Welcome

to the

North Plains

Connector Scoping

Meeting

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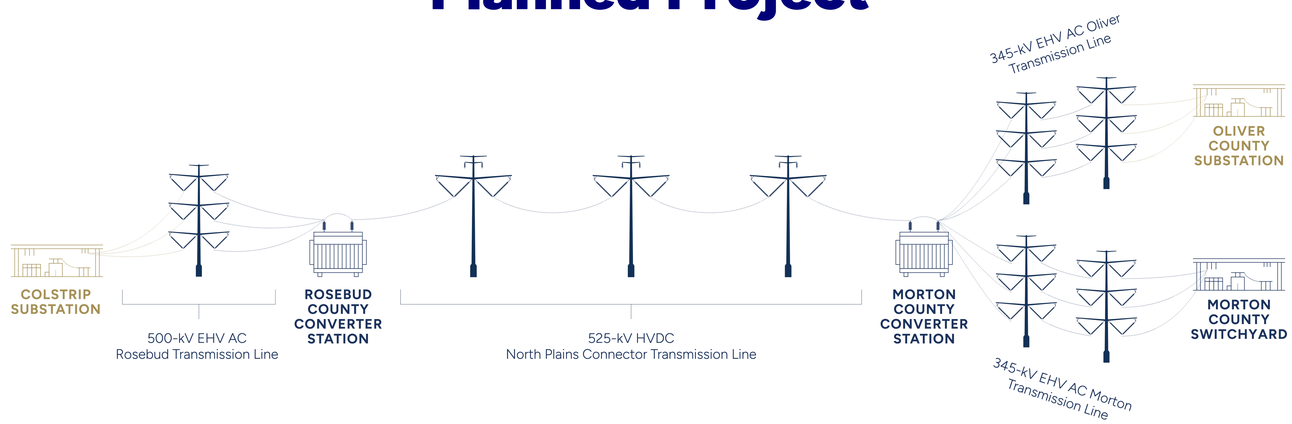
Project Overview

The North Plains Connector Project (NPC) is a proposed 525-kilovolt (kV), high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) overhead transmission line that would provide 3,000 megawatts (MW) of bi-directional transfer capability and connect the Western and Eastern Interconnections (also known as the western and eastern grids).

As proposed, the NPC would extend approximately 420 miles from near Colstrip, Montana, to two separate end points in North Dakota: one near Center, North Dakota, and the other near St. Anthony, North Dakota. The NPC would move electricity across the eastern and western grids to help meet the growing need to move power across long distances and improve grid reliability and resiliency.

The NPC would sell transfer capacity via the transmission line without preference toward the potential shipper of electricity nor a particular generation technology. Portions of the NPC or capacity rights may be owned by electric utilities, cooperatives, government entities, corporate energy providers, or independent generators in the regional power systems.

Planned Project



LEGEND

- New project infrastructure
- Pre-existing infrastructure / Future planned / Not part of project

