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CapX2020 to use helicopters to string wire on several structures near Minnesota River in Brown and Renville Counties

May 17, 2013—For Immediate Release--CapX2020 construction crews will use helicopters to begin installing wire on several structures at the Minnesota River near Redwood Falls.

The helicopter work will involve workers attaching wire from the side of the helicopter.

Helicopter work will begin Monday May 20 and is expected to take less than a week to complete.

There will be occasional traffic stoppages on CSAH 5 in Brown County, and County Road 3 in Renville County when wire is pulled across those roads. The stoppages are expected to be minimal, lasting just several minutes at a time. Guard structures are installed on the roads to ensure safety.

Using helicopters to perform line work enables wire to be installed in difficult-to-access areas, and helps protect sensitive environmental areas, such as wetlands.

The wire installed is called 'lead line,' which is then connected to the permanent wire and pulled through with ground-based machinery.

CapX2020 utilities urge motorists to avoid stopping and watching the work while it occurs, and to keep moving through the work zone.

The Brookings County-Hampton project is a 250-mile 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation in South Dakota, and the Hampton substation in Dakota County, Minnesota. The first segment, between Renville County and Scott County, is expected to be energized this summer; the segment between Renville County and Lyon County is expected to be energized in early 2014.