

NOTICES SUBMITTED TO NEWSPAPERS

~ NOTICE ~

UTILITIES PROPOSE TO BUILD Major New High-Voltage Electric Transmission Lines Between Fargo, ND and Monticello, MN; Brookings, SD and Southeast Twin Cities, MN; Southeast Twin Cities, MN, Rochester, MN and La Crosse, WI;

Xcel Energy, Great River Energy and other utilities propose to build major new electric transmission lines:

- A 250-mile, 345-kV transmission line between Fargo, ND, Alexandria, St. Cloud, and Monticello, MN.
- A 230-mile, 345-kV transmission line between Brookings, SD and Southeast Twin Cities, MN, including a 30-mile, 345-kV transmission line between Marshall, MN and Granite Falls, MN.
- A 150-mile, 345-kV transmission line from Southeast Twin Cities, MN to Rochester, MN to La Crosse, WI.

Transmission Planning

Our proposals were identified as part of a long-range planning study conducted by a number of Minnesota utilities. The long-range study is posted on the web at www.capx2020.com, as are the names of sponsoring utilities and links to their respective web sites. Minnesota utilities also post biennial transmission plans at www.minnelectrans.com.

Project Information

Typically, 345-kV power lines are built using wood or steel double-pole structures or steel single-pole structures, 120 to 150 feet tall, spaced 600 to 1000 feet apart, on a 150-foot-wide right-of-way.

If the lines are authorized by state and federal permitting agencies, the utilities will work with landowners to purchase a property right, called an easement, in order to build the transmission lines. If agreement on terms for an easement cannot be reached, the utilities can then submit the dispute to the eminent domain process.

Public Process

Before these lines can be built, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission must certify that the lines are needed by issuing a **Certificate of Need** and then must determine where the lines should be located by issuing **Route Permits**. Please note that comments regarding Need must be submitted during the Need process; comments regarding Routing must be submitted during the Routing process. As part of the Certificate of Need process, the Department of Commerce will solicit public comment and prepare a report on the environmental consequences of building the new lines.

Minnesota Statutes, §216B.243, and Minnesota Rules, Chapters 4410, 7829 and 7849, govern requests for Certificates of Need for high-voltage transmission lines. Minnesota Statutes, §216E and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4400, govern requests for Route Permits.

Sponsoring utilities plan to file an application for a Certificate of Need in Spring, 2007 for these lines. We will post our Certificate of Need application and other regulatory filings on the web at www.capx2020.com. We will make copies available at public libraries and we can provide a copy upon request.

Both the Certificate of Need and routing processes emphasize public participation. You can get involved at several points in the process, and there will be public meetings and hearings in your area during the coming year. Watch for notices in local papers.

These state agency representatives can help you learn more and add you to mailing lists they administer.

Certificate of Need Process

Bret Eknes
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(651) 201-2236
bret.eknes@state.mn.us
www.puc.state.mn.us/index.htm

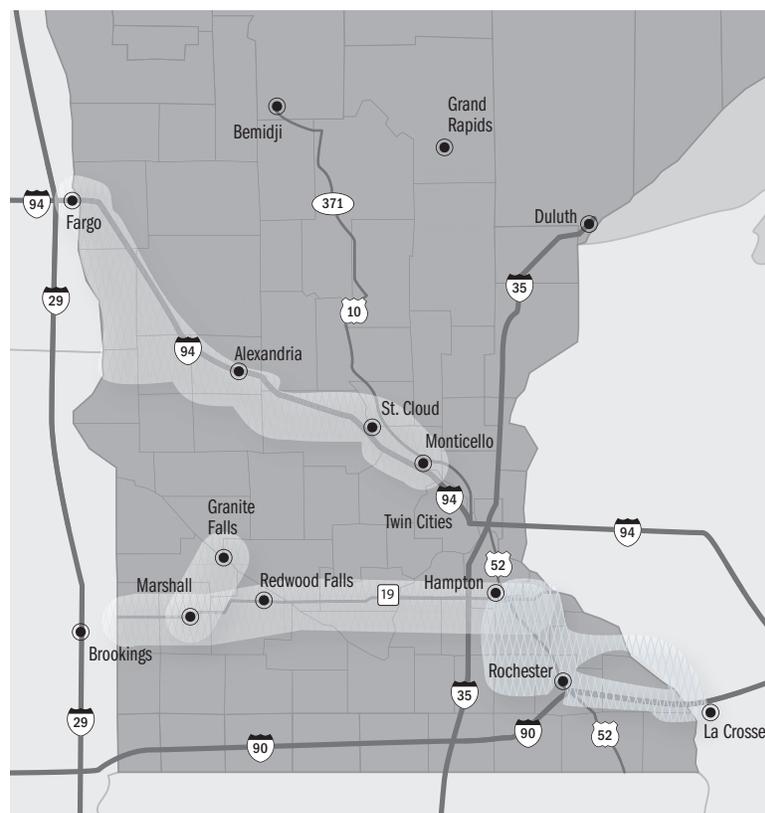
Routing and Environmental Review

Deborah Pile
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(651) 297-2375
deborah.pile@state.mn.us
www.energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us

Please feel welcome to contact us
with your questions.

