

DCN

Dakota Carrier
NETWORK

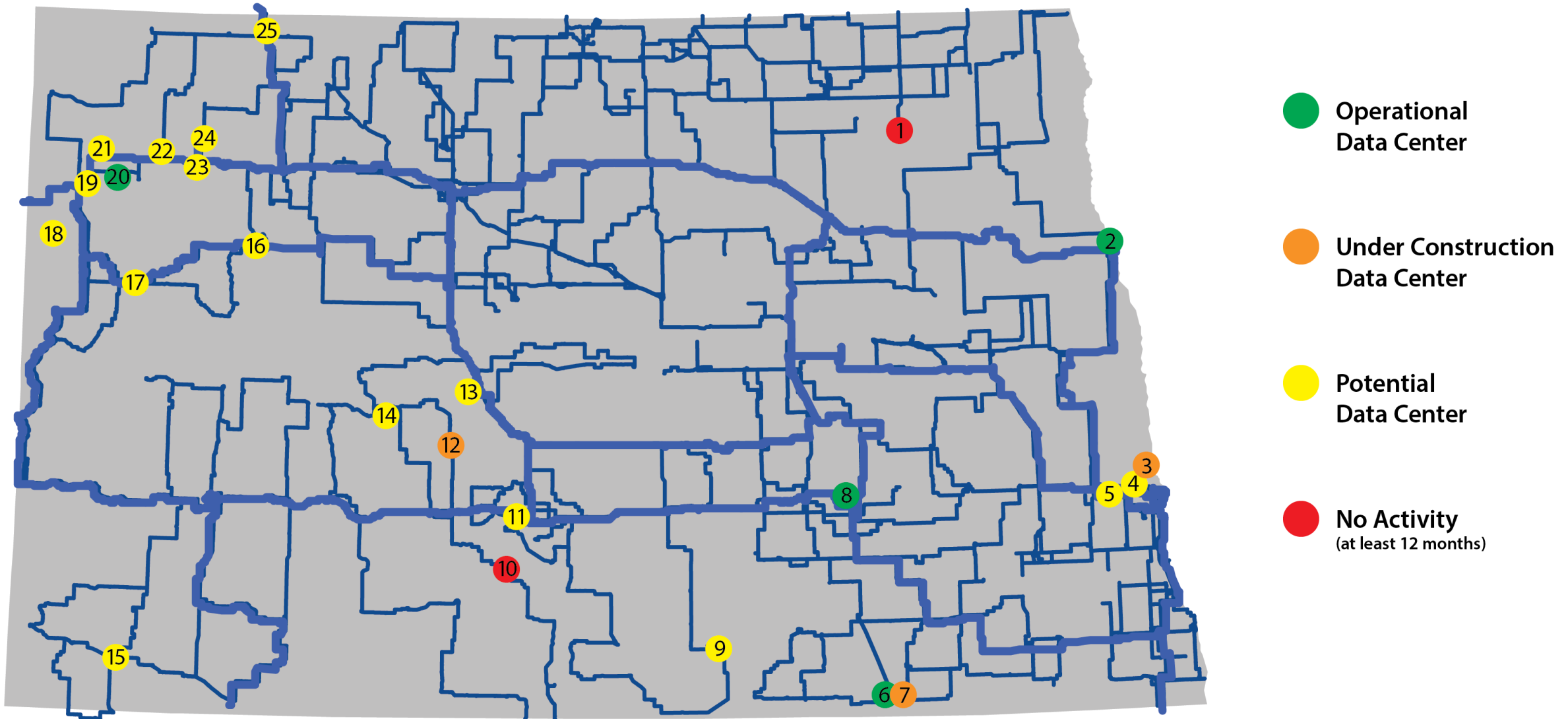


Fargo – headquarters
12,000 SF
2 x 750KW Generators
Redundant Power Entrances
Redundant Fiber Entrances
Dry Fire Suppression Protection

