

PROJECT

From Pg. 1

North Plains Connector could be operational by 2031-32, Johnson said.

“Challenges with construction are getting equipment and getting the converter stations. At each end of the project, there’s a big converter station and those are bid out for 10 years,” Johnson said. The project is also competing with governments around the world for supplies, he said. HVDC converter stations are the substations where direct current electricity at transmission voltages is converted to lower-voltage alternating current.

“So, we’re a bit constrained by availability of the converter stations, but still making very good progress,” he said.

Traditionally, a transmission line from concept to permitting phase takes about five years, he said.

The idea for this project came about following Storm Uri in

2021.

“(Storm Uri) highlighted some of the weaknesses in the grid and John Arnold decided to apply risk capital toward projects that would provide better connectivity,” Johnson said.

North Plains Connector will connect Colstrip, Mont., the site of a coal-fired power plant with large transmission facilities and those lines going west, to an existing substation near Center and those lines going east.

In North Dakota, North Plains Connector will also build a substation to connect the Southwest Power Pool just east of St. Anthony.

This type of connector is fairly unique in North Dakota, and the United States. And as an HVDC line, it will be able to transmit power over longer spans with less line loss.

“There are just a few connectors up and down the U.S. and they’re all relatively small. This is 3,000

megawatts, so really providing a very large connection. The company is looking at a number of those type of connections down the seam, where there aren’t any of those types of connections between the East and the West,” Johnson said. “This is just the furthest along in the process.”

“This will provide more resiliency and stability across the system and open up new markets going both directions,” Johnson said.

Through the transmission line, generators of power will have access to new markets going both directions.

The North Plains Connector is expected to be owned, operated and maintained by local utilities, and those conversations are also underway, Johnson said.

Grid United has donated funds to local community foundations, and various local government entities are applying for funding through the Transmission Siting and Economic Development (TSED) Grant Program, which is available due to the expected construction by Grid United. The U.S. Department of Energy’s funding opportunity of up to \$300 million in grants is available to cities, counties and tribes in the impacted area.



Hettinger County Weather Outlook

Blake Rafferty

The Week Ahead:

A bit of a complicated forecast with precipitation chances will be the theme this week. The period starts warm, with well above average temperatures on Thursday. These warm temperatures should fuel some of the first thunderstorms of the season Thursday evening. Behind the thunderstorms, cooler air will filter in, with continued shower chances on Friday. Most rain and showers should be east of the county by Saturday morning, resulting in very slowly clearing skies. Temperatures will remain cool through Sunday, as another system propagates south of the area, dragging colder air from Canada down through

the Dakotas. Rain and showers associated with this wave could provide some rain or snowflakes across the eastern Dakotas, but at this time it appears the best chances are east and south of the county. A warming trend starts back up next work week, as warmer air from the southwest propagates over the region.

Thursday:

Increasing clouds with a chance for thunderstorms. Warm. Highs in the mid 70s.

Friday: Cloudy with a chance of showers. Breezy. Highs in the mid 60s.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s.

Monday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the mid 60s.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the low 70s.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 60s.

Long Term: We remain in a springtime pattern, with pieces of energy flying all across the Northern Plains. The problem remains in the overall areal coverage of these waves. No one wave appears poised to provide a widespread rain. Instead, each wave provides light to moderate rain across portions of the tri-state area. This makes it difficult to forecast if or when the next best rain chance is. Overall, near average temperatures combined with multiple small chances for precipitation should average out to produce near normal spring weather for early May.

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Outside of County....\$55.00/year
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LAND FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

Location: Hettinger County, North Dakota
Township 133 North, Range 93 West
Section 11: SE¼

NE¼ Less a tract of land in the NE¼, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of the NE¼ of said Section 11; thence west along the north boundary line of said section line a distance of 45 feet to the true point of beginning; thence west a distance of 725 feet along the north boundary line of said Section 11; thence south a distance of 660 feet along a line and parallel to the east boundary line of said Section 11; thence east a distance of 725 feet along a line and parallel to the north boundary line of said Section 11; thence north a distance of 660 feet to the true point of beginning.

