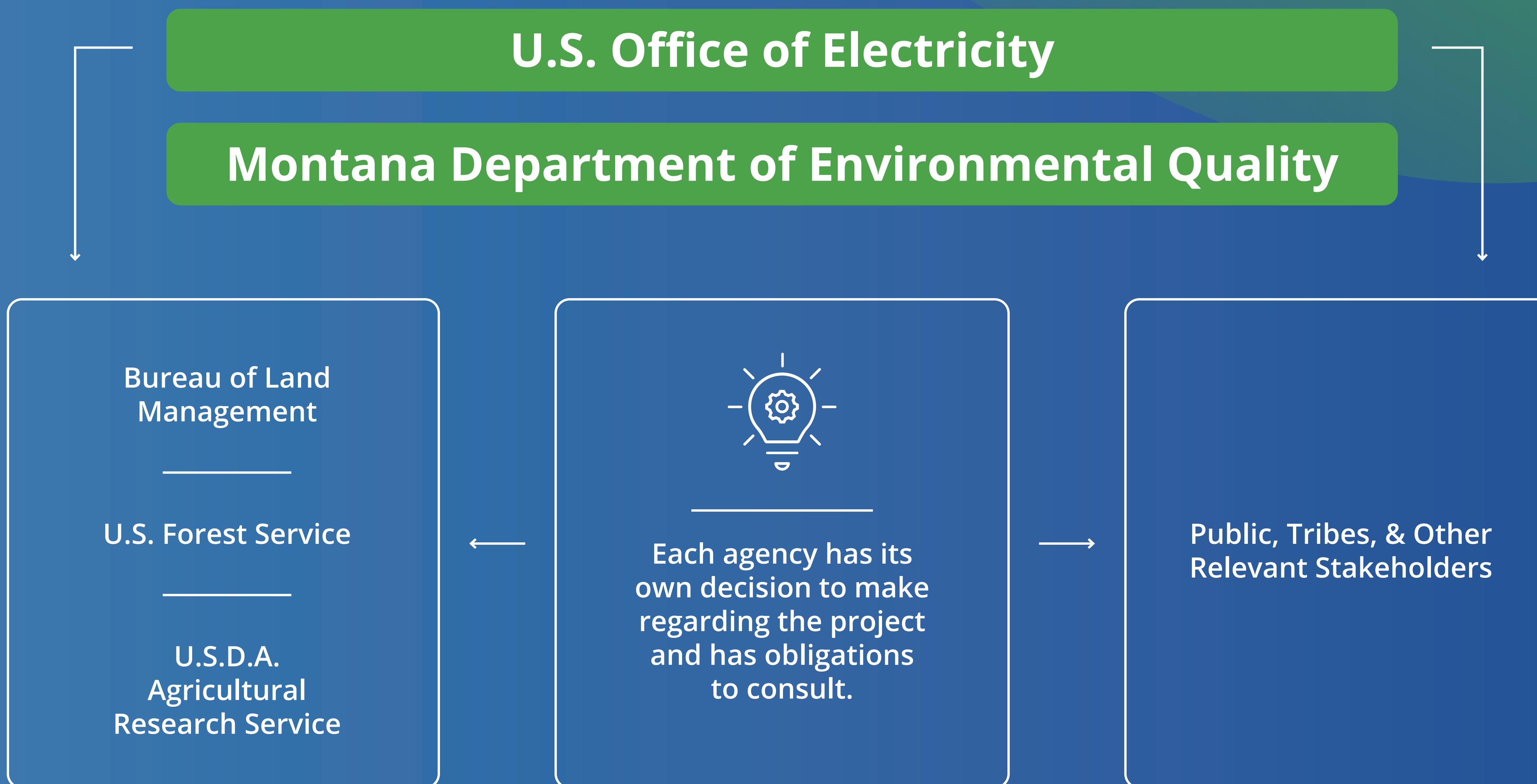




Welcome to the North Plains Connector Project Draft EIS Public Meeting

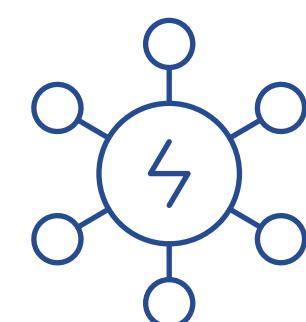


Agency Roles and Responsibilities



Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Project is to connect the western and eastern electrical grids to allow energy transfer between them.



Improve the reliability, efficiency, and resiliency of both grids by increasing transfer capacity.

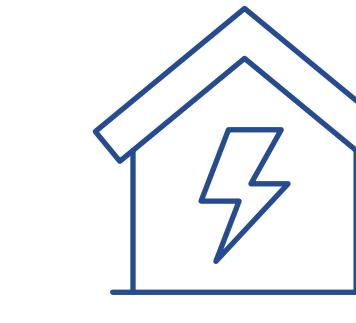


Mitigate weather-driven system outages.

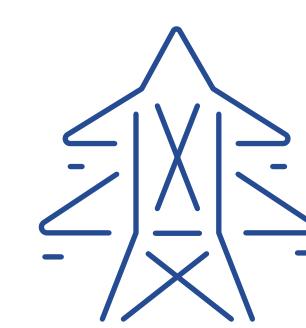
The goals or need for the Project are driven by three primary issues:



Changes in public policy that decrease historically reliable baseload generation capacity and lower the ability to meet growing energy demands;



Extreme weather events that affect grid resiliency. Energy consumption in the United States is projected to rise significantly—by 30 percent over the next 10 years.