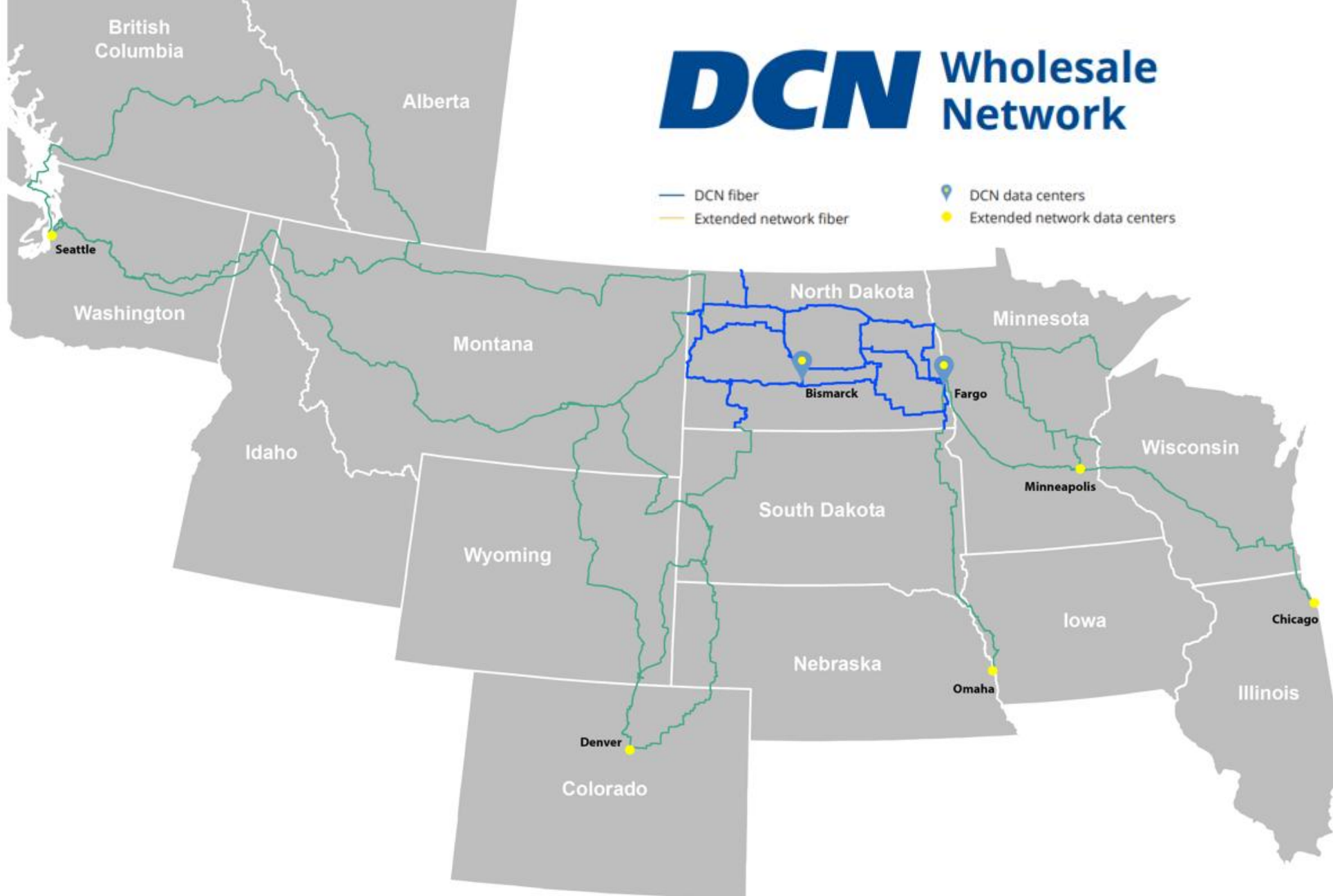
Bismarck
42,000 SF F4 Hardened
2 x 1 MW Generators
Redundant Power Entrances
Redundant Fiber Entrances
Dry Fire Suppression Protection



Data center activity in North Dakota



DCN Wholesale Network



Lit vs Dedicated Fiber

Lit fiber, as the name suggests, is actively operational fiber infrastructure managed by a service provider. Businesses lease access to the network as a fully managed service, which includes maintenance, monitoring, and predefined bandwidth speeds.

Dedicated fiber refers to unused or “unlit” fiber-optic cables installed in the ground. This infrastructure was originally deployed in anticipation of future bandwidth demands, and as technology advances, these unused strands have become invaluable for businesses seeking greater control over their connectivity.