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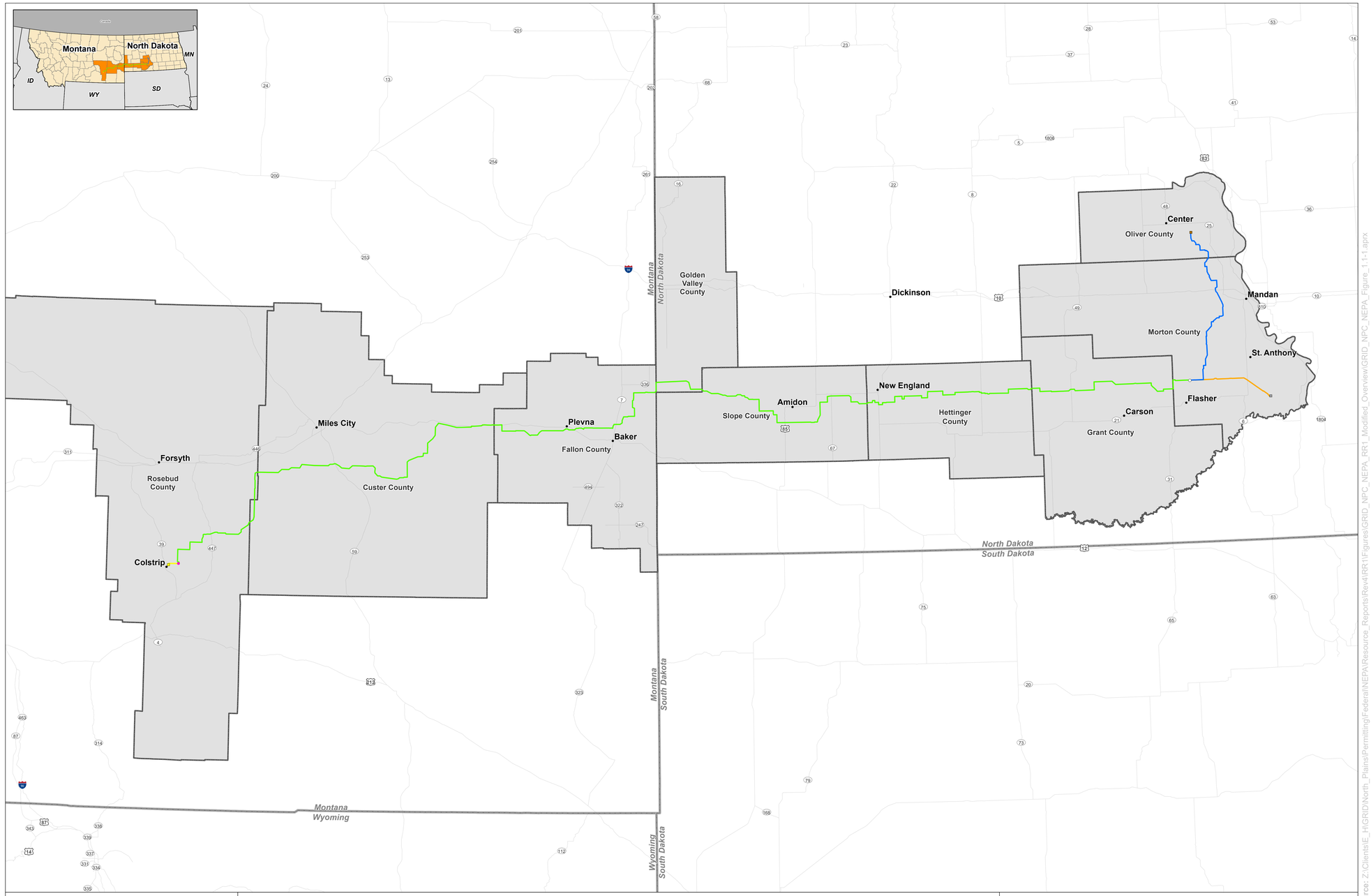
Project Overview Map



Project Overview Map
North Plains Connector Project

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Date: (10/24/2024)

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Project Purpose and Need

Each agency has its own purpose and need for the project; however, all agencies agree on the general purpose and need for the proposed North Plains Connector, which is to improve reliability by increasing transfer capacity between markets; improve resiliency and flexibility by unlocking a variety of regional power generation options; and provide a system that can shift power quickly and efficiently to mitigate weather-related outages. Decreases in reliable electricity generation capacity, rapid changes in the generation portfolio, and extreme weather events are all contributing to the need for the NPC transmission line.