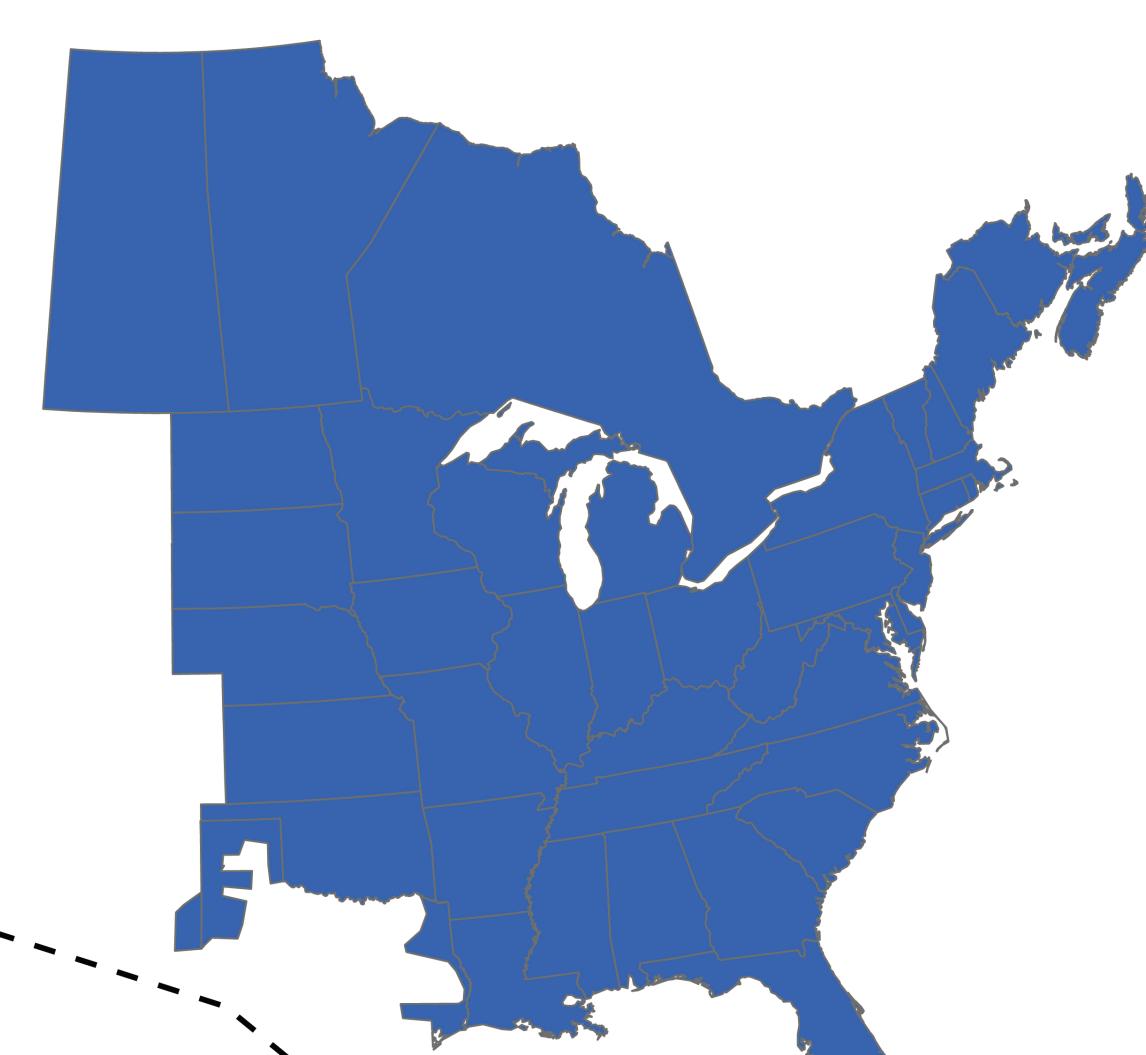
Rapid changes in the sources of energy generation that reduce the ability to balance supply and demand in real time; and

North American Power Grid

Western Interconnection



Eastern Interconnection



Electricity Reliability Council of Texas Interconnection

The Project aims to develop a robust system to address this growing demand and provide stable and reliable energy transfer.

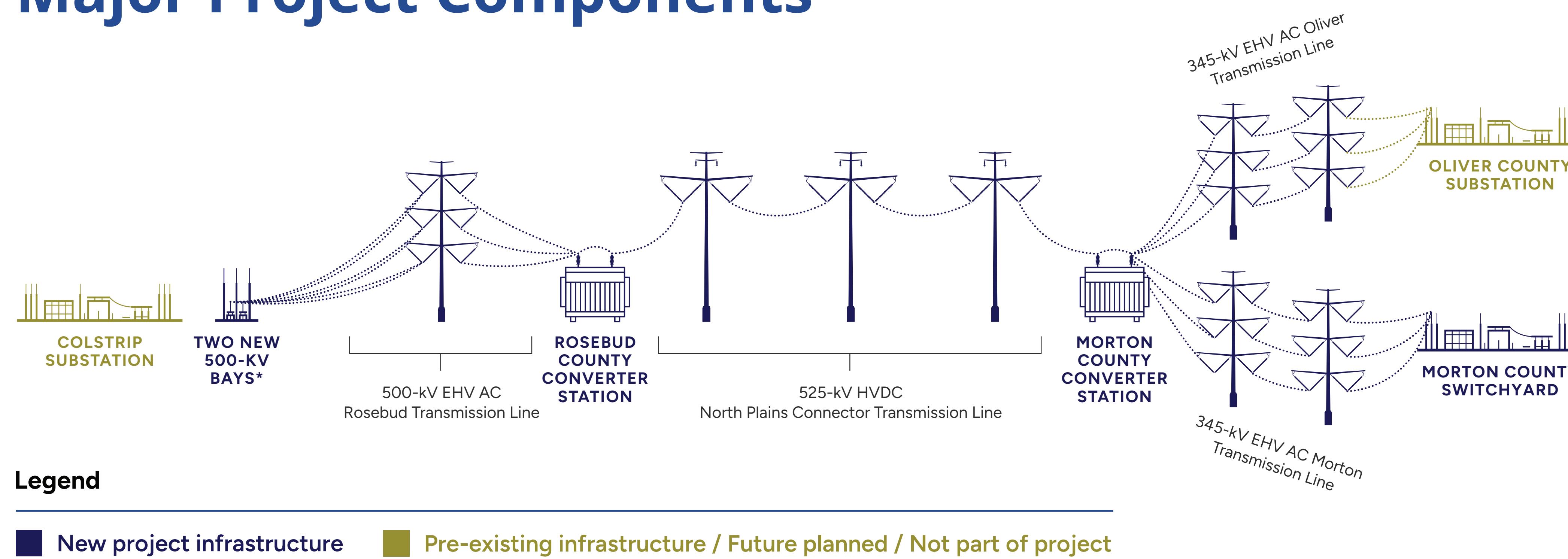
Project Overview

The North Plains Connector (NPC) Project is a proposed 525-kilovolt (kV), high-voltage direct current (HVDC) overhead transmission line and three alternating current (AC) transmission lines that would provide 3,000 megawatts (MW) of bi-directional transfer capability and connect the Western and Eastern Interconnections (also known as the western and eastern grids). As

proposed, the Project would extend approximately 422 miles from near Colstrip, Montana, to two separate end points in North Dakota: one near Center, North Dakota, and the other near St. Anthony, North Dakota. The Project would move electricity across the eastern and western grids to help meet the growing need to move power across long distances and improve grid reliability and

resiliency. The Project would sell transfer capacity via the transmission line without preference toward the potential shipper of electricity nor a particular generation technology. Portions of the Project or capacity rights may be owned by electric utilities, cooperatives, government entities, corporate energy providers, or independent generators in the regional power systems.