Who We Are



DCN, created in 1996, is owned by 13 North Dakota-based independent broadband services providers representing 85 percent of all telephone exchanges in North Dakota and more than 90 percent of the state's total surface area. They serve nearly 400 communities and have more than 70,000 miles of fiber optic cable in service. DCN's corporate headquarters is located in Fargo, N.D., and its Network Operations Center (NOC) is located in Bismarck, N.D. For more information about DCN, visit www.dakotacarrier.com.

Email Address | XXX-XXX-XXXX



Range, a leader in technologically advanced communications solutions for residential, business, and wholesale customers, serves over 13,500 broadband subscribers in Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota. With office locations in Forsyth, MT, Sheridan, WY, Worland, WY, and Dubois, WY, Range operates over 4,700 miles of fiber-optic network and employs more than 160 experts with expertise in engineering, construction, project management, operations, and network maintenance. For more information about Range, please visit www.range.net.

Email Address | XXX-XXX-XXXX



WIN Technology is a leading digital infrastructure provider operating in the upper Midwest. Over its 22,000-mile fiber network and strategically diverse data centers, WIN Technology provides critical IT Services and connectivity solutions to customers in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and Michigan. WIN Technology is proudly recognized as a certified Great Place To Work®. To learn more about WIN Technology, visit www.wintechnology.com.

Email Address | XXX-XXX-XXXX

Heartland Fiber Project

A joint initiative to expand high-capacity fiber infrastructure across the Heartland of America to meet growing data demands

- High capacity, diverse fiber route built for future growth
- Delivering scale, resiliency, and performance demanded by next generation AI workloads
- \$700 million dollar investment representing a 2,000-mile expansion from Denver to Chicago
- Servicing healthcare, education, government, finance, manufacturing, wholesale and wireless markets
- Construction slated to begin summer 2026 with deployment over the next one to two years