North American Power Grid
North Plains Connector Project

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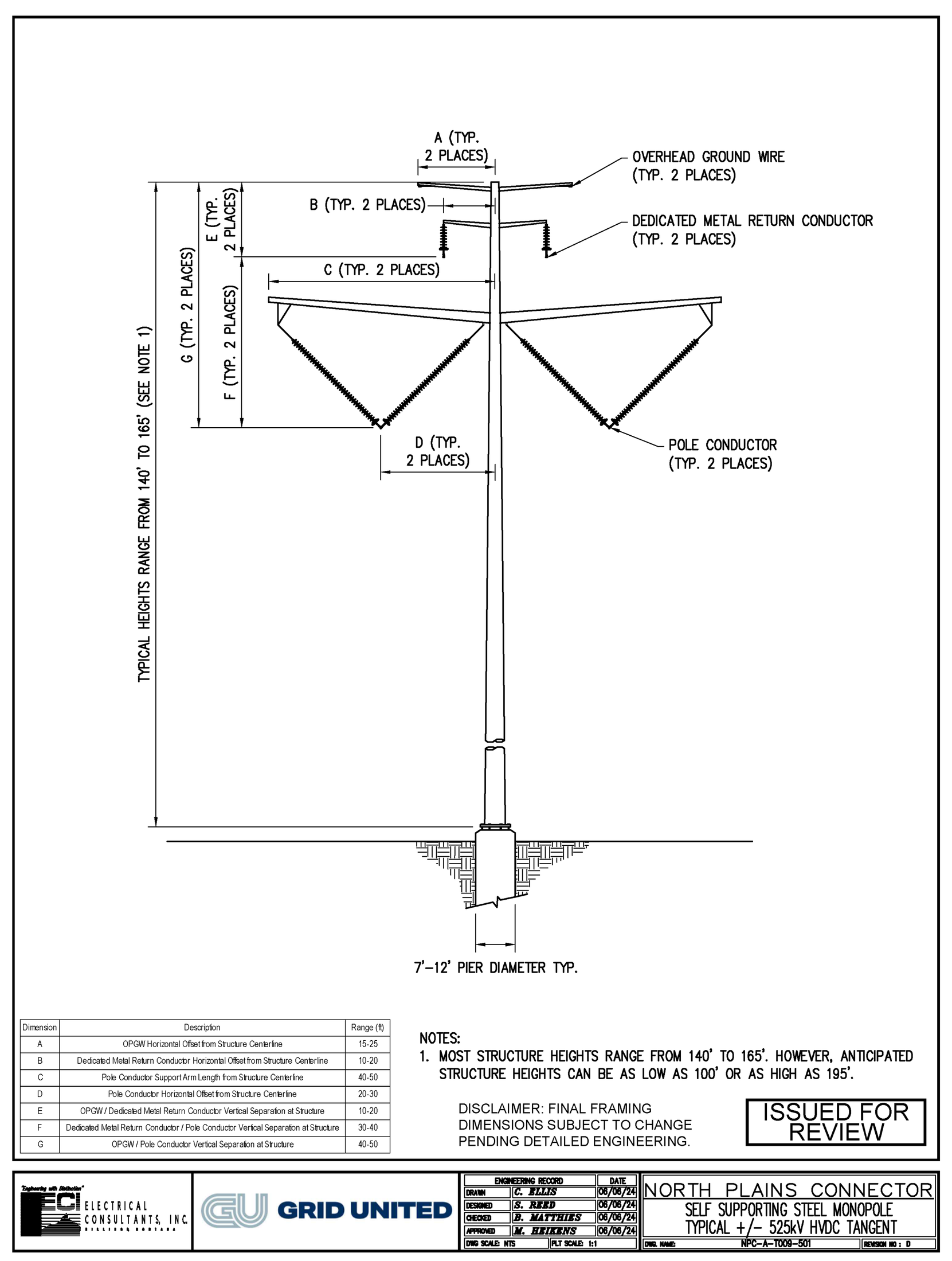
Design