Major Project Components



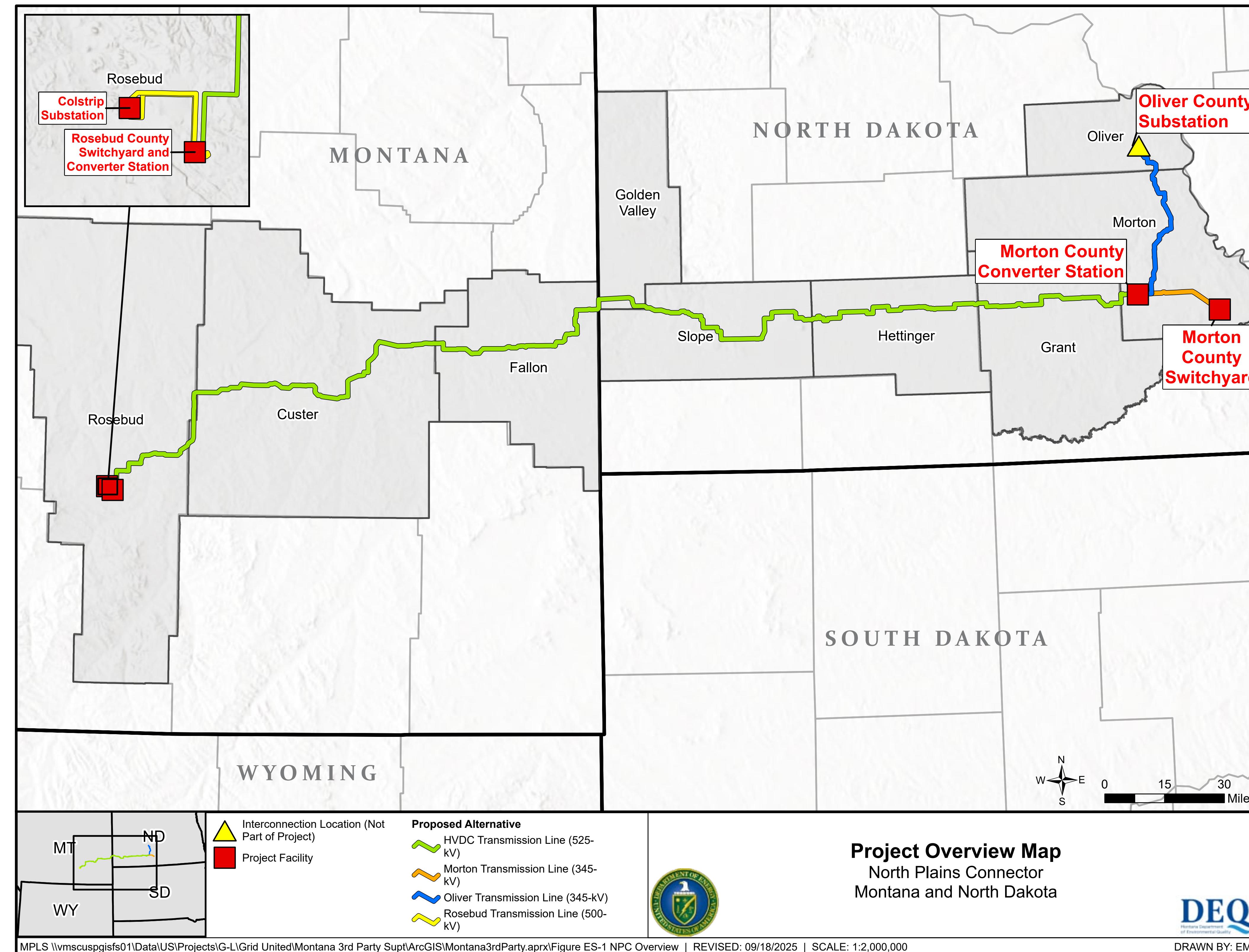
*The existing footprint of the Colstrip Substation is estimated to be expanded by approximately 13.18 acres to accommodate the NPC interconnection.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is available on DEQ's website by scanning this QR code with your smart phone:

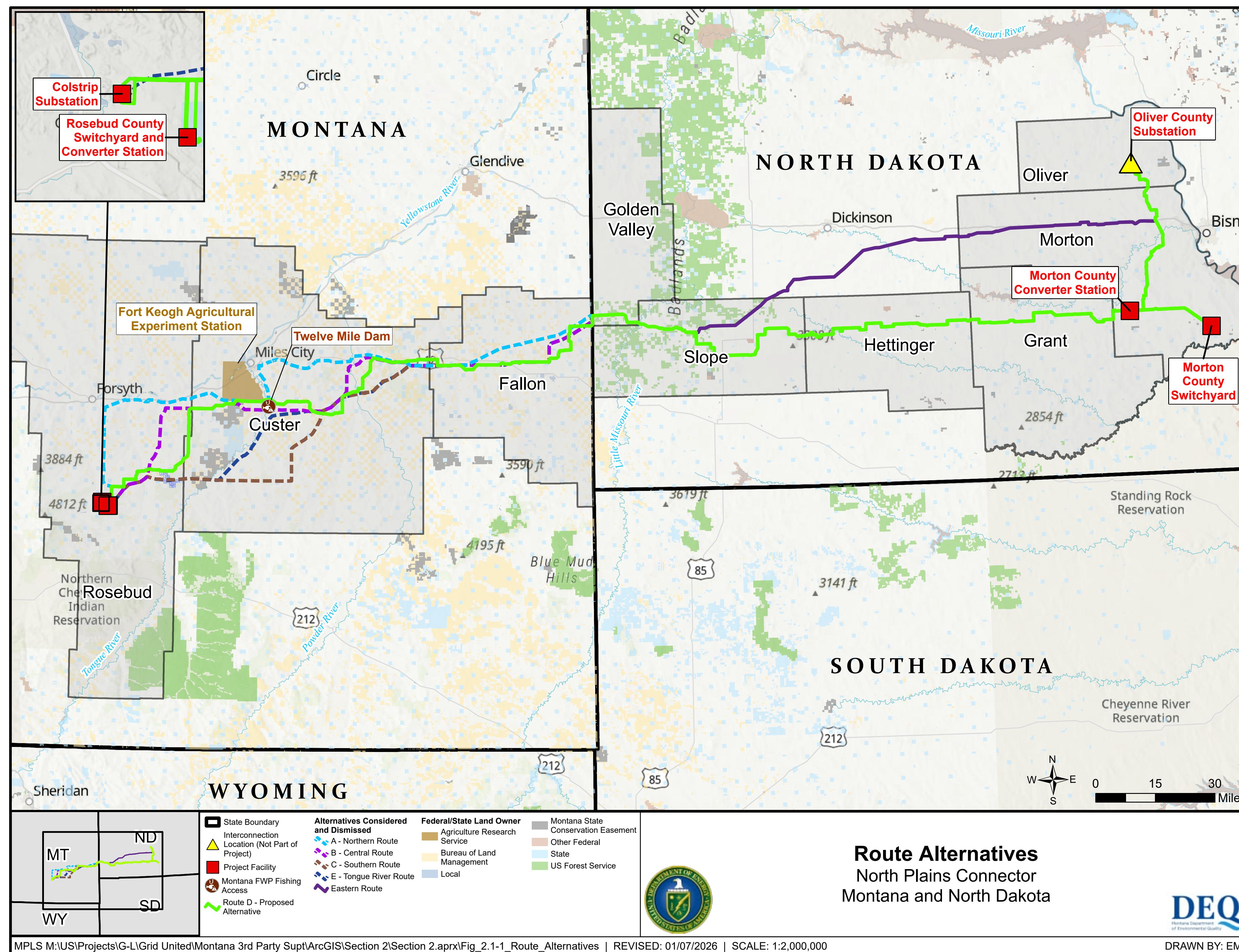


Or at the following web link:
deq.mt.gov/energy/assistance
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Project Overview Map