Heartland Fiber Project



High-Capacity

Up to 400TB lit service
High Fiber Count



Scalable for Tomorrow's Demands

Future Path Capacity
2,000 Miles of Additional
Fiber to Major Hubs



Low Latency

Reduced Latency
Built for Performance



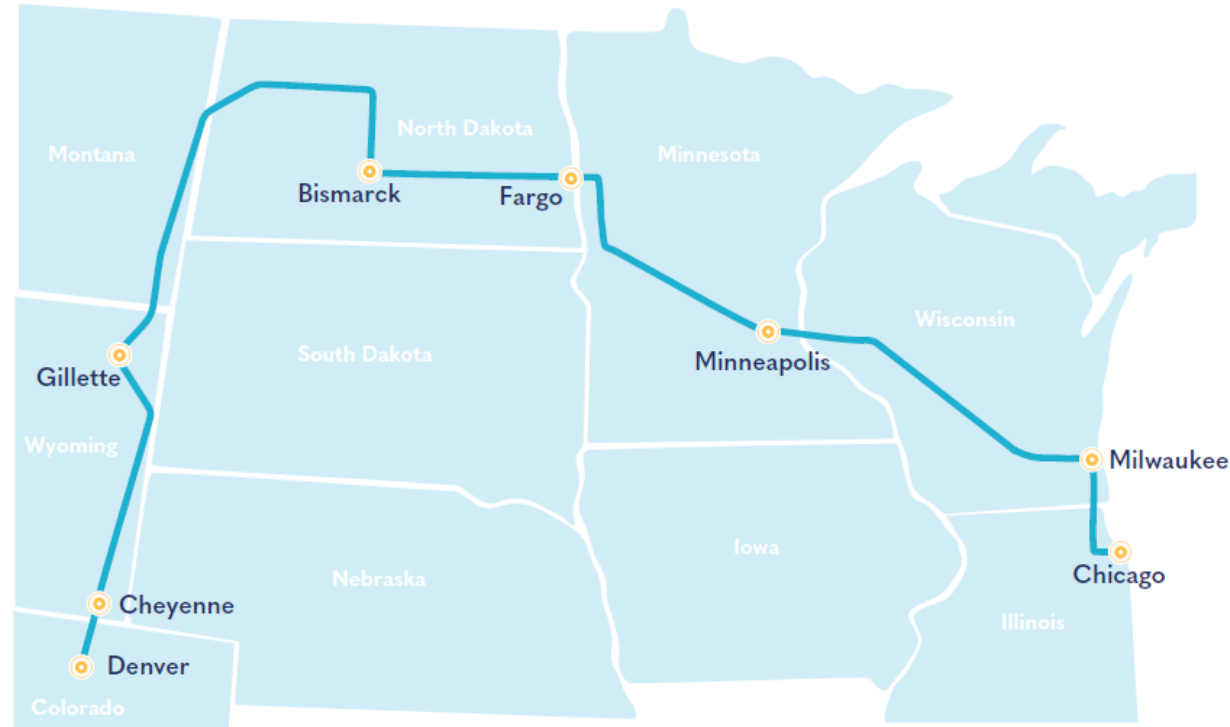
Diverse & Reliable

Enhanced Route Diversity
Designed for Resiliency



Powering Growth

Connecting Hyperscalers,
Data Centers & Communities
Driving the Future Economy



Heartland Fiber Project Press Release

Partners Launch Heartland Fiber Project to Expand High-Capacity Connectivity Across Upper Midwest

Joint initiative expands long-haul fiber infrastructure to meet growing data demands



DCN, Range, and WIN Technology, three regional backbone fiber providers, today announced a joint investment to expand high-capacity fiber infrastructure across the Upper Midwest. The initiative, known as the Heartland Fiber Project, will create a new long-haul fiber route designed to increase network capacity, resiliency, and flexibility to support the rapidly growing connectivity requirements across the industry and meet demand from AI hyperscale data center development in the region.

The Heartland Fiber Project will span seven states – Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois – establishing a route containing high fiber count and future path conduit to support future growth between Denver and Chicago. The \$700 million investment represents a 2,000-mile expansion of regional network infrastructure that is designed to deliver the scale, resiliency, and performance demanded by next-generation AI workloads and hyperscale computing environments.

Artificial intelligence has dramatically increased the amount of data that must move quickly and reliably between data centers. Hyperscale operators are increasingly turning to the Upper Midwest due to available land, access to power, and favorable climate conditions that help improve energy efficiency. These developments are driving the need for purpose-built fiber infrastructure capable of supporting massive, sustained bandwidth requirements.

The expanded network created through the Heartland Fiber Project is designed to help meet these evolving requirements while allowing DCN, Range, and WIN to continue delivering high-quality service to customers across healthcare, education, government, finance, manufacturing, and wholesale and wireless markets.

By increasing available capacity and strengthening long-haul connectivity, the project is expected to improve overall network performance, enabling faster data movement, reduced latency, and greater efficiency for applications and services that rely on reliable, high-speed connectivity.

“The Heartland Fiber Project is a gamechanger for North Dakota and the entire region,” said Seth Arndorfer, CEO of DCN. “It will ensure that we can meet the needs of businesses, including hyperscalers, looking to invest in our state as well as continuing to serve current customers with resilient, high-capacity infrastructure.”

“This collaboration allows us to deliver scale and resiliency more efficiently than any one provider could alone,” said Rob Johnstone, CEO at Range. “At the same time, our anchor institutions and customers in Wyoming benefit with expanded high capacity and reliable connectivity. By combining our strengths, we’re creating meaningful infrastructure that addresses both current demand and future growth.”

“We’re already supporting the growing hyperscale activity in Wisconsin,” said Scott Hoffman, CEO for WIN Technology. “The Heartland Fiber Project strengthens our ability to provide diverse connectivity to Chicago and west, while continuing to deliver reliable service that supports businesses, communities, and emerging technologies for years to come.”