Brookings—SE Twin Cities

Craig Poorker
PO Box 238
Elk River, MN 55330-0238
888-473-2279
cpoorker@GREnergy.com
www.capx2020.com



CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Dairyland Power Cooperative
Great River Energy • Minnesota Power • Minkota Power Cooperative
Missouri River Energy Services • Otter Tail Power Company • Rochester Public Utilities
Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency • Wisconsin Public Power Inc. • Xcel Energy

**We encourage you to get involved
in these important electric energy decisions.
We look forward to working with you.**

~ PUBLIC NOTICE ~

CapX 2020 Utilities Host Public Meetings In Your Area

The CapX 2020 utilities are holding another round of open houses in late March and early April in seven communities to provide information on the proposed electric transmission line between Brookings, S.D. and the SE Twin Cities. Utility representatives will be available to answer questions about the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) line and substations and to discuss and collect information on the ongoing route development process. The open houses will include maps that display revised corridors from the original notice corridor that was presented last fall.

The Brookings - SE Twin Cities line is one of three 345-kV lines being proposed by CapX 2020, a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region. The initiative is designed to expand the electric infrastructure to ensure continued reliable service, meet the growth in electricity demand and support renewable energy expansion. If approved, the proposed Brookings - SE Twin Cities line would be built in phases to accommodate the needs of the region.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) must approve two permit applications before the lines can be built:

a Certificate of Need (CON) and a Route Permit. The CON, which was filed on Aug. 16, 2007, examines whether the proposed facilities are necessary and what the appropriate size, configuration and timing of the project should be. In a separate Route Permit proceeding, the MN PUC determines the route and design of the line. The CapX 2020 utilities plan to file a Route Permit application with the MN PUC in late summer or fall 2008.

The CapX 2020 utilities also are involved in similar proceedings for new transmission lines with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

If you are unable to attend the upcoming open houses, submit comments by visiting www.CapX2020.com, calling 888-473-2279 or sending an email to brookingsinfo@CapX2020.com.

For additional information on the regulatory process:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
(www.commerce.state.mn.us)

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
(www.puc.state.mn.us)

Open house schedule for Brookings, S.D. - SE Twin Cities 345-kV line:

Wednesday, March 26

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.;
3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Best Western Marshall Inn
1500 East College Dr.
Marshall, MN 56258

Thursday, March 27

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 County Hwy 1
Hendricks, MN 56136

Monday, March 31

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Max's Grill
1325 West Lincoln Ave.
Olivia, MN 56277

Monday, March 31

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Redwood Area Community Center
901 Cook St.
Redwood Falls, MN 56258

Tuesday, April 1

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
1300 East Main St.
New Prague, MN 56071

Wednesday, April 2

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Arlington Community Center
204 Shamrock Dr.
Arlington, MN 55307

Thursday, April 3

3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Dakota County Extension and
Conservation Center
4100 220th St. West, Suite 100
Farmington MN 55024

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CapX 2020 utilities: Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Missouri River Energy Services, Otter Tail Power Company, Rochester Public Utilities, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Wisconsin Public Power Inc. and Xcel Energy.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Xcel Energy and Great River Energy Certificate of Need
Application for Three 345 kV Transmission Lines in Minnesota

PUC Docket ET-2, E-002/CN-06-1115



PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) will hold public hearings in this matter at the dates, times and locations listed below. The purpose of these proceedings is to determine whether the proposed high voltage electric transmission lines are needed and in the public interest.

Proposed Project Description

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy, on behalf of 11 transmission-owning utilities known as the CapX 2020 applicants (applicants), have jointly applied to the MPUC for a Certificate of Need for three 345 kilovolt (kV) and two 161 kV electric transmission lines. The applicants' projects, referred to cumulatively as the CapX 2020 transmission expansion initiative (CapX 2020) proposes transmission lines to connect substations in the following general locations:

- A 250-mile, 345 kV line between Fargo, North Dakota and Monticello, Minnesota.
- A 200-mile, 345 kV line between Brookings, South Dakota and Dakota County (Hampton), Minnesota; including a related 345 kV line between Marshall, Minnesota and Granite Falls, Minnesota.
- A 150-mile, 345 kV line from Dakota County (Hampton), Minnesota, to Rochester, Minnesota and continuing to La Crosse, Wisconsin; including two connecting 161kV lines near Rochester, Minnesota.

The applicants state that the transmission lines are part of a long-term plan intended to strengthen the transmission network to meet demand for electrical power anticipated in Minnesota and surrounding states by 2020, in part to increase access to renewable energy sources. In addition, the project is intended to address service reliability concerns in several communities including Rochester, St. Cloud, the Alexandria area and the Red River Valley.

Purpose and Conduct of Public Hearings

Xcel Energy and Great River Energy, on behalf of the applicants, applied to the MPUC for a Certificate of Need on August 16, 2007. Before any high voltage transmission line project(s) can be constructed in Minnesota, the MPUC must determine that the project(s) is necessary and in the best interest of the state. The Certificate of Need process includes a limited environmental review, public hearings, and evidentiary hearings. The review process typically requires at least 12-months to complete. The public hearings are the only opportunity for the public to appear in person, in Minnesota, to: 1) provide their input on the necessity of this project, 2) provide input on the no-build alternative, and 3) address alternatives (non-route related) for the MPUC to consider (see below for information on written comments). The criteria that the MPUC must address when rendering a final decision are found in Minnesota Statutes 216B.243, Subd.3 & 3a, and Minnesota Rules 7849.0120.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Moorhead, MN

Tuesday, June 17, 2008
5 pm
Horizon Middle School Cafetorium
3601 12th Avenue South

Fergus Falls, MN

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
10 am
MN State Community and
Technical College
Science Lecture Hall, Room S450
1414 College Way

Alexandria, MN

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
5 pm
Alexandria Technical College
Auditorium 205, Main Building
1601 Jefferson Street

Melrose, MN

Thursday, June 19, 2008
10 am
Melrose Area High School Auditorium,
Door 13
546 North 5th Avenue East

Clearwater, MN

Thursday, June 19, 2008, 5 pm
Friday, June 20, 2008, 9 am
Clearwater Township Hall
15015 State Highway 24

Marshall, MN

Monday, June 23, 2008, 5 pm
Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 10 am
Marshall High School Auditorium
400 Tiger Drive

Redwood Falls, MN

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
5 pm
Redwood Falls High School Auditorium
100 George Ramseth Drive

Arlington, MN

Wednesday, June 25, 2008
10 am
Arlington Community Center, Room 2
204 Shamrock Drive

New Prague, MN

Wednesday, June 25, 2008
5 pm
New Prague High School Commons
221 12th Street N.E.

Lakeville, MN

Thursday, June 26, 2008
1 pm and 5 pm
Lakeville South High School
Auditorium
21135 Jacquard Avenue

Cannon Falls, MN

Monday, June 30, 2008
1 pm and 7 pm
Cannon Falls Elementary School
1020 E. Minnesota Street

Winona, MN

Tuesday, July 1, 2008
1 pm and 7 pm
Tau Conference Center
Winona State University West Campus
511 Hilbert Street

Rochester, MN

Wednesday, July 2, 2008
1 pm and 7 pm
John Adams Middle School
Auditorium
1525 31st Street N.W.

Public Hearing

An Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) from the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will hold public hearings for the MPUC to establish a complete and accurate record regarding the need for the proposed CapX 2020 electric transmission line projects. Any person who would like to comment on this matter can do so at any of the scheduled public hearings (above) or in writing to the ALJ (see address below). If you need any reasonable accommodation to enable you to fully participate in these public hearings (i.e. sign language or foreign language interpreter, wheel chair accessibility, or large-print materials) please contact the MPUC at (651) 201-2202 or (800) 657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearing.

Written Public Comment Period Deadline

In order to be considered, written public comments should be filed with the Administrative Law Judge on or before 4:30 p.m. on August 22, 2008. Comments may be filed by U.S. mail (see address below), fax (651) 361-7936, or e-mail to capx.oah@state.mn.us. Written comments are most effective when the following items are included:

1. The section of the CapX proposal you are addressing.
2. Your specific recommendation.
3. The reason for your recommendation.

Administrative Law Judge

Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger will preside at the hearing; written comments can be mailed to her at:

Office of Administrative Hearings
Attn: Beverly Jones Heydinger
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN, 55164-0620

Upon completion of all hearings, the Judge will forward the record of the proceedings (including oral and written public comments), a summary report of the facts in the record, and a recommendation to the MPUC. Thereafter, the MPUC will schedule a final public hearing, likely in the winter of 2008-2009, to determine whether a Certificate of Need should be granted or denied.

Evidentiary Hearing

Time: Monday, July 14, 2008 at 10:00 am (CST)
Location: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Large Hearing Room (3rd Floor)
121 7th Place East
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Following the public hearings as described above, Judge Heydinger will convene the evidentiary hearing, which will continue until all formal Parties to the case have completed presentations of evidence and examined witnesses pursuant to Minn. Rules Chapter 1400. It is anticipated that the evidentiary hearing may continue at the MPUC for three to four weeks. The public is welcome to observe the hearing. Only testimony from formal Parties will be heard at the evidentiary hearing; no public testimony will be taken.

Becoming a Party

Any person who desires to intervene in this matter and be granted Party status must submit a written petition (request to intervene) to Judge Heydinger by July 3, 2008. Persons interested in becoming a Party should review Minn.

Rules 1400.6200 governing intervention. Petitions to intervene received after July 3, 2008 will be considered, but the scope of participation may be limited. Persons who are not Parties may, upon request, be granted the opportunity for limited participation, including the opportunity to testify, offer exhibits and question other parties' witnesses, but will not be deemed a Party by reason of such participation. Persons who are not Parties are encouraged to provide their testimony and exhibits at the public hearings.

Materials Available for Review

All official public materials relating to this matter can be viewed on 'edockets' the MPUC's electronic documents system. To access information in this matter by computer, go to the MPUC's webpage at www.puc.state.mn.us, click 'CapX 2020' under Quick Links, and follow the guidance for accessing edockets. The Application (received date 8/16/07) and the Environmental Report (received date 3/31/08) are key documents describing the proposed project. The Environmental Report describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, alternatives to the project and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. Persons without internet access may contact the MPUC staff listed below to request documents of interest or assistance in identifying appropriate documents. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide such documents by mail. The Application, Environmental Report, applicable procedural rules, and the pre-filed testimony of all parties will be available for public review at the hearings.

The applicable agency rule in this matter, Minn. Rule Chapter 7849, is available to review online at <https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/pubs/>, and will be available at the public hearings.

Inquiries, Project Contact

The Commission has designated Bret Eknas of the MPUC staff as its public advisor in this matter. He may be contacted by phone at (651) 201-2236, by email at bret.eknas@state.mn.us, or in writing to: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147. The public advisor has been appointed to assist and advise persons interested in taking part in the proceedings. However, the public advisor is not authorized to give legal advice. Public comments on this matter should be sent to the ALJ as described above.

Forthcoming Route Permit Application and Routing Process

Please note, that specific routes the proposed transmission lines may follow have not yet been proposed by the CapX 2020 utilities. The transmission line routes will be reviewed through a separate MPUC permitting process expected to begin in the fall of 2008. Additional public hearings on routing of the lines will be announced when the route applications have been filed with the MPUC. The public hearings that are the subject of this notice are not intended to address routing related issues. A route permit cannot be issued until the project is determined to be in the public's interest and needed by the PUC.

Eminent Domain Authority

If the PUC issues a Certificate of Need in this current matter, and also issues a route permit, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy may exercise the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for the project pursuant to Minnesota Statute 216E.12 and Minnesota Statute 117.

~ PUBLIC NOTICE ~

CapX 2020 utilities present route options at public meetings

The CapX 2020 utilities are hosting nine open houses in your area on the proposed high voltage transmission line between Brookings, SD and SE Twin Cities. The open houses will include maps that display two proposed route options. Please stop by anytime to provide your comments on the two options. No formal presentation is scheduled.

The utilities plan to file an application for a Route Permit for the Brookings, SD-SE Twin Cities transmission line project with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late fall.

This line is one of the three 345-kilovolt lines proposed by CapX 2020, a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owned utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region. The initiative is designed to expand the electricity infrastructure to ensure continued reliable service, meet the growth in

electricity demand and support renewable energy expansion.

The CapX 2020 utilities are also involved in similar proceedings for new transmission lines with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

If you are unable to attend an open house, submit comments by visiting www.CapX2020.com, calling 888-473-2279 or sending an e-mail to brookingsinfo@capx2020.com.

For additional information on the regulatory process:

Minnesota Department of Commerce
(www.commerce.state.mn.us)

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
(www.puc.state.mn.us)

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
(www.puc.sd.gov)

Open house schedule:

Tuesday, August 19

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 Lincoln County Highway 1
Hendricks MN 56136

4 - 7 p.m.

Best Western Marshall Inn
1500 East College Drive
Marshall MN 56258

Wednesday, August 20

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Best Western Marshall Inn
1500 East College Drive
Marshall MN 56258

4 - 7 p.m.

Redwood Area Community Center
901 Cook Street
Redwood Falls MN 56283

Thursday, August 21

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Arlington Community Center
204 Shamrock Drive
Arlington MN 55307

Tuesday, August 26

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4 - 7 p.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1300 East Main Street
New Prague MN 56071

Wednesday, August 27

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4 - 7 p.m.

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
20800 Kendrick Avenue
Lakeville MN 55044

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