Route Alternatives

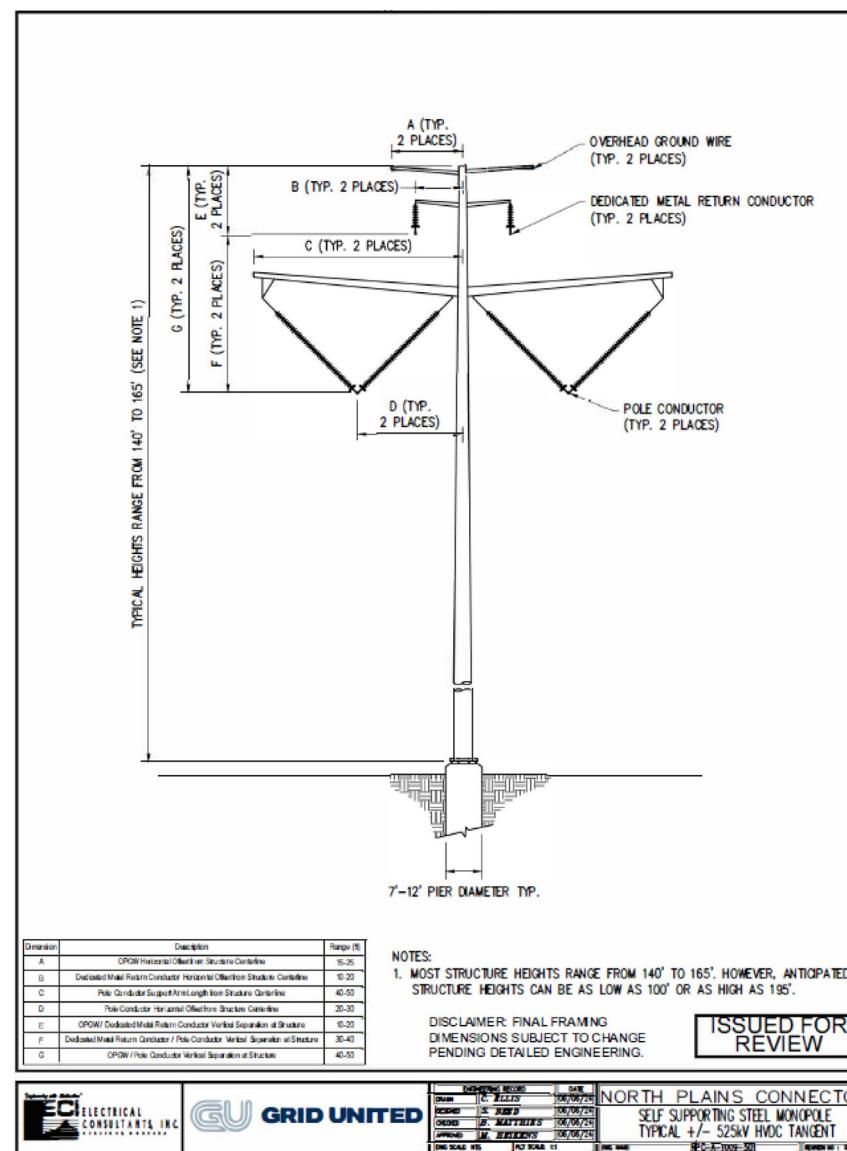


Design

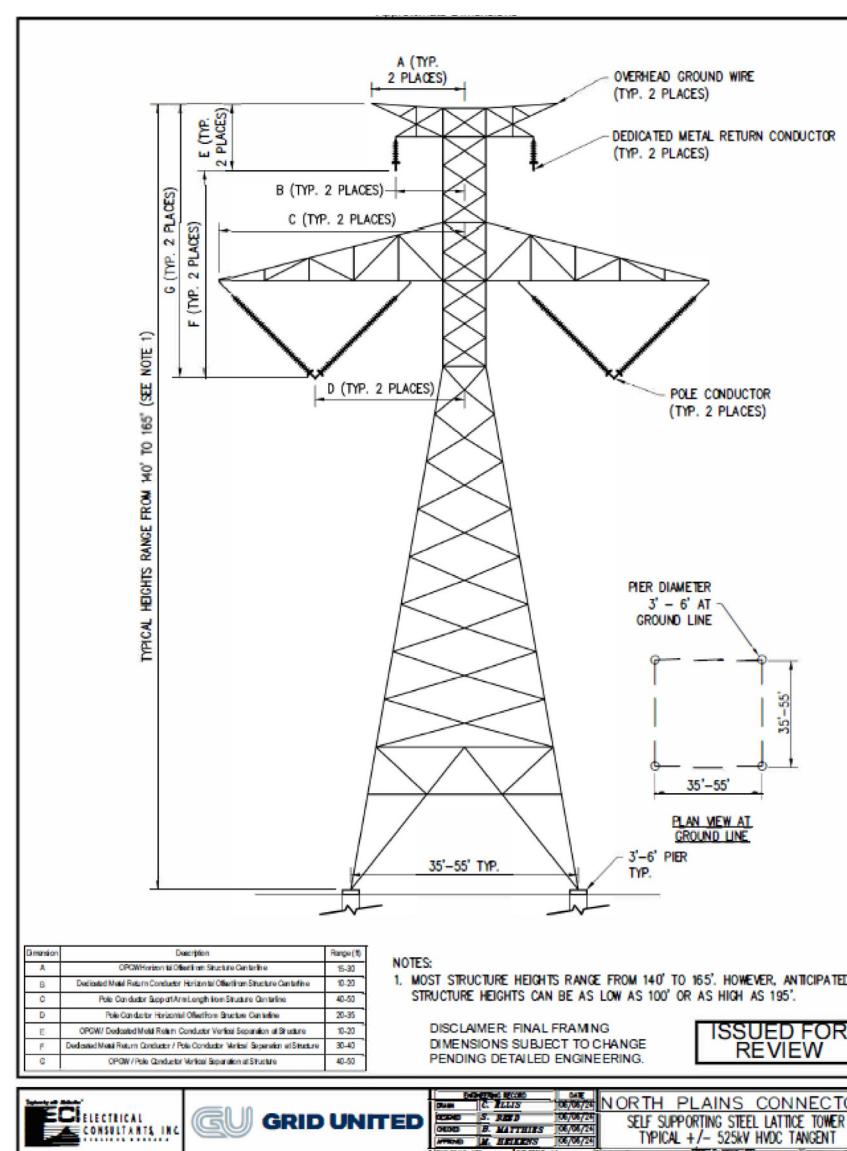
Representative Structures Diagram