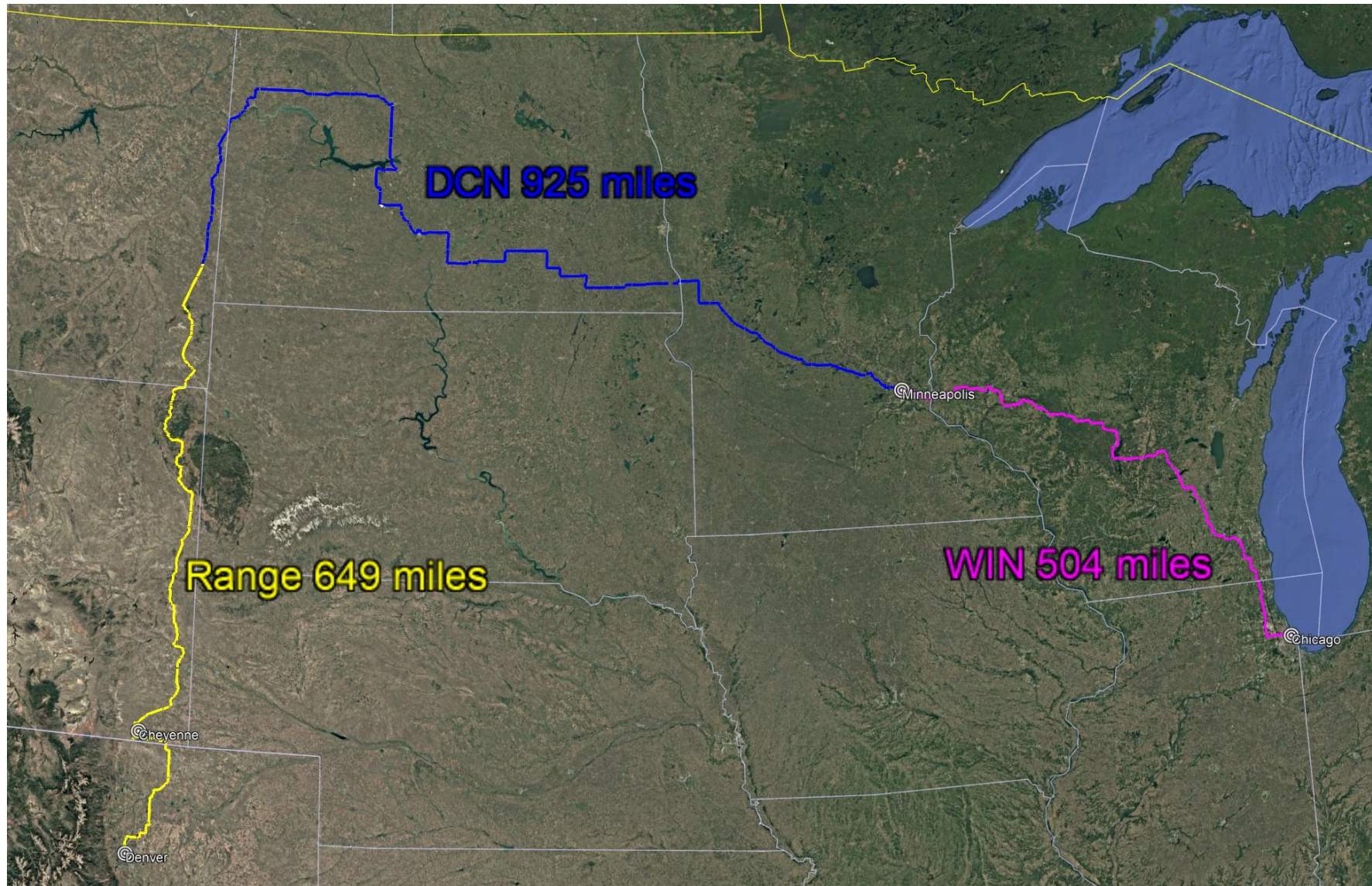
Construction on the Heartland Fiber Project is slated to begin this summer. Deployment will take place over the next one to two years, with activation coordinated across the three companies.

