

**ROUTING WORKGROUP
INVITATIONS AND SUMMARIES**



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Greetings,

Enclosed is material for the CapX 2020 Work Group meeting we've scheduled in your area in February and early March.

These meetings will be very beneficial in helping us identify the most important routing criteria in your area and identifying the best location for the route we will propose to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in late 2008.

If you can attend the work group, please RSVP by calling 1-888-473-2279 or emailing Randy Fordice at rfordice@GREnergy.com or Craig Poorker at cpoorker@GREnergy.com. You can also confirm your attendance through our Web site at www.CapX2020.com; just click the Contact Us link.

If you have any questions about the work groups, please call the number above.

Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you.

Regards,

Randy Fordice and Craig Poorker
CapX 2020 Brookings, S.D. to SE Twin Cities Team



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Dear Work Group Participant:

On behalf of the CapX 2020 utilities, thank you for participating in the upcoming work group meeting in your area. The meeting will include a short presentation to discuss the agenda and goals for the meeting. The remainder of the meeting will be spent in small groups viewing maps and identifying specific issues of concern in your area. We expect the session to take approximately 3 hours as there is a great deal of information to cover. We are asking you and your fellow participants for input on several issues:

- ◆ What routing criteria are most important in your area.
- ◆ Potential corridors we should consider for the transmission line location.
- ◆ Issues that are specific to your area that we should consider when analyzing route options.

Before attending the work group meeting, please think about the routing criteria on the attached fact sheet that are most important to you, your neighbors and your community. Please come to the work group ready to discuss your ideas and potential areas for new transmission lines that meet those criteria. Feel free to mark-up the attached map of your area and bring a list of comments and concerns to the work group meeting.

Work group meetings will specifically focus on routing criteria and routing issues. CapX 2020 utilities will continue to hold other public meetings in the region to discuss energy needs and alternatives. If issues unrelated to routing arise during work group meetings, additional meetings/discussions can be scheduled.

Dinner will be provided.

The work group in your area will meet:

DATE: March 4, 2008

TIME: 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

LOCATION: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New Prague, MN

PARTICIPANTS: Agencies, landowners, and other groups with interests in the vicinity of the location identified above.

GOAL: Work group participants identify important resources in the project area and establish routing criteria for the CapX Partners to consider in the routing process.

CapX 2020 Background

CapX 2020 is a partnership of 11 utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region that operate high voltage electric transmission lines. The utilities' studies show that the current transmission line system does not have enough capacity to meet the electric demands of a growing population or deliver large amounts of renewable energy to the transmission line system. Details of the project are available at <http://www.capx2020.com>. The work group you will be participating in will be led by Great River Energy, one of the 11 utilities in the CapX 2020 partnership.

Key Permits Required in Minnesota for a High Voltage Transmission Line

The first step for a large project, such as the CapX 2020 projects, is to file an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) explaining the need for the project. This application is called the Certificate of Need (CON) and was filed with the PUC in August 2007 requesting three 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines to increase transmission capacity. The application is currently under review, and a decision on the CON is expected in late 2008 or early 2009. Prior to the CON filing, the utilities sent letters to landowners and local governments located in broad 'notice corridors.'

The next large step for the project is to file a route permit application for the transmission line. In order to submit the route permit application to the PUC, the CapX partners will need to study a minimum of two transmission line route options. The purpose of the work group meeting is to begin the process of narrowing the broad 'notice corridors' into smaller corridors and then, later in 2008, to potential routes. The narrowing of the 'notice corridors' to potential routes is what we call the "routing process." The CapX 2020 utilities plan to file a Route Permit Application with the PUC in fall 2008.

Public Involvement in the Routing Process

The transmission line routing process incorporates as much input from local residents, governments and state agencies as possible. The ideas generated and information gathered during the work group sessions will be considered when we narrow the 'notice corridors' into smaller corridors, and again when we identify routes. The work groups and the public will provide the CapX partners with input at each stage of the route selection process. Based on information gathered at work groups and open houses, the CapX partners will select routes for inclusion in the Route Permit Application.

Because local involvement is critical to the success of this project, work group meetings and public open houses will be scheduled to limit conflicts with the planting season as much as possible.

Thank you again for helping the CapX 2020 utilities identify the best routes for the proposed transmission lines. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact us at 1-888-473-2279.

Please complete and return this RSVP and Survey Form
to the address below by *February 25, 2008*.