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)

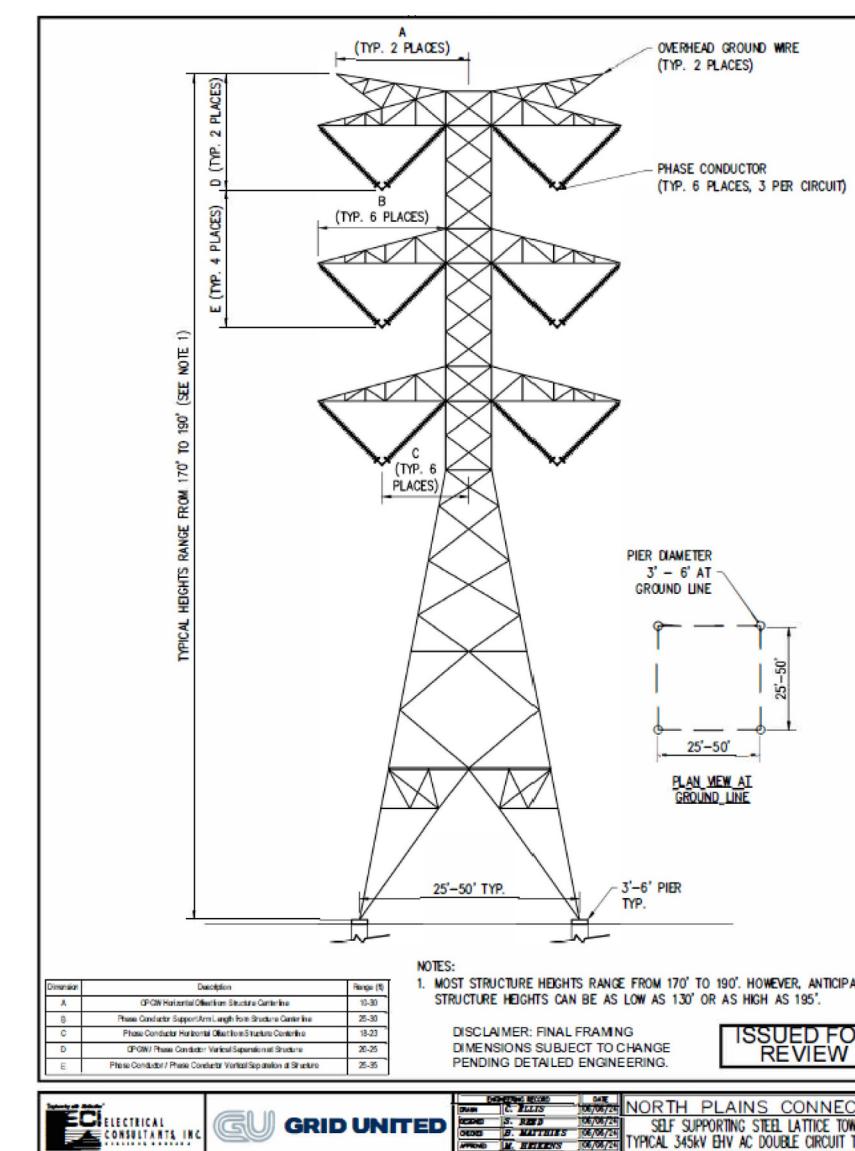
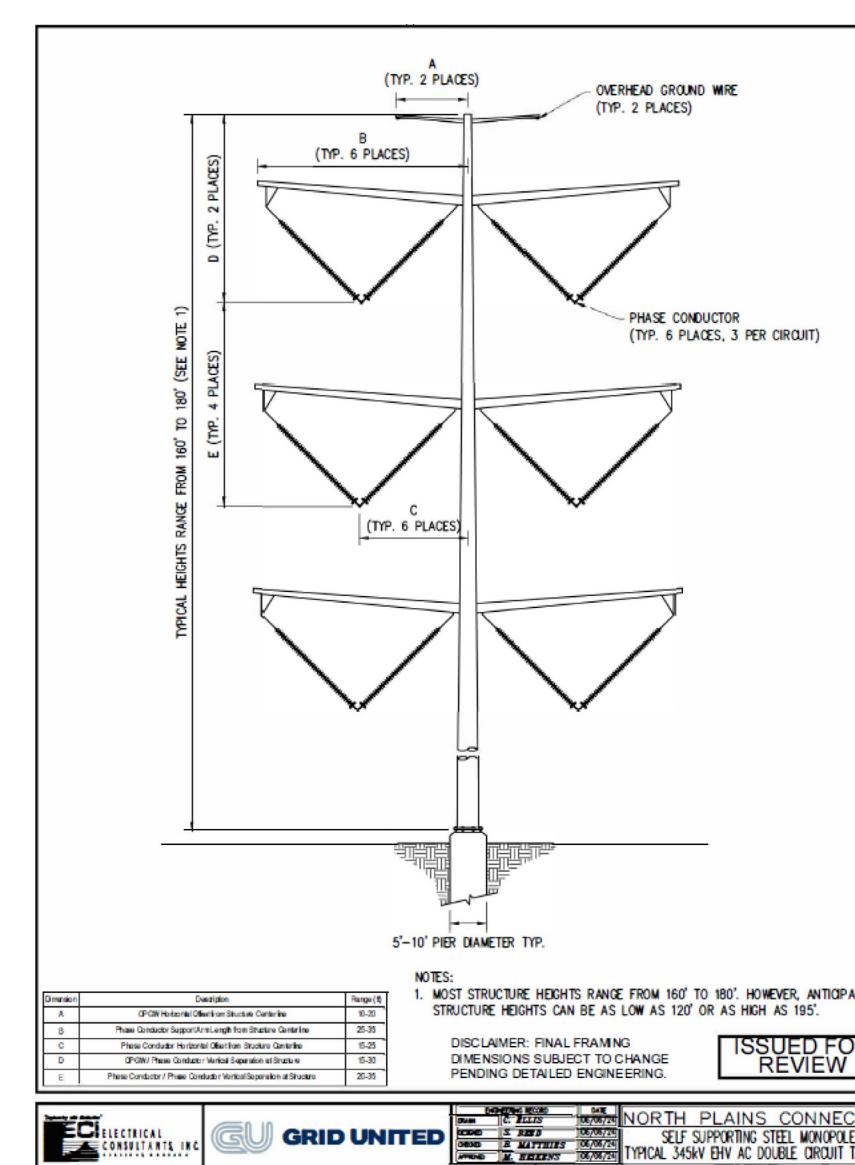
Monopole Structures