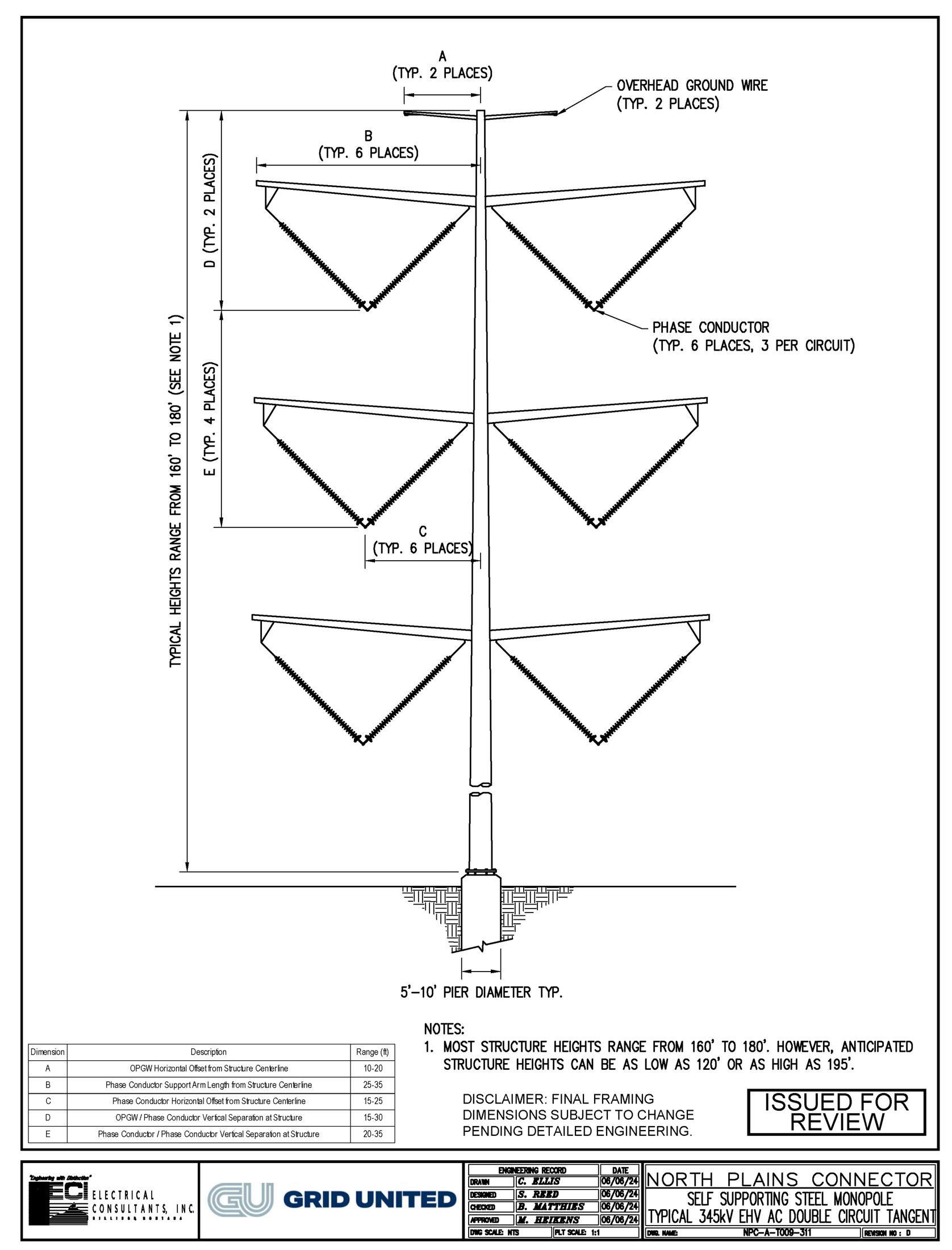
Representative Structures Diagram

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)

