



Delivering electricity you can rely on

Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345 kV transmission line

PROJECT UPDATE

Project overview

Construction of the Fargo-St. Cloud-Monticello 345 kV transmission line started in 2010 and the line was fully energized in April, 2015. The double circuit capable transmission line runs between the new Bison Substation west of Fargo, North Dakota, the upgraded Alexandria Switching Station in Alexandria, Minnesota, the new Quarry Substation west of St. Cloud and the upgraded Monticello Substation.

Project need

The last major upgrade to the region's electric transmission infrastructure took place more than 40 years ago. The new transmission lines were built in phases designed to meet electricity growth, improve regional reliability and to add capacity for future generation, including tapping into vast wind energy resources in western Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Project quick facts

345 kV line

About 240 miles

In-service – April 2, 2015

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) granted three approvals before construction – a Certificate of Need (CN) and two Route Permits. The CapX2020 utilities were granted a CN from the MN PUC on May 22, 2009 for all three 345 kV projects. To view CN

documents, visit the MN PUC's website at www.puc.state.mn.us and search for eDocket 06-1115. The MN PUC can also be reached at 1-800-657-3782.

Project route

The project was granted a Route Permit (docket ET-2, E002/TL-09-246) from the MN PUC for the St. Cloud-Monticello segment on July 8, 2010 and a Route Permit (docket ET-2, E002/TL-09-1056) for the St. Cloud to the Red River segment on June 10, 2011. To view Route Permit documents, visit the MN PUC's website.



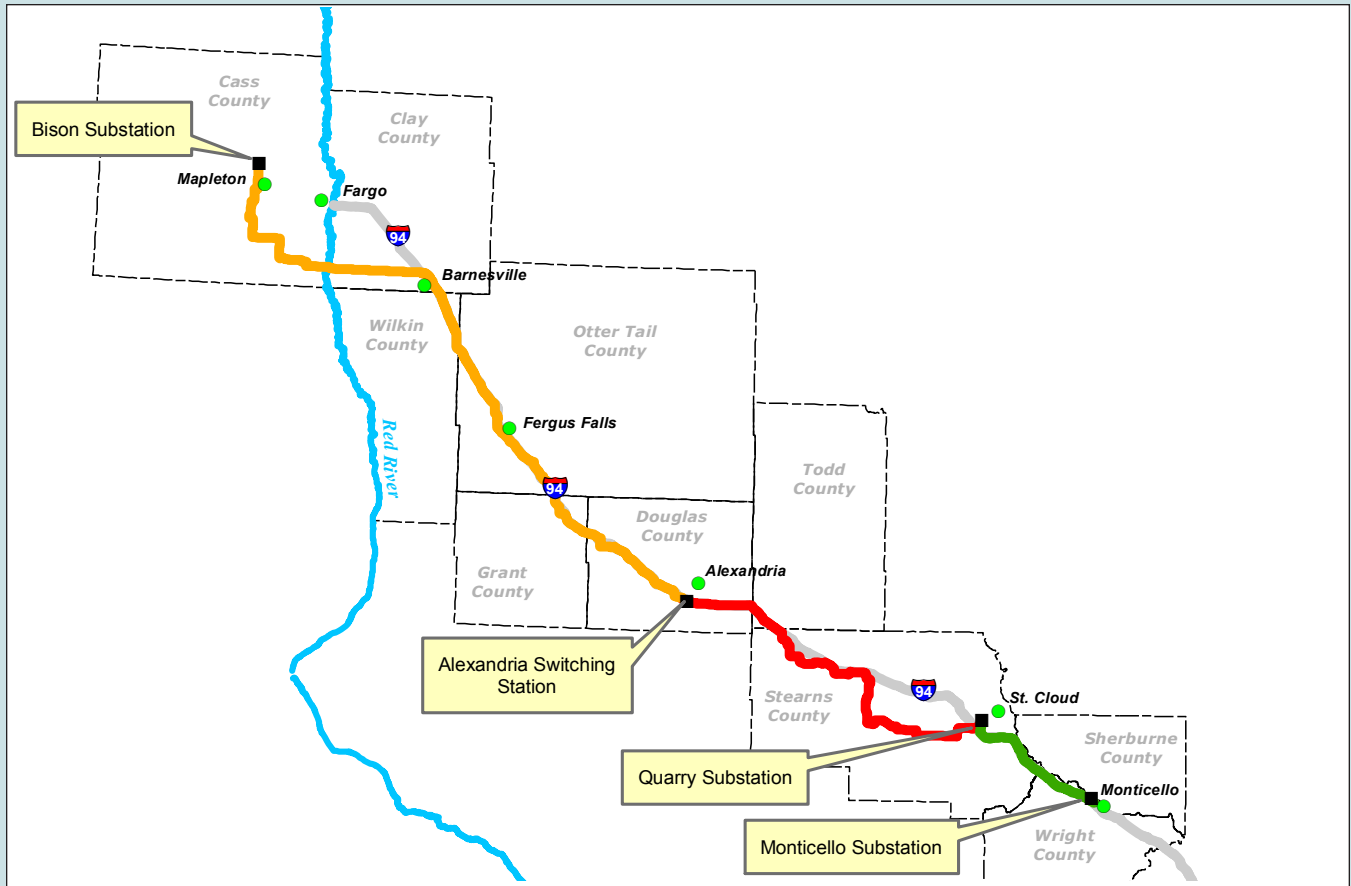
North Dakota

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC) granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in January 2011. A joint Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit application was filed October 3, 2011 with the ND PSC and approved on September 12, 2012. To view route permit documents, visit the ND PSC website at www.psc.state.nd.us and search for case # PU-07-759 or call (701) 328-2400.

Federal approval

Before the lines can be built, permits and approvals were also required from several federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal agencies conducted environmental reviews to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The MN PUC, the ND PSC and participating federal agencies have worked together to coordinate their processes.

Fargo-St. Cloud 345 kV final route in Minnesota and route corridor in North Dakota



About CapX2020

CapX2020 is a joint initiative of 11 transmission-owning utilities in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin to expand the electric transmission grid to ensure continued reliable and affordable service. The 800 miles of CapX2020 projects include four 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines, and a 230 kV line.

Project Construction Manager: Xcel Energy

Jerry Chezik, Project Manager

Tom Hillstrom, Routing Lead

PO Box 9451

Minneapolis, MN 55440-9451

1-866-876-2869

fargoinfo@capx2020.com



Two new substations were built for the project in St. Cloud, Minnesota and Mapleton, North Dakota. Terminals were added at two other substations.