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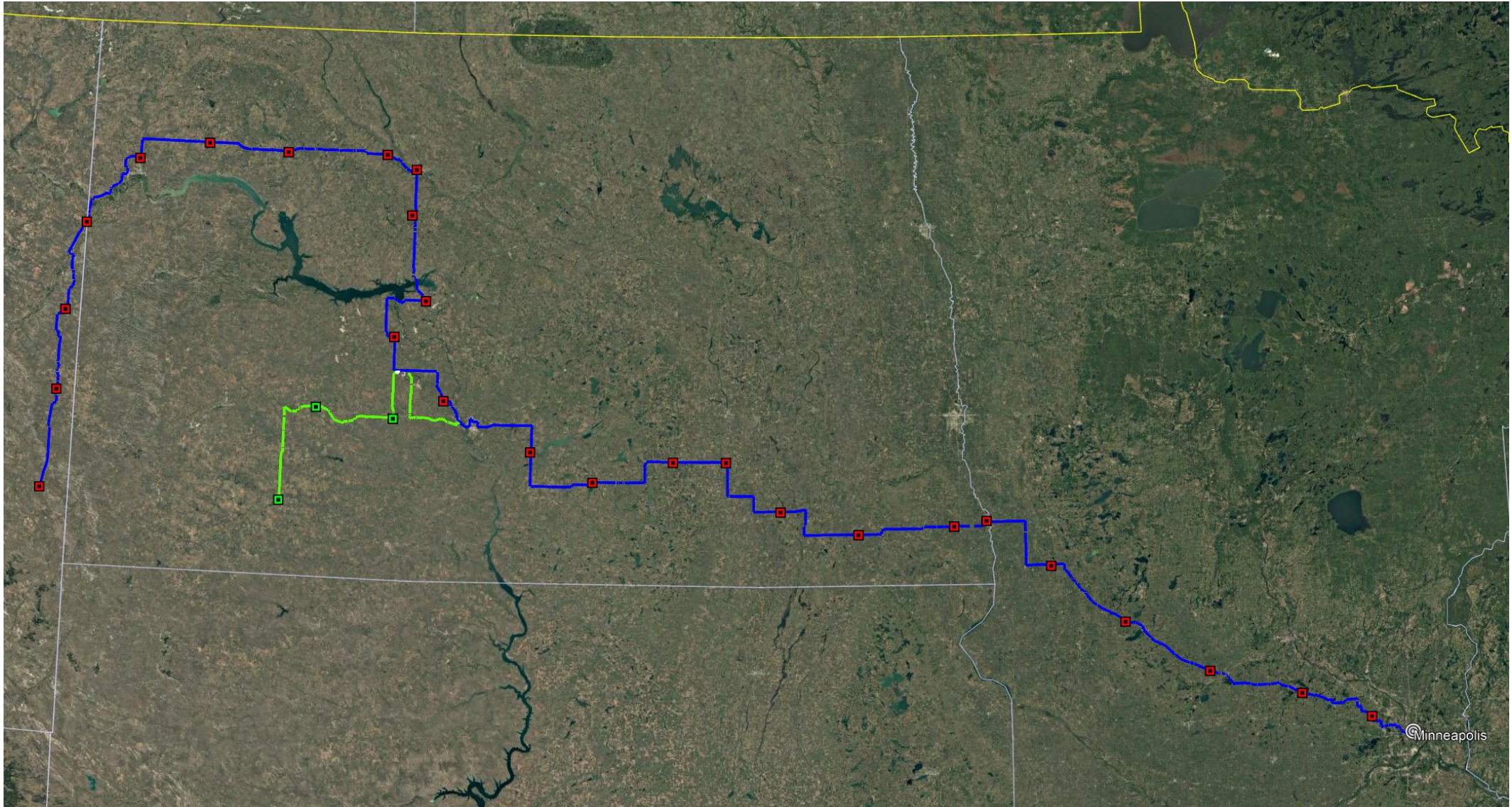
About Range: Range, a leader in technologically advanced communications solutions for residential, business, and wholesale customers, serves over 13,500 broadband subscribers in Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota. With office locations in Forsyth, MT, Sheridan, WY, Worland, WY, and Dubois, WY, Range operates over 4,700 miles of fiber-optic network and employs more than 160 experts with expertise in engineering, construction, project management, operations, and network maintenance. For more information about Range, please visit www.range.net.

About WIN Technology: WIN Technology is a leading digital infrastructure provider operating in the upper Midwest. Over its 22,000-mile fiber network and strategically diverse data centers, WIN Technology provides critical IT Services and connectivity solutions to customers in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and Michigan. WIN Technology is proudly recognized as a certified Great Place To Work®. To learn more about WIN Technology, visit www.wintechnology.com.