FOLD HERE

Great River Energy
P.O. Box 800
Elk River, MN 55330

CapX 2020
Great River Energy
P.O. Box 238
Elk River, MN 55330

TAPE HERE (DO NOT STAPLE)

Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below. Your responses will help us prepare for the small group discussions at the Routing Work Group meeting. **Thank you.**

I will be attending the Routing Work Group Meeting in: Lakeville, March 6

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- Visual / Aesthetic resources
- Proximity to residences
- Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- Water resources (wetlands, river crossings)
- Biological resources (wildlife habitat, birds, native prairie)
- Historic and cultural sites
- Radio, television or GPS interference
- Noise
- Health and safety
- Cost/electric bill increases
- Other: _____

What questions would you like addressed during the Routing Work Group Meeting?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Representing (Optional): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone (Optional): _____

Email Address (Optional): _____

CapX2020

Delivering electricity you can rely on

March 18, 2008

Dear Work Group Participant,

On behalf of the CapX 2020 Brookings-SE Twin Cities team, thank you for taking the time to help us identify and confirm some of the transmission line routing criteria that are important to you and to your community. The data collected at these meetings will help us in developing our route permit application to be filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission later this fall.

As many of you commented during the meeting, it is not an easy task; nor is it one we take lightly. We hope that you found the meetings as valuable as we did. We appreciate the input everyone provided and hope you will continue to work with us as the project moves forward.

The enclosed information contains a summary of the information we collected from participants at the work groups, as well as some common themes across the project area. We'll be posting this report on the CapX 2020 website, as well as answers to the frequently asked questions (FAQs) that we heard at several work group meetings. The information you provided will help us develop a proposed route we think will provide the greatest benefit to the region, while making the least impact on the areas involved.

As we noted in the meetings, please stay involved in the process. We will hold open houses in your area in late March and early April where we will present some narrowed corridor options that consider the information we gathered. We expect our next round of work group meetings to be held in late May or early June and we hope to see you there.

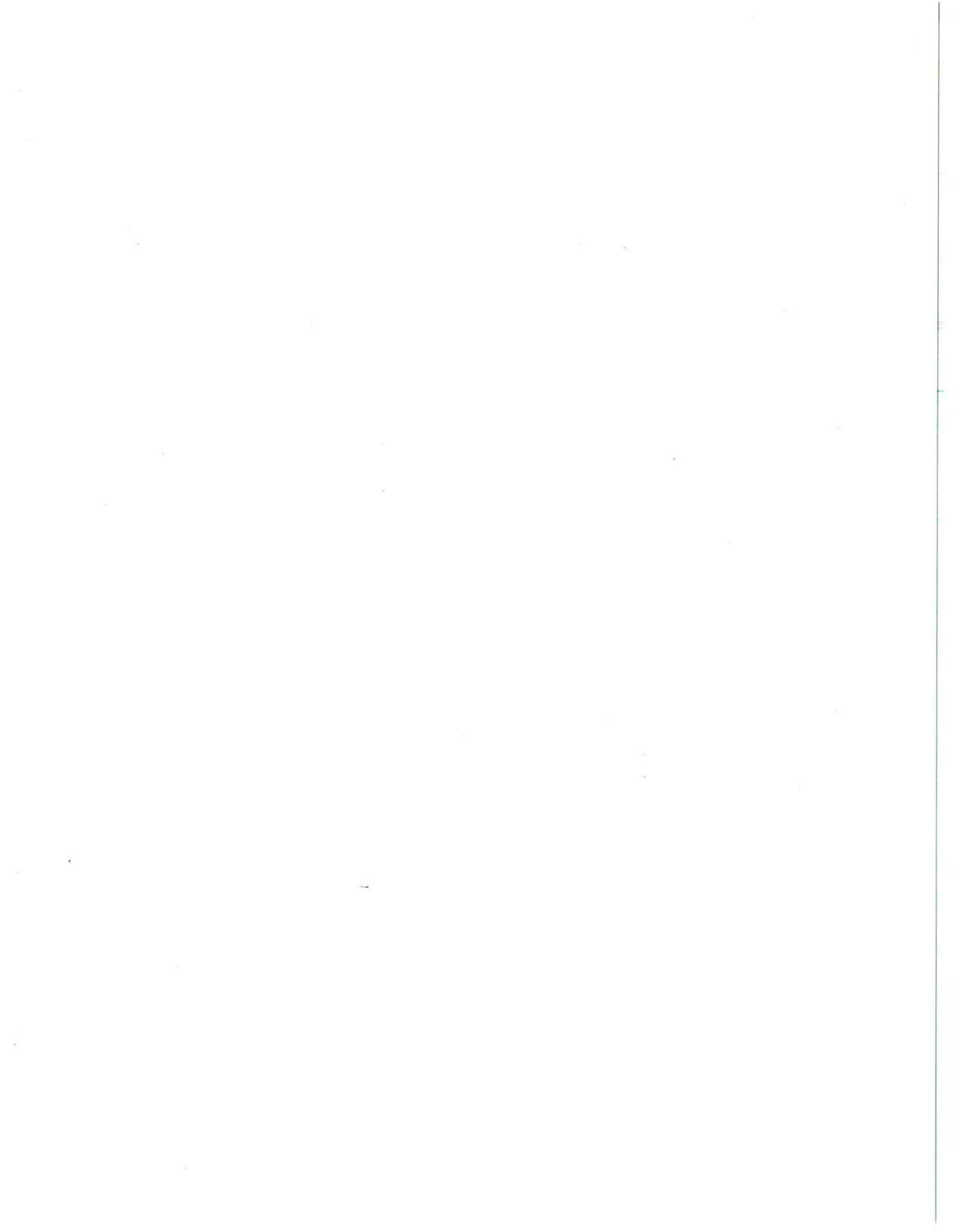
We will post all schedules of public meetings and open houses on our Web site at www.CapX2020.com, as well as advertise them in newsletters and newspapers. Of course, if you ever have questions about the project or the process, feel free to call us at 1-888-473-2279.

