

CapX UPDATE

DECEMBER 2012

After thorough analysis and a public outreach process that included eight open houses, CapX2020 has selected a proposed route for the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345-kV transmission line project (see inside map). The project is a 70-mile, 345-kV transmission line proposed between a new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, S.D., and the Brookings County Substation near Brookings, S.D.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) granted a Facility Permit in January 2007 for approximately 35 miles from just west of Big Stone City to just north of Gary, S.D. The proposed route is for the remaining 42 miles from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County Substation.

The proposed 42-mile route generally follows township roads, section lines and half-section lines. In Deuel County the route passes through Glenwood, Herrick, Norden East and Norden West townships. In Brookings County the route passes through Scandinavia West, Oakdale, Sherman, Lake Hendricks and Richland townships. CapX2020 will start contacting landowners in December 2012 to initiate discussions on the route and the easement acquisition process. Construction on the project is expected to start in late 2014 or early 2015.

CapX2020 plans to file a Facility Permit with the SD PUC in mid 2013 for the remaining 42-mile section. If you have questions about the proposed route you can submit them by visiting www.CapX2020.com, calling 1-800-238-7968 or emailing bssinfo@capx2020.com.

About the project

Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company are joint owners of the Big Stone South-Brookings County project. Xcel Energy is the development manager.

The project is one of 16 multi-value projects (MVPs), as approved by the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) in December 2011.

The MVPs will help expand and enhance the region's transmission system, reduce congestion, provide access to affordable energy sources, and meet public policy requirements, including renewable energy mandates.

CapX2020

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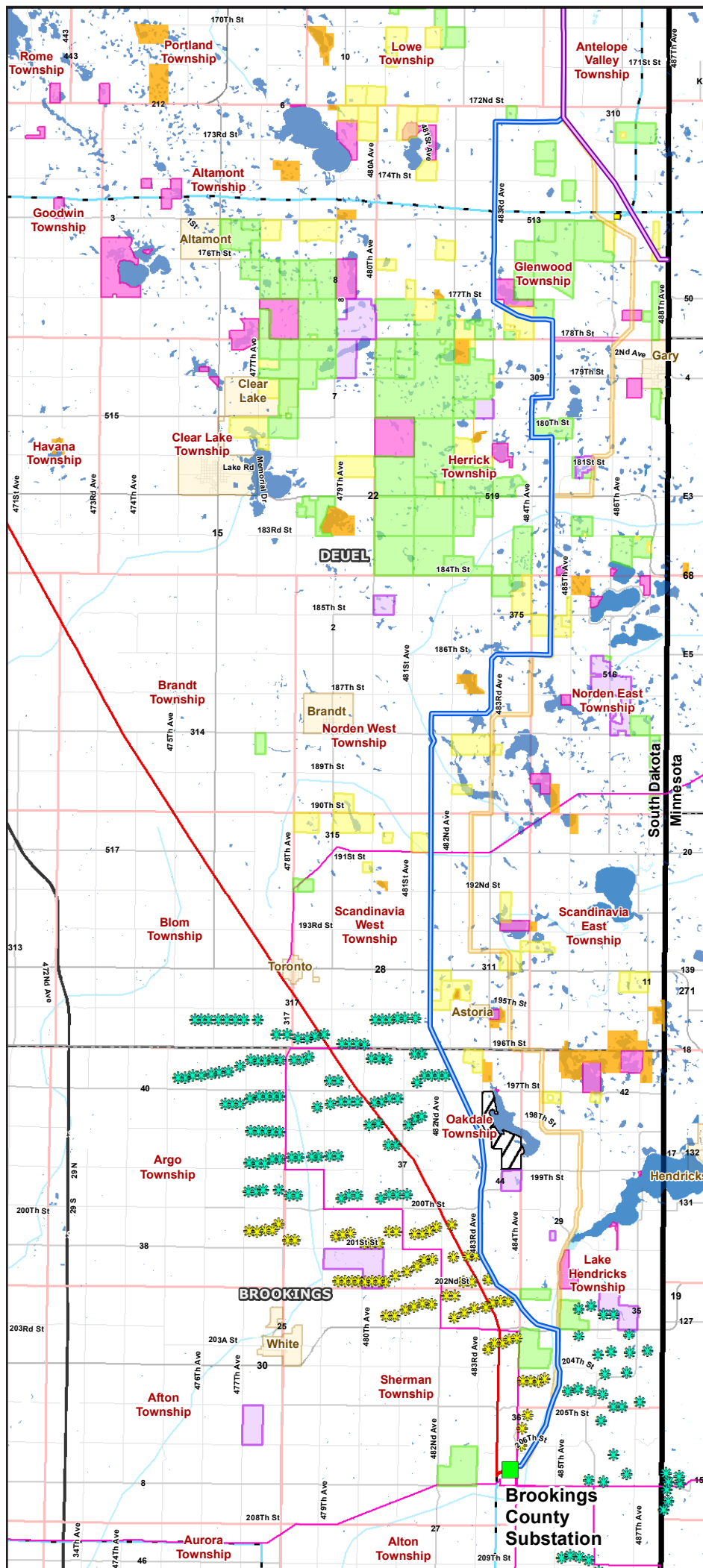


We want to hear from you.
Contact us at www.capx2020.com or:

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Proposed route



Legend

- Project End Point
 - Proposed Route
 - Alternate Route
 - Segment Option
 - SDPUC Certificated Route
 - Municipal Boundary
 - Township Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - Existing Wind Turbine
 - Permitted Wind Turbine
 - USFWS Waterfowl Production Area
 - USFWS Conservation Easement
 - USFWS Grassland Easement
 - USFWS Wetland Easement
 - State Game Production Area
 - SDSU Research Station
 - Lake
- Existing Transmission Line**
- 345 (kV)
 - 230 (kV)
 - 115 (kV)

Big Stone South-Brookings County proposed route

The blue line designates the proposed route for the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345-kV transmission line project. The yellow line represents the alternative route that was not selected. For detailed route maps, visit www.CapX2020.com/bss.