: (402) 590-8088.

If you do not wish to receive future messages, please call the toll-free hotline, (402) 590-8088 or visit the project website and leave a comment indicating your desire to be removed from the mailing list.



## UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGERS

### OPPD Plans for Construction

This spring we are working to finalize all design details in order to obtain the necessary easements to begin construction. We are thankful to all landowners that have worked with our right-of-way agents over the past several months. Your participation in this process has helped keep the project on schedule and within budget.

In this edition, we'll update you on the easement acquisition process, environmental surveying, and a route modification that was made to a portion of the 69 kV line, north of Fremont.

Please let us know if you have any questions about the project. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we increase reliability of the power grid throughout the area. All project information can be found at [www.ERVTransmissionProject.com](http://www.ERVTransmissionProject.com). Questions and comments can be emailed to the project team at [info@ERVTransmissionProject.com](mailto:info@ERVTransmissionProject.com).

### Finalizing Easement Acquisition

Thank you to all the landowners who have been willing to work with us throughout the easement acquisition process. Our right-of-way agents have been busy meeting with all directly affected landowners regarding easement offers. OPPD has employed an independent, licensed appraiser who is familiar with the area to prepare property appraisals. The appraiser takes into consideration individual circumstances in determining the fair market value. OPPD is working with landowners to arrive at a mutually satisfactory agreement, but if one cannot be reached, landowners have the right to have compensation determined by the statutorily-defined condemnation process.

During the construction process, damage to your land is possible. Most common damages include crop loss, soil compaction, or issues with fences, waterways, terraces and driveways. If your property is damaged, OPPD will pay for restoration of the affected area. This damage payment will be awarded after construction is complete and damages can

*(Continued inside.)*



**Dannie Buelt**  
ERVT Project Manager



**Jake Farrell**  
ERVT Routing and Stakeholder Engagement Project Manager

## Project Details:

The Elkhorn River Valley Transmission Project consists of a new 161 kV transmission line to be built between OPPD's existing Substation 1226 (located near Hwy 91 and County Road 27) west of Blair, Nebraska and OPPD's existing Substation 991 (located on U Boulevard and S. County Road 26) east of Fremont, Nebraska. A new 69 kV line will be built between Substation 991 and Fremont Department of Utilities existing Substation B (located on North Luther Road and US 30) in Northeast Fremont.

## The Purpose of the Project is to:

- Improve reliability
- Increase future opportunities for energy diversification
- Serve a growing demand for electricity
- Provide economic development opportunities

## Interesting Facts:

- Project length: approximately 22.9 total miles (3.5 miles 69 kV/ 19.4 miles 161 kV)
- Estimated total cost: approximately \$35 million dollars—shared between OPPD and Fremont Department of Utilities
- Construction Begins: Fourth Quarter 2017
- Estimated In-service: Fourth Quarter 2018
- Southwest Power Pool Project



## 69 kV Route Modification

In December 2016, two public hearings were held to announce the final route alignment. In the months following the engineering team began to finalize route alignment design specifications for each structure along the route. Using information provided by landowners, stakeholders, and survey crews, we were able to identify an alternative route for a small stretch of the 69 kV line north of Fremont. The shift in line placement is occurring within the original parcel, but will move south one half mile. All property owners adjacent to the new route location have been notified of the route relocation.

### UPDATE FROM THE PROJECT MANAGERS

*(Continued)*

be assessed. This damage payment is in addition to any easement payment you will have already received. If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your right-of-way agent.



Q1  
2016

FINAL ROUTE,  
RIGHT-OF-ENTRY  
ACTIVITIES  
& ENVIRONMENTAL  
PERMITTING



Q4  
2016

PUBLIC  
HEARING



**SAFETY FEATURE**

# Staying Safe During a Power Outage

Whether you believe local meteorologists or not and no matter how many times their predictions might be a little off, we all know that spring in Nebraska brings a strong likelihood of severe weather. Each year in the U.S., more than 400 people are struck by lightning according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Most of these accidents can be avoided with a few simple precautions. It is always best to stay alert and be prepared. When thunderstorms threaten, get to a safe place. Remember the following tips for staying safe during severe weather.

- Check the weather forecast before leaving for extended periods outdoors. Watch for signs of approaching storms.
- Get inside. No place outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area. Retreat to a safe shelter and stay there at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.
- Stay off corded phones, computers, and other electrical equipment that can put you in direct contact with electricity.
- Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.

- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Do not lie on concrete floors and do not lean against concrete walls.
- Never touch a downed power line or anything touching the wire. This includes other people or equipment. Always assume the line is live and high-voltage.
- Do not drive over a fallen power line.
- Keep children and pets away from fallen electric wires and stay at least 30 feet away from wires.
- Immediately call OPPD at 1-800-554-6773 or 911 to report a fallen power line.

Regardless of storm severity, remember that your safety is most important. Please take appropriate shelter and precautions during severe weather and proceed with caution after the storm has passed. We plan for all kinds of conditions and use proven procedures to respond. As a part of our storm plan, we have repair crews on standby in case they need to be called back to work. Customers can find outage updates and other pertinent information at [www.stormandoutage.com](http://www.stormandoutage.com).

## Environmental Surveys

During the months of May and June, our environmental team will be conducting important field surveys along the route alignment. These environmental surveys are intended to determine the presence of wetlands and historic artifacts.

These observational efforts are conducted through pedestrian access and will include shovel testing. In order to minimize the possibility of damages to your property, no heavy equipment or excavation is involved and all vehicle movement will be

limited to roads. Any holes that need to be dug using hand shovels, will be immediately backfilled and restored to pre-survey conditions. In the unlikely event damages do occur on your property, please contact your right-of-way agent.



**RIGHT-OF-WAY  
ACTIVITIES**

Q1  
2017



**CONSTRUCTION  
BEGINS**

Q4  
2017



**ESTIMATED  
IN-SERVICE**

Q4  
2018

## Project Timeline



ELKHORN RIVER VALLEY TRANSMISSION PROJECT  
 8404 INDIAN HILLS PLAZA  
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### WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Finalizing Easement Acquisition
- Environmental Survey
- 69 kV Route Modification
- Staying Safe During Severe Weather

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Will I have access to my property during construction?*

OPPD will work to provide appropriate access to your property during construction. However in the event that reasonable access isn't possible, we will notify landowners as soon as possible and keep the blockage brief.

### *When is construction scheduled to begin?*

Construction of the Elkhorn River Valley Transmission Project is scheduled to begin in the latter part of 2017.

### *Will trees be cut down during construction?*

Trees and power lines are not compatible. OPPD will remove trees within the easement and trees in danger of falling within 15 feet of the power line. Every effort will be made to minimize impacts to trees and vegetation, but some trees and brush will need to be cleared to prepare for construction. Other construction preparation will include establishing temporary fencing around the construction area and access road.

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If you have any questions regarding the right-of-way process, feel free to call the hotline at (402) 590-8088.

**Route Update and Environmental Surveying** – *Learn more inside!*