Thanks again for helping us with this important project!

Best Regards,



Craig Poorker
Routing Team Lead
CapX 2020 Brookings-SE Twin Cities
763-241-2367
cpoorker@grenergy.com



COMMON WORK GROUP THEMES

The following list captures some of the common themes we heard throughout the eight workgroups we conducted in February and March. Each work group identified additional data, data corrections and information resources at all the meeting, which will be reflected on the maps at the open houses. The detailed lists following this summary are the specific concerns recorded at each meeting.

Human Settlement

Participants discussed their concern about proposing routes that would be too close to existing homes, as well as where future residential developments are planned. Generally, people identified a variety of land use plans available for reference when making decisions on route locations. Additionally, participants discussed importance of aesthetics in the project area and preferred minimizing impacts to the scenic byways, scenic views and scenic overlooks. Participants also discussed creative designs that maximize pole spans, pole colors and use of trees to blend structures into the natural environment to reduce the impact to the aesthetics of the area. Recreational areas in the project area include existing and proposed parks and ballparks, golf courses, hunting, fishing and community festival sites.

Public Health and Safety

Participants discussed stray voltage primarily associated with agricultural and livestock operations. Participants noted several municipal airports and local private airstrips used primarily for crop dusting in the area and to maintain a safe distance. Additionally, many participants expressed their concerns about the potential health effects associated with electric and magnetic fields (EMF).

Land-based Economies

Participants had significant concerns about farmland and agricultural operations along the project corridor. There were also many instances where participants pointed out other land uses, such as mining operations, recreational land uses, and use of land for potential development. Areas where drainage and irrigation tile are in place were important throughout the area.

Archeological and Historic Resources

Minnesota is a state that prides itself on preserving its heritage, and many of the workgroups reflected that. Numerous historic churches, cemeteries, tribal lands, sacred sites, burial mounds, and archaeological resources and other areas that are culturally significant to people in the area were identified.

Natural Environments

There are significant natural areas within the project area and participants preferred minimizing impacts to these areas. Natural environment areas participants noted included the Minnesota River, prairies, grasslands, National Wildlife Refuges, wildlife, and lands actively being restored by individuals or agencies.

Design Options

We heard at the meetings that urbanization and planned development are important to keep in mind in terms of energy needs, renewable fuel opportunities and transmission structure designs. Additionally, participants expressed interest in designing transmission lines with ongoing maintenance, future transmission expansion and opportunities to mitigate currently congested transmission line corridors in mind. Participants stressed renewable energy includes prioritizing access and availability of local wind power. We also heard to keep future growth opportunities into account when routing the transmission line and siting substations. Minimizing costs and maximizing efficiency of the transmission line, the route and substation areas were also preferred. Additionally, several individuals suggested maximizing the spans of the transmission line to minimize impacts to the variety of land uses across the corridor.

Use of Existing Rights-of-Way and Field Lines

There was significant support for paralleling existing rights-of-way when possible, particularly existing roadways and existing transmission lines. Where roadways or existing transmission lines aren't available, we heard support for following quarter-section, section lines, property lines, natural division lines and field boundaries to minimize impact on agriculture. Other rights-of-way that were mentioned were railroads and pipelines. Potential routes and locations were marked and discussed. There was special interest in certain areas to coordinate with future transmission lines, railroad, roadway, and public service projects.