Bids: Sealed written bids must be received by May 13, 2024, by 5:00 PM MT. Bid shall be a per acre price. Bids must include a per acre price for both parcels as both parcels are being sold together. The parcels will not be sold separately.

Any sealed bids received will be opened at the Mackoff Kellogg Law Firm on May 16, 2024, at 3:00 PM MT. In the event of duplicate bid, the bidders shall be allowed to raise their bids at the bid opening, which shall be conducted by Seller’s attorney in a manner of the attorney’s choosing. Bidders may be present in person or by phone. The top three bidders shall have the right to raise their bids during the bidding process.

Conditions of Sale: The Property is subject to any existing crop that has been seeded. The Property will not be available for use until January 1, 2025, when the existing lease expires.

Terms: Upon acceptance of the bid, Seller and successful bidder will enter a purchase agreement by May 23, 2024, outlining the conditions of the sale.

Mineral Reservation: Seller is reserving all oil, gas and other minerals.

Suitable for pheasant hunting.

Information: Sealed written bids are to be deposited at:

Mackoff Kellogg Law Firm
Attn: Attorney Christina M. Wenko
38 2nd Ave East, Ste. A
Dickinson, ND 58601

**SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS
AND WAIVES ANY IRREGULARITIES**

North Dakota Game & Fish News

Tagging Studies Offer Insight into Fisheries

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will be conducting numerous tagging studies on walleye populations across the state over the next several years to gain a better understanding of how anglers are utilizing these fisheries.

This year, walleye tagging efforts will occur at Coal, Twin, Coe and West Napoleon lakes. These studies will provide information that will enable the Department fisheries managers to provide the best fisheries possible for the state’s anglers to enjoy.

Anglers will play a vital role in these studies

and are encouraged to report any tagged fish they encounter by logging in to their Game and Fish account or using the “tagged fish reporting” feature on the Department’s website gf.nd.gov.

Paddlefish Snagging Season Opens May 1

North Dakota’s paddlefish season opens May 1, and is scheduled to continue through May 21. However, depending on the overall harvest, an early in-season closure may occur with a 24-hour notice issued by the state Game and Fish Department.

Paddlefish tags are available for purchase online at the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov, at license vendors,

and during business hours at Game and Fish Department offices in Bismarck, Dickinson, Jamestown, Devils Lake, Lonetree (Harvey) and Williston. Snaggers buying tags online have the option to have the tag mailed or can stop at a district office and pick it up during business hours. Those purchasing a tag at a vendor or having it mailed should plan accordingly and allow for a few days for delivery.

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag, in addition to a valid fishing license for anyone 16 and older. Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$10 for residents and \$25.50 for nonresidents. Lost or destroyed tags will not be replaced.

The Game and Fish Department will allow camping during the open paddlefish season at Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area Pumphouse and at Neu’s Point WMA. However, no roads or gates will be open at Neu’s Point, therefore camping is allowed in the small Neu’s Point parking lot, and the rest of the WMA for walk-in access. All other WMA regulations apply. Outdoor enthusiasts are urged to be aware of the current fire index.

For more information on the paddlefish snagging season, snaggers should refer to the Game and Fish website.

CALL FOR BIDS RENOVATIONS TO DOOR C ENTRANCE AREA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Hettinger School Board will receive bids for framing and additional construction work that needs to take place to support the replacement of the external doors located at Door C and the relocation of the internal entrance doors in the same location. This bid is for the construction cost only. A separate call for bid will be advertised for new external and internal doors and glass.

All bids must be submitted to the Hettinger Public School Business Manager’s Office in a sealed envelope marked “Hettinger Public School Door C Construction” on or before 3:00 pm, May 13, 2024. Bids will be opened at 6:20pm, May 15, 2024, in the HPS Board Room. Final bids may be awarded at a later date.

Interested parties may contact HPS Superintendent, Darin Seamands at 701-567- 4502 to obtain additional information.

The Hettinger School Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Heather Ebert, Business Manager