

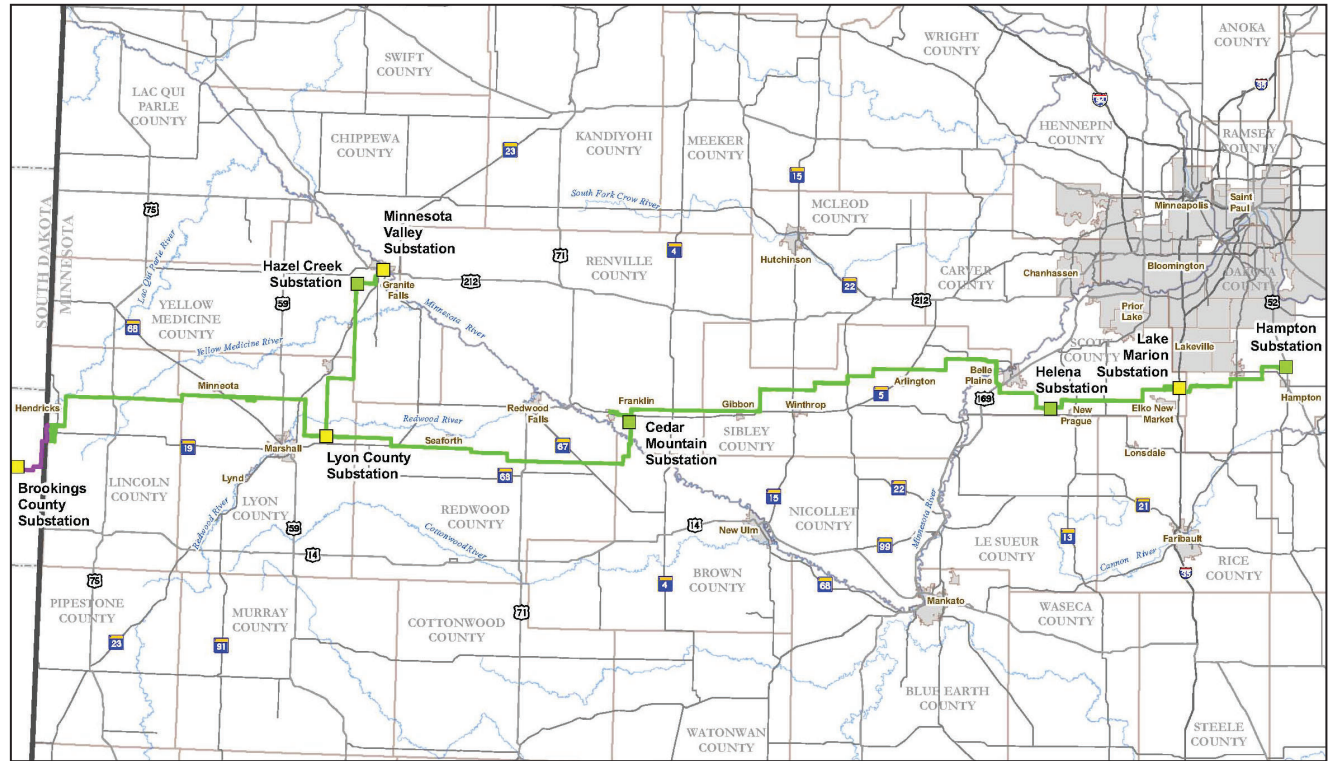
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approves Belle Plaine crossing for final route

On February 3, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) approved an aerial crossing of the Minnesota River at Belle Plaine as well as a route segment near Gibbon to connect the route through northern Sibley County leading to the river crossing. The approval finalizes the last segment of the CapX2020 345 kV transmission line route between the Cedar Mountain substation (Renville County) and Helena substation (Scott County).

The MN PUC approved the majority of the route in July 2010, but sent the Minnesota River crossing back to the administrative law judge to review additional information regarding impacts to birds at the crossing. The final route includes a combination of the original preferred route, alternate route and routes submitted during the Environmental Impact Statement scoping process.

"The CapX2020 utilities appreciate the work of the Commission, its staff and landowners throughout the area who were involved in this vital proceeding," said Dan Leshner, project routing lead. "This important project can now move forward with the certainty of a final route."

Field construction on the project is scheduled to begin in 2012 and be completed in 2015. Utilities will begin contacting landowners in 2011 to begin the easement purchase process.



The MN PUC approved the final route for the Brookings County-Hampton 345 kV transmission line project.



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About the Brookings County-Hampton Project

The Brookings County-Hampton project is a double circuit 345 kV transmission line (some segments constructed as double circuit capable) between the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, S.D., and the Hampton Substation near Hampton, Minn. The line will be constructed primarily of single pole structures attached to concrete foundations spaced about five per mile.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

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