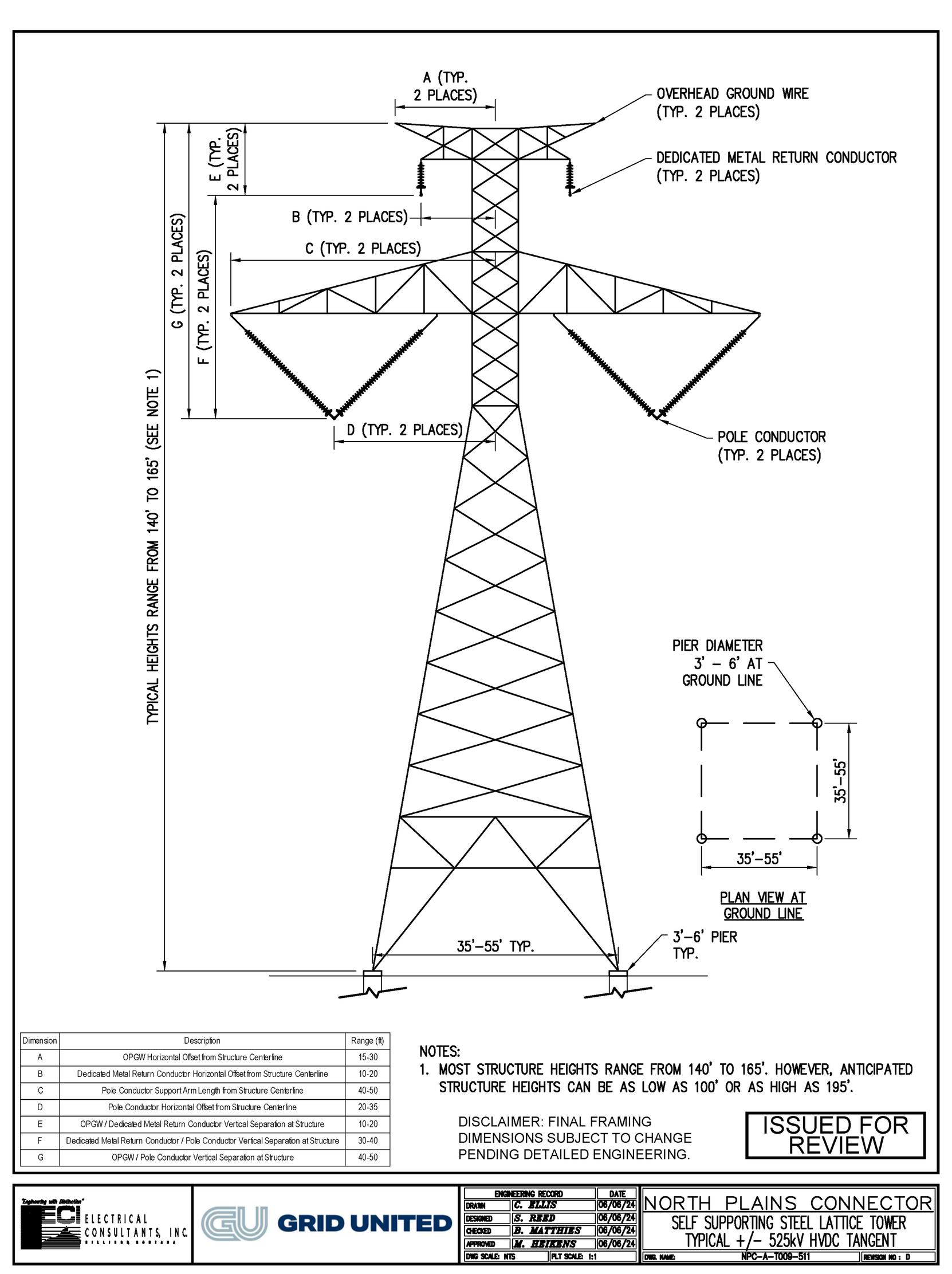
High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) Structures