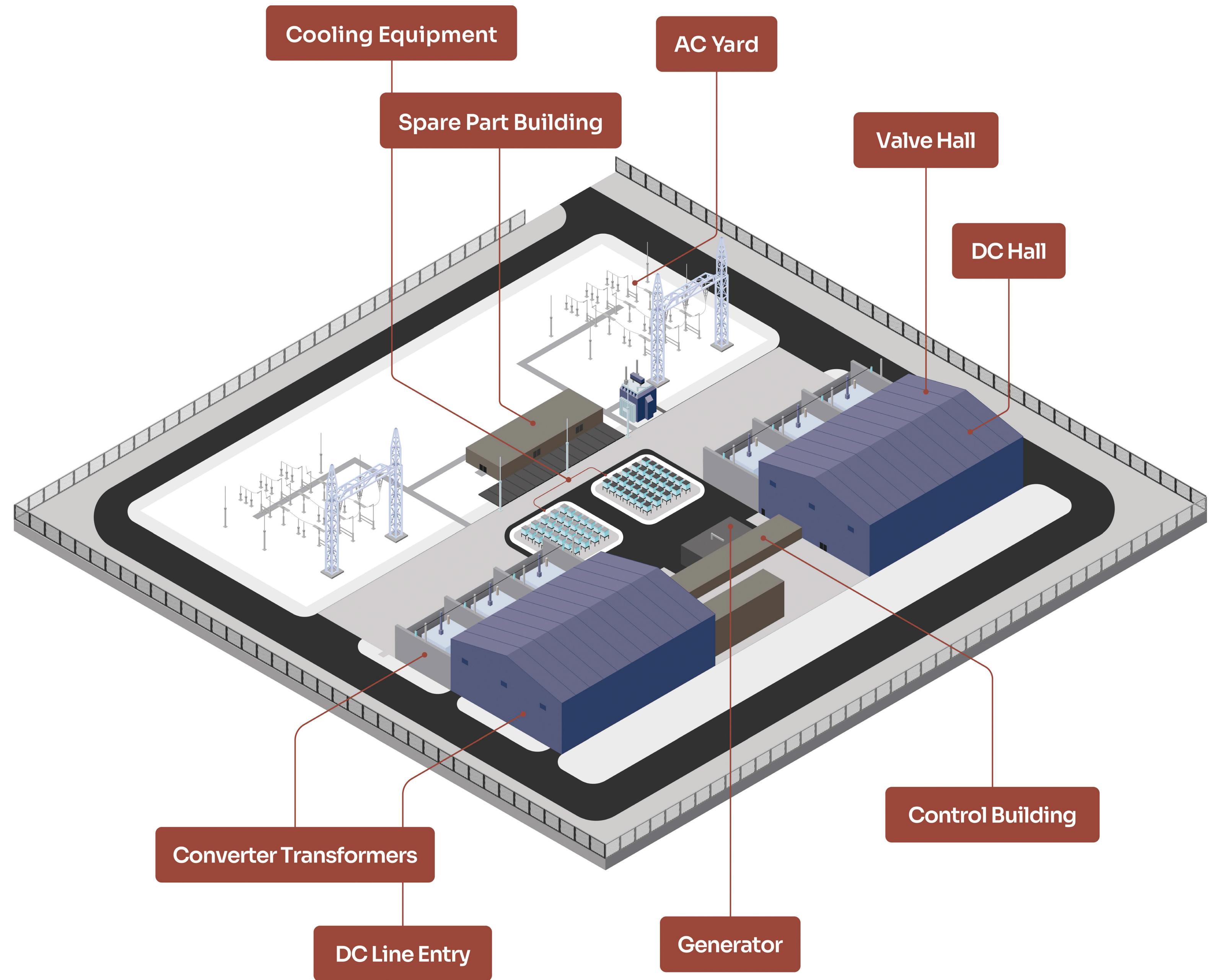
Lattice Structures



High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC)