River crossings

The proposed project area will cross the Minnesota River in three areas, one near Granite Falls, one near the Franklin area and again to the east near the Henderson and Le Sueur areas. Participants at several meetings throughout the project area provided much information concerning the crossings, including cultural resources, potential impacts to aesthetics, wildlife (animals and plants), land based economies (such as mining operations near the river) and recreation. Several also identified potential construction challenges and considerations for the Project. Participants also provided detailed information about potential locations for crossings that are now being evaluated.

WORK GROUP SESSION #1 – MORTON, MINNESOTA
February 19th, 2008

Human Settlement

- Proximity to existing homes south of Redwood Falls was discussed.
- Agriculture and farming includes cattle farms, croplands.
- A new trail along Highway 67 from Redwood Falls to Sleepy Eye was identified.
- Recreation areas noted included golf courses, state parks, and SNAs.
- RIM/CREP (conservation easement) areas were identified.

Public Health and Safety

- Discussion on impact to airports and private airstrips.

Land-Based Economies

- Agriculture considerations include drain tiles and extensive open ditches.
- Active mining includes granite and aggregates near the river and potential for future mining development.

Archeological and Historic Resources

- Tribal lands, sacred sites, historic sites and rural cemeteries were identified.
- Cedar Mountain's importance was noted.
- Natural environments.
- Rare plants, threatened and endangered species and tree clearing were noted.
- RIM/CREP (conservation easement) areas were identified.
- Municipal wells and existing ditch systems were identified.

Substation Considerations

- Potential substation sites were noted.
- Criteria discussed for substation siting in the Franklin area included:
 - Consider locating near county roads or paved roads for access and construction.
 - Consider locating where transmission lines intersect to minimize infrastructure that would be needed if it were located further away.
 - Consider an area with flat ground to minimize grading but also minimizes potential aesthetic impacts.
 - If possible, find a willing landowner who wants to sell their land.
 - Try not to locate near recreational areas used for hunting that are away from primary roads, since it would become too much of a temptation to shoot at in a remote area.

Cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the line

- Rock outcrop areas to consider during construction were noted.
- MnDOT project coordination.
- Electrical upgrades, local energy (wind power) availability.
- Discussed Farm Service Agency (FSA) guidelines, in particular Participants noted permitting requirements of FSA mortgaged land.

WORK GROUP SESSION #2 – HENDERSON, MINNESOTA

February 20th, 2008

Human Settlement

- Land use discussion was centered largely on townships, particularly in Sibley County.
- Future trail expansion was discussed as important to future recreational plans in the area.
- Birding, hunting, hiking, and Carver Rapids were sited as recreational interests.
- Revegetation as it relates to visual impacts was discussed.
- Participants noted the USFWS Refuge was looking to expand south.

Land-Based Economies

- Mining locations near Le Sueur were identified.
- Mining locations were identified as potential crossing opportunities.
- New Minnesota River Interpretive Center location was identified.

Natural Environments

- Avoidance of riverbeds and rivers that have natural and recreational value, including the Rush River, was discussed.
- Suggested using the book Native Plant Communities and Rare Species of the Minnesota River Valley from the DNR for information about species in the river valley.
- Revegetation approach to different habitat types was discussed, particularly bank stabilization.

Design Options

- Participants suggested crossing at a location with gentler slope for aesthetics, erosion, minimizing tree removal, engineering cost savings and potentially fewer environmental impacts (including floodplains).
- Jessenland Township was identified by several participants as an area where the floodplain shifts frequently.

Cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the line

- Undergrounding feasibility was discussed, along with construction issues with bedrock.
- Easement compensation process was explained.

Additional Topics of Discussion

- Project Riverbend was suggested as a resource for information on the river.
- Utilize Friends of Minnesota Valley as a resource.
- Appreciation of ongoing open communication with public was noted.
- Access for renewable energy projects and transmission line capacity was discussed.

WORK GROUP SESSION #3 – MARSHALL, MINNESOTA
February 25th, 2008

Human Settlement

- Residential and commercial/industrial development areas north and south of Marshall were discussed.
- Emphasis in this area on farming and productive farm lands are central cultural values.
- Identified industrial development north and commercial development north and south of Marshall.
- Mining locations along the Redwood River were discussed.

Public Health and Safety

- Discussion on impact to airports and private airstrips, particularly Marshall and Granite Falls airports.

Land-Based Economies

- Livestock operations include a 5,000+ hog farm in Lincoln County.
- Mining along Redwood River and tourism in Redwood County were discussed.
- Archeological and Historic Resources.
- Identified historic orchards and town halls.

Natural Environments

- Corridor options north of Arco, MN due to the location of Camden State Park.
- Avoidance of restoration areas along the Redwood River was discussed.

