



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line

PROJECT UPDATE

Project overview

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 and CapX2020 partners on the estimated \$226 million transmission line.

What's next

Soil boring work was completed in February, 2015 at approximately 370 locations. Tree clearing and site access improvements are scheduled to begin in August/September 2015, and foundation construction will begin in November 2015.



Single pole steel structures will primarily be used to reduce land impacts; some locations may require two pole structures. Poles are between 140 and 170 feet tall and will be about 1,000 feet apart. Typically, a 150-foot wide right-of-way will be required.

Project need

The Big Stone South-Brookings County project is one of 16 multi-value projects approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) 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, including renewable energy mandates.

Regulatory process

The South Dakota regulatory process requires a Facility Permit prior to construction. The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SD PUC) reviews the permit, and if approved (ruling must occur within 12 months of receiving the application), grants a permit order for location, construction and operation of the proposed project.

A Facility Permit was granted to Otter Tail Power Company in January 2007 for approximately 35 miles from just west of Big Stone City to just north of Gary, S.D. The SD PUC granted a Facility Permit in February 2014 for an additional 42 miles from just north of Gary to the existing Brookings County Substation. You can learn more about the process by accessing a copy of the Facility Permit online at the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission website at <http://www.puc.sd.gov/> and search for EL12-063 and EL13-020.

Project quick facts

345 kV line

70 miles

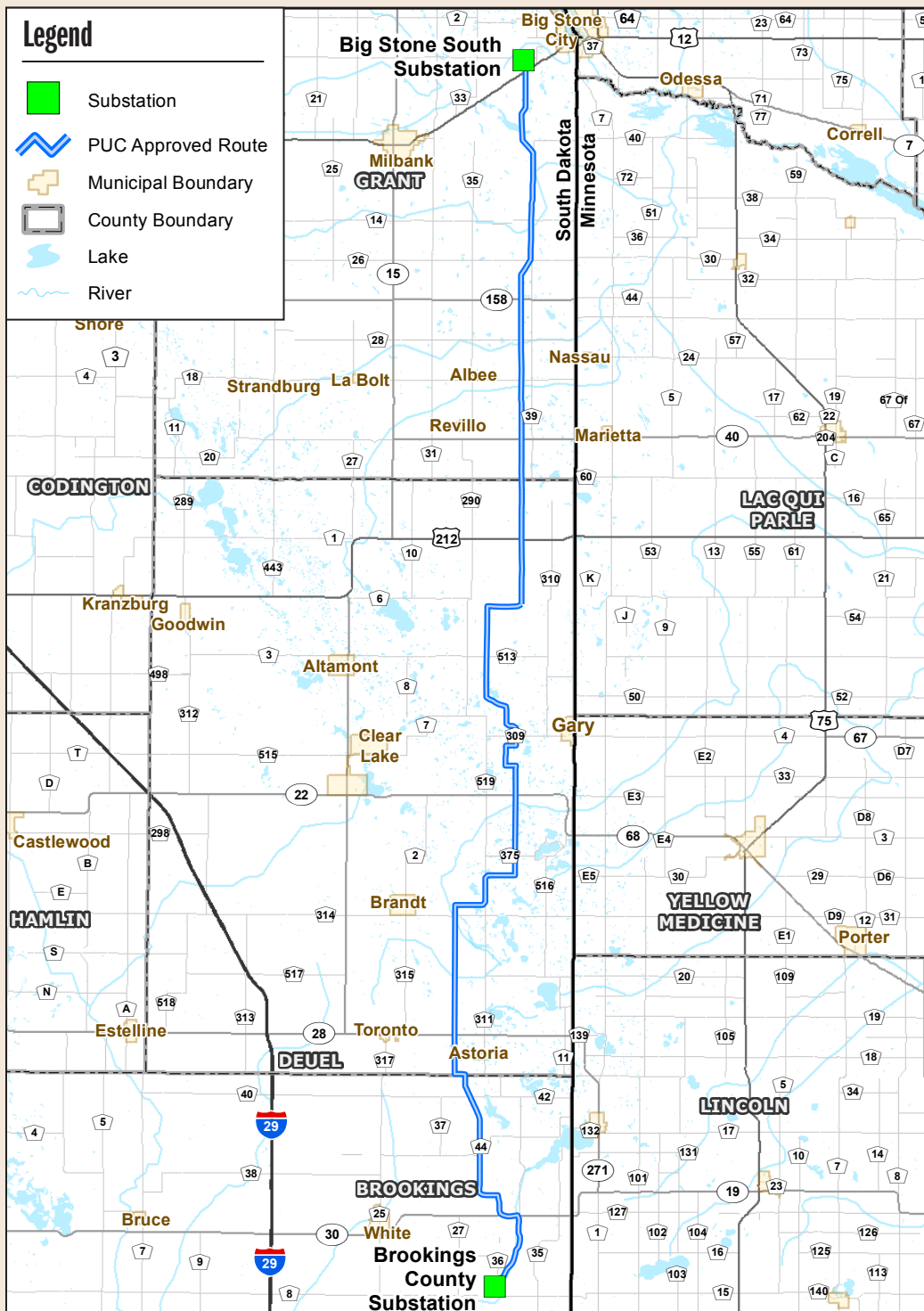
Targeted in-service - 2017

Estimated cost - \$226 million

About CapX2020

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota and the surrounding region formed to upgrade and expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The CapX2020 projects include four 345 kV projects, including the Big Stone South-Brookings County line, and a 230 kV line.

Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV transmission line route



Project development manager: Xcel Energy

Joe Samuel, project manager
 Tom Hillstrom, routing lead
 PO Box 9437
 Minneapolis, MN 55401
 1-800-238-7968
 bssinfo@capx2020.com