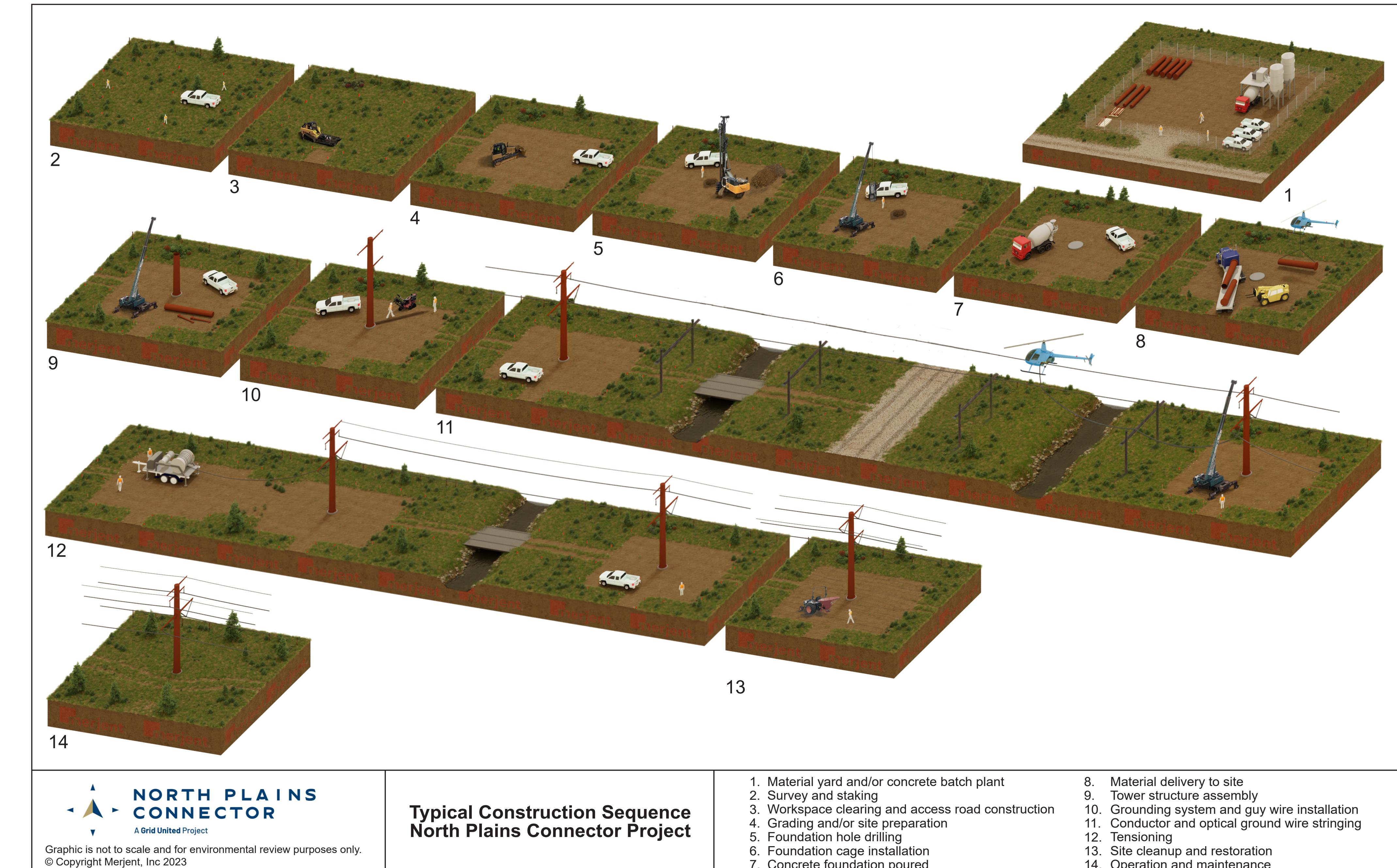
Converter Station Model



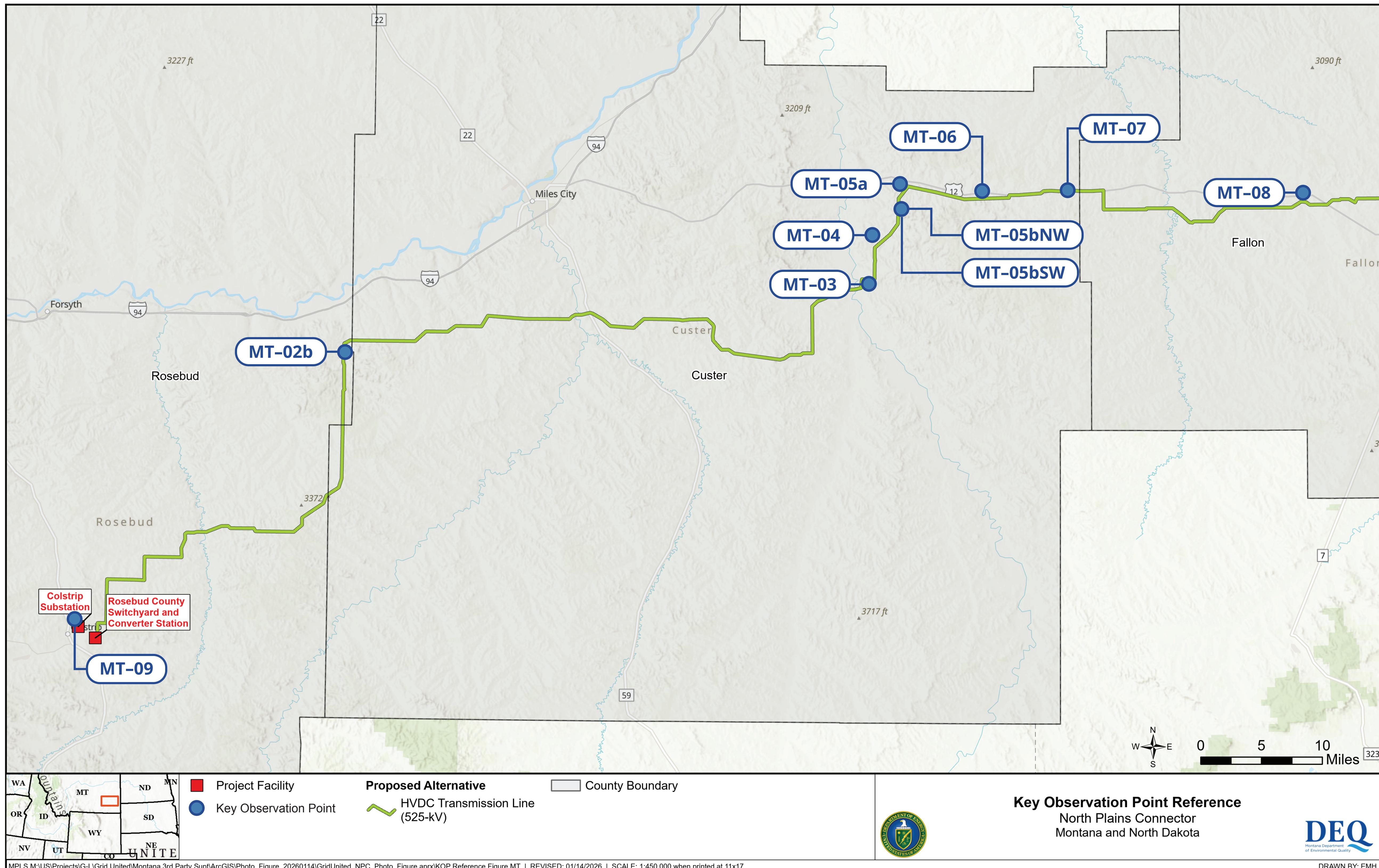
Construction Timeline

The Proponent anticipates starting construction in 2028 (after all the required permits and authorizations have been issued) and estimates that it would take approximately 3 to 4 years to complete, with concurrent construction on the transmission line, converter stations, and switchyard. Construction would likely occur year-round (weather permitting) on a 6-day work week, except for areas with construction timing restrictions (e.g., to protect sensitive species and habitat). Delays due to weather, material delivery, and natural resources may extend the construction timeline.

Start of construction is dependent on receipt of required permits and authorizations. NPC plans to regularly provide updates on its construction schedule and construction activities on federally managed lands as the environmental review and permitting process progresses.



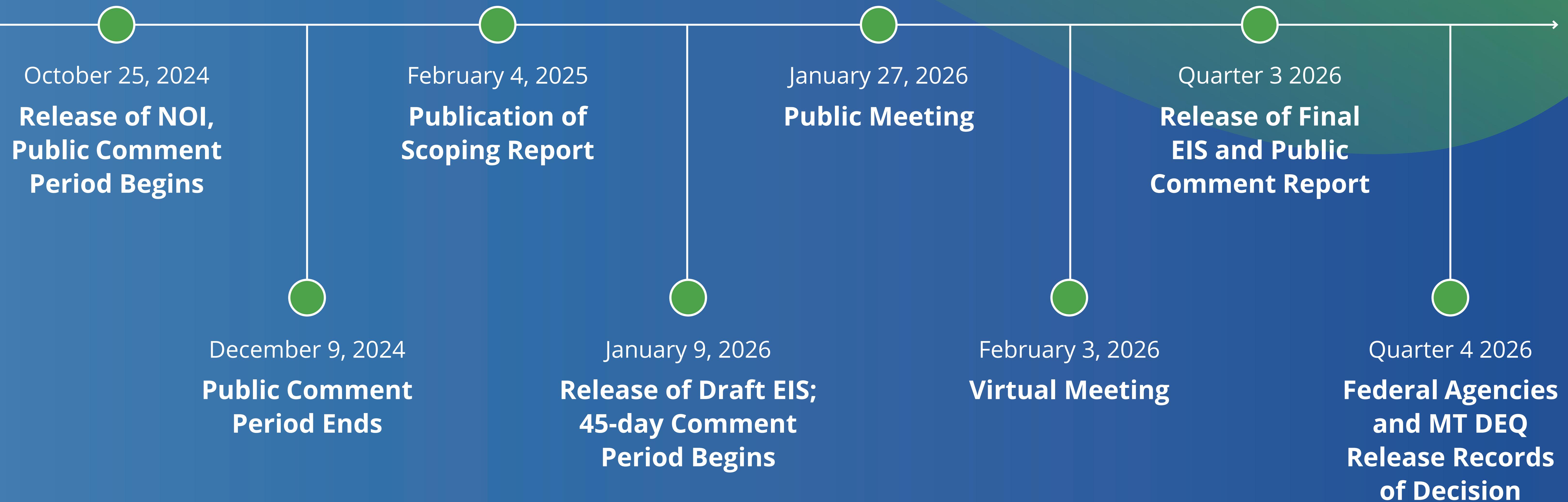
Montana Project Simulations



Montana Project Simulations



Environmental Review Schedule



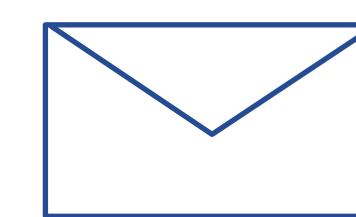
How to Submit Comments on the North Plains Connector Project

We want to hear your substantive comments on the Draft EIS. Your comments are important to help us evaluate the proposed North Plains Connector project.

Please provide written comments on the Draft EIS either by comment form at this public meeting, by mail, or by email.



Written comment form
at this public meeting



Postal mail to the following address:

Craig Jones
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901



Email comments to:
deqmepa@mt.gov



Comments must be submitted to DEQ **no later than February 23, 2026.**

The North Plains Connector Project is an activity implementing a land management plan under the Forest Service for the Little Missouri National Grassland. Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely, specific written comments (as specified in 36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed action during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Other eligibility requirements are specified in 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3).



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Or at the following web link:
[deq.mt.gov/energy/assistance
#accordion2-collapse3](http://deq.mt.gov/energy/assistance#accordion2-collapse3)