Design Options

- The potential Hazel Creek Substation location and additional site locations was discussed.
- Suggested minimizing the size of the substation parcel that would be acquired to the extent possible.

Cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the line

- Township-owned road maintenance and repair was discussed.
- Discussed potential for construction and maintenance cost reduction by combining lines.
- Easement compensation process was explained.
- Ways to minimize cost of the project and to ratepayers were discussed.

Additional Topics of Discussion

- Staying south of the Redwood River for corridor options.
- The benefits of the project to renewable energy were discussed.

WORK GROUP SESSION #4 – FAIRFAX, MINNESOTA

February 27th, 2008

Human Settlement:

- In addition to traditional agriculture and cultural resources in the project area, organic farms are valued in the area
- Fishing and canoeing were identified as recreational activities in the area.
- New cell towers are nearby public services that were identified.
- Transportation projects include possible road realignment near Henderson and replacement bridge over the railroad.
- Permitting requirements when crossing state roadways was discussed.
- A New Prague roundabout is possible, most likely in town.

Substation Considerations

- Discussed land acquisition near Franklin Substation for expansion.

Land-Based Economies

- Mining areas were identified on the southern reaches of the Minnesota River.
- Cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the line.
- Participants identified shallow bedrock locations along the river and questioned difficulty of construction.
- Discussed self-supporting structures to minimize use of guy wires.
- Easement compensation process was explained.

WORK GROUP SESSION #5 – OLIVIA, MINNESOTA

February 28th, 2008

Human Settlement

- Discussed road expansion and construction along the Highway 212 corridor.
- Discussed residential and industrial development near Glencoe.
- Line clearance was discussed and several potential highway crossings were identified.
- Allie and Preston lakes were identified as recreational lakes.

Public Health and Safety

- Various communication towers were noted.

Land-Based Economies

- Identified ethanol plant located in the project area.
- Local grain elevators, egg production, and a sugar beet cooperative were discussed as the primarily economic drivers in the area.

Archaeological and Historic Resources

- Hawk Creek was identified as a historic area.
- Local cemeteries were identified.

Natural Environments

- Many wetlands to consider in the area, especially in McLeod County.
- Environmental lakes were identified north of Boon Lake.
- Pheasants Forever lands identified.
- Suggestion to use CRP lands for a route.

Design options

- A participant suggested considering use of gold conductor they heard about for longer spans and more future capacity.
- Routes that may improve local reliability were discussed.

Construction and Maintenance

- Construction damage and maintenance of township roads was discussed.

Additional Topics of Discussion

- Easement compensation process was explained. Crop yield loss was discussed in relation to easement payments.
- Participants questioned why the proposal along the alternate corridor is proposed as a single circuit and not a double circuit line.

WORK GROUP SESSION #6 – ARLINGTON, MINNESOTA

March 3rd, 2008

Human Settlement

- Potential development was identified north of Gaylord.
- Pioneer Power Association's Fall Festival and spring swap meet, Big Woods remnants, and scenic vistas are important cultural values.
- Livestock operations in the area include cattle and hogs.
- Important businesses in the area include Cambria and an egg production operation.
- Public services discussed and identified included: Television, radio, local restaurants, and meeting facilities.
- Recreation in the area included the Gaylord Sportsman's Club.
- Identified plans to expand capacity and speed on rail line from Redwood Falls to Chaska.
- Scenic vistas were identified northwest and southwest of Henderson.

Public Health and Safety

- Aerial application (crop dusting) was noted as an activity to consider in design.
- Discussion of transmission lines and the effects on pacemakers.

Land-Based Economies

- Discussion of avoiding center pivot irrigation.
- Archaeological and Historic Resources.
- Discussion of burial mounds near Swan Lake and Faxon Townships.

Natural Environments

- Wooded areas are higher quality habitat – consider Big Woods remnants.
- Importance of Rush River was discussed.
- Crossing RIM land was discussed.

Design Options

- Minimize energy losses to the Twin Cities.

Substation Considerations

- Participants suggested renting extra property around the substation footprint back to the landowners.
- Use topography for substation aesthetics.

Cost of construction, operating, and maintaining the line

- Angle structures were discussed.
- Question on whether there are new construction techniques available for crossing the river.

Additional Topics of Discussion

- Height from ground to lowest wire.
- Lifespan of the transmission line poles.
- Discussion of the Minnesota Valley – Blue Lake 230 kV line and potential to upgrade.

