GRID DEPLOYMENT OFFICE

FACT SHEET

GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office is administering a historic $10.5 billion investment via the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program to enhance grid flexibility, improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change, and ensure American communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity when and where they need it.

INCREASING GRID CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE IN MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA

The Minnesota Power HVDC Terminal Expansion Capability project will increase capacity to prepare the system for future expansion and the integration of clean energy resources. The project will also provide enhanced grid operations support and flexibility as well as improved system reliability as renewable energy resources become a larger part of electricity generation on the grid. Additionally, it will leverage existing assets to advance Minnesota's carbon reduction goals, as established by state law in 2023, requiring utilities to deliver carbon-free electricity by 2040.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

This initiative will lay the groundwork for increased capacity to support rapid deployment of renewable energy resources and provide benefits for impacted communities. The project will:

- Align with regional transmission planning that identified the need for an additional 5,000–7,000 MWs of clean energy transmission capacity from North Dakota to surrounding areas.
- Increase regional access to some of the most productive land-based wind resources in the country.
- Support Minnesota in reaching its goal of 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040.
- Enhance renewable energy transmission capacity by up to 1,500 MW.
- Strengthen reliability and electric system stability in rural areas of North Dakota and Minnesota.
- Support Minnesota, North Dakota, Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and Department of Energy goals for expanding regional transmission capacity.
- Create more than 300 jobs and support workforce recruitment and retention opportunities in the local clean energy sector by enabling additional renewable generation development opportunities.
- Engage with community and workforce organizations such as the North Central Minority Supplier Development Council, Women's Business Development Center, Small and Disadvantaged Business Opportunity Council, and Minnesota Tribal Contractors Council to ensure bidding opportunities are provided to businesses principally owned by women, minorities, veterans, LGBT persons, disabled persons, and tribal members.

PROJECT DETAILS

- **Project:**
  Minnesota Power HVDC Terminal Expansion Capability
- **Applicant/Selectee:**
  Allete Inc.
- **GRIP Program:**
  Smart Grid Grants (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40107)
- **Federal cost share:**
  $50,000,000
- **Recipient cost share:**
  $54,116,574
- **Project location:**
  North Dakota and Minnesota
- **Project type:**
  Grid Capacity and Renewables Integration

HELPFUL LINKS

- Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program
- About the Grid Deployment Office

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