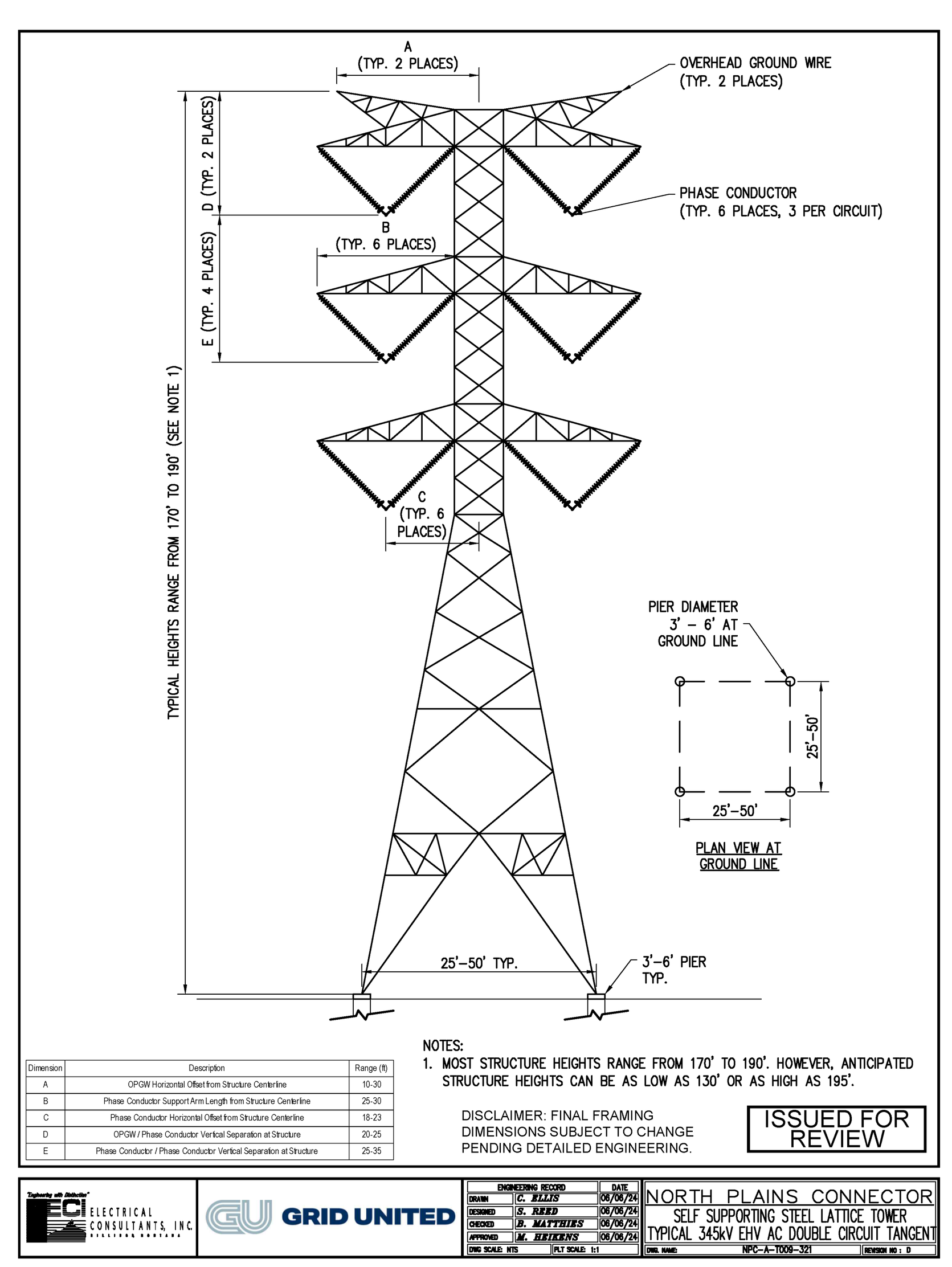
Monopole Structures



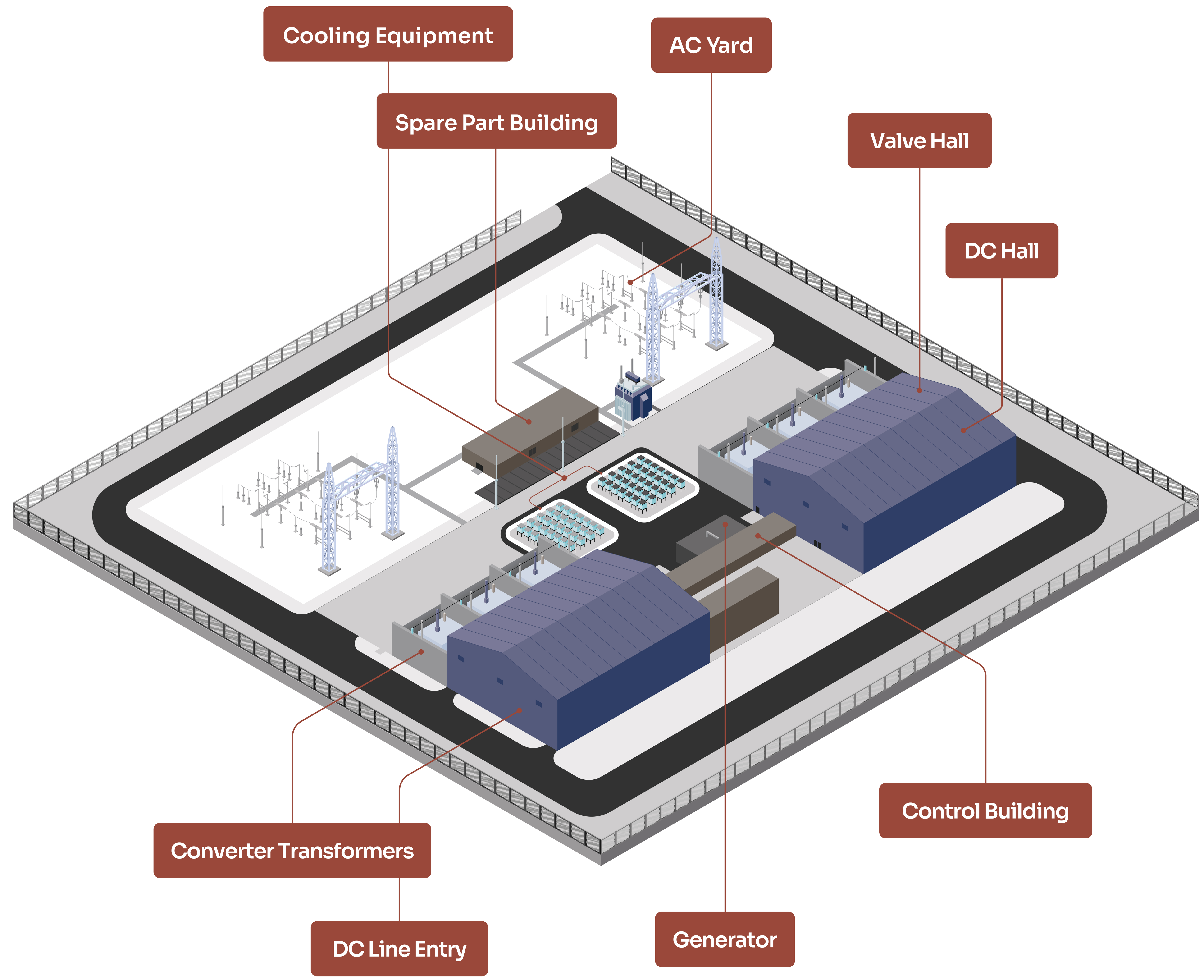


Lattice Structures





Converter Station Model



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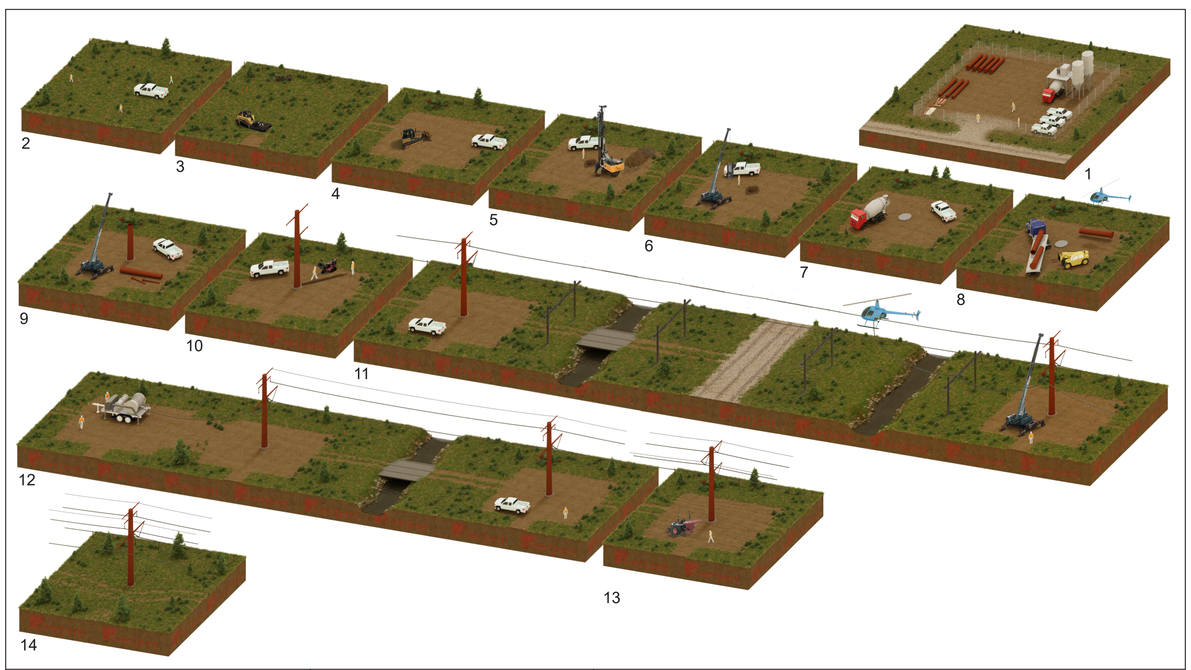
Construction Timeline

North Plains Connector (NPC) anticipates construction on the NPC would start in 2028 and last approximately three to four years, with the line coming online by the end of 2032. NPC would concurrently construct the HVDC transmission line and two new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) converter stations. NPC would also include construction of HVAC lines to connect the converter stations to the existing grid infrastructure. NPC would involve the installation of additional equipment within and adjacent to the existing Colstrip Substation as well as construction of a new switchyard, the Morton County Switchyard.

North Plains Connector plans on carrying out construction year-round, weather permitting, with the exception of areas that have applicable timing restrictions to protect sensitive resources. Delays due to weather, material delivery, and natural resources may extend the construction timeline. Further, the start of construction is dependent on receipt of required permits and authorizations. NPC plans to regularly provide updates on its construction schedule and construction activities on federally managed lands as the environmental review and permitting process progresses.



Graphic is not to scale and for environmental review purposes only.

Typical Construction Sequence
North Plains Connector Project

1. Material yard and/or concrete batch plant
2. Survey and staking
3. Workspace clearing and access road construction
4. Grading and/or site preparation
5. Foundation hole drilling
6. Foundation cage installation
7. Concrete foundation poured
8. Material delivery to site
9. Tower structure assembly
10. Grounding system and guy wire installation
11. Conductor and optical ground wire stringing
12. Tensioning
13. Site cleanup and restoration
14. Operation and maintenance