WORK GROUP SESSION #7 – NEW PRAGUE, MINNESOTA March 4th, 2008

Human Settlement

- Urbanization specified in Scott County.
- Sparsely populated areas to the south in Rice County, land value and orderly annexation were discussed.
- Blending structures into natural environment – specifically out of view from Interstate 35 was discussed.
- Rush Creek, High Island Creek, Blakely bluff lands, and horse training specified as valued cultural elements.
- Discussed location of future parks near High Island Creek and Blakely Bluffs. Identified Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park and Doyle Kennefick Regional Park.
- Future bypass around New Prague as well as a sewage treatment plan were identified.
- Metropolitan Council has Regional trail corridor information.
- Discussed identifying scenic vistas on the maps.

Archeological and Historic Resources

- Local century farms were identified in addition to historic churches and cemeteries.
- Burial mounds were identified on private property.

Natural Environments

- Virgin forest and mesic oak forest protection and re-vegetation were discussed.

- Topographical challenges and opportunities for construction were discussed.
- Coordination with SWCD was discussed.
- Minimizing fragmentation of habitat and natural corridors was discussed.
- Rare skinks were identified as possible species to consider.
- Flyways for birds were discussed.

Design Options

- Regional reliability for Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative was identified as a factor to consider.

Use or Paralleling of Existing Right of Way

- County lines, natural corridors, trails (Blakely Bluffs), straight crossing, roadways (primary), electrical lines (secondary) were discussed. Opportunities for potential routes were marked and discussed.

River Crossing Considerations

- Potential crossing locations were identified, focusing on existing crossing corridors. A crossing near a new wastewater treatment plant near Jordan and areas further south of Belle Plaine were identified.

Substation Considerations

- The importance of soil resistivity for safety (stray voltage) was discussed. Soil types identified included wet clay (heavy soil) and loamy soil were the better soil types identified. Sandy soils are not as ideal for substation sites.
- Participants suggested less local reliability benefit on the northern portion of the substation search area due to a substation that was recently constructed nearby.
- Potential opportunities near an existing substation west of the Helena Substation search area.
- Participants identified advantages to staying in the southern portion of the Helena search area; the area was more sparsely populated and larger parcels of land are available for siting.
- Placement of the substation at edge of fields, near paved roads, near existing transmission lines, and flat topography were criteria suggested.

Cost of construction, operating, and maintaining the line

- Types of erosion control during construction were discussed.
- Participants suggested identifying an approach to locate and repair drain tile during construction.

Additional Topics of Discussion

- Utilize Friends of Minnesota Valley as a resource.
- Utilizing future wastewater treatment plant areas as crossings was discussed.

WORK GROUP SESSION #8 – LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA
 March 6th, 2008

Human Settlement

- Townships, property values, schools, churches and distance from homes was discussed.
- Commercial, residential and residential development is trending south from the Twin Cities.

- Visual impacts in bluff lands and rolling hills in Webster Township were discussed.
- Participants suggested consulting Scott County SE Comprehensive Plan for natural corridors and the Big Woods focus area handbook plans.
- Old Nike Missile control site, farmland, cemeteries, Castle Rock, Farmland and Natural Area Protection program, open spaces, water, wetlands, model plane airstrips, forested areas, churches, schools and orchards were identified as culturally valuable.
- Suggested coordination with County Extension Office on wells used and capped, junkyards and contaminated sites.
- Public services discussed include underground gas and phone and a Boy Scout camp.
- There are future road improvements and construction planned near Cannon Falls and Northfield.
- Future biomass production and the effects of the transmission line on biomass development were discussed.

Public Health and Safety

- Discussion on impact to airports and private airstrips, particularly crop-dusting activities.
- Discussed potential health effects associated with electric and magnetic fields (EMF).

Land-Based Economies

- Considerations for prime farmland, gravel mining, local vegetable farms, center pivot irrigation, and organic farms were discussed.

Natural Environments

- Big Woods focus area should be consulted for future restoration plans.
- Discussed potential to avoid conservation corridors and SWCD lands due to the benefit to soil and water composition, water conservation, aquifer regeneration, and water quality.
- Potential impacts to nesting season, wetlands, forested areas, and grasslands were identified as concerns.
- Coordinate with SWCD projects in Webster Township and wetlands and prairie restoration.
- Consider partners for federal wildlife program easements and long term agreements.
- Rare plants and many protected animals discussed.

Rare and Unique Natural Resources

- Castle Rock formation and endangered species.

Design Options

- Erosion restrictions on slopes and bluffs were discussed.

Substation Considerations

- Southern part of Lake Marion search area was marked as potential substation location.

Cost of construction, operating, and maintaining the line

- Maintenance and winter construction in CRP acres and new gold conductor technology for more capacity discussed.

