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(Neb.)-Transmission Line Open Houses Scheduled

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 01/07/2013 11:20 AM

(COLUMBUS)-Six open houses will be hosted by Nebraska Public Power District in mid-January concerning the development of a route for a new 345,000-volt transmission line to be constructed from NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Station near Sutherland, north to the Cherry County area, and then east near the Holt/Antelope County line where it will tie into a 345,000-volt transmission line owned by the Western Area Power Administration.

This transmission line project, referred to as the R-Project, is being built to enhance transmission system reliability, relieve congestion from existing lines within the transmission system, and provide opportunities for additional renewable energy generation.

The open houses are being held to inform the public of the project and collect landowner feedback on the study area for the transmission line. The dates and locations of the open houses are:

Monday, Jan. 14 – Noon to 6 p.m., CT, McPherson County High School, 525 Hwy. 92, Tryon, Neb.

Tuesday, Jan. 15 – 2 to 8 p.m., CT, American Legion, 108 E. 2nd St., Hershey, Neb.

Wednesday, Jan. 16 – Noon to 6 p.m., CT, Eppley Lodge, State 4-H Camp, 83222 4-H Camp Road, Halsey, Neb.

Thursday, Jan. 17 – Noon to 6 p.m., MT, Bullseye Building, 203 N. Grant Ave., Mullen, Neb.

Monday, Jan. 21 – Noon to 6 p.m., CT, Community Center, 107 E. Main St., Chambers, Neb.

Tuesday, Jan. 22 – Noon to 6 p.m., CT, Conference Center, 606 E. 4th St., Ainsworth, Neb., *(please use north doors).*

Landowners in the study area have been sent invitations to attend an open house at a location convenient for them.

NPPD officials noted that no routes have been determined at this time. At the open houses, NPPD will collect information from landowners on land use, pivots, wells, planned facilities, residences, and other information. Each landowner will have the opportunity to identify this information and have it recorded into a GIS system that will be used in developing potential corridors for the lines.

Additional information will be available on the need for the project, the route selection process, right-of-way activities, easement compensation, engineering, and environmental considerations. A complete visit of the

various project information stations at the open houses will take about 45 minutes to an hour to complete.

The open houses are one phase of NPPD's comprehensive public involvement process that is used on its transmission line projects. To develop line routes for the project, NPPD will meet extensively with the public to obtain comments and other valuable information needed for the route-siting/decision-making process, beginning with the public open house sessions. NPPD will use a variety of communication methods to interact with area landowners; local, county, and state government officials; and representatives of appropriate regulatory agencies.

The upcoming round of open houses is the first of four rounds of public informational meetings NPPD plans to host. The first three rounds will be open houses, and the fourth round will be a public hearing.

For more information or questions regarding the open houses, contact project communications coordinator Jill Novicki at 888-677-3412.

---NPPD