

SYSTEM BACKBONE
PROJECT
September 2018



SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION
301 WEST 13TH STREET
HAYS, KS

785-623-6605

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Negotiating Values
- Next Steps
- Project Timeline



Learn More about the Project

Visit www.sunflower.net/system-backbone-project for project materials and updates.



Project Progress

A letter from our Project Manager

As of late June, easement offer packages had been sent to landowners and a majority of the packages had been accepted and returned to our office. Sunflower pays close attention to the rate at which our offers are accepted as it is indicative of how accurate our methodology is for determining easement compensation values, which appear to be accurate and well received for this project. The method utilized to determine easement values begins with acquiring a market value study from a certified appraiser, gathering feedback from our member distribution cooperatives—in this case Lane-Scott Electric, Victory Electric, and Wheatland Electric—and finally gathering feedback and determining any special circumstances with area landowners. This method allows Sunflower to fairly compensate landowners while keeping the project budget on track.

While obtaining easements, Sunflower's contractors were busy collecting soil borings and conducting surveys. By late June, soil borings were complete. Soil borings allow Sunflower to correctly determine which foundation structures will be best suited for the area. Surveys are nearly complete, and they are used to accurately determine the path of the transmission line, property boundary lines, and section corners.

Sunflower has partnered with several contractors on this transmission project. You may have seen representatives from the companies listed below in your area during the course of this project thus far. Please remember, if you have any questions or concerns about the project, or any of our contractors, contact us immediately at 785-623-6605.



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Negotiating Values

Despite best intentions, reasonable parties may disagree on property values. If there is a disagreement in land values, Sunflower will carefully determine each request on an individual basis. Sunflower prides itself on listening to our Members and landowners. If a landowner believes his or her property is worth more than what we have determined and provides documentation that indicates a different property value that Sunflower agrees is justified, Sunflower will re-evaluate the compensation package.



Next Steps in Project

Once an easement is secured on your property, the next step is to prepare the area for construction. Sunflower is required by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation to remove vegetation that may interfere with safe electric delivery, so clearing the area of potential obstructive or potentially dangerous vegetation will occur first. Since trees can pose a significant safety concern, Sunflower will determine which trees can safely remain and which trees may pose a safety concern. It is Sunflower's objective to leave as many trees on the property as possible. In many cases, trees may require trimming rather than removal.

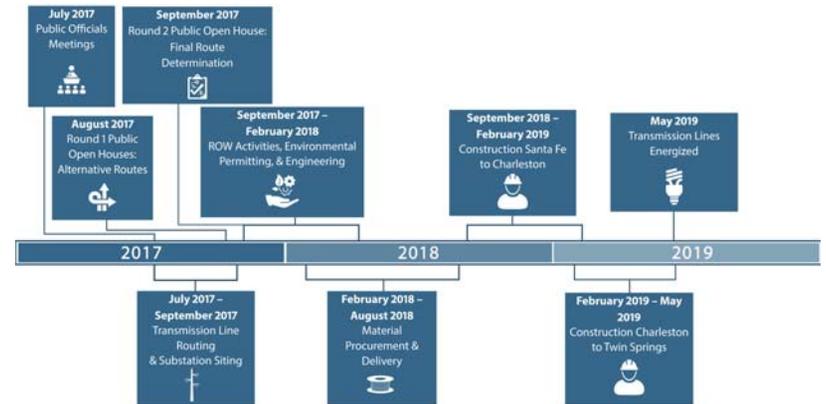
To the right is a representation of trees that may need to be trimmed or completely removed.

Sunflower would like to remind landowners that, in general circumstances, they may continue to utilize easement area for agricultural uses, such as farming and grazing.



Project Timeline

The project is in the early stages of construction and on schedule. Sunflower is committed to timely communication regarding project milestones, deadlines and any delays with landowners and community members.



ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY
Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.

If you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!
If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.
If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.