Additional Topics of Discussion

- Regulation process and easement discussion.
- Continue transparent public outreach.

Dear Work Group Participant:

To those of you who participated in our first round of work groups in February and March, a heartfelt thank you. Your work has been a tremendous help to us in revising our initial notice corridors.

To those of you receiving a work group invitation for the first time, thank you for offering to help us identify potential routes and issues of concern in your area.

A couple of notes about the work groups. Because we only have a few hours and a lot of maps and information to go through, the format for the work groups leads to a tight timeline in the work group meeting. For those of you that have questions about the overall project, we'll be available after the meeting. We will spend as much time as you would like explaining the reasons we propose the project, the public process and how you can participate in that process. Feel free to contact us prior to the meeting as well.

The work groups are scheduled to be three hours in length. During that time, we will review criteria the state requires us to consider when proposing a route for a new transmission line. Please refer to the enclosed fact sheet to review those criteria.

After discussing the criteria we will review aerial maps that contain route segments and other information we've collected over the past year about the area under study. Since you live and work in the area and have detailed knowledge of that, we will review the area maps and identify the various criteria in the specific locations we're reviewing. We will use that information, as well as information we receive from our own field work and other meetings with local officials and state agencies, to develop our proposed route alternatives.

After all of the work group meetings are complete we will send a recap of all the meetings to those who participated.

If you have any questions about the work groups, please feel free to contact us at our toll-free number: 1-888-473-2279.

Please RSVP by calling that number or by mailing us the enclosed postcard. We need an accurate attendance count so we can plan for staffing and meals.

Thank you again for helping us with this important project!

Regards,

Craig Poorker
CapX 2020
Brookings-SE Twin Cities Project

Please plan on attending one of the following work groups:

May 28
Location TBD
Address TBD
Elko/New Market
11:00 am-2:00 pm

May 28
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
20800 Kenrick Ave
Lakeville
5:00-8:00 pm

May 29
Arlington Community Center
204 Shamrock Dr.
Arlington
11:00 am-2:00 pm

May 29
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1300 E. Main St.
New Prague
5:00-8:00 pm

June 2
Winthrop City Hall
305 North Main
Winthrop
11:00 am-2:00 pm

June 3
Redwood Area Community Center
901 Cook St.
Redwood Falls
11:00 am-2:00 pm

June 4
Best Western Marshall Inn
1500 E. College Dr.
Marshall
11:00 am-2:00 pm; 5:00-8:00 pm

June 5
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 County Highway 1
Hendricks
11:00 am-2:00 pm

LOCATION SPECIFIC POST CARD TO BE INCLUDED IN EACH LETTER

To RSVP - Please return this postcard to or call the toll-free number at 1-888-473-2279.

You're invited to attend the CapX 2020 Brookings-SE Twin Cities work group at:

LOCATION

ADDRESS

DATE

TIME

(Checkbox) I Will attend

Elko/New Market

Lakeville

Arlington

New Prague

Winthrop

Redwood Falls

Marshall (AM)

Marshall (PM)

Hendricks

Name _____

(Checkbox) I can not attend but would like to attend a different meeting; please send me the schedule

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Meals will be provided. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Dear Work Group Participant:

There were some printing issues with the mailings that were sent last week where some of you didn't receive the enclosed fact sheet and others only received a one-sided copy of the letter without the dates and locations on the reverse side. I apologize for any confusion and inconvenience.

Enclosed is a list of all work groups. You may RSVP via the postcard in the original mailing, by calling the toll-free number at 1-888-473-2279 or contact us through the web site at www.CapX2020.com.

Also enclosed is a Transmission Line Routing Criteria Fact Sheet that was noted in the original mailing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. Again, I'm sorry for the confusion, and we look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Best Regards,

Craig Poorker
Routing Team Lead
CapX 2020 Brookings-Twin Cities

Please plan on attending one of the following work groups:

May 28
Elko Speedway
23650 France Avenue
Elko New Market
11:00 am-2:00 pm

May 28
Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites
20800 Kenrick Avenue
Lakeville
5:00-8:00 pm

May 29
Arlington Community Center
204 Shamrock Drive
Arlington
11:00 am-2:00 pm

May 29
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1300 E. Main Street
New Prague
5:00-8:00 pm

June 2
Winthrop City Hall
305 North Main
Winthrop
11:00 am-2:00 pm

June 3
Redwood Area Community Center
901 Cook Street
Redwood Falls
11:00 am-2:00 pm

June 4
Best Western Marshall Inn
1500 E. College Drive
Marshall
11:00 am-2:00 pm; 5:00-8:00 pm

June 5
Midwest Center for Wind Energy
2390 County Highway 1
Hendricks
11:00 am-2:00 pm



Delivering electricity you can rely on

June 18, 2008

Dear Work Group Participant:

Thank you once again for being a part of the routing process for the Brookings to SE Twin Cities CapX 2020 project. Your input and knowledge of the area is invaluable and will greatly assist our team in developing the route we will propose to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission later this year.