Heartland Fiber Project



DCN Fiber planned segments



Misinformation Impacting Public Sentiment for Datacenters

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News & Views with Joel Heitkamp

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM



North Dakota officials say data center concerns fueled by misinformation

Fargo, ND, USA / The Mighty 790 KFGO | KFGO News
Jun 3, 2026 | 6:23 AM

By Jacob Orledge

BISMARCK, N.D. (North Dakota Monitor) — Data centers are growing louder in North Dakota as a rising tide of opposition and concerns spreads at the local level.

Local opponents of data center projects have expressed concerns. These have included noise and disruptions to wildlife and hunting, water concerns aren't limited to the community, some worry the data centers' demand for electric rates as well.

Many government officials are attributing the concerns to misinformation.

"People don't necessarily want to hear the truth, but it's a frustration for us," said James Semerad, Fargo's mayor. "I want to say two and two is five, and it's said."

Misinformation Topics

- Water Consumption
- Power rates/Grid Impact
- Consumption of ag lands
- Noise issues
- Eminent Domain
- Permitting/Siting Process



NEWS

AI DATA CENTERS COULD RELEASE ENERGY EQUAL TO 23 ATOMIC BOMBS PER DAY IN UTAH

READ CAPTION

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

North Dakota lawmakers zero in on AI, data centers

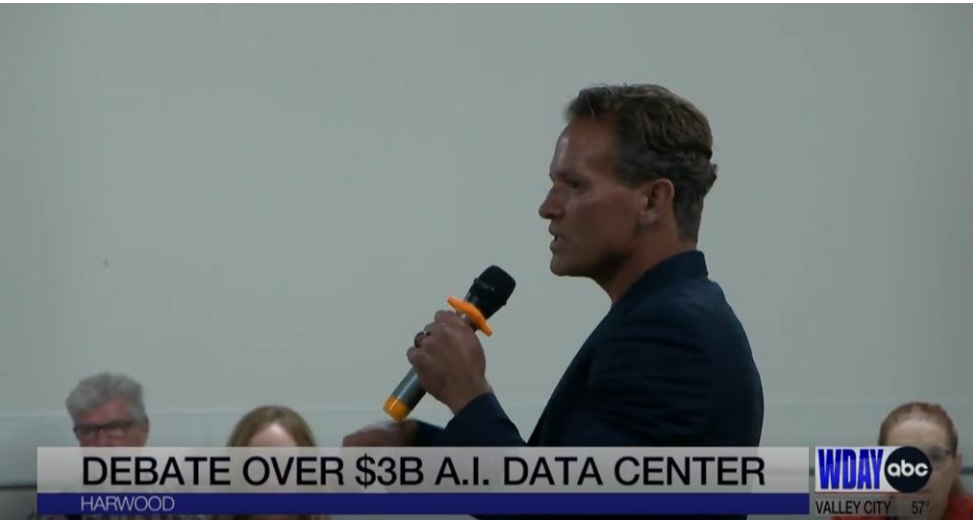
BY AMY DALRYMPLE AND MICHAEL ACHTERLING - JUNE 25, 2026 2:29 PM



Rep. Jonathan Wray, R-Cassaton, chair of the Interim Artificial Intelligence and Data Center Committee, speaks during a press conference at the Capitol on June 25, 2026. At right are former North Dakota University System Chancellor Mark Hagerst and Sen. Mike Robbema, R-Valley City. (Photo by Michael Achterling/North Dakota Monitor)

After questions and shouting, Harwood takes first steps in approving \$3 billion AI data center

The controversial project attracted protesters, and some were kicked out of the meeting. City leaders approved a building permit for the AI center and blocked Fargo's move to annex the site.



DEBATE OVER \$3B A.I. DATA CENTER

HARWOOD

WDAY abc VALLEY CITY 57°



Mike Henke, a farmer in Oliver County, argues in favor of a moratorium on data center construction at a county planning and zoning board meeting on Feb. 26, 2026. (Photo by Jacob Orledge/North Dakota Monitor)

Every Project Has Critics. Communities Deserve Facts.

Steering Committee---
Make decisions based on Facts Not Fear

- NARECs
- MDU
- Geronimo Power
- DCN
- Midco
- NDFU
- NextEra
- Otter Tail Power
- PCND
- WIND
- Applied Digital
- Core Scientific
- Microsoft

Thank You!!!