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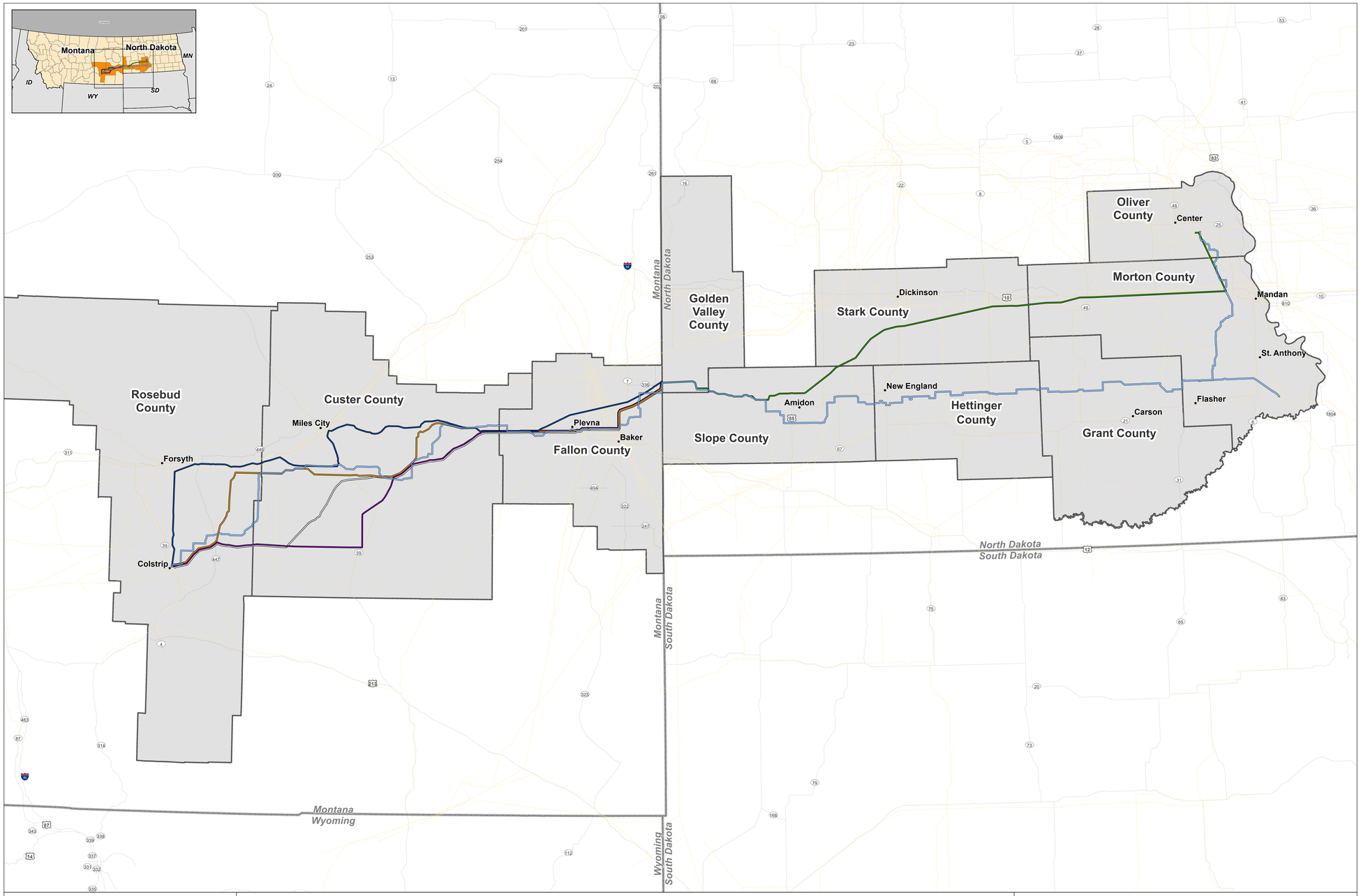
Alternative Routes



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Agency Roles and Responsibilities

U.S. Department of Energy

Montana Dept. of Enviro. Quality

Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Forest Service

U.S.D.A. Agricultural Research Service

Each agency has its own decision to make regarding the project and has obligations to consult.

Public, Tribes, & Other Relevant Stakeholders

Environmental Review Schedule

10/25/2024	**Release of NOI, Public Comment Period Begins**
11/06/2024	In Person Open House; Mandan, ND
11/07/2024	In Person Open House; Dickinson, ND
11/12/2024	In Person Open House; Miles City, MT
11/13/2024	In Person Open House; Colstrip, MT
11/19/2024	Virtual Open House *Registration link: https://bit.ly/NorthPlainsVirtual
12/09/2024	**Public Comment Period Ends**
02/14/2025	**Publication of Scoping Report**
Fall 2025	**Release of Draft EIS; 45-day Comment Period Begins**
Summer 2026	**Release of Final EIS and Public Comment Report**
Summer/Fall 2026	**Federal Agencies Release Records of Decision**
Fall 2026	**Environmental Review Process Ends**

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Mapping Station

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How to Submit Comments on the North Plains Connector Project

What is scoping, and why should I submit comments?

- Scoping is required for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- Scoping is used to engage state, local, and Tribal governments and the public in early identification of concerns, potential impacts, relevant effects of previous federal actions, and possible alternatives.
- Scoping also provides an opportunity to bring agencies and project applicants together to lay the groundwork for setting time limits, expediting reviews where possible, integrating other environmental reviews, and identifying any major obstacles that could delay the process.
- Scoping is a process that continues throughout the planning and early stages of preparing an EIS. Comments received today will help inform the Draft and Final EIS.

ALL COMMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL OR USPS MAIL.

WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY ORAL COMMENTS DURING THE OPEN HOUSE.

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To learn more:
www.energy.gov/nepa/doeeis-0568-north-plains-connector-multiple-locations

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