

Lakeland Area Reliability Project

July 2026

Improving energy reliability in your community

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI), in collaboration with Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPC), is proposing the Lakeland Area Reliability Project to improve energy reliability for customers in Franklin County. The Project includes construction of an approximately 15-mile, 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Ameren Illinois' existing Benton Northwest Substation to SIPC's Franklin Junction Substation, located south of the Village of Hanaford. Improvements to the Benton Northwest Substation will also be made as part of the Project. Our goal is to have these facilities in service by December 2028.

Project Benefits



The Lakeland Area Reliability Project will deliver several benefits for energy customers:

- Improve energy reliability for local communities and the surrounding region
- Improve resiliency to minimize power limitations and impacts to local communities
- Support long-term economic growth in the region



Anticipated Schedule 2026

- Gather public and agency input
- Route siting studies
- Final proposed routes identified

2027

- File routes with Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)
- Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity (CPCN) decision
- Easement acquisition
- Environmental surveys and permitting
- Pre-construction activities

2028

- Line construction
- Benton Northwest Substation completion
- Project in service
- Restoration (through spring 2029)

Specifications for Typical 138 kV Steel Monopole Structures

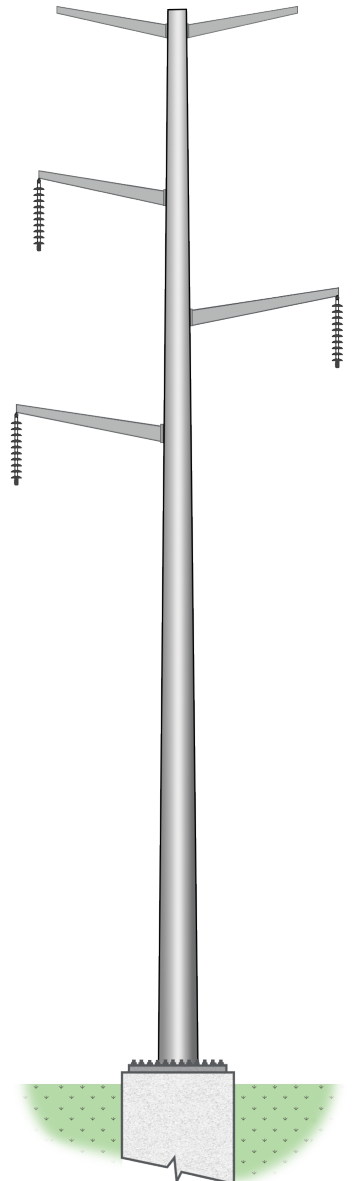
Height
80 - 120 ft.

Span
700 - 800 ft.

Structures/mile
7 - 8

Conductor
ground clearance
21 ft. (minimum)

Easement width
100 ft.



At this time, we anticipate using steel monopole structures. Typical information about this type of structure is provided above. Note: This graphic is not to scale, and the number of arms on a typical structure may vary depending on the final route.

Overview of the Routing Process

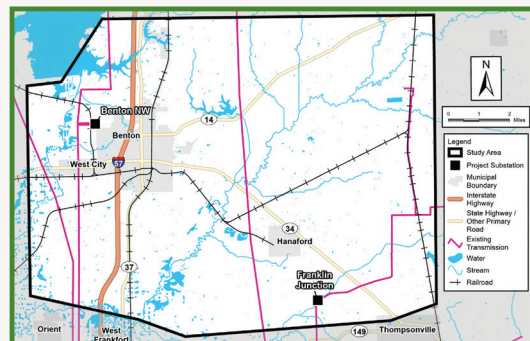
Routing a transmission line is a phased process that involves collaboration with agencies, community members and landowners to gather information that helps our team understand and identify opportunities and sensitivities within Franklin County. Please review the steps below to see how we developed our Route Segments and continue through the routing process to develop the Project's Primary and Alternate Routes.



STEP 1: Define Study Area

Our team started by using data from publicly available sources to create our Study Area. We considered existing utility corridors, existing land use, resource areas, natural environment data and field survey data to help minimize impacts while providing a feasible route opportunity.

April 2026 - June 2026

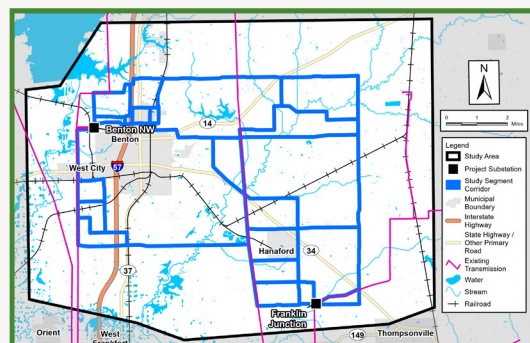


WE ARE HERE!

STEP 2: Develop Route Segments

Next, our team used data collected from our stakeholders and federal, state and local agencies, as well as the four categories of routing criteria – Opportunities, Sensitivities, Technical Guidelines, and Statutory Requirements – to develop potential Route Segments. The Route Segments are being shared with the public during our first round of Open Houses.

June - July 2026



STEP 3: Develop Preliminary Route Alternatives

Using the routing criteria, as well as input received from stakeholders and community members during our first round of Open Houses, our team will develop Preliminary Route Alternatives for the Project. The Preliminary Route Alternatives will be shared with the public during our second round of Open Houses, planned for September 2026.

August - September 2026



STEP 4: Identify Primary and Alternate Routes

Using routing criteria and comments collected from the community during our second round of Open Houses, our team will narrow down the number of Preliminary Route Alternatives and present the remaining routes to the community at the third round of Open Houses, planned for October 2026. Finally, using the data and input collected on the remaining routes, our team will select a "Primary Route" and an "Alternate Route" for the Lakeland Area Reliability Project to include in the application to the ICC.

September 2026 - January 2027

Public and Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback

Community leaders and members of the public have various opportunities to provide input during multiple phases of the routing process as preliminary routes are defined and submitted for certification by the ICC. The goal of the routing process is to identify and take advantage of Opportunities while understanding and minimizing impacts to Sensitivities and adhering to Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements. The Project team will continue to engage the local community as the Project progresses.

Connect with the Project Team

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