

CapX2020 UPDATE

MAY 2014

Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV Transmission Line

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission grants Facility Permit

SOIL BORING BEGINS IN MAY



The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is a 70-mile, 345 kV transmission line between a new Big Stone South substation near Big Stone City, S.D., and the Brookings County substation near Brookings, S.D. Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company are joint owners of the transmission line and CapX2020 partners.

On February 18, 2014, The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission granted a facility permit for the southern 40-mile portion of the project from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County substation about 12 miles east of Brookings. A Facility Permit was granted in January 2007 and recertified in April 2013 for the northern portion stretching from just west of Big Stone City to just east of Gary, S.D. To view Facility Permit documents, visit the SD PUC website at <http://www.puc.sd.gov/> and search for EL12-063 and EL13-020.

The first phase of soil boring drilling will begin in May. Equipment needed to do the work includes a drill rig, trucks and trailers. (See more information on the back)

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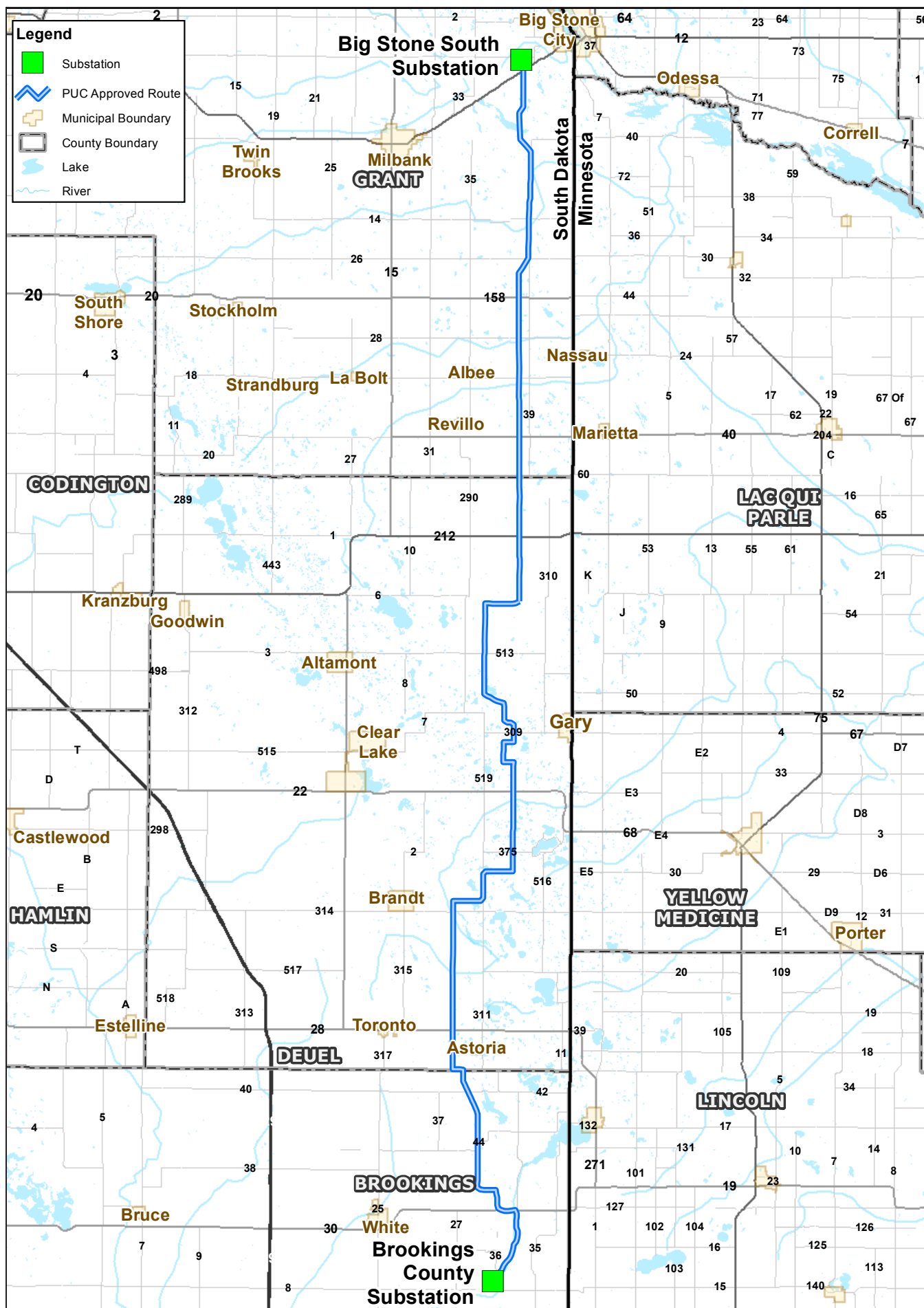
We want to hear from you.

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Contact us at www.CapX2020.com or:
Joe Samuel, project manager
Tom Hillstrom, routing lead
PO Box 9437
Minneapolis, MN 55401
1-800-238-7968
bssinfo@capx2020.com

About CapX2020

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin formed to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service.

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What's Next:

The first phase of obtaining soil borings is expected to begin in late May and will continue to the end of 2014. Land agents will contact affected landowners in advance of crews entering their property. A soil boring between four to eight inches in diameter and approximately 50 feet deep is drilled at proposed structure locations to determine the mechanical properties of the soil and finalize design. Each boring will take approximately three to four hours to complete. The holes will be filled with a mixture of soil cuttings and/or bentonite clay. Topsoil will be replaced in the top two feet of each boring. Crews will do their best to limit property disturbance. Disturbed areas will be restored and landowners will be compensated if crops are damaged as a result of the soil boring activities.

The second and third phases of soil borings are expected to take place between October and December 2014. Once final pole locations are determined, surveyors will place stakes at each pole location and define limits of tree clearing and right-of-way boundaries. You can visit CapX2020.com and search "Transmission line construction process" for more information. Construction on the Big Stone South-Brookings County transmission line is expected to start in late 2015 and be complete in 2017.

Project Need

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is one of 16 multi-value projects approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator in December 2011. The multi-value projects will help expand and enhance the region's transmission system, reduce congestion, provide access to affordable energy sources, as well as meet public policy requirements.