Your participation, input from local and state governments and a host of environmental and engineering expertise has helped guide the process of narrowing a 12-mile-wide area into potential route segments. The combination of these efforts will, we believe, enable us to propose the best possible route options that will help us deliver renewable energy onto the electric system while also ensuring we have reliable electricity to meet growth throughout the region.

During the first work group session, we asked participants to identify environmental and routing criteria throughout the corridor, both what the state requires us to review, and also what residents in the area value. At the most recent session, we reviewed potential route segments, based on all of the information we've collected to this point.

Work Group II Recap:

- Reviewed and connected potential route segments throughout the project area
- Noted preferences and comments regarding proposed segments
- Discussed new ideas for potential routes and identified any missing criteria
- Discussed the importance of avoiding homes, impacts to agriculture and sensitive environmental resources

We encourage you to stay involved with this important project, including upcoming milestones:

- Certificate of Need Public Hearings—June 17 through July 2 (schedule available at www.CapX2020.com)
- Written comments to Administrative Law Judge regarding Certificate of Need application, due by August 22
- Upcoming open houses—Letter will be sent in late July or early August with schedule (also posted at www.CapX2020.com)
- Route Application permit filing in Fall 2008 where we will present at least two route options to the Public Utilities Commission; the process is expected to last approximately one year.

If you have any questions about the work groups or the process as it moves forward, please feel free to contact us at our toll-free number: 1-888-473-2279 or at brookingsinfo@CapX2020.com.

Thank you again for your help with this important project.

Best Regards,

Craig Poorker
CapX 2020
Brookings-SE Twin Cities
www.CapX2020.com

P.O. Box 238
Elk River, MN 55330-0238

To RSVP - Please return this postcard or call the toll-free number at 1-888-473-2279.

You're invited to attend the CapX 2020 Brookings-SE Twin Cities routing work group

I Will attend

Elko/New Market

Lakeville

Arlington

New Prague

Winthrop

Redwood Falls

Marshall (AM)

Marshall (PM)

Hendricks

Name _____

Meals will be provided. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

www.capx2020.com



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CapX 2020/Great River Energy

Attn: Krista Benjamin

12300 Elm Creek Blvd.

Maple Grove, MN 55369



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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

Transmission Line Routing Criteria

The CapX 2020 utilities are working with local residents, landowners, state agencies and other stakeholders to discuss and identify routing criteria for the three proposed 345-kV lines. The State of Minnesota has established set criteria that must be considered by utilities when determining potential routes for transmission lines.

The State of Minnesota will use the following factors¹ to decide where to locate the transmission lines proposed by the CapX 2020 utilities:

- Human Settlement
 - Displacement
 - Noise
 - Aesthetics
 - Cultural values
 - Recreation
 - Public services
- Public health and safety
- Land-based economies
 - Agriculture
 - Forestry
 - Tourism
 - Mining
- Archaeological and historic resources
- Natural environment
 - Air
 - Water quality
 - Flora
 - Fauna
- Rare and unique natural resources
- Design options that:
 - Maximize energy efficiency
 - Mitigate adverse environmental effects
 - Accommodate future expansion of transmission or generating capacity

- Use or paralleling of:
 - Existing rights-of-way
 - Survey lines
 - Natural division lines
 - Agricultural field boundaries
- Use of existing large electric power generating plant sites
- Use of existing transportation, pipeline, and electrical transmission systems or rights-of-way
- Electric system reliability
- Cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the facility which are dependent on design and route
- Unavoidable adverse human and environmental effects
- Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources

It is important to note that the State prohibits the construction of transmission lines through two distinct areas:²

Wilderness areas. No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national wilderness areas.

Parks and natural areas. No high voltage transmission line may be routed through state or national parks or state scientific and natural areas unless the transmission line would not materially damage or impair the purpose for which the area was designated and no feasible and prudent alternative exists. Economic considerations alone do not justify use of these areas for a high voltage transmission line.

For more information on how to participate in the regulatory process, visit www.CapX2020.com/learn.html.

To view the entire chapter relating to electric infrastructure, visit www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule. Choose Rule 7849 from the table of contents.

¹ Adapted from Minnesota Rules 7849.5910 – Factors Considered

² Minnesota Rules: 7849.5